

Graduate Representative Council

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

JULY 23, 2024, 5-7 PM

Executive Board Invited (1 vote per member):

Chair: Wyatt Maddox

Director of Internal/University Relations: Rosemary Webb

Director of Finance: Samuel Fielder

Director of Student Life: Maggie Lawton

Director of External Relations: Jitendra Palaparty

Elected Academic Unit Reps Invited (1 vote per academic unit):

Anthropology: Rachel Hooton	Educational Psychology and Leadership Studies:	Law: Katarina Sawchuk	Political Science: Michael Chutskoff
Art History: Sarah Roberts & Jessica Ziakin Cook	Electrical and Computer Engineering:	Linguistics:	Social Dimensions of Health:
Biochemistry and Microbiology: Sushant Suresh	Environmental Studies: Lauren Burton & Diana Bertuol Garcia	Mathematics and Statistics:	Social Work:
Biology: Dominique Maucieri	Exercise Science, Phys. & Health Ed:	Mechanical Engineering: Maziyar Khadivi & Diogo Bravo	Sociology: Iman Fadaei & Jasmine Padam
Business:	French:	Music: Olivia Charette	Social Work:
Chemistry: Nick Roberts & Harvey MacKenzie	Geography:	Neuroscience:	Theatre:
Child and Youth Care:	Germanic and Slavic Studies:	Nursing:	Visual Arts:
Civil Engineering: Sanaz Ajabshir & Monika Mikhail	Greek and Roman Studies: Ben Watts-Wooldridge	Pacific and Asian Studies: Delaney Johnson & Ivan Garcimartin Carmona	Writing:
Curriculum and Instruction: Nabila Kazmi & Aleksandra Waliszewska	Health Information Science: Haopeng Ren	Philosophy:	CUPE:
Earth and Ocean Science: Katie Jamson & Stacey Edmonsond	History: Abigail Romano	Physics and Astronomy: Jade Fischer & Jonathan Qualter	Other Programs:
Economics:	Indigenous Governance: Kyle Cook	Psychology: Cian Dabrowski & Tara Cooper	Interdisciplinary Studies:

Recorder: Irfan Tanveer, Governance Coordinator

Invited Guests:

Regrets Received: Executive Director (non-voting): Kyla Turner, Jasmine Padam, Nick Roberts,

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER 5:00 PM

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5:01 PM

Councillors are asked to take a turn to provide a personal, meaningful statement of land acknowledgement.

Today's personal land acknowledgement will be provided by QUALTERS.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA 5:05

MOTION: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: Executive Board/JOHNSON

CARRIED

TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER 5:10

Today's timekeeper was: ROBERTS.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, MEETING QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE 5:12

GSS Membership: As of May 21, 2024, the GSS has 2997 members.

Meeting Quorum: With 2 regrets received, quorum for tonight's meeting is 14.

REPORTS AND OPEN DIALOGUE

CHAIR'S REMARKS 5:13

MADDOX will update GRC on the goings on of the Executive Board regarding annual plan completion and forwarded to Petri.

MADDOX said advocacy at GSS is expanding and more resources we are adding as much as possible furthermore MADDOX stressed about graduate students should have the ability to participate in activities other than academics

MADDOX advised the current GRC reps to encourage their peers to participate in the GRC.

A. GRC COMMITTEE, ELECTORAL OFFICER REPORTS, UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS 5:18

- **Advocacy and Campaigns:** WEBB mentioned that our work is slow during the summer and most of the work during the summer was the opportunity to work in the community garden and the committee agenda revolves around climate change. Furthermore, WEBB added that committee is trying to make the campus more lactation friendly. WEBB added that the committee would like to discuss with UVIC the responsible investment and graduate student should have a permanent position on it. WEBB said the deficit the UVic was running in relations to the people park. WEBB said that UVic replied to the enrollment contingency funds are used for paying for security on campus.
- **Appeals:** FIELDER said has been active and on top of regular appeals the committee worked on the TOR which includes the long-term concerns. FIELDER said that a disabled student requested to opt out once for the entire program time rather than opting out each semester. FIELDER mentioned that Appeals decided not to proceed with multi year opt-out for the UPASS which will add more complexity and privacy issues.

