

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

**Executive Board**  
(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 18, 2024

**EXECUTIVE:**

Wyatt MADDOX, Chair;

Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance;

Rosemary WEBB, Director of Internal/University Relations;

Jitendra PALAPARTY, Director of External Relations;

Maggie LAWTON, Director of Student Life;

Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

**GUEST:** Jim Dunsdon, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs; Robin Hicks, Dean, Faculty of Grad Studies

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**STANDING ITEMS PART 1**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 12:02pm by MADDOX.

**B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Territorial acknowledgement offered by MADDOX.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.*

*M/S: FIELDER/LAWTON*

*CARRIED*

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. INTRO TO FGS RELATIONS**

Lead: Robin Hicks

For: Discussion

HICKS provided an overview of FGS internal functions and structures, including associate deans, funding distribution, student support, and ways for the GSS and FGS to collaborate. HICKS also gave an overview of the history of the Graduate Supervision Policy and plans for the current review of this policy, the working group for which includes MADDOX.

Ongoing projects and issues for FGS include grad funding, an equity review, the grad supervision policy review, grad mental health, international students, and career prep.

TURNER highlighted that Associate Deans in FGS are available for fully confidential student meetings and can assist with a wide range of student concerns from funding to leaves of absence to mental health.

## 2. INTRO TO UVIC RELATIONS

Lead: Jim Dunsdon

For: Discussion

DUNSDON provided a brief overview of his role as the primary liaison between the two UVic student societies and the University. As well, he focused on the two primary meetings with UVic (Operational Relations and Exec-to-Exec) and the GSS as a space to strategize and check in on joint campaigns, query each other's organizational plans, and resolve problems.

Operational Relationship overview:

UVic leaders in attendance: Associate VP Student Affairs, Associate VP Financial Planning and Operations, Dean of FGS, Associate Registrar

Typical invited guests: Facilities Management, Admissions and Records, Campus Planning

Issues to be addressed: Issues that intersect with UVic operations including campus planning, facilities, student services. For example: building a new dorm, LTSL, ICS operations, etc.

Exec-to-Exec overview:

UVic leaders in attendance: President, University Secretary, VP-Academic and Provost, VP-External Relations, VP-Finance and Operations, VP-Research and Innovation, VP-Indigenous, Associate VP-Student Affairs, Dean of FGS

Issues to be addressed: Issues that intersect with the strategic goals of the university and GSS. For example: government relations, strategic plans.

DUNSDON also highlighted a few forthcoming changes he'll be able to provide further info on over the course of the summer, including service updates to the Student Wellness Centre, student mental health, etc.

## 3. BC PNP DISCUSSION

Lead: TURNER/PALAPARTY

Reference: [Palaparty notes](#), [Correspondence from April 4 agenda](#)

For: Discussion

TURNER started with an overview of the Provincial Nomination Program (BC PNP). The BC PNP allows the province to nominate candidates for permanent residency. On March 19, they announced program changes. The International Graduate and International Post-Graduate streams of the BC PNP will end as of January 25, 2025, and be replaced by Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate streams that will have new eligibility criteria. These eligibility criteria include an indeterminate (non-fixed term) employment offer, English or French language requirements, and the removal of program-of-study requirements for Master's students. At least five Master's of Science students reached out to the GSS and the University President asking for advocacy on these changes, as they worry that opening up the program-of-study requirements for Master's applicants will disadvantage them, as the current PNP targets only STEM and healthcare fields. As PALAPARTY's notes make clear, these students chose to study their particular program in BC due to the availability of the BC PNP and have committed upwards of \$100K to their study plans, which includes investment in higher-than-average tuition for STEM and healthcare programs.

PALAPARTY noted that the PNP is virtually guaranteed for STEM master's grads, but would move to being competitive.

The board edited their question for Minister Beare to reflect a request to grandfather in currently enrolled students and students whose degrees will begin on or before September 2024 under the current BC PNP requirements.

## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

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### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2024 Executive Board Meeting as presented.*

M/S: LAWTON/WEBB

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:**

**Tasks revoked or abandoned:**

### F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (APPENDIX C) 1:00

No committee appointments made.

