

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

## Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 4, 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;

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 12:00 by MADDUX.

### B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial Acknowledgement offered by MADDUX with particular mention of the privileges we as settlers receive in being on this land that are not all extended to Indigenous peoples who have stewarded the land for generations.

### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.*

*M/S: FIELDER/LAWTON*

*CARRIED*

## NEW BUSINESS

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### 1. ANNUAL PLAN AND TIMELINES

Lead: MADDUX

Reference: [2023-24 Annual Plan](#)

For: Discussion

MADDUX began with an overview of the annual plan, as well as the drafting and writing process for how the last board created their annual plan.

MADDUX noted that by creating an annual plan that focused on values and priorities, rather than specific campaigns and projects, the board was better able to provide rationale for which projects came up over the course of the year were incorporated into the Board's work and which were not.

MADDOX gave the board a deadline for completing an annual plan by mid-summer (June 15) so it can inform the Board's work over the summer.

FIELDER and TURNER commented on how the themes/pillars were developed last year over the course of board training.

MADDOX noted a potential theme, especially with the new board structure, would be collaboration.

WEBB asked if there was anything our returning board members would have done differently if creating last year's annual plan. MADDOX noted that the Restaurant is an operational concern that is run entirely by management and having it in the plan encouraged scope creep and blurred boundaries. FIELDER recommended more in-depth check ins on the annual plan in board meetings, at least once per semester. MADDOX recommended comparing the board's monthly GRC reports to the annual plan at board meetings to ensure that where the board is spending their time on the things that matter most.

FIELDER also noted that the last plan didn't encourage collaboration between board members and portfolios, but having new board positions allow and require more collaboration.

## 2. BOARD CHECK IN

Lead: MADDOX

For: Discussion

What are your main goals in serving on the board? What do you see your role as in your position as a director? How do you see your relationship to the team?

MADDOX started off with noting that he's looking forward to engaging more in managing and supporting the other board members this year to keep the momentum of his last two terms going. MADDOX's goals include increased support and presence in events, increased understanding on GSS finances, etc. to support the rest of the team.

FIELDER gave an overview of the things he learned in his first year (audit, budget development, fund transfers between UVic and GSS). His goals for this year include streamlining the financial back end systems (i.e. fund overhaul), governance documentation revisions, website re-do, Collective Bargaining. FIELDER prefaced his work for the year that a lot of this is "behind the scenes."

LAWTON also started with an overview of her interim role and volunteering, but noted that there was a gap in delegation to the Events Committee for event planning, hosting, etc.

PALAPARTY stated her main goals are around healthcare awareness and access, the GSS Health and Dental plans, supporting students from equity seeking groups.

WEBB is looking forward to "being on the ground" and facing lots of face time with our members. They plan to build on the volunteerism and events from last year to increase awareness among our members of other campus services, supports, etc (e.g. clubs, Athletics and Recreation, Student Wellness Centre, etc.)

## 3. BRIEFING ON: HOUSING ADVOCACY

Lead: MADDOX/TURNER

Reference Docs: [Housing advocacy notes from Kyla](#)

For: Discussion



MADDOX kicked off the discussion by encouraging further collaboration with UVic, as they are submitting a bid for funding from the Provincial to build another new dorm on campus.

TURNER gave an overview of the history of UVic's next dorm bid to the province, their limitations on who can be housed in dorms, and other opportunities for UVic owned real estate.

PALAPARTY noted that the Learning Communities in existing dorms are accessible to the residents of that floor, which may be ideal for grad floors. FIELDER also thought that having the live-learn space (ie work space) floor between the undergrad living space and grad living spaces would encourage separation between populations.

MADDOX also stated that he's pushed for the new dorms be low-sensory environments – quiet floors, improved insulation and HVAC systems, etc. and that this is a solid pitch to the Province as equity is a buzz word for Provincial spending right now.

[PALAPARTY left at 1:00pm for the Ombudsperson Council Meeting]

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## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

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### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: to approve the minutes from the March 28, 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:

Mar 28: TASK: TURNER to send confirmation of FIELDER and MADDOX's continued signing authority to the GSS Vancity account representative.

#### Tasks revoked or abandoned:

### F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No appointments made.

### G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX D)

Item 1: Changes to BC Provincial Nominee Program (BC PNP) for immigration (multiple letters)

See also: [BC Gov News information bulletin](#), [Welcome BC News](#), and [eligible program list from BC gov](#)

Background from Kyla: The BC PNP allows the province to nominate candidates for permanent residency. On

March 19, they announced program changes, to align with the Immigrations, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) changes on international student visas. The International Graduate and International Post-Graduate streams of the BC PNP will end as of January 25, 2025, and be replaced by Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate streams that will have new eligibility criteria. At least five Master's of Science students reached out to the GSS and the University President asking for advocacy on these changes. These students are all from programs which are included on the eligible program list as of March 20. To date (Mar 25), all the information I have says that this is a program name change *only* for the students who wrote us. We may wish to seek further clarification from the International Centre for Students.

*Tabled to April 18.*

## H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: [Meeting Debrief Template](#)

1. [April 23 GRC](#) – first thoughts on agenda planning
  - i. FIELDER ask after the McKinnon gym update. MADDUX provided a review of the recent meeting with UVic re: the closing of some services at McKinnon

**TASK: TURNER to invite CARSA to the May GRC meeting to discuss services available for graduate students.**

## 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: MADDUX reminded all board members to see Irly to update their key access and that Neil is working on alarm codes.

MADDUX thanked all the board members for attending the end of term party.

Director of Finance: FIELDER requested a revised board meeting time for May onwards. FIELDER also invited WEBB to training on Appeals Committee as the newest Vice Chair.

Director of Internal/University Relations: WEBB Advocacy and Campaign will meet April 18. TURNER asked them to send an Outlook Calendar invite. WEBB and Lindsay Beal attended the final presentation of Lactational Friendly project in a Law class. They provided a ton of materials that

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY no report

Director of Student Life: LAWTON Events committee meeting not yet scheduled. April events is light due to the end of term busy-ness and Petri's vacation. Major summer planning will take place in

Executive Director: TURNER

**TASK: TURNER to invite Dawn Schell from the Student Wellness Centre to a board meeting in summer for a meet and greet.**

## NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Notice of agenda item: Summer Services and Planning – April 11

Notice of agenda item: GSS Health and Dental Renewal Overview – April 11

Notice of agenda item: Greg Melnechuck, President CUPE 4163 – April 11

Notice of agenda item: Jim Dunsdon, Associate VP Student Affairs to attend April 18

Notice of agenda item: Robin Hicks, Dean Faculty of Grad Studies to attend April 18

Notice of agenda item: tabled from April 4 – BC PNP discussion – April 18

Notice of agenda item: Monthly GRC reports overview with Chair, SRC – April 25

Notice of agenda item: Annual planning brainstorming – April 25

Notice of agenda item: Meet and greet with Library, International Centre Students, Global Community – TBD

Notice of agenda item: Lactation Friendlier Project presentation overview with WEBB

Notice of agenda item: Board summer availability check in

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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

Next Executive Meetings: April 11, 2024

Next GRC Meeting: April 23, 2024

AGM: October 22, 2024

Office, Staff Scheduling: Petri is out on vacation April 11-26.

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: to adjourn the meeting.*

*M/S: LAWTON/FIELDER*

*CARRIED*

X

Wyatt MADDUX  
GSS Chair 2024-25

X

Kyla Turner  
GSS Executive Director