- Bylaw & Policy: MADDUX said committee completed TOR for electoral appeals committees. The TOR is more in aligned with the bylaws.
- Events: LAWTON mentioned that LAUREN walked some students to library to go through 3D printing. Further LAWTON added that most of the work is being preparing for the orientation event in the September and hence next month will be busier than rest.
- Finance: FIELDER said that the committee has been slow during the summer and the committee is preparing for the budget and audit for the GSS. The committee is looking into fund structure and improve backend flow and budgeting responsibly.
- Stipend Review: FISCHER
- Electoral Officer: QUALTER – said there was a referendum and mentioned about the option based on annual increase rather than after 3 years.

GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS 5:28

GRC terms officially end on August 31. If you wish to change committees, we will change them in September – Thanks, TURNER

OPEN DIALOGUE AND REPORTS 5:32

LEAD: MADDUX – open floor for anyone

Students discussed about ATRS and closure of McKinnon pool

ROBERTS said the CARSA repayment for UVic debt seems to be hidden in ATRS.

QUALTER said that all universities in Canada are built under similar contract

ROBERTS said that CARSA does not have enough capacity for all the students

QUALTER asked, if UVic aligns with other universities in Canada then would UVic change the ATRS fee name to CARSA debt repayment fees? MADDUX agreed by saying the ATRS fee is being used for CARSA debt repayment.

ROBERTS said after looking at the budget and noticed UVic having a contingency funds but is not being used to pay towards CARSA debt repayment and rather paid for hiring private security.

ROBERTS said that the cost to rebuild quadra community pool is costing way too much and its still being rebuild as compared to UVic McKinnon pool being closed for a small amount for maintenance.

MADDUX said he and chair of UVSS along with Faculty member to work towards closure of McKinnon pool issue. WEBB said that UVic is not using clear language when it comes to the rational for closure of the pool.

MADDUX said the students working at the pool will lose those jobs and students might not be able to receive the similar wage what they are earning now.

ROBERTS exerted how much swimming is crucial for community health, UVic swimming and kayaking clubs need the swimming pool access so that student feel safe, the clubs also store their equipment at the pool.

MADDUX said this will be a huge advocacy and campaign in the upcoming GRC term 2024-25.

BREAK – 5 MINUTES – 5:55 PM

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. END OF GRC TERM WRAP UP! 6:00

Lead:

For: Discussion

END of GRC term wrap up. MADDOX asked feedback from the GRC members

SURA said some department does not do a good job with communication. FIELDER said that clear communication must be established between department and GSS regarding GRC.

CHARETTE said that the department can better communicate and would be nice if we would be involved with each other.

REN said being from China 'I need to socialize but always have difficulty socializing and joining GRC was a wonderful time'.

QUALTER said that it was a nice time to meet with graduate student community.

ROBERTS mentioned that she really enjoyed and since her department is small and all women and doesn't get the chance to meet the diversity.

ROBERTS asked if GRC Reps prefer to have UVic executives come to meeting and have open dialogue with students.

FIELDER asked GRC members if they would like to have a greater number of meeting where GRC reps can meet with UVIC executives

MADDOX said not everyone would enjoy working outside their office hour

FILEDER said that TANVEER and I will be working on the orientation of the GRC reps for the fall 2024.

2. GRC DEPARTMENT LIST FOR 2024-25 6:10

Lead: MADDOX

Reference: [2024-25 Department Eligibility List](#)

For: Discussion

The French, Linguistics, Germanic and Slavic Studies, and Hispanic and Italian Studies departments are merging. We have had AMAZING reps from some of these departments and we don't want to lose out on these folks. Do we wish to create GRC seats for each of these former department next year? (If so, we'll vote to do so in September per our bylaws).

WEBB said that SLLC will be the upcoming department in fall 2024.

Are there other programs or cohorts which should also be granted a special GRC seat for 2024-25?

3. ORIENTATION VOLUNTEER CALL 6:25

Lead: FIELDER

For: Discussion

The more specific details: There are a series of Orientation events in the last week of August/First weeks of September that will need all hands-on deck. If you'd like to help as a volunteer (or know others who do), we will be having an events Committee meeting to discuss and assign tasks on August 27th at 11am (zoom). If you'd like to attend (or would like to help but can't attend), please email Maggie Lawton at gsslife@uvic.ca for details.

