

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

## Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 3, 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

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#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:19 am by MADDOX.

#### B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgement offered by TURNER.

#### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: to approve the agenda with the additions of the policies for electoral appeals and bylaw 14.4 amendment.*

M/S: LAWTON/WEBB

CARRIED

### NEW BUSINESS

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#### 1. BPC ELECTORAL APPEALS COMMITTEE TOR AND BYLAW 14.4 AMENDMENT FOR APPROVAL

Lead: MADDOX

REF DOC: Electoral Appeals Committee TOR and policy and Bylaw 14.4 amendment

For: Decision

*Motion: to approve the Electoral Appeals Committee Terms of Reference and policy as well as the amendment to Bylaw 14.4 as drafted by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.*

M/S: LAWTON/FIELDER

CARRIED

#### 2. WORKSAFE UPDATE

Lead: TURNER

For: DISCUSSION

Ben McALLISTER, Manager, Risk, Insurance and Continuity Planning, called TURNER on November 26 with an overview of when graduate students are and are not covered by WorkSafe BC.

WorkSafe BC (WSBC) insurance exists to benefits employees injured in the course of their work. Graduate students who are engaged in research or other work through an employment relationship with UVic (RA, TA, sessional, etc.) will be covered by WSBC. Academic work and research is covered on a case-by-case basis depending on the exact circumstances in which the injury occurred. There remain a lot of grey areas.

These grey areas have expanded since WSBC has started including trainees in their coverage. McALLISTER noted that practica students like nursing and social work students and other work-integrated learning programs generally meet the definition of trainee very easily with WSBC. UVic and other BC universities are actively seeking clarity from WSBC on the definition of trainees right now.

McALLISTER stated that students are not covered by other UVic insurance products, such as Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) insurance. McALLISTER and Robin Hicks are working on creating a FAQ sheet to outline when graduate students are covered by UVic insurance products and where they are not. They are also actively exploring ways to cover the gaps. However, there are barriers inherent in the academic vs professional relationship between the university and graduate students in finding solutions here. For example, accessing long-term disability and other forms of employment insurance is reliant on wages and insurable work hours.

McALLISTER is aware that UBC offers additional AD&D insurance for graduate student researchers for an additional cost. However, AD&D only covers very significant injuries and leaves gaps in potential coverage. He is examining other insurance product options. He did also note that coverage through insurance, particularly no-fault insurance like WSBC does generally come with the loss of rights to sue the University for the injured student. In the event of a significant research related injury, the appropriate action would likely be to take the university to court for a settlement. UVic does maintain insurance for such cases and accepts that this can be an appropriate outcome. However, this obviously comes with significant barriers for our members.

McALLISTER will attend the January 15 Operational Relations meeting for further discussion. He will also be sending Robin Hicks drafts of the FAQ sheet for graduate students before the OR meeting and we will likely be able to see the draft before Jan 15.

Discussion included how to present our concerns to Operational Relations, the production of a FAQ, and future work with the Ombudsperson.

### 3. DECEMBER GRC AGENDA

Lead: MADDIX

REF DOC: December 17 GRC agenda

For: Decision

This is due in next week. Aside from a WorkSafe BC update and advertising January/February events, what do we want to present to GRC before Winter Break? Also, I've made edits to the text that appears above in the WorkSafe update for the GRC agenda. Can someone please read the GRC agenda in detail and tell me if the background text is comprehensive and sufficient for our grad reps?

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## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: to approve the minutes from the November 19, 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:**

**November 19:** TASK: LAWTON to respond to the Giving Tuesday email.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

*No appointments made.*

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX D)

Item 1: Update re: Drug Checking on Campus

*Motion: to receive the correspondence.*

*M/S: LAWTON/MADDOX*

*CARRIED*

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief
2. Meeting agenda planning: Operational Relations on Jan 15
  - i. Kyla is using this space to record agenda items. I assume we'll need to submit items before the break because we don't come back until Jan 6.  
Operational Relations Item: WorkSafe BC Coverage for Graduate Student Researchers  
Lead: Ben McAllister  
Questions: Could you outline when graduate students are and are not covered by UVic's WorkSafe insurance or other site insurance? (Kyla provided a written summary of her conversation with Ben to the GSS Board on December 3.)  
There appear to be significant gaps in insurance coverage for graduate student researchers when it comes to accessing support in the event of a research-related injury due to their student status. What supports are the University considering to cover these gaps?  
  
