

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 22, 2024

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

EXECUTIVE INVITED:

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);

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:17 by MADDOX.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgement offered by TURNER.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: LAWTON/FIELDER

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. GRC AGENDA

Lead: MADDOX

REF DOC: [2024-10-29 GRC Agenda](#) and [draft ppt](#)

For: Decision

Motion: to approve the agenda for the October 29, 2024 GRC meeting.

M/S: WEBB/FIELDER

CARRIED

2. AGM SET UP AND TASK CHECK IN

Lead: TURNER

For: Discussion

Who is coming early to set up and welcome attendees tonight?

TASKS: Board members to meet at 4pm to set up for the AGM.

3. UPDATE RE: NEW ACCOMMODATION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Lead: TURNER

REF DOCS: [Academic Accommodation and Access for Students with Disabilities Policies](#)

[FA recommendations and responses from UVic](#)

[FA response to UVic](#)

For: Discussion

At the campus union solidarity meeting on October 15, TURNER heard from the Faculty Association (FA) and PEA (the union for CAL advisors among others) that there was a big push for faculty to implement universal design (UD) in all undergrad classes over the next two years with the intention of decreasing the demand for individual accommodation planning once UD is implemented. This is not what other universities are doing to address accessibility. It is also creating tensions between CAL and faculty over who should have responsibility over accommodation planning right now.

In TURNER's opinion, this is a move from UVic to decrease demand for CAL advisors to be hired and retained. It does add a LOT of work to faculty.

In the solidarity meeting, the FA president, Lynne Marks, was not familiar with the demand for grad advisors and supervisors to negotiate accommodation plans with grad students. Given the training needs for faculty to appropriately conduct accommodation planning, this is also going to be a huge workload increase for faculty, which increases the risk of poor outcomes due to ignorance and inattention.

FA and PEA are looking to consult with SSD about how the new policy will be implemented. Given the unique ways that grad students will be impacted both as learners and teachers, do we wish to partner with some unions on advocating to UVic for different ways to implement the policy as written?

TASKS: PALAPARTY and WEBB to consult with SSD regarding the implementation of the new accommodation policy. TURNER to bring updates about GSS to the next campus union solidarity meeting.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2024 Executive Board Meeting as presented.

M/S: FIELDER/MADDOX

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:

October 8: TASK: TURNER to send the questions regarding the Food Bank to UVSS.

TASK: TURNER to invite Robin Hicks to the October 22 board meeting to discuss the FGS Equity Action Plan.

TASK: TURNER to submit the Operational Relations agenda items for October 17.

Tasks re-assigned to Advocacy and Campaigns Committee:

Sept 24: WEBB to meet with ICS and GARO re: attestation letters to include sufficient study time to allow for students to be eligible for spousal work permits.

Sept 24: TASK: WEBB and PALAPARTY to advocate to UVic to model their enrolment for students with a disability after UBC for immigration and visa purposes.

Tasks revoked or abandoned:

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: Library Strategic Planning Interview Request

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: FIELDER/WEBB

CARRIED

TASK: TURNER to invite Libraries to the November 5 board meeting.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: [Meeting Debrief Template](#)

1. Meeting debrief
2. Meeting agenda planning:

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 felt the one-on-one board check in meetings yesterday went well.

Director of Finance: FIELDER the website RFP has been sent out. Student Life grant adjudication went well. GSAW workload is heavy. FIELDER is also going to UBC to be a department ambassador.

Director of Internal/University Relations: WEBB is just focused on GSAW and then they will be off for medical reasons.

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY met with GSSBC on Monday, October 21. They are looking to host a lobbying planning meeting in the first half of December. GSSBC has discussed lobbying on post-secondary funding (SFU has done research on PSI funding in relation to GDP), international student health fee, MSP coverage for students, BC PNP.

Director of Student Life: LAWTON GSAW!

Executive Director: TURNER no report.

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: November 5, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: October 29, 2024

AGM: October 22, 2024 TONIGHT!

Office, Staff Scheduling: Office and Grad House closed for Reading Week Nov 11-15.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 10:17.

M/S: WEBB/LAWTON

CARRIED

X

Wyatt MADDOX
GSS Chair 2024-25

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: Library Strategic Planning Interview Requests

From: Courtney Lundrigan <clundrigan@uvic.ca>

Sent: October 10, 2024 3:41 PM

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

Subject: GSS Board Invitation: UVic Libraries Strategic Planning Interview

Hi Kyla,

I'm reaching out on behalf of University Librarian Jonathan Bengtson and the University of Victoria Libraries. We are conducting interviews with various user groups and I would like to invite the GSS Board to participate

in a brief 30-minute interview with me about their experiences at UVic, their perspectives on future trends in higher education, and their own academic goals and aspirations.

This information will contribute to the process of updating UVic Libraries' [Open, Engaged, Enduring strategic plan](#) that shapes how we will contribute to achieving the university's goals and support student and faculty success.

They are being asked to participate as academic and community leaders. We don't necessarily want their perspectives of the Libraries, but rather we are interested to better understand their own priorities over the next 3-5 years and what they feel are the most important issues for UVic and the wider community.

This interview can be conducted in-person or online before **December 1, 2024** (alternatively there is the option to respond in writing if preferred, in which case we are looking for no more than a page or two). Please see the interview questions attached. Ideally, I could come to a board meeting before December to conduct the interview. I can work with you and the board to arrange another time.

Could you please discuss with the board and let me know if they would be willing to meet me in-person for this?

Thanks in advance,
Courtney

Interview Questions

1. What major changes or trends in higher education do you expect to impact UVic in the next 3-5 years?
2. What are your Faculty/department/unit/area('s) primary goals during the next 3-5 years and what challenges do you expect in meeting them?
3. And what about you? What are your professional goals in the next 3-5 years and what challenges/opportunities do you expect you will encounter?

Thank you for considering participating in this important process for the University Libraries.

Please note: Information about interviewees and notes recorded during the interview process will only be used internally during our strategic planning process. They will be stored in a SharePoint site on UVic's Microsoft 365 service.

Courtney Lundrigan, MA, MLIS (she/her)
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I acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

