

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

MAY 23, 2024

Zoom Link: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/2244264481>

EXECUTIVE INVITED:

Wyatt MADDUX, Chair;

Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance;

Rosemary WEBB, Director of Internal/University Relations;

Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting)

GUEST: Dawn Schell, Student Wellness Centre, Manager, Mental Health Outreach & Training; Karen Munro; Courtney Lundrigan; and Matt Huculak, UVic Library

REGRETS: Maggie LAWTON, Director of Student Life; Jitendra PALAPARTY, Director of External Relations;

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 12:00pm by MADDUX.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgement offered by FIELDER and MADDUX. MADDUX shared stories about the museums in New York City which are working on including Indigenous stories and making colonial fallacies better known in their displays.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: FIELDER/WEBB

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. STUDENT WELLNESS CENTRE (SWC) MEET AND GREET

Lead: SCHELL

For: Discussion

SCHELL provided an overview of services available at the SWC, including primary care, counselling, spiritual care providers, support groups, workshops, etc. Specific to graduate students, the SWC offers a Grad Student Conversation Circle. SCHELL asked specifically for the Board's advice on the future of the Grad Student Conversation Circle as the attendance was quite low but the quality of discussion was very strong. SCHELL asked if online, in-person, at the GSS, at the SWC, etc. were preferred. MADDUX recommended rotating

between online and in-person meetings. TURNER also recommended cross-promotion and perhaps having a GSS organizing a contingent of people to go together to the SWC, like what LAWTON and PALAPARTY have done with Global Community events. FIELDER and WEBB were in favour of continuing to host at the SWC but having GSS folks who can be able to make that connection and bring people to the SWC.

Other groups that are open to undergrads and grads include ADHD groups, trans+ groups, anxiety and depression groups, grief groups, etc. SCHELL mentioned that Knit Connect is getting significant participation.

SWC has also partnered with GSS on hosting naloxone workshops and a harm reduction fair. SCHELL is the lead over harm reduction at the SWC, but with recent budget cuts the staffing over harm reduction was significantly diminished. The Harm Reduction Centre in the SUB will re-open once sufficient volunteers and staff are secured. SCHELL noted that the nursing staff at the SWC host monthly naloxone training. TURNER suggested focusing on training more naloxone trainers. SCHELL also noted that the SWC is looking into drug checking on campus, but this issue is still being discussed with UVic leadership around the regulatory requirements.

Additionally, UVic has recently restructured the student wellness portfolio to include the Student Wellness Centre, Multifaith Centre (previously combined), and now the Athletics and Recreational Services. The new department is called Wellness, Recreation, and Athletics Department (WRAD). WRAD's inaugural leadership position was hired in April.

SCHELL noted that WRAD is currently hiring for an accessibility and inclusion lead for wellness, which is partially donor funded.

SCHELL also shared that WRAD is now moving forward on planning to implement the Okanagan Charter, a framework for creating health promoting universities and campus communities.

NOTICE OF AGENDA ITEM: Does the Board wish to support the SWC in their discussions with UVic about becoming a drug checking site?

2. LIBRARY MEET AND GREET

Lead: MUNRO, LUNDRIGAN, HUCULAK

For: Discussion

MUNRO, LUNDRIGAN, and HUCULAK gave an overview of Library services that pertain to graduate students, including the Thesis Writers Intensive, subject-specific liaison librarians, the Centre for Academic Communications, citation and other academic workshops, and the Digital Scholarship Commons (DSC). The DSC has access to 3D printing, laser cutting, and other cool tech that expands grad student skills.

MUNRO gave an overview of Thesis Writing Intensive. The Thesis Writing Intensive (previously called a 'bootcamp') is targeted at students who are writing their theses and brings together supports from the SWC and the Centre for Academic Communications to provide workshops on anxieties, time management, citations, etc. etc. The Thesis Writing Intensive has been fully booked/at capacity for many years running. Student feedback has included creating more faculty specific trainings and structured writing times in the Fall semester. The GSS has offered space for this prior to the last board election.

LUNDIGRAN provided an overview of the supports that subject liaison librarians can provide, including research, citation, and publication supports. LUNDIGRAN requested an introduction between the subject liaison librarians and the GRC.

HUCULAK noted that all the DSC workshops (including workshops of 3D printing, Canva, story-telling with data, citation management systems, etc.) are licensed for open access use. He also noted that the DSC has a virtual reality system which had been used for data visualization.

