

UVIC GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY
Semi-Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 5 pm – 7 pm
Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Present:

Executive Board:	Jacqueline Rutherford, French	GSS Members:
Wyatt Maddox, Chair	Nadiya Shore, Earth and Ocean Science	Asma Noureen, Incoming Director of Student Life
Jitendra Palaparty, D. External University Relations	Adam Regier, Geography	Diana Bertuol-Garcia, Environmental Studies
Maggie Lawton, D. Student Life	Lauren Burton, Environmental Studies	Michael Clark, Biology
Samuel Fielder, D. Finance	Luke Montgomery, Greek and Roman Studies (O)	Wes Greentree, Biology
Rosemary Webb, D. Internal University Relations	Jenna Mehlman, Business (O)	Aida Majidi, SLLC
GRC Reps:	Yukio Jamieson-Burns, Philosophy (O)	Diogo Bravo, Mech
Khai Quigley, Math and Stats	Bernardo Leite, Mechanical Engineering	Suhan Yoon, MTIS
Semyon Drozdetsckii, Anthropology	Bryce Bartsch, Pacific and Asian Studies (O)	Jia Min Li, MADS
Jasmine Padam, Sociology (O)	Victor Marrugat Arnal, Electrical and Computer Engineering	Maxine Angeley, Biology
Luiza Cesar Riani Costa, Public Health and Social Policy (O)	Iram Zahra, Educational Psychology and Leadership	

(29 total voting members present, 6 online) *(O) designates members who joined online.

Staff, Non-voting attendees:

Executive Director: Kyla Turner

Governance Coordinator: Irfan Tanveer

Chair: Wyatt MADDUX, Chair

1. Call to order – Wyatt MADDUX, Chair
Meeting called to order by MADDUX at 5:05pm.
2. Land acknowledgement.
Land acknowledgement offered by MADDUX.
3. SAGM Quorum Report – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director
Quorum for GSS general meeting is 25 members. With 19 voting members present, the meeting was not quorate at 5:05pm. The meeting began with the reports section to allow for more members to come in prior to votes on our budget or board elections. The reports to members ran 5:10pm to 5:33.
The meeting became quorate at 5:24 pm. All motions related to the budget, stipends, bylaws, elections occurred after 5:24 pm.

4. Approval of agenda
Motion: RESOLVED the Agenda of the March 25, 2025, GSS Semi-Annual General Meeting is approved as presented.
Moved: Executive Board Seconded: BURTON
CARRIED

5. Approval of previous GSS General Meeting minutes

REF DOC: 2024-10-22 AGM Minutes Draft

Motion: RESOLVED the minutes of the October 22, 2024, GSS Annual General Meeting are approved as presented.

Moved: Executive Board Seconded: REGIER
CARRIED

6. Executive Stipends – Yukio JAMIESON-BURNS, Chair of Stipend Review Committee

Motion: RESOLVED THAT the stipends for the GSS Executive Board in 2025-26 are set as:

Chair:	\$ 1070.66 /month
Director of Finance:	\$ 1070.66 /month
Director of Internal/University Affairs:	\$ 1070.66 /month
Director of External Affairs:	\$ 1070.66 /month
Director of Student Life:	\$ 1070.66 /month

Moved: Stipend Review Committee Seconded: REGIER

Discussion: TURNER reminded members of the decision at the 2020-11-24 AGM to tie Executive Stipend to the TA “hourly rate from September the previous calendar year.” These rates reflect the September 2024 TA wage rate.

CARRIED

7. Presentation of 2024-25 Budget – Sam FIELDER, Director of Finance

REF DOC: Proposed 2025-26 GSS Budget

Motion: RESOLVED the 2025-26 Budget is approved as presented.

Moved: Executive Board & Finance Committee Seconded: LEITE

Discussion:

FIELDER provided a thorough review of the budgeting process, our restaurant revenue projections, labour costs, capital purchases and debt repayment, and GSS fees for 2025-26. LEITE asked after our debts. TURNER gave more information about the outstanding balance owed to UVic. BURTON asked after the Health and Dental budget vis-à-vis the budget. FIELDER gave an overview of the budgetary transition plan for that fund.

CARRIED

8. Reports to the Membership:

- Report of the 2024-25 Executive Board– Wyatt MADDOX, Chair
- Membership and Representation Report – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director
- Report of the Executive Director – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director

REF DOCS: 2024-25 Executive Board Report; Membership and Representation Report; 2024-25 Executive Director Report

Should there be only 1 candidate, a ratification vote will be held.

OR

Should there be no candidates, an Electoral Officer will be appointed by the Graduate Representative Council at their April meeting.

Semyon DROZDETCKII nominated themselves as the 2025-26 Electoral Officer. Semyon DROZDETCKII was ratified as the 2025-26 Electoral Officer.

12. Introduction of the 2025-26 Executive Board

13. Other Business

14. Adjournment

Motion: RESOLVED the 2025 GSS SAGM is adjourned at 6:20.

Moved: WEBB Seconded: LAWTON

CARRIED

X 

Wyatt MADDIX
GSS Chair 2024-25

X 

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

Appendix A: Bylaw Amendments

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

2025 SAGM Bylaws for Amendment

The Bylaw and Policy Committee recommends the following changes for ratification at the 2025 Semi-Annual General Meeting. Please note that additions are **highlighted yellow** and deletions are **struck through**.

Bylaw 4.4 Referenda:

- a. Referenda shall be initiated by:
 - i. a resolution of the Executive Board; or
 - ii. a resolution passed by two-thirds (2/3) of Grad Council; or
 - iii. a petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the full members of the Society.
- b. Referenda questions shall be phrased by the Executive Board. However, where a referendum is initiated by petition, the phrasing shall not alter the original intent of the petition.
 - i. **Where a referendum question creates or revises a membership fee, the text of the referendum question shall include whether or not the fee shall increase by the Consumer Price Index annually.**

d. Reports of Committees of the Society

REF DOCS:

- i. Advocacy and Campaigns — Jitendra PALAPARTY, Director of External Relations
- ii. Appeals – Sam FIELDER, Director of Finance
- iii. Bylaw and Policy – Wyatt MADDOX, GSS Chair
- iv. Finance – Sam FIELDER, Director of Finance
- v. Events — Maggie LAWTON, Director of Student Life
- vi. Stipend Review – Yukio JAMIESON-BURNS, Chair, Stipend Review

e. Health and Dental Plan Update – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director

REF DOC: 2025-03-25 Semi-Annual Health and Dental Plan Update

Motion: RESOLVED the 2024-25 Executive Board report, reports from the committees of the society, and the semi-annual extended health and dental insurance plans update are received as information.

*Moved: BURTON Seconded: RUTHERFORD
CARRIED*

9. Bylaw Amendments (Appendix A)

Motion: to approve the amendments to bylaws #4.4 (Referenda), bylaw #14.3, (Membership Fees), bylaw #14.4 (Funds) as presented.

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

Discussion:

FIELDER clarified the matter of receiving political donations. MADDOX noted these would violate our existing conflict of interest policy. TURNER also stated that this would violate our non-partisanship bylaw.

CARRIED

10. Ratification of Acclaimed Executive Board Candidates – Jono QUALTER, Electoral Officer

REF DOC: Electoral Officer Election Update 2025-26

QUALTER was absent. MADDOX took ratification votes for the