

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

JULY 16, 2024

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

EXECUTIVE INVITED:

Wyatt MADDOX, Chair;
Rosemary WEBB, Director of Internal/University Relations;
Jitendra PALAPARTY, Director of External Relations;
Maggie LAWTON, Director of Student Life;
Samuel FIELDER, Director of Finance;

GUEST: People's Park Representative

REGRETS: Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting);

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER 8:30

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 8:32

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA 8:34

Motion: to approve the agenda with minor edits below.

M/S: FIELDER/LAWTON

CARRIED

- WEBB: Agenda for the last few meetings has WEBB in the signature panel from back when WEBB chaired instead of MADDOX or FIELDER. Also, WEBB's title is misspelled as "Relaitons".

NEW BUSINESS

1. GRC COMMITTEE PREFERENCE FORM APPROVAL 8:35

Lead: FIELDER

REF DOC: [2024-25 GRC Committee Choice FILLABLE FORM.docx](#)

For: Discussion

Kyla's notes: Please complete and/or list any edits you'd like to see on this form for circulation to newly elected GRC reps in August-September and send these back to Irfy!

Please also start looking at your Fall calendars so you can fix a meeting time for each of your committees so you can advertise predictable meeting times when recruiting committee members and you can book out the

board room for the full semester. We struggle to get volunteers to committees without a meeting schedule, so please make a meeting schedule for your own committees!

- FIELDER: Had previously proposed collapsing Appeals, Finance, SRC into grouped committee called "Checks and Balances." Didn't see this reflected in the current document for review. Not necessarily one committee, but all members from all, committees come to each meeting, with focus each month whatever it needs to be. Members won't be doing the work of all 3 committees but will trade out tasks each month based on need. Might help with low turnout (i.e. in Finance). Might be further conversation around SRC, and the needed absence of Board members during the SRC conversations. This is a way for GRC members to be part of a "background work" style committee rather than more active ones.
- MADDOX: concerns around wrapping SRC in.
- WEBB: May need to make it clear that GRC members aren't signing up for 3 committees' amount of work.
- LAWTON: proposal to indicate the # of volunteers we would ideally have on each committee. FIELDER agrees here.

TASK (all members): set meeting time for each committee by Friday, July 19th.

TASK (all members): respond to Kyla's notes in the individual committee descriptions.

TASK (FIELDER): send completed form to Irfan on Monday, July 22nd.

2. ELECTORAL APPEALS COMMITTEE TOR APPROVAL 8:40

Lead: MADDOX

REF DOC: Electoral Appeals Committee TOR

For: Decision

Motion: to approve the Electoral Appeals Committee Terms of Reference with suggested edits.

M/S: WEBB/LAWTON

CARRIED

- MADDOX: this document is new for us! B&P actively conflict with these TOR, but MADDOX and B&P committee will be reviewing and changing the conflicting policies.
- PALAPARTY: questions around "randomly selected" members, particularly around if the selected members intend to run for a Board position or if they're on a campaign side. Would we also exclude members who are explicitly supporting a candidate's campaign? There is no registration procedure for electoral campaign sides, so doesn't fall under TOR.
 - o MADDOX clarification: this would be happening *during* or *after* an election, so no issue here. TOR excludes registered members of referendum sides. Conflict of interest around members supporting an electoral campaign side would be up to the discretion of the Electoral Officer.

3. PEOPLE'S PARK 9:20

Lead: WEBB & PALAPARTY

Guests: People's Park Representative

For: Discussion

The People's Park Representative will be shortened for the below portion of minutes to PPRep.
Territory Acknowledgement given by PPRep.

Academic Boycott:

PPRep starts the discussion with some clarity involving the call for an Academic Boycott. (Aside: The PP Instagram channel has posted an update on what specifics they would like to see regarding their ask for an academic boycott of Israeli Academic Institutions.). PPREp and PP would like to state that there is already some academic restrictions in place for entire countries, such as Iran and Russia. Under these current sanctions, PPREp and PP would like to extend these types of similar restrictions into their asks, suggesting that there is no valid reason why UVic would not also be able to extend these restrictions on other academic institutions. The main goal behind this academic boycott would be to mimic the current policies that are in place for countries such as Iran and Russia, to Israel.

