

UVIC GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY
Sem-Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 5 pm – 7 pm
Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Present:

Executive Board:	Electrical and Computer Engineering: Jitendra Palaparty	GSS Members:
Wyatt Maddox, Chair	Environmental Studies: Lauren Burton & Diana Bertuol Garcia	Aaron Lealey
Greg Gaube, D. Communications	Law: Katarina Sawchuk	Angel P
Mitch Nascimento, D. Services	Linguistics: Rosemary Webb	Theodore Grosson
Samuel Fielder, D. Finance	Mechanical Engineering: Diogo Bravo	Bhagyashri Khimsuriya
Lindsay Beal, D. Student Affairs	Medical Sciences: Dhwani Sura	Luiz Henrique Perora
GRC Reps:	Pacific and Asian Studies: Delaney Johnson & Ivan Garcimartin Carmona	Adrienne Scott
Art History: Sarah Roberts	Physics and Astronomy: Jonathan Qualter	Jerry Flexer
Biology: Dominique Maucieri (O) & Maggie Lawton	Political Science: Michael Chutskoff	Spencer Thomas
Chemistry: Nick Roberts	Sociology: Iman Fadaei & Jasmine Padam (O)	

(30 total voting members present, 2 online) *(O) designates members who joined online.

Staff, Non-voting attendees:

Executive Director: Kyla Turner
Office Coordinator, Governance: Irfan Tanveer (Recorder)
Office Coordinator, Communications: Petranella Daviel
Operations and Services Manager: Neil Barney

Chair: Wyatt MADDUX, Chair

1. Call to order – Wyatt MADDUX, Chair
Meeting called to order by MADDUX at 5:01pm.
2. Land acknowledgement.
Land acknowledgement offered by MADDUX.
3. SAGM Quorum Report – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director
Quorum for GSS general meeting is 25 members. With 26 voting members presents, the meeting is quorate at 5:05pm.
4. Approval of agenda
Motion: RESOLVED the Agenda of the March 19, 2024, GSS Semi-Annual General Meeting is approved as presented.
Moved: Executive Board Seconded: WEBB

CARRIED

5. Approval of previous GSS General Meeting minutes

REF DOC: [2023-10-24 AGM Minutes Draft](#)

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes of the October 24, 2023, GSS Annual General Meeting are approved as presented.

Moved: Executive Board Seconded: ROBERTS

CARRIED

6. Executive Stipends – Jade FISCHER, Chair of Stipend Review Committee

Motion: RESOLVED THAT the stipends for the GSS Executive Board in 2024-25 are set as:

Chair:	\$ 1049.58 /month
Director of Finance:	\$ 1049.58 /month
Director of Internal/University Affairs:	\$ 1049.58 /month
Director of External Affairs:	\$ 1049.58 /month
Director of Student Life:	\$ 1049.58 /month

Moved: Stipend Review Committee Seconded: QUALTER

CARRIED

7. Presentation of 2024-25 Budget – Sam FIELDER, Director of Finance

REF DOC: [Proposed 2024-25 GSS Budget](#)

Motion: RESOLVED the 2024-25 Budget is approved as presented.

Moved: Executive Board Seconded: SAWCHUK

Discussion:

FLEXER- Asked whether the capital funds being spent primarily on the restaurant?

TURNER replied that there are two long-term savings funds for the GSS: the Capital Fund, which is used for capital one time purchases and repairs, and the Building Fund, which is long-term savings for non-capital spending. FLEXER asked further to give example and TURNER said basic tech and that the primary use of the Capital Fund in the last 3 years has been to pay down long-term debt related to a 2017 renovation.

ROBERTS asked special project and departmental grants and if any attention given to special projects because some of the departments do not have access to departmental grants because not every department has a GRC rep.