HUCULAK also noted that the library is revising their grant writing support program, now called the Grants Menu, which focuses on Tri-Council grants. HUCULAK asked whether the GSS feels having a Grant Writing Intensive inclusive of the 3 grant officers at UVic as well as successfully funded faculty providing training, would be useful. FIELDER noted the existing workshops focus on timelines and overview of requirements for grants, but doesn't offer writing support or peer support as part of their programs. FIELDER was strongly in support of the Grant Writing Intensive. WEBB noted that the timelines for Tri-Council grants are intense for first year students, who often submit Tri-Council applications in the first month of their graduate degree. TURNER asked if this would be exclusive to Tri-Council because those aren't accessible to most international students. HUCULAK noted there may need to be multiple streams of intensives.

HUCULAK also noted that the Library hires graduate students on an as-needed basis to train on specific skills and creating/delivering training workshops on skills and tools in the DSC that the Library doesn't have in-house expertise.

LUNDIGRAN will be in touch with the board to schedule a library tour later in the summer.

TASK: WEBB to contact Karen Munro at UVic Library re: connections between the Library and the Grad Student Appreciation Week.

NOTICE OF AGENDA ITEM (GRC in FALL): Meet and Greet with Subject Liaison Librarians and an intro to the Thesis Writing Intensive.

3. CAMPAIGN CHECK IN

Lead: MADDIX

For: Discussion

Foregone.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2024 Executive Board Meeting as presented.

M/S: FIELDER/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:

May 9: TASK: TURNER to reschedule board meetings in Outlook calendar, the board room calendar, etc.

Tasks revoked or abandoned:

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Motion: to elect the following members to the following committees:

Committee: Appointment Committee: University Registrar

No appointment made. Send committee request to GRC.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: MA Community Development Orientation May 29 (appendix D)

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: WEBB/FIELDER

CARRIED

TASK: MADDOX AND WEBB to deliver a 10-15 minute orientation, focused on the needs of distance students, to the MA Community Development program at 2pm on May 29 in HSD A264.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. May 15 Operational Relations Debrief

- i. Re: Lactation friendly campus: Andrew Coward noted that UVic has separate funds for capital projects that is not included in the operating budget that was cut by 4%. UVic also has deferred revenues for building maintenance and upgrades. The Province has also recently changed building codes for increased accessibility, which may result in provincial funding being available for this kind of upgrade. In short, UVic has additional funding sources that they could look into building modifications to create lactation friendly spaces. Corrado Agnello, Director of Project Management asked after the viability and desirability of multi-function spaces that could be used for lactation, prayer, reprieve, etc. Overall, the response was highly positive. Coming in with a complete package of policy and budget proposals seems to have improved reception significantly.
- ii. ATRS/CARSA: Nicole Greengoe gave a presentation with the following info: CARSA is mortgaged to 2041. The Athletics programs as a whole get 16% of their funding from UVic another 28% from ATRS fees to support a \$1.4million/year operation. ATRS fees are subject to tuition increase limits. 300-500 students are hired by Athletics each year. They operate Centennial Stadium, 8 fields, Ian Stewart Ice Rink, McKinnon pool and gym, and CARSA. The McKinnon center is an academic building used to support UVic academic programs (especially Physical Health Education), but the Athletics dept. partners with them to provide programming. Services include drop-in activities, swimming, ice rink access (seasonal), and Vikes Nation events like Holi Run, Dodge in the Dark and ThunderFest. Michelle Peterson has met with the students who started the petition around the closure of the McKinnon weight room and dance studios. The feedback received was that there was a

core community of McKinnon gym users who feel that they've had an opportunity for physical activity removed, but they've not stressed the financial aspect of the issue. UVic and Alumni provide 5 bursaries per year of \$200-500 based on demonstrated need. Next steps include: increase and restructure bursaries, investigate low-to-no cost space use in CARSA, putting new equipment in quieter spaces.

As UVic has just brought the Student Wellness Centre, Multifaith, and Athletics together under one department, TURNER asked if it would be possible to have a centralized list of free opportunities for students to get active each week, including the Multifaith yoga program, Athletics drop-in schedule, etc. PALAPARTY suggested further physical activities that may be possible at the Multifaith centre. TURNER offered to info-share for GSS events that are wellness related if an email blast/events listing for the new Student Wellness department moves ahead.

