

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

## Executive Board (HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 9, 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 Noureen, Director of Student Life;  
Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting);

**GUESTS:** Petranella Daviel, Events and Communications Coordinator

### STANDING ITEMS PART 1

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#### A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:00 by WEBB.

#### B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territorial acknowledgment offered by WEBB. They recommended *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, who also wrote *Braiding Sweetgrass*.

#### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.*

M/S: ROBERTS/LAWTON

CARRIED

### NEW BUSINESS

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#### 1. BC GRAD SCHOLARSHIP AND ACCESS GRANT ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN HISTORY

Lead: TURNER

Reference: [BCGS and Access Grant letter 2022](#), [2025 Minister Welcome Letter](#)

For: Discussion

TURNER to provide an overview of the GSS's advocacy work that lead to the BC Graduate Scholarship's creation and continuation. TURNER to further provide updates on the as-yet-unsuccessful campaign to extend access to the BC Access Grant to graduate students.

WEBB noted the permanency for the BCGS would be the advocacy campaign most likely to succeed based on the current state of the Provincial budget. LAWTON recommended working directly with UVic's External Relations team to create a joint advocacy campaign to make the BCGS a permanent program.

**Goal: draft a joint letter with UVic and/or a letter endorsed by UVic asking for the BCGS to be made permanent.**

**TASK: WEBB to invite Chris Horbachewski to a future board meeting to discuss the BCGS and joint advocacy.**

## 2. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HEALTH FEE (ISHF) ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN HISTORY

Lead: TURNER/PALAPARTY

Reference: [SFU GSS Open Letter](#), [ABCS Open Letter](#), [GSS UVIC Petition](#), [BC Gov ISHF website](#)

For: Discussion

TURNER to provide an overview of the history of the GSS's previous advocacy work (to 2023) on the International Student Health Fee. PALAPARTY to provide an overview of ongoing GSSBC work on this topic.

Until January 1, 2020, all BC residents paid a mandatory monthly MSP fee. BC was the only province to have a mandated health fee paid directly by citizens (most other provinces receive healthcare funding from business, sales, and income taxes). Shortly before BC eliminated the MSP fee, they implemented International Student Health Fee (ISHF), which increased MSP costs for international students from \$37.50 to \$75/month for a single person. The ISHF is paid by all international students studying in BC on a student visa for 6+ months, including K-12 students.

ROBERTS recommends asking for the University to increase and improve information sharing for incoming international students about the cost and necessity to enrol in MSP.

PALAPARTY noted that GSSBC reports from the Province that until the Federal government provides further healthcare funding that no action would be expected on the ISHF.

**DECISION: Work with ICS to improve information sharing about MSP.**

**TASK: ROBERTS to reach out to UVic Bound to ask how and whether MSP is included in cost-of-living resources for prospective students. Additional, ROBERTS to ask how and whether UVic Bound targets graduate students.**

## 3. NEW GSS WEBSITE!

Lead: DAVIEL

Reference: [gss.uvic.ca](https://gss.uvic.ca)

For: Discussion

Petri to give the board a walk thru of the new GSS website!

## 4. JOINT GSS-UVSS NALOXONE TRAINING DATES

Lead: TURNER

For: Discussion

Scheduled for this Wednesday, June 11, 12-2pm.

## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

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### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*Motion: to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2025 Executive Board Meeting as presented.*

*M/S: LAWTON/ROBERTS*

*CARRIED*

### E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

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:**

**May 12:** TASK: DAVIEL, WEBB, LAWTON, NOUREEN, ROBERTS to meet to begin GSAW planning.

**May 26:** TASK: WEBB to schedule annual planning sessions.

#### **Tasks revoked or abandoned:**

### F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

*No committee appointments made.*

### G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX D)

Item 1: **Victoria Labour Council Member Contact**

Item 2: **HOUSE Canada Contact**

*Motion: to receive the correspondence.*

*M/S: LAWTON/NOUREEN*

*CARRIED*

**TASK: TURNER to book Kevin Taki for a future board meeting.**

**TASK: WEBB to correspond with HOUSE Canada for further information.**

### H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief: June 6 Exec to Exec meeting
  - i. Board discussed future advocacy options around accessibility. Further discussion required on the BC PNP program and potential pathways for advocacy.
2. Meeting agenda planning: June 24 GRC agenda
  - i. Removed grad accommodation planning document
  - ii. Adding bylaw amendments and September event volunteers

### 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: WEBB is working on candidacy papers and their response times might be slower for now.

Director of Finance: LAWTON is preparing for a conference in South Korean, and her response times might be slower for now. Finance is quite quiet right now. She has sent out correspondence to the Constituency Groups re: Spring 2026 fee referendum.

Director of Internal/University Relations: ROBERTS is having a GSAW planning meeting this afternoon. Fund requests have been sent out. She is also quite busy with coursework.

Director of External Relations: PALAPARTY no report.

Director of Student Life: NOUREEN asked after Clubs Council, which is on the next board agenda. Folks request free food at events, but there's not as much interest in bringing food to potlucks.

Executive Director: TURNER is working on another grant application for the Food Bank.