CARRIED

8. Reports to the Membership:

- Report of the 2023-24 Executive Board – Wyatt MADDOX, Chair
- Membership and Representation Report – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director
- Report of the Executive Director – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director

REF DOCS: [2023-24 Executive Board Report](#); [Membership and Representation Report](#); [2023-24 Executive Director Report](#)

- Reports of Committees of the Society

REF DOCS:

- i. [Appeals](#) – Sam FIELDER, Director of Finance
- ii. [Bylaw and Policy](#) – Wyatt MADDOX, GSS Chair
- iii. [Communications](#) – Greg GAUBE, Director of Communications
- iv. [Events](#) – Mitch NASCIMENTO, Director of Services
- v. [Finance](#) – Sam FIELDER, Director of Finance
- vi. Stipend Review – Jade FISCHER, Chair, Stipend Review
- vii. [Student Affairs](#) – Lindsay BEAL, Director of Student Affairs

e. Health and Dental Plan Update – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director

REF DOC: [2024-03-19 Semi-Annual Health and Dental Plan Update](#)

Motion: RESOLVED the 2023-24 Executive Board report, reports from the committees of the society, and the semi-annual extended health and dental insurance plans update are received as information.

*Moved: ROBERTS Seconded: QUALTER
CARRIED*

9. Bylaw Amendments (Appendix A)

Motion: to approve the amendments to bylaws 2.8 (members in good standing), 4.7 c.i. (polling period notice), 8.1c (employee management), 9.1f (employee management), 12.3 (Executive Board leaves of Absence), and 14.6 (signing authorities) as presented.

*Moved: Bylaw and Policy Committee/Executive Board Seconded: SURA
CARRIED*

10. Ratification of Acclaimed Executive Board Candidates – Lauren BURTON, Electoral Officer
[REF DOC: [Electoral Officer Candidacy Update 2024-25](#)]

MADDOX relinquished the chair to BURTON. BURTON announced that at the end of this year's Executive Board nominations, four candidates had been acclaimed as Directors. Per GSS Bylaw 4.11, a ratification vote is required for an acclaimed candidate to be considered duly elected. Four ratification votes were held. From the results, BURTON declared the following acclaimed candidates as duly elected to the 2024-25 Executive Board.

Director Internal/University Relations– Rosemary Webb
WEBB abstained.

Director of External Relations – Jitendra Palaparty
PALAPARTY abstained.

Director of Finance – Sam Fielder
FIELDER abstained.

Director of Student Life – Maggie Lawton
LAWTON abstained.

11. Election of Electoral Officer – Wyatt MADDOX, Chair

a. Call for further nominations from the floor.

b. If there are multiple candidates, an election will be held by members present.

OR

Should there be only 1 candidate, a ratification vote will be held.

OR

Should there be no candidates, an Electoral Officer will be appointed by the Graduate Representative Council at their April meeting.

Jono QUALTERS nominated themselves as the 2024-25 Electoral Officer. QUALTERS was ratified as the 2024-25 Electoral Officer.

12. Introduction of the 2024-25 Executive Board

MADDOX asked the members to show appreciation for the outgoing board members.

13. Other Business

MADDOX requested members to submit feedback about their experience with their supervisors as he is sitting on the FGS committee which is supervising policy

14. Adjournment

Motion: RESOLVED the 2024 GSS SAGM is adjourned at 6:30 .

Moved: BURTON Seconded: SAWCHUK

CARRIED

X

Wyatt MADDOX
GSS Chair 2023-24

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

~ Emergency preparedness: In the event a major power or technology failure disrupts the March 19 meeting, the AGM will be reconvened on Wednesday, March 20 at 5 pm.

The GSS Bylaws governing the Society and general meeting procedures can be found here: <https://gss.uvic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2023-10-24-GSS-Bylaws-APPROVED.pdf>

Appendix A: Bylaw Amendments

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

2024 SAGM Bylaws for Amendment

The Bylaw and Policy Committee recommends the following changes for ratification at the 2024 Semi-Annual General Meeting:

2.5 Cessation of membership:

Current Language:

- a. Membership in the Society shall cease when a member is no longer registered in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, with the exception of:
- iv. Members of the Executive Board, who shall continue to be members of the Society until expiry of their current term of office, provided that they are registered in the Faculty of Graduate Studies or in a concurrent graduate/undergraduate program or are members under Bylaw 2.2 for the first nine months of their term of office.