Item: Enrolment Projections  
Lead: UVic  
Questions: Any news of graduate enrolment projections for 2025-26?  
  
Item: Renaming ATRS Fee  
Lead: Greengoe or other  
Questions: Has UVic decided to move forward with renaming the ATRS fee?

I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN

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CLOSING ITEMS

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EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDOX gave an update about staffing reductions at the other island colleges as PSIs continue to have funding issues related to the IRCC changes to international student visas.

Director of Finance: FIELDER is working on HR and budgeting issues.

Director of Internal/University Relations: WEBB has a co-working meeting with Jitendra this week to plan advocacy and campaigns work.

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY no report.

Director of Student Life: LAWTON is planning January events.

Executive Director: TURNER noted that she'll be off one day in January for eye surgery. Budgeting is going well and progressing as well as possible for this time of year.

All board members noted that their wellness is not at its peak. Board members are reminded to take breaks when they can and that GSS work comes after school work.

IN CAMERA SESSION: LABOUR 10:15

Lead: MADDOX/FIELDER

REF DOCS: Per In-Camera Agenda

For: Decision and Discussion

Kyla and Sam will update on the outcomes of Neil Barney, Operations and Services Manager, annual performance review, job description review, and contract negotiations.

Wyatt and Sam to update on the outcomes of Kyla's performance review feedback gathering?

*Motion: to approve the Operations and Services Manager job contract and revised job description as negotiated by the Personnel Committee.*

*M/S: MADDOX/LAWTON*

*CARRIED*

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: December 17, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: December 17, 2024

AGM: March 25, 2025

Office, Staff Scheduling: The GSS will be closed from December 23 to January 3 inclusive for Winter Break.

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 10:33.*

*M/S: LAWTON/FIELDER*

*CARRIED*

X

Wyatt MADDOX  
GSS Chair 2024-25

X

Kyla Turner  
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: Update Re: Drug Checking on Campus

**From:** Nicole Greengoe <ngreengoe@uvic.ca>

**Sent:** November 26, 2024 9:01 AM

**To:** Bunni Williams - UVSS Director of Outreach and University Relations <outreach@uvss.ca>; Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>; Dale Robertson - UVSS General Manager <uvssgm@uvss.ca>

**Subject:** Drug Checking Proposal

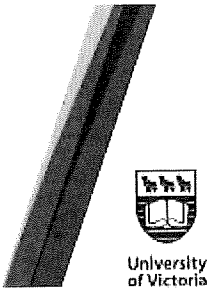
Hello All,

I just wanted to touch base around the drug checking proposal that is going forward to University Executive on December 5. While it feels strange to be talking about DECEMBER (yikes time does fly), it feels like it's taken more time than hoped for, to get this proposal in front of our UVic Executive. That said, I believe you have both had conversations with Jennifer White and the fact that the proposal is going forward on December 5<sup>th</sup>, in the context of the larger health promotion and harm reduction recommendations from the research panel. I believe this will strengthen the drug checking proposal and it's purpose overall as a harm reduction, awareness building, and education endeavour. Thank you both for being strong advocates for this proposal, and for providing letters of support that are included with the proposal. One thing you should be aware of though, is that we have not targeted a location as definitively in this proposal due to the fact that our proposal would be such that the space required may exceed what the harm reduction centre could accommodate. So, once our proposal is approved (fingers crossed) implementation would be the next step and an ideal location sourced.

I'm happy to meet and talk more should you wish to do so. Let me know if I can buy you both coffee one day soon.....perhaps one of those holiday beverages at Starbucks ☺

Nicole

*Together, we transform students' lives.*



Nicole Greengoe (she/her)  
Executive Director, Wellness, Recreation and Athletics  
Wellness, Recreation & Athletics Department  
Division of Student Affairs  
University of Victoria  
T (250) 472-5277

We acknowledge and respect the ləkʷəŋən 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.

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