

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

## Executive Board

### (HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 4, 2025

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);

**GUESTS:** Marc Bavin, Associate Registrar and Tricia Best, Executive Director ICS

### STANDING ITEMS PART 1

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#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:17 by MADDOX.

#### B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgement offered by WEBB.

#### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.*

*M/S: LAWTON/WEBB*

*CARRIED*

### NEW BUSINESS

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#### 1. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLMENT UPDATES

Lead: BAVIN and BEST

For: Discussion:

"This is a... follow-up... to the GSS Exec/UVic Exec meeting from Oct 30<sup>th</sup> that I was invited to for the "International Student Cap 2025-26" agenda item. In discussion with Joel and Tricia, we thought it would be good to have a follow-up meeting between you, Tricia Best and I along with any GSS colleagues you would want to include. One of the questions presented at that meeting was: *What updates can UVic provide around how full-time students with a disability have their full-time status noted on documents required for immigration?* We also touched on questions relating to changes to eligibility for spousal work permits among other changes."

BAVIN started with an overview of international graduate enrolment, including the peaks during the 2020-22 era, with a stabilization and slight fall in 2023-25 due to the changes to student visas imposed by IRCC. BAVIN also noted that the pool of applicants is lower, while admission rates remain stable.

BAVIN noted that the Registrar is working on the registration for students with a disability to be acknowledged as full-time studies with part-time workload. BAVIN noted that degree timelines and other internal administration issues are still being dealt with on UVic's back-end. UVic is prepared to offer interim measures.

BEST noted privacy concerns around disclosures of disability within this process. BEST focused on the IRCC changes around spousal work permit, and student work/post-graduate work permits, BC PNP, etc. This all related to the October 2024 immigration levels plan, which for the first time includes temporary residents, including international students. The goal was to reduce the temporary resident population from 6.5% of total population down to 5%, or a reduction of 400,000 people.

Regarding spousal work permits, these are now only available to Master's programs that are 16 months or longer, PhDs, and some undergrads. Post-graduate work permits are still available for students with programs of more than 8 months. If someone is on a PGWP, you must have a job offer within specific industries in order to be eligible to apply for a spousal open work permit. Additionally, BEST noted that the BC PNP program now requires Master's graduates must have field-specific 1-year job offer to be eligible for PNP. The total allotment of BC PNP applications has decreased by 50%.

MADDOX brought up that there has been a significant drop in applications from India, and an increase in applications from the USA due to the current political situation. BAVIN noted anecdotally that there is a significantly different applicant pool this year. BEST stated that American students can apply for a study permit at the border, cutting down on processing time. Flagpoling (exiting Canada and re-entering at a port of entry to have immigration paperwork processed) is no longer available for the renewal of study permits.

PALAPARTY asked after supporting students with a disability in applying for post graduate work permits and other supports. BEST stated that CAL produces letters upon request that can be used to either communicate with immigration personnel or OREM to adjust their registration confirmation. PALAPARTY expressed that there is conflicting information amongst OREM staff regarding this issue. BAVIN said he could check in with OREM regarding this interim measure.

## 2. SAGM AGENDA APPROVAL AND MEMBERSHIP CUT OFF DATE

Lead: MADDOX/TURNER

REF DOC: SAGM Agenda

For: Decision

*Motion: to approve the agenda for the March 25, 2025 Semi-Annual General Meeting;  
Further the cut-off date for membership for voting privileges at the 2025 SAGM will be  
January 31, 2025.*

*M/S: LAWTON/MADDOX*

*CARRIED*

## 3. BOARD TRANSITION PLANNING

Lead: MADDOX/TURNER

Kyla – remember to ask: do folks want me to add naloxone training to board training? Yes!

MADDOX overviewed the steps towards transitioning including setting up one-on-one transition meeting, email management, reporting, etc.

#### 4. FINANCE POLICIES

Lead: FIELDER

REF DOC: Budget Planning and Fiscal Policy, Operational Funds Policy, Contingency Funds Policy

For: Decision

*Motion: to approve the revised Budget Planning and Fiscal Policy, Operational Funds Policy, and Contingency Funds Policy.*

*M/S: Finance Committee and Bylaw and Policy Committee/LAWTON*

*CARRIED*

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### STANDING ITEMS PART 2

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#### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2025 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:**

**Tasks revoked or abandoned:**

#### F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

*No committee appointments*

#### G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

*No correspondence.*

#### H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief: February 25 GRC
2. Meeting agenda planning: Prep for Operational Relations today

#### I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN:

CLOSING ITEMS

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EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: MADDUX is working on wrapping up his multi-term board position.

Director of Finance: FIELDER asked after what questions to ask on the Associate Dean appointment committee he is currently sitting on.

Director of Internal/University Relations: WEBB missed (along with TURNER and PALAPARTY) the joint letter drafting session with the Faculty Association and others regarding the new university academic accommodation policy. They will catch up on letter edits later.

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY is continuing to sit as the graduate student rep on SSD.

Director of Student Life: LAWTON brought forward a potential connection with the Credit Counselling Society of BC. TURNER noted that she will abstain from any and all decision making in this matter as she has a relational conflict of interest with Graham Hiscocks, a representative from the Credit Counselling Society of BC.

Executive Director: TURNER prepped for her consultation on the Non-Academic Misconduct policy, will be recording an introduction video tomorrow for the Student Mini Public on Harm Reduction that will be taking place at the end of the month, is providing a town hall on the referendum this afternoon, and will write the Health and Dental SAGM report on Monday after the referendum results are in.

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: March 18, 2025

Next GRC Meeting: April 22, 2025

AGM: March 25, 2025

Office, Staff Scheduling:

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: to adjourn the meeting.*

*M/S:FIELDER/LAWTON*

*CARRIED*

X

Wyatt MADDUX  
GSS Chair 2024-25

X

Kyla Turner  
GSS Executive Director