- iii. Encampment: per GSS member request, the discussion started with TURNER acknowledging that May 15 is Nabka Day, a Palestinian memorial day for the end of Mandatory Palestine in 1948 and the beginning of the independent state of Israel when 700,000 Palestinians were displaced. DUNSDON noted that the University has been clear that campus is a place for peaceful protest for students, faculty, and staff. Attempts at communication between the encampment and UVic have yet to yield significant results. UVic has some absolute "no-go's" in those demands, primarily breaking ties with Israeli academics and removing Israeli students from UVic. DUNSDON also noted that UVic requires broad consultation across the campus on major policy changes.

In principle, UVic agrees with GSS's call for no academic or professional penalties for peaceful protests, but the University has been clear that policy breaching behaviours not directly tied to peaceful protest could result in penalties for students, faculty, and staff. DUNSDON and COWARD also noted that the contract with Paladin Security is costing the University \$100K/week and there was no answer forthcoming about whether contingency funds would be used for this and what the impact on hiring within CUPE 4163 positions would be. TURNER noted that GSS members are concerned that they will be directly financially impacted by further cuts.

- iv. Budget update and divestment: Andrew Coward did not have sufficient time to give a fulsome update, but he and Raymond Aoki, UVic Treasurer will join a forthcoming board meeting to present of the budget and the Responsible Investment Policy

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: MADDOX is extremely busy for the next month.

Director of Finance: FIELDER has started on some of the long term projects in his portfolio, including the website re-design and the fund restructuring. Appeals Committee meets tomorrow.

Director of Internal/University Relations: WEBB met with Robin Hicks for Grad Student Appreciation Week recently. Petri created a budget presentation for FGS. Neil has sent WEBB sample contracts to

have supporters sign off. WEBB included the expectation of funding supporters in their discussion with Hicks. Hicks recommended partnerships with VPAC and VP Research.

The first Climate Connections event had a small attendance but is expected to grow when Jono returns as the lead volunteer for that project.

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY no report.

Director of Student Life: LAWTON no report.

Executive Director: TURNER noted that the board will need to discuss options for providing take home naloxone training and kits at the next meeting. There is a write up available on teams now for background. This will be on the June 6 board agenda.

Recap here: https://uvic.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/msteams_GSSGraduateRepresentativeCouncilO-ExecutiveBoard/Shared%20Documents/Executive%20Board/2024-25%20Agendas%20Minutes%20%26%20Supporting%20Docs/2024-05%20Exec%20Meetings/Naloxone%20recap%20doc.docx?d=w423eab1e3a67476a9928771d2877b31d&csf=1&web=1&e=bhiBjQ

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Notice of agenda item: Meet and Greet with ICS and GC teams – June 6

Notice of agenda item: Responsible Investment Policy overview with Andrew Coward and Ray Aoki – TBD

NOTICE OF AGENDA ITEM: Does the Board wish to support the SWC in their discussions with UVic about becoming a drug checking site?

NOTICE OF AGENDA ITEM (GRC in FALL): Meet and Greet with Subject Liaison Librarians and an intro to the Thesis Writing Intensive.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

****Task Reminder: Please be sure your meetings and events are up to date on OUTLOOK CALENDAR****

Next Executive Meetings: June 6, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: May 28, 2024

AGM: October 22, 2024

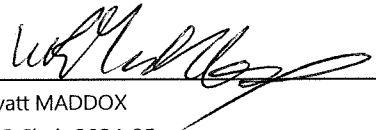
Office, Staff Scheduling: Neil is out on vacation for the last week of May. Abby is out on vacation the first week of June.

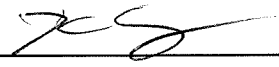
ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 1:27pm.

M/S: WEBB/FIELDER

CARRIED

X 
Wyatt MADDUX
GSS Chair 2024-25

X 
Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1:

From: Marlowe Morrison, Public Admin Program Manager

Sent: May 3, 2024 9:18:43 AM

To: GSS Director of Internal/University Relations; GSS Chair

Subject: GSS meet new grad students - May 29?

Hi there,

I hope this finds you well! Our School is welcoming a new cohort of MA in Community Development students in May 2024. These students study primarily online, but will be on-campus for a two week residency this summer. While they are on campus, we have a free window of time Wednesday, **May 29th at 2:30pm** and we would love for a GSS rep to stop by the classroom to give an overview of GSS services. Would this be possible?

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

All the best,

Marlowe

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Marlowe Morrison (she/her), Program Manager

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We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəṇən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

