

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board
(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

MAR 7, 2024

EXECUTIVE PRESENT:

Wyatt MADDOX, Chair;

Greg GAUBE, Director of Communications and Vice Chair;

Lindsay BEAL; Director of Student Affairs;

Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

REGRETS: Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance; Mitch NASCIMENTO; Director of Services;

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:20am by MADDOX.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgement offered by BEAL. She shared learning the local word for a stirring, unsettling to make room for something new. TURNER also promoted the CREAN open conference on wellness with a heavy Indigenous focus including panels on Indigenous resilience in living with HIV.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: GAUBE/BEAL

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. GRAD DORMS – LETTER AND CAMPAIGN REVIEW

Lead: TURNER

Reference: GSS Recommendations for UVic Grad Dorms – to UVic, Province of BC, and District of Oak Bay

For: Decision – Can I send this now?

TURNER provided an overview that the 2022-23 Work Study students' research on international standards for grad dorms, which has not yet been presented to UVic because there were delays in the University submitting their bid to the Province for student housing funding. However, UVic is ramping up for a bid to the Province now. MADDOX recently met with Jim Dunsdon to foreground our specific asks. This letter should 1. Outline our specific asks to UVic to ensure the next dorm is a graduate student-only space as an underserved population for UVic Residence; 2. Re-iterate our ask to the Province for debt capacity to build the next dorm and issue an official call for grant funding; 3. Head off potential backlash from residents of Oak Bay around adding a dormitory to their district. Does this letter accomplish those goals? TURNER recommends submitting

the letter by March 8 in order to have it read by the recipients before the Oak Bay housing forum (see correspondence received).

TASKS: TURNER to update and send the letter on graduate dorms to UVic, the Province, and Oak Bay. GAUBE, MADDOX, BEAL and TURNER to attend the Oak Bay public forum on housing to ask for a graduate dorm in the Oak Bay area on March 12.

2. NEW MINISTER FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION – LETTER REVIEW

Lead: TURNER

Reference: Letter to New Minister PSEFS

For: Decision – Can I send this now?

TURNER provided a brief recap of her advocacy strategy of producing welcome letters to all new political office holders with jurisdiction over GSS matters and the mid-term cabinet shuffle after Minister Selina Robinson resigned her cabinet seat in February. This letter is intended to highlight our members as vital constituents for Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills Minister Lisa Beare and the issues we need her support on.

TASKS: TURNER to update & send the letter of welcome to the new Minister of Post-Secondary Education.

3. CAMPUS CLINICS BC-WIDE ADVOCACY – LETTER REVIEW

Lead: TURNER

Reference: Letter to Minister Finance and Health re: Physician pay at campus clinics, call for co-signatures

For: Discussion – Can I send this at the end of the month?

TURNER provided a brief overview of the funding structures for general practitioners in BC and the separate scope of practice designation for campus clinics. UVIC is planning to bring this issue to the Ministries of Finance and Health. UBC's clinic said that several individual physicians have brought this to the same Ministries. TURNER sent our initial letter on this matter, which dealt only with the UVic Student Wellness Centre, on March 6. Do we wish to follow up at the end of March 2024 with a call for a provincial policy change?

TASKS: TURNER to update and send the letter on physician pay at campus clinics to the Ministries of Finance and Health at the end of March 2024.

4. BOARD TRANSITION PLANNING

Lead: MADDOX

For: Discussion

MADDOX, GAUBE, and BEAL discussed how they will individually handle hand offs for their positions.

TASK: TURNER to invite the new board to a joint casual coffee with the outgoing board on March 28.

5. CUPE UPDATE

Lead: GAUBE

For: Discussion

GAUBE presented a letter to officially endorse the CUPE4163 union drive.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the Feb 8, 2024 Executive Board Meeting as presented.

M/S: GAUBE/BEAL

CARRIED

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Lead: TURNER

Note: To ensure motion log is updated, ensure completed items are reported in the minutes.

Items assigned to board members that Kyla thinks are complete or abandoned will be listed below and highlighted in yellow. If there's an item you were assigned below highlighted in yellow, please confirm if the task was completed, revoked, or abandoned!

Tasks Completed/Decisions fully acted upon:

Nov 23: TASK: GAUBE to reach out to the VP-Indigenous to assess if there is an active SAGE pod on campus and to bring together the Indigenous Governance Program, Indigenous Nursing Program, and SAGE into GSS spaces for meetings, advertising, etc.

Jan 25: TASKS: GAUBE to re-format the Live Like a Student Bingo Card and communicate with the UVSS board about this challenge.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX D)

Item 1: BIPOC Academic Coalition Letter

Item 2: Oak Bay Housing Forum with Minister of Housing Ravi Kahlon and poster

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: BEAL/GAUBE

CARRIED

TASK: MADDUX to connection with the BIPOC Academic Coalition regarding their training request.

