



UVIC GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 5 pm – 7 pm

Food provided (Dinner, member verification and registration 4:30-4:55 pm)

Location: [Halpern Centre \(GSS Building\)](#) or [Zoom](#)

Agenda

Chair: Rosemary Webb

- 5:00 1. Call to order – Rosemary Webb, Chair
- 5:05 2. Land acknowledgement
- 5:07 3. AGM Quorum Report – Kyla Turner, Executive Director
- 5:08 4. Approval of the agenda

Motion: to approve the Agenda of the October 28, 2025 GSS Annual General Meeting as presented.

Moved: Executive Board Seconded: _____

- 5:10 5. Approval of Minutes
REF DOC: [2025-03-25 Semi-Annual General Meeting Minutes](#)

Motion: to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2025 GSS Semi-Annual General Meeting as presented.

Moved: Executive Board Seconded: _____

- 5:15 6. Presentation of the 2024-25 Audit – Maggie Lawton, Director of Finance
REF DOC: [2024-25 GSS Audited Financial Statements](#)

Motion: to approve the 2024-25 Audited Financial Statements as presented.

Moved: Executive Board Seconded: _____

5:35 7. Re-Appointment of the Auditors

Motion: to appoint Clarke Trowsdale LLP as the 2025-26 financial auditors.

Moved: Executive Board Seconded: _____

5:40 Break

5:45 8. Presentation of the 2025-26 Annual Plan

REF DOC: [2025-26 GSS Annual Plan](#)

6:00 9. Reports to the Membership

- a. Report of the [2025-26 Executive Board](#)
- b. [Membership and representation report](#)
- c. [Report of the Executive Director](#)
- d. Reports of GRC Standing Committees
 - i. [Advocacy and Campaigns](#) – Sarah ROBERTS, Director of Internal Relations
 - ii. [Appeals](#) –Maggie LAWTON, Director of Finance
 - iii. [Bylaw and Policy](#) – Rosemary WEBB, Chair
 - iv. [Events](#) – Asma NOUREEN, Director of Student Life
 - v. [Finance](#) – Maggie LAWTON, Director of Finance
- e. [Extended health and dental insurance plan update](#)

6:30 10. Bylaw Amendments (Appendix A below)

Motion: to approve the amendments to the GSS bylaws as presented.

Moved: Executive Board/Bylaw and Policy Committee Seconded: _____

6:50 11. Other Business (with notice of agenda item) and announcements

7:00 12. Adjournment

Motion: to adjourned the meeting.

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____

Appendix A: Bylaw amendments

Note: Additions to the existing bylaws are in yellow highlight. Deletions are struck through. Numbering changes, where required are in yellow highlight.

Bylaw 4.9b – pronouns update

Current language:

4.9 Voting and Ballots:

b. Referenda ballots shall contain the question to be decided and provision for the member to record ~~his/her~~ vote.

Proposed language:

4.9 Voting and Ballots:

b. Referenda ballots shall contain the question to be decided and provision for the member to record **their** vote.

Bylaw 14.b.ii – pronouns update

Current language:

14.2 Auditor and Audited Statements:

b. The auditor:

i. Has a right of access at all times to all documents and records of the Society; and

ii. May require from the Executive Board, members, and staff of the Society such information and explanations as are necessary to enable ~~him/her~~ to report as required by the Societies Act, SBC 2015, c. 18.

Proposed language:

ii. May require from the Executive Board, members, and staff of the Society such information and explanations as are necessary to enable **them** to report as required by the Societies Act, SBC 2015, c. 18.

~~Bylaw 15 – Non-partisanship~~

~~Current language:~~

~~The Society is non-partisan and shall not endorse any political party or candidate for public office.~~

Proposed language:

15.1 Non-Partisan Status

The Society is a non-partisan organization. For the purpose of this Bylaw, *non-partisan* means that the Society operates independently of any political party or candidate and does not endorse, support, or oppose political parties or candidates. The Society may work with elected officials, regardless of political affiliation, to bring the needs and interests of graduate students to the forefront of both elected representatives' and the public's attention.

15.2 Political Nature of the Society

Non-partisanship is not equivalent to being apolitical. The work of the Society is inherently political, as it involves advocating for the interests, rights, and welfare of its members to governmental bodies, elected officials, and other decision-making authorities. Decisions made by governments at all levels directly impact the lives of graduate students, necessitating active and informed advocacy.

15.3 Lobbying and Political Engagement

Pursuant to the *British Columbia Lobbyists Transparency Act*, all elected members of the Society's Executive Board are required to register as lobbyists with the provincial government. As political actors representing an inherently political organization, the Society and its Executive Board agree to abide by the following principles:

15.3.1 Policy-Driven Advocacy

The Society and its Executive Board shall assess, advocate for, and advance public policies based solely on the merits of the policies and their alignment with the interests and welfare of the Society's members, without endorsement of or consideration of any political party affiliation or connection to any candidate for public office.

15.3.2 Good Faith Engagement

The Society and its Executive Board shall advocate, in good faith, for its members and their interests to all relevant political parties and candidates at all levels of government, without partisan bias or preference.

15.3.3 Member Education

The Society and its Executive Board shall educate its members on public policies, laws, and other political matters impacting them to the best of their ability in an impartial, accessible, and factual manner, without promoting or opposing any political party, partisan organization, or candidate for public office. The Society may register provincially or federally as a third-party sponsor.

15.3.4 Democratic Participation

The Society and its Executive Board shall promote and facilitate graduate student engagement in the democratic process, including spreading awareness of voting rights and encouraging active participation in municipal, provincial, and federal elections, without political bias or favour towards any political party or candidate.

15.3.5 Prohibition on Endorsements

Elected members of the Society's Executive Board must not, as representatives of the Society, endorse, publicly support or oppose any political party, candidate for public office, or partisan organization.

15.3.6 Prohibition on Candidacy

No elected member of the Society's Executive Board shall seek nomination for, or become a candidate in, any municipal, provincial, or federal election during their term of office with the Society.

15.3.7 Platform Access and Engagement

While the Society may engage with political parties, candidates, or representatives from different levels of government (municipal, provincial, federal) where it serves the interests of its members, non-partisanship does not oblige the Society to offer equal platform or access to all political parties, candidates, or representatives. The Society retains the discretion to determine the appropriateness, relevance, and alignment of such engagements with its advocacy priorities and the welfare of its members. The Society is not required to provide equal opportunity or access for every political party or candidate.

15.3.8 Prohibition on Political Funding

The Society shall not accept, either directly or indirectly, any financial contributions, goods, services, sponsorships, or other forms of material support, including in-kind contributions, from any political party, candidate for public office, or related organization. For the purpose of this Bylaw, *indirectly* includes all potential indirect contributions, such as through third parties.