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

The Grad Student Accommodation Planning Document

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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

Next Executive Meetings: June 25, 2025

Next GRC Meeting: June 24, 2025

AGM: October 28, 2025

Office, Staff Scheduling: June 23 the GSS will be closed for National Indigenous People's Day

### ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: to adjourn the meeting.*

*M/S: WEBB/LAWTON*

*CARRIED*

X

Rosemary WEBB  
GSS Chair 2025-26

X

Kyla Turner  
GSS Executive Director

## APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

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### Item 1: Victoria Labour Council Member

**From:** President CUPE 951 <president@cupe951.ca>

**Sent:** May 23, 2025 3:30 PM

**Subject:** connecting with the Victoria Labour Council Young Worker Rep

Hi Folks,

I am reaching out to make a connection with the UVSS & GSS and our young worker representative from the Victoria Labour Council.

I am happy to introduce you to Kevin Taki from the VLC, Kevin is also a HSA BC worker in Victoria and he would like to talk with you about engaging with your members.

Have a great Weekend!

In Solidarity,

Kirk Mercer (He/Him)

President CUPE 951, University of Victoria

President Victoria Labour Council

CUPE BC Regional Vice President, Vancouver Island

CUPE BC Skilled Trades Committee Chair

CUPE Vancouver Island District Council, Member-at-Large, Duncan South

I acknowledge with respect the *ləkʷəŋən* peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the *(Songhees and Xwsepsum/Kosapsum and WSÁNEĆ (STÁUTW/Tsawout, WJOLELP/Tsartlip, BOKEĆEN/Pauquachin, WSIKEM/Tseycum)* peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. May we build strong working relationships with all local nations with trust, humility, kindness, respect and continue to walk softly on these ancestral lands.

**From:** Kevin Taki <kevintak@telus.net>

**Sent:** May 28, 2025 3:53 PM

**Subject:** Re: connecting with the Victoria Labour Council Young Worker Rep

Hi Kyla (and thank you for the introduction Kirk),

Nice to meet you via. e-mail. I'm happy to connect with yourselves or your team in whatever way works best for us and for your team.

I was hoping to connect with the students, and specifically the more involved students regarding the following:

- Their understanding of labour rights and workers rights
- The collective history of student activism, the working class, and the political sphere
- Working rights, protections, and important information for young workers newly joining the workforce
- The benefits of working in unionized workplaces and in unionized jobs
- The Victoria Labour Council; it's history, what we currently do, and the importance of labour councils

At the provincial and national level we're seeing a large decrease in labour activism and worker solidarity, especially among the younger workers, and want to ensure we can identify strong future advocates and continue to make headway in advancing worker's rights.

I'm also the 2SLGBTQIA+ Workers's Rep at the provincial level with the BCFed and would be happy to reach out the 2SLGBTQIA+ committees or community at UVIC.

My typical work hours are 08:30 to 16:30 at Royal Jubilee Hospital so I often have to do events after those hours, but am happy to make it out to campus and chat or do a group presentation (or two or three).

Best,

Kevin Taki (They/Them)

**Item 2: HOUSE Canada**

**From:** Jay Patel <jay@housecanada.org>

**Sent:** May 26, 2025 9:32 AM

**Subject:** Meeting Request: HOUSE x GSSUVic

Hello!

I hope this email finds you well!

My name is Jay, and I am the Campaigns Director at HOUSE Canada, a social economy enterprise founded by/for students to research, advocate for, and develop affordable nonprofit and/or cooperative student housing.

Like UTILE in Québec, HOUSE works with student unions to raise and invest equity in developing housing that meet students' affordability needs. We have chapters at York University and UTM in collaboration with the YFS, YUGSA, and the UTMSU, and this year, we've met with the following Post Secondary Student Unions/College Student Associations/Student Organizations to discuss their housing needs:

Algoma University Students' Union  
Carleton University Students' Union  
Lakehead University Students Union  
Nipissing University Student Union  
Toronto Metropolitan Association of Part-time Students  
Scarborough Campus Students' Union  
University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union  
Ontario Student Voices  
College Student Alliance  
Canadian Federation of Students - National

The common thread across each meeting was the question around our relationship with the CFS. In Québec, UTILE has partnered with the QSU to advance their shared mission of reducing the financial barriers to post-secondary education — UTILE now has 25 student unions members, and has secured over \$500 million to develop 13 real estate projects and provide more than 2000 units of affordable student housing.

We are requesting a meeting with you to discuss the need for more affordable student housing in Ontario, policy/advocacy priorities that will help advance development, and opportunities for collaboration that help students achieve similar outcomes in Ontario.

Please let us know your availability in the coming weeks/next year for an in-person/online meeting, and thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

In solidarity,

**Jay Dipak Patel (He/Him) | Campaigns Director | HOUSE Canada**

74 York Boulevard (Kaneff Tower), Suite 735 | Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3

<https://www.housecanada.org/>

HOUSE Canada acknowledges that the sacred land on which we operate is situated upon the traditional territories of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabeg, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. This territory is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee allied nations to peaceably share and care for the lands around the Great Lakes. HOUSE Canada recognizes the many Nations of Indigenous People, who presently live on this land, those who have spent time here and the ancestors who have hunted and gathered on this land known as Turtle Island.

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