Kyla's recommendations for item 2: circulate the housing poster to GRC and Student Affairs, try to get a significant, visible contingent of graduate students to attend the Oak Bay Housing Forum to act as ambassadors for increasing the number of graduate students residents in Oak Bay. My email introduction to our Housing letter to the Province, Oak Bay and UVic already includes a reference to this event specifically.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. March 18 Exec to Exec – agenda planning
 - i. MOU between UVic and University of the Forest in Brazil

- ii. TURNER to present the grad housing letter
 - 2. March 21 Operational Relations – agenda planning
 - i. MADDUX to present the grad housing letter
 - ii. BEAL to present student concerns re: ATRS fees
 - 3. Feb 27 GRC – debrief
- I. LOBBYING REPORTS
- Reports due at the first meeting of every month.
- J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDUX provided an update on the retirement of the operator of UVic's scantron machine and the end of the scantron program for marking exams, which could result in massive increases to TA workloads at UVic.

Director of Communications: GAUBE is working on the end-of-term party, swag bags, and email signatures.

Director of Finance: FIELDER

Director of Services: NASCIMENTO

Director of Student Affairs: BEAL the lactation-friendlier campus project is still before a UVic class. The climate action working group is meeting today and will foster space for changemakers to come together and connect on issues of sustainability. BEAL also brought up the need for reusable menstrual products on campus. TURNER advised her to connect with Jitendra about this issue.

Executive Director: TURNER updated that Neil is out on vacation next week, Abby is out the week thereafter, and the GSS is closed for four days over Easter weekend. She'll also be providing naloxone training on March 13, 15, and 27.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

****Task Reminder: Please be sure your meetings and events are up to date on the GRC Teams Calendar****

Next Executive Meetings: March 21, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: April 23, 2024

AGM: March 19, 2024

Office, Staff Scheduling: Neil is out on vacation next week, Abby is out the week thereafter, and the GSS is closed for four days over Easter weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 10:51.

M/S: BEAL/GAUBE

CARRIED

X

Wyatt MADDUX
GSS Chair 2023-24

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: BIPOC Academic Coalition

From: Farah Stonebanks <bipocac.media@gmail.com>

Sent: February 21, 2024 5:55 PM

To: GSS Chair <gsschair@uvic.ca>; Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>

Subject: BIPOC Academic Coalition - Presentation Information

Notice: This message was sent from outside the University of Victoria email system. Please be cautious with links and sensitive information.

Hello,

I spoke with a member of your team through Instagram, and they asked if I could send information concerning our nonprofit organization and the presentation we would like to offer your group. I spoke about the presentation with them briefly, and they mentioned the possibility of scheduling one during your Graduate Representative Council.

Just as a small note before I begin, our usual email server is currently experiencing some issues. For the time being, I will be using this email account for all my communications. Once it is fixed, I can send you my permanent email address. Thank you for your understanding!

To quickly summarize, The BIPOC Academic Coalition is a nonprofit organization committed to breaking the cycle of racial inequity through Unity, Research, Education, and Advocacy, uniting as a force for positive change. You can find more information about us through our website at bipocac.org.

Our speakers and co-founders, Dr. Aime Avolonto (York University) and Dr. C. Darius Stonebanks (Bishop's University), are award-winning, tenured professors who bravely spoke out against institutional racism during the George Floyd protests. They faced repercussions from their institutions, resulting in termination, and are currently in arbitration over the unjust nature of their dismissals. Drs. Avolonto and Stonebanks are now offering presentations on how systemic racism operates through a DARVO (Deny, Attack, & Reverse Victim and Offender) approach when BIPOC academic members speak truth to authority.

Our sessions are tailored for individual groups and combined groups of interest. The approximately two-hour session includes dedicated time for questions and answers. We are flexible with presentation formats, comfortable with Zoom sessions, or, if resources permit, in-person presentations.

Please let me know if you have any more questions or would like more information! As well, let me know when you'd be available for an online meeting, if interested. We would be happy to meet with you to go over more information.

Thank you for your time, and we look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with your group.

Best,

Farah Stonebanks

Item 2: Oak Bay Housing Forum

From: Bruce Kilpatrick <abkilpatrick@gmail.com>

Sent: March 4, 2024 9:01 PM

To: Cleo Philp - UVSS Director of Campaigns & Community Relations; GSS Chair

Subject: Housing forum in Oak Bay March 12

Notice: This message was sent from outside the University of Victoria email system. Please be cautious with links and sensitive information.

Hi Cleo/Wyatt:

The Community Association of Oak Bay is hosting a housing forum on March 12 with BC Housing Minister Ravi Kahlon, Oak Bay Mayor Kevin Murdoch, and representatives from the Greater Victoria Housing Society and CRD Housing Corporation. (Please see attached poster for details).

The goal for the evening is to get a conversation started about how governments and community can work together to build urgently needed, more diverse and more affordable housing options in Oak Bay.

We're collecting questions in advance and would love it if you'd be willing to submit a question that captures the student/renters' perspective. It would also be great to connect if you're able to attend the session.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need more information.

Thanks for your consideration.

Yours sincerely

BK

Bruce Kilpatrick (*he/him*), Vice President
Community Association of Oak Bay