Divestiture:

Update from Executive Board: in a Responsible Investment Policy update meeting on June 18th, the Board called into question UVic investment related to manufacturing of arms – UVic is looking to investment managers which have a provision against these kinds of investments in their existing policies. The Board asked for a timeline of the Policy review and UVic was unable to commit; they are in the “engagement stage” with no fixed deadline.

These were two primary investments linked to weapons manufacturing.

PPRep states that much work has been completed over the past year in divesting from certain companies in response to both the ongoing policy revisions to the Responsible Investment Policy, and their discussions with UVic. Companies such as Dassault Systems, Samsung, Home Depot, Walt Disney, weapons manufacturing companies, and AI automation companies (with C-suite position employees being connected with anti-Palestinian rhetoric), have been divested from, or are planning to be divested from upon the completion of the revisions to the aforementioned UVic policy.

Responsible Investment Policy:

All parties agree (PPRep and the Executive Board) that student involvement (both at the undergraduate and graduate levels) should be mandated into the policy itself.

Land Leasing:

A portion of UVic owned property residing at the Vancouver Island Technology Park (VITP) is leased to ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems. PPREp and PP would like to see this lease be broken early, or a commitment for UVic for a non-renewal of this lease. This would deal with the general property investments group at UVic.

External security:

Update from Executive Board - in the Responsible Investment Policy meeting on June 18th, the Board again asked about the deficit UVic is running hiring external security (~\$100k/week, according to UVic), specifically calling for clarification on whether contingency funds will be used and if there will be a budgetary impact on TA and union positions. UVic informed us that they expect to use the approximate \$7mil enrollment contingency fund to cover security expenses incurred. They will know closer to August/September what the enrollment numbers actually are, and how the contingency fund will be used.

Relationship between PP and the GSS:

PPRep clearly indicates that general statements regarding “the people’s right to protest” are completely unwanted, and do not help in their message and asks to the University. They do not like statements that adhere to “legalese” but do understand that organizations (such as the GSS) are bound by their own policies and bylaws in what they are allowed to do around such statements.

PP and PPREp are asking for student groups to specifically support Palestine, and nothing else “much matters” in terms of public statements regarding PP and the ongoing protests.

UVic Investment Policy Concerns:

PPRep states that despite the Responsible Investment Policy indicating that there are to be “no fixed terms” for any investments made, the current situation with their locked in investments already contradict the policy.

PP would like there to be more student involvement in the actual investments made, such that breaches of the policy cannot happen. The GSS has not explored the comments made on these policy concerns.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (APPENDIX A) 10:00

Motion: to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2024 Executive Board Meeting as presented [OR with minor corrections as provided].

M/S: FIELDER/LAWTON

CARRIED

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (APPENDIX B) 10:05

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!

FIELDER: Will further inquire about rising cost for Tuition Installment Plan.

Tasks Completed/Decisions fully acted upon:

Tasks revoked or abandoned:

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (APPENDIX C) 10:10

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

Committee:

Member:

M/S:

CARRIED/FAILED

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX D) 10:15

Item 1: FGS AD Indigenous Conference Invite (appendix D and conference schedule)

- FIELDER: They want to come to a Board meeting – invite them to either of the August meetings. We can assign a task in the next Board meeting.

POSTPONED DECISION UNTIL NEXT BOARD MEETING.

Item 2: EQHR Policy Updates (appendix D)

WEBB: received an email about Make Transit Work group – emailed them asking for more information, looping in PALAPARTY.

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: LAWTON/FIELDER

CARRIED

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF 10:20

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. April 23 GRC - debrief

I. LOBBYING REPORTS 10:30

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN 10:30

- FIELDER: will compile Board's comments, make edits, and send to Petri for an updated version. If anyone has further comments, please put them in Teams by July 30th.

CLOSING ITEMS 10:35

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDOX – Going hiking for the next 3 days! Bye!

Director of Finance: FIELDER – gets back from Edmonton on Wednesday. Appeal upcoming in the next few weeks.