4. CARSA/VIKES 6:35

Lead: PALAPARTY & WEBB

Reference:

For: Discussion

The recreational have requested for feedback from the graduate students beyond the services offered free of charge by CARSA. There will be a rep coming in October to GRC for discussion.

FISCHER said that there aren't enough drop-in hours for adults.

JOHNSON said she wished if the drop-in hours would be longer

MADDOX asked for more outdoor activity space, further MADDOX mentioned about the complaint submitted about the stairs in Mystic vale to be replaced and that has been working on.

QUALTER asked how much would exactly cost if they charge for services to every UVic students?

ROBERT added that the opportunity for increase amount of drop in because as graduate students can be uncertain with there schedule.

ROBERTS said a lot of there fitness drop-in classes are during the day but would be nice if they offer evenings or weekend drop in for classes

MADDOX added free outdoor work out equipment availability.

STANDING ITEMS 6:40 PM

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (APPENDIX A) 6:40

MOTION: to approve the Minutes of the May 28, 2024, GRC meeting as presented [with minor corrections as provided].

M/S: QUALTER/BURTON

CARRIED

EXECUTIVE BOARD STIPEND REPORTS – QUESTIONS ARISING AND MOTION TO ACCEPT – 6:42

LEAD: FISCHER

REF DOCS: Executive Board Reports Folder

Councillors are required to read the Executive Board reports prior to the meeting.

Motion to approve the April board reports for Chair, Director of Internal Relations, Director of External Relations, Director of Finance, and Director of Student Life.

Moved: Stipend Review Committee Seconded: ROBERTS

CARRIED

B. REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES 6:45

LEAD: MADDOX

Open Floor to hear any reports from graduate student representatives on:

- Faculty of Graduate Studies Council: RPBERTS said they have completed the survey and
- UVic Search and Hiring Committees: FIELDER said that the physics and astronomy research association director have appointed the director and the have closed further Student life grant

community campus initiatives its up to \$1500 and the other one is anti-racist committee which is also funding up to \$1500

- PALAPARTY mentioned about registrar search committee is working on documents involving interviewing questions and shortlisting candidates currently.
- UVic Faculty Committees: faculty of science EDI course which might start next year but the course is non credit.
- FGS supervisor committee is still at the beginning stages, and the committee members are still accepting feedback from students. The contract is being more specific about the conditions agreed between the student and the supervisor and this document would stipulate. MADDUX asked if this would be ideal, WEBB said her department already does this. MADDUX asked who does the yearly reviewed by the supervisor, and which is mandatory, and the FGS will be taking this from departments. MADDUX said this review is mandatory. GARCIA said that the students had the chance to give feedback.

Note: Reps are encouraged to submit short written reports to gssgov@uvic.ca for inclusion in the minutes.

GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES – VACANCIES (APPENDIX B) 6:50

LEAD: TANVEER

Grad Councillors are asked to sit on at least one UVic Committee to ensure graduate student interests are represented. For information on each committee please see the GSS webpage:

<https://gss.uvic.ca/about-gss/get-involved/committees/grad-representation-at-uvic/>

MOTION: to elect the following graduate student representatives to UVic committees:

Committee: Digital learning implementation committee

Member: none

M/S:

C. REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION 6:55

LEAD: MADDUX

Opportunity for any GRC member participating in a group or issue to request support or participation from other graduate students. Bring information about rallies, events, good information and resource links and be ready to post in the CHAT!

BURTON said the events committee has a plant swap and cuttings.

WEBB said that starting in September the GSS will be accepting names for the graduate symposium funded by the GSS.

D. NOTICES OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

LEAD: MADDUX

E. IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS:

LEAD: MADDUX

Next Meeting: GSS Annual General Meeting! October 22, 2024

- Agenda to be posted: October 15, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: September 24, 2024

- Please have any potential agenda items, with supporting materials, to the Executive Board for consideration, in advance of September 12
- Agenda to be posted: September 17

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes:

F. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting.
M/S: BURTON/JOHNSON

X

Wyatt MADDOX
GSS Chair 2024-25

X

Samuel Fielder
Director of Finance 2024-25