

April 29, 2025

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board (HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

MAY 12, 2025

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

EXECUTIVE INVITED:

Rosemary WEBB, Chair;
Maggie LAWTON, Director of Finance;
Sarah Roberts, Director of Internal/University Relations;
Jitendra PALAPARTY, Director of External Relations;
Asma Noreen, Director of Student Life;
Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting);

GUESTS: Petranella Daviel, Events and Communications Coordinator

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:00 by WEBB.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgement offered by ROBERTS. She spoke of her experience interviewing Darrel J McLeod, a residential school survivor and acclaimed author, advocate, and director in the Assembly of First Nations. Darrel passed in 2024, shortly after ROBERTS' interview. ROBERTS recommended McLeod's two memoirs: Mamaskatch and Peyakow.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda with the addition of GRC agenda planning.
M/S: NOUREEN/ROBERTS
CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. FOOD BANK ADVOCACY WORK CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

Lead: TURNER/LAWTON

For: Discussion

The UVSS Food Bank opened in 2000 to address food insecurity among students. The Food Bank is currently funded by dedicated fees paid by undergrads and grads, and access fees paid by Continuing Studies students. Until 2015, GSS contributed donations based on budget surpluses to the Food Bank, then we implemented a dedicated fee for this service. We increased the fee from \$1.04/student/term to \$1.79/student/term by referendum in 2019 and have been increasing fees by inflation ever since. The 2025-26 GSS Food Bank dedicated fee is \$2.18/student/term for on-campus students. Off-campus grad students do not pay the Food Bank fee. By comparison, full-time undergrads pay \$2.25/term and part-time undergrads pay \$1.12/term. UVSS fees do not increase with inflation. We expect to reach fee parity with the UVSS in 2026-27.

TASK: DAVIEL, WEBB, LAWTON, NOUREEN, ROBERTS to meet to begin GSAW planning.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2025 Executive Board Meeting as presented.

M/S: ROBERTS/NOUREEN

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:

Apr 22: TASK: Include a review of the GSS Department Grant program in the May GRC agenda: include a review of the 2024-25 grant year successes, request feedback, and overview of the 2025-26 application process.

Apr 29: WEBB tasking themselves to take the notes (re: UVic's SVPR Policy) in the minutes and provide to the policy committee, and asks board to provide any further comments promptly by email.

Tasks revoked or abandoned:

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No committee appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX D)

Item 1: Province-wide Sexualized Violence Prevention Advisory Group

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: LAWTON/ROBERTS

CARRIED

TASK: PALAPARTY to correspond with GSSBC members regarding the Province-wide Sexualized Violence Prevention Advisory Group.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: [Meeting Debrief Template](#)

1. Meeting debrief: GRC May agenda planned
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: WEBB confirmed ongoing one-on-one meetings with fellow board members. They reported on the updates on appointing FGS members and moving the complaints against FGS members section from policy from the appointment policies to the supervision policy. They are also working on structuring annual planning preparations.

Director of Finance: LAWTON is getting married this weekend! Finance Committee met about the fee referenda TURNER has recommended for Spring 2026.

Director of Internal/University Relations: ROBERTS is going to Ottawa on Friday and returning on Tuesday.

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY recently went to a carnival!

Director of Student Life: NOUREEN is planning an Eid celebration and other events for May and June. She is looking for connections with the Multi-faith Centre, Students of Colour Collective, and ICS for the Eid celebration.

Executive Director: TURNER is heading to Montreal for the Studentcare/Alumo stakeholder meeting next week.

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: May 26, 2025

Next GRC Meeting: May 27, 2025

AGM: October 28, 2025

Office, Staff Scheduling: Reminder that next Monday is a stat holiday.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 11:30.

M/S: LAWTON/NOUREEN

CARRIED/FAILED



Rosemary WEBB
GSS Chair 2025-26



Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

From: Kusz, Jennifer PSFS:EX

Sent: May 1, 2025 3:01 PM

Subject: Invitation to Become the Graduate Student Representative on the SV Advisory Group

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Jennifer Kusz, and I am a Senior Policy Analyst with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS). Together with BC post-secondary institutions (PSIs) representatives, students/student associations, subject matter experts, and associations representing community organizations specific to sexualized violence, we coordinate a Sexualized Violence Advisory Group.

We are reaching out to all **graduate student societies** to see if you, or someone else in your organization who is engaged in sexualized violence work, are interested in becoming **the graduate student representative** of the Sexualized Violence Advisory Group and a voice for your community. Joining the Advisory Group gives you the opportunity to be the point of connection between the Ministry and post-secondary education representatives. This opportunity gives you the chance to be an active participant in the province-wide response to sexualized violence within post-secondary system.

This group is the main connection point between PSFS, BC PSIs, students/student associations, subject matter experts, and associations representing community organizations specific to sexualized violence.

The main purposes of the group are to:

- Provide ongoing and annual recommendations and feedback to PSFS on its strategic direction, programs, and initiatives, relating to efforts at preventing and responding to sexualized violence in the post-secondary system.
- Provide guidance to affiliated SV Working Groups when active.
- Consult with various partners and interested parties, including students, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations on matters related to sexualized violence in post-secondary education.

The goal is for the group to include members with diverse experiences and strive to reflect the perspectives of those engaged in sexualized violence work in the post-secondary system in BC. Membership should reflect the perspectives of those most often targeted for sexualized violence and those facing structural barriers to accessing justice and support.

To align with annual election cycles, and to facilitate continuous student representation, the Ministry is reaching out to provincial student associations, non-affiliated student societies, and BC student-led sexualized violence organizations annually every Spring. There is one seat available for each of the following: Alliance of BC Students, BC Federation of Students, non-affiliated student societies, Graduate Student Societies of BC, and BC student-led sexualized violence organizations. Each group of organizations will be invited to select a representative to attend the SV Advisory Group meetings for a one-year term. Representatives are encouraged to select an alternate person in case they are unable to attend a meeting or need to step away.

As we are reaching out directly to the graduate student societies, we ask that you coordinate to determine which graduate student association/union will be the main representative on the committee. This structure means there is one person who is the main graduate student representative on the Advisory Group, with another graduate student association/union selecting one person to be the alternate representative.

Please see our [website](#) for more information, including the Terms of Reference. Currently, the group meets virtually once a month. As we are looking for representatives to join our meetings starting in June 2025, we kindly request that you confirm the graduate student society representative and alternate by May 30, 2025.

If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information about the group, please contact me, jennifer.kusz@gov.bc.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Jennifer

Jennifer Kusz (PhD)

Senior Policy Analyst

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Post-Secondary Policy Unit

Strategic Policy & Initiatives Branch

Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS)

Email: Jennifer.Kusz@gov.bc.ca

I am grateful to live, learn/unlearn, work, and play on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw, First Nations People.