Director of Internal/University Relations: WEBB – VPRI gave us \$2500 for GSAW! Woo! A&C isn't meeting in August. In personal life, facing continued legal issues with Landlords.

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY – Went on a trip to Hornby Island over the weekend! Had a lot of fun!

Director of Student Life: LAWTON – wrapping up planning of August and September events. Leaving for vacation in a week and a half! Will not answer messages in the first two weeks of August.

Executive Director: TURNER – On vacation!!

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: July 30th, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: July 23rd, 2024

AGM: October 22, 2024

Office, Staff Scheduling:

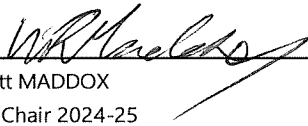
ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting.


M/S: LAWTON/WEBB

CARRIED

X


Wyatt MADDUX
GSS Chair 2024-25

X


Rosemary Webb
GSS Director of Internal/University Relations 20...

APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: GSTIOP Fee

From: Ludwig Paul Cabling <cabling@uvic.ca>

Sent: June 12, 2024 1:51 PM

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

Subject: Re: GSS Contact Form Request From Ludwig Paul Cabling

Hi Kyla,

I just wanted to bring some attention back to this point as the grad student income offset plan cost went up again to \$50 from \$35 last year. Can you bring this back again to the board? Can this be investigated further? I know every school has different policies, but I want to outline that grad students are paid in installments and I want to try and make sense of the administrative costs related to this plan. I am sure it is a lot more of a bigger picture than I am seeing, but I would love to see the details of the "human oversight, data entry to comply with Canadian banking laws" to be more informed.

Thanks,
Paul

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

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 10:47 AM

To: GSS Governance <gssgov@uvic.ca>; Ludwig Paul Cabling <cabling@uvic.ca>

Cc: Summer Okibe - GSS Chair <gsschair@uvic.ca>

Subject: RE: GSS Contact Form Request From Ludwig Paul Cabling

Good morning Paul,

Thank you for your patience in my reply. Our Executive Board has your inquiry on their September 20 agenda to review for advocacy to the University about the GSTIOP program.

I'm going to start this with a bit of info from UVic on GSTIOP (and apologies that this will sound very "party-line.")

Unfortunately, not all universities are set up to withdraw tuition from student stipends, particularly in BC. SFU for instance charges 2% monthly interest to pay tuition by installments. UBC does not appear to have an installment plan at all. Because these fee installment programs are not standard in BC, the GSTIOP designed to be self-funded through fees collected.

These fees offset the labour costs for administering the plan. My understanding from UVic was that the program had not, in fact, been covering labour to administer the plan for years. The GSTIOP program requires a fair bit of human oversight and data entry to comply with Canadian banking laws. The fees raised last year because it's the first fee change for this program since it's inception, so they are catching up on many, many years of inflation and wage increases for the staff who administer the plan. It was also intended to address the number of insufficient fund errors that the program ran into, resulting in

increased banking fees for students. By allowing students to initiate payment over the course of the month, UVic's hope was that students could initiate payment when the funds were in their account.

Personally, I am not in favour of charge low-income students more to access this form of aid, and I can represent this matter to our board. The Province is actually conducting a full review of how post-secondary institutions are funded, and the GSS will be advocating for changes that should make it easier to bring BC in line with the financial services standards of other provinces.

Thanks,
Kyla Turner (she/her or they/them)
Executive Director
University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society
Keep in touch by signing up for our bulletin here: <https://gss.uvic.ca/gss-bulletin/>

Room 102, Halpern Centre for Graduate Students
Box 1700, Victoria, BC, V8W 2Y2
GSS front desk: 250-472-4543
GSS fax: 250-721-6137

<http://gss.uvic.ca>

From: UVic Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>
Sent: September 9, 2022 12:39 PM
To: GSS Office <gssoffice@uvic.ca>
Subject: GSS Contact Form Request From Ludwig Paul Cabling

Hello, I was wondering if there was someone on the GSS that is in charge of discussions about the graduate student income offset plan (<https://www.uvic.ca/students/campus-services/tuition-fees-budgeting/graduate-student-tuition-income-offset-plan/index.php>).