Proposed language change:

2.5 Cessation of membership:

- a. Membership in the Society shall cease when a member is no longer registered in the Faculty of Graduate Studies, with the exception of:
- iv. Members of the Executive Board, who shall continue to be members of the Society until expiry of their current term of office, provided that they are registered in the Faculty of Graduate Studies or in a concurrent graduate/undergraduate program or are full members under Bylaw 2.1 for the first nine months of their term of office.

2.8 Membership in good standing:

*no current language

Proposed Language:

Members will be considered to be in good standing, as outlined within the Societies Act, if they adhere to all definitions outlined above for their membership class. This includes the definition of a student as per the Societies Act.

4.7 Schedule of Elections and Referenda:

Current Language:

- c. Polling Period
- i. Polling shall begin no less than thirty-five (35) days after notice of an election has been given

Proposed language change:

c. Polling Period

i. Polling shall begin no less than **twenty-one (21)** days after notice of an election has been given.

8.1 Purposes of the Executive Board:

Current Language:

c. Hire and supervise **employees** of the Society.

Proposed language change:

8.1 Purposes of the Executive Board:

c. Hire and supervise **the Executive Director** of the Society.

9.1: The Executive Board, in addition to any duties imposed by the *Societies Act*, SBC 2015, c. 18 shall:

Current Language:

f. Hire and supervise **management staff** of the Society

Proposed language change:

f. Hire and supervise **the Executive Director** of the Society

12.3 Leave of Absence may be granted to an Executive Board director provided that the Executive Board is given a minimum of two (2) weeks' notice. Remuneration will be suspended for absent periods and may be reallocated to a replacement member for the duration of the absence.

Current Language:

- a. Leaves of absence may be granted for no longer than four (4) months by the Executive Board.
- b. Replacement appointments for up to a cumulative one (1) month will be made at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- c. Replacement appointments for greater than a cumulative one (1) month will be made at the discretion of Grad Council.
- d. Replacement members will assume all incumbent responsibility and authority of the position they take.
- e. In the event that the Chair requires leave, a member of the Executive Board shall assume all incumbent responsibility and authority and a replacement may be appointed for the Executive Board member's position. Grad Council shall determine which Executive Board member shall assume the role of Chair in the event of disagreement.

Proposed language change:

12.3 Any Executive Board director who is not a member of the Society in accordance with bylaw 2.1, 2.5(a)iv, and 8.3b shall be deemed to have resigned.

12.4 Leave of Absence may be granted to an Executive Board director provided that the Executive Board is given a minimum of two (2) weeks' notice. Emergency leaves of absence will be considered on a case by case basis by the Executive Board and Stipend Review Committee and will be limited to two (2) weeks. Remuneration will be suspended for absent periods and may be reallocated to a replacement member for the duration of the absence.

a. Leaves of absence may be granted for no longer than four (4) months by the Executive Board.

b. Replacement appointments for up to a cumulative one (1) month will be made at the discretion of the Executive Board.

c. Replacement appointments for greater than a cumulative one (1) month will be made at the discretion of Grad Council.

d. Replacement members will assume all incumbent responsibility and authority of the position they take.

e. In the event that the Chair requires leave, a member of the Executive Board shall assume all incumbent responsibility and authority and a replacement may be appointed for the Executive Board member's position. Grad Council shall determine which Executive Board member shall assume the role of Chair in the event of disagreement.

14.6 Signing Authority:

Current Language:

a. The signing officers of the Society shall be the Chair, the Director of Finance, and the Executive Director.

Proposed language change:

a. The signing officers of the Society shall be the Chair, the Director of Finance, the Operations and Services Manager, and the Executive Director.