**TASK: TURNER to seek further info on the FGS equity working group for scope of work, meeting schedule, etc.**

### G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX D) 1:00

Item 1: UVSS Board Meet and Greet Request (appendix D)

*Motion: to receive the correspondence.*

M/S:

CARRIED

**TASK: TURNER to confirm dinner with the UVSS.**

### H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF 1:15

Reference: [Meeting Debrief Template](#)

1. April 22 Minister Beare on Campus – strategy talk!
  - i. Question list/re-drafting, assignment of questions



- ii. Doctors working at campus health clinics are paid less than any other GP in BC. This makes staffing campus clinics a challenge and leads to a lack of access to care and continuity of care for student populations. Will the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education join the UVic GSS in calling on the Ministries of Health and Finance to end the differential pay for practice in student clinics?
- iii. The BC PNP changes are directly impacting currently enrolled graduate students. We are seeing students who are accelerating their degree timeline and therefore giving up learning and career growth opportunities. We would like your support in grandfathering students currently enrolled and enrolling before September 2024 into the BC PNP program requires as exist today.
- iv. Multiple municipalities in the Capital Region District have been identified as needing to significantly increase their housing supply. UVic is planning a bid for a new 500 bed upper year undergrad and grad dorm that would decrease pressure on the local rental market. Will you support the UVic dorm bid?

## I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

## J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

# CLOSING ITEMS

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## EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDUX is going to the Gordon Head Community Association meeting tonight. Work is continuing to progress on the Grad Supervision Policy Review. Concordia has a contract that supervisees-supervisors sign off on expectations of supervision, which may be helpful.

Director of Finance: FIELDER

Director of Internal/University Relations: WEBB

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY

Director of Student Life: LAWTON

Executive Director: TURNER

## 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 OUTLOOK CALENDAR\*\***

Next Executive Meetings: April 25, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: April 23, 2024

AGM: October 22, 2024

Office, Staff Scheduling:

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: to adjourn the meeting.*

M/S: WEBB/LAWTON

CARRIED

X

Wyatt MADDIX  
GSS Chair 2024-25

X

Kyla Turner  
GSS Executive Director

## APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

### Item 1:

Hi Kyla,

Totally understandable about email-catch-up-days. For materials, I think that since many of the new board members probably don't know much about the GSS that a small introduction would be helpful and talking about your changes to focus more on advocacy issues. Talking a bit about some of the unique challenges Grad students experience as well as some things that both undergrads and grads have in common would be great. As this is more or less the last session/event after 3 days of orientation, having something light with an opportunity for our leads and your execs to meet over dinner would be great.

Sincerely,

Corbett

**From:** Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <[gssmgr@uvic.ca](mailto:gssmgr@uvic.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 11:05 AM

**To:** Corbett Gildersleve - UVSS Executive Director <[execdir@uvss.ca](mailto:execdir@uvss.ca)>

**Cc:** GSS Chair <[gsschair@uvic.ca](mailto:gsschair@uvic.ca)>; Dale Robertson - UVSS General Manager <[uvssgm@uvss.ca](mailto:uvssgm@uvss.ca)>; GSS Operations and Services Manager <[gssops@uvic.ca](mailto:gssops@uvic.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: UVSS Orientation - Grad House

Hi Corbett,

(As with all my other emails today, sorry for the delay in my reply. Can you tell it's email-catch-up-day for Kyla?)

I've added Dale, Neil, and Wyatt to this conversation since I know Neil and Dale were dealing with the table booking request for the Grad House (Just a heads up, we have a booking in Side Project that night, so we can only accommodate a table booking in the main restaurant space for this event.)

I've put this request on our next board agenda, so I can confirm who from our board is available May 1 next week. Can I just check what material you're hoping that a GSS presentation would include? We will just be

through our initial annual planning sessions by May 1, so we will have a rough shape to our advocacy plans for the year. Or does your board need more of an overview of GSS services and how we differ from the UVSS?

Cheers,

Kyla Turner (she/they)

Executive Director, University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

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GSS front desk: 250-472-4543

<http://gss.uvic.ca>

Keep in touch by signing up for our bulletin here: <https://gss.uvic.ca/gss-bulletin/>

**From:** Corbett Gildersleve - UVSS Executive Director <execdir@uvss.ca>

**Sent:** April 8, 2024 2:55 PM

**To:** Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>

**Subject:** UVSS Orientation - Grad House

Hi Kyla,

The UVSS is planning out their 3-day board orientation occurring from April 28 to May 1.

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, an idea for our last session would be to go over to the Grad House for dinner, learn about the GSS, and talk about ways we can all work together. Before we plan things out, I wanted to reach out to see if this is possible and if the GSS has capacity to do a short presentation for our board?

Looking forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Corbett Gildersleve