I am coming from the University of Alberta where tuition fees are deducted automatically from graduate student stipends, without any fee or form required. Other universities like USask does the same with an automatic offset from graduate student stipends. Graduate students at the University of Victoria had* to pay a \$25 fee (2021-2022) and a form to be done to get tuition and fees deducted every month from my stipend, and now the form is asking for a \$35 fee for the form for 2022-2023... I do not know what this fee increase entails nor do I think the fee is necessary in the first place, considering it is the STUDENT'S responsibility (work) to send 4 installments a term. This is gouging graduate students who are honestly already being exploited enough.

Do let me know who I can talk to about this if possible!

Thank you,
Paul

-Ludwig Paul Cabling (cabling@uvic.ca)

Item 2: Ministry for Post-Secondary SV Advisory Group

From: Kusz, Jennifer PSFS:EX <Jennifer.Kusz@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: June 20, 2024 3:41 PM

To: Clara Wallace <external@sfugradsociety.ca>; Pierre Cenerelli <pierre.cenerelli@sfugradsociety.ca>; Firth MacKenzie McEachern <president@gss.ubc.ca>; vpexternal <vpexternal@gss.ubc.ca>; Vivian Tian <office@gss.ubc.ca>; Ekpeno Ukut <gsspres@unbc.ca>; Alden Chow <gssoffice@unbc.ca>; GSS Chair <gsschair@uvic.ca>; Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>

Subject: Invitation to Become the Graduate Student Representative on the SV Advisory Group

You don't often get email from jennifer.kusz@gov.bc.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Jennifer Kusz, and I am a Senior Policy Analyst with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS). Together with BC post-secondary institutions (PSIs) representatives, students/student associations, subject matter experts, and associations representing community organizations specific to sexualized violence, we coordinate a Sexualized Violence Advisory Group.

We are reaching out to all **graduate student societies** to see if you, or someone else in your organization who is engaged in sexualized violence work, are interested in becoming **the graduate student representative** of the SV Advisory Group and a voice for your community. Joining the Advisory Group gives you the opportunity to be the point of connection between the Ministry and post-secondary education representatives. This opportunity gives you the chance to be an active participant in the province-wide response to sexualized violence within post-secondary system.

This group is the main connection point between PSFS, BC PSIs, students/student associations, subject matter experts, and associations representing community organizations specific to sexualized violence.

The main purposes of the group are to:

- Provide ongoing and annual recommendations and feedback to PSFS on its strategic direction, programs, and initiatives, relating to efforts at preventing and responding to sexualized violence in the post-secondary system.
- Provide guidance to affiliated SV Working Groups.
- Consult with various stakeholder groups, including students, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations on matters related to sexualized violence in post-secondary system.

The goal is for the group to include members with diverse experiences and strive to reflect the perspectives of those engaged in sexualized violence work in the post-secondary system in BC. We are seeking representation of people with diverse identities and backgrounds, including people who identify as equity deserving groups including, but not limited to, Indigenous, Black, and persons of colour (BIPOC), 2SLGBTQIA+, and persons with disabilities.

To align with annual election cycles, and to facilitate continuous student representation, the Ministry is reaching out to provincial student associations, non-affiliated student societies, and BC student-led sexualized violence organizations annually every Spring. There is one seat available for each of the following: Alliance of BC Students, BC Federation of Students, non-affiliated student societies, Graduate Student Societies of BC, and BC student-led sexualized violence organizations. Each group of organizations will be invited to select a representative to attend the SV Advisory Group meetings for a one-year term. Representatives are encouraged to select an alternate person in case they are unable to attend a meeting or need to step away.

As we are reaching out directly to the graduate student societies, we ask that you coordinate to determine which graduate student association/union will be the main representative on the committee. This structure means there is one person who is the main graduate student representative on the Advisory Group, with another graduate student association/union selecting one person to be the alternate representative.

Please see our [website](#) for more information, including the Terms of Reference. Currently, the group meets virtually once a month. We are looking for representatives to join our meetings starting in August 2024.

If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information about the group, please contact me, jennifer.kusz@gov.bc.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Jennifer

Jennifer Kusz (PhD)

Senior Policy Analyst

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Post-Secondary Policy Unit

Strategic Policy & Initiatives Branch

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS)

Email: Jennifer.Kusz@gov.bc.ca

I am grateful to live, learn/unlearn, work, and play on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw, First Nations People.

EXECUTIVE 2024-25 MOTION LOG: RECORD OF APPROVED MOTIONS AND ASSIGNED TASKS¹

As of July 2, 2024

executive Meeting	<u>Motion</u> or task (<i>Motions</i> containing expenditures are in BOLD)
Outstanding from 2023-24	TASK: Executive Board to review the Electoral Officer payment policies for possible revision by the Bylaw and Policy Committee. TASK: All board members to post pictures of events that they attend (if pictures are taken) on Teams for use by the Events and Communications Committees.
March 28	TASK: BEAL AND WEBB to meet to discuss the future of Rock the Boat program at UVic and within FGS.
April 4	All complete.
April 11	All complete.
April 18	All complete.
April 25	All complete.
May 9	All complete.
May 23	All complete.
June 6	All complete.
June 18	All complete.
July 2	TASK: PALAPARTY to serve as the BC Sexualized Violence in Post Secondary committee member. TASK: PALAPARTY to confirm the UVic GSS signature on the GSSBC Advocacy letter. TASK: FIELDER to contact GARO re: Graduate Student Income Offset Program (GSTIOP) fee increases.
July 16	TASK (all members): set meeting time for each committee by Friday, July 19 th . TASK (all members): respond to Kyla's notes in the individual committee descriptions. TASK (Fielder): send completed form to Irfan on Monday, July 22 nd .

¹ This document is to assist with motion and task follow-up and completion, particularly spanning Executive and GRC annual transitions. Motions pertaining to internal administration such as the approval of agendas, minutes, committee appointments; and motions that did not pass or were tabled, are not in this document. Financial motions are indicated in **BOLD**. Incomplete and in-progress items are in the first table. Completed, revoked and abandoned tasks and motions are located in the second table.

July 30	
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APPENDIX C: COMMITTEES

APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1:

FGS AD Indigenous Conference Invite

From: Devi Mucina - Associate Dean, Indigenous <gsadeanind@uvic.ca>

Sent: July 3, 2024 10:48 AM

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

Subject: RE: Welcome!

Good morning Kyla and Wyatt,

Thank you so much for the welcome and I would love to meet the Grad Students' Society Board. I can come to your next meeting and meet your team. I am booked for next Tuesday and am away July 17 until July 22. I have also attached a conference that we are hosting, could be of interest.
Devi

Dr. Devi Dee Mucina
Professor
School of Indigenous Governance
Faculty of Human and Social Development
University of Victoria
T 250-721-6436

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

Author of Ubuntu Relational Love Decolonizing Black Masculinities

Item 2: EQHR Policy Updates

From: EQHR Policy Review <policyreview@uvic.ca>

Sent: July 3, 2024 1:48 PM

Cc: Cassbreea Dewis, EQHR Executive Director <eqhrdir@uvic.ca>

Subject: D&H policy approval

Hello all,

We wanted to update you that the Discrimination and Harassment Prevention and Response Policy has been approved by the UVic Board of Governors. The updated policy will come into effect on September 1st.

A huge thank you to all of you for your participation throughout this multi-year process. This review has greatly benefited from the leadership and insights of advisory committee and working group members as well as those who've participated in consultations over the past year.

As you may know, this has been a complete policy rewrite using the Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response Policy as an exemplar as well as extensive consultation. While the changes reflected in the Discrimination and Harassment Prevention and Response Policy are significant and, to some extent, groundbreaking, we know that UVic is ready and is already working with the elements that may seem new, such as, microaggressions, hostile work environments, and systemic discrimination.

Over the next two months, Equity and Human Rights will be working to prepare for implementation, including developing workshops, a new website and information handouts. We will also be continuing to support the work of our Indigenous colleagues to design the Indigenous Standards of Practice to support a distinctions-based approach to engaging with the Policy.

Thank you,

Cassbreea and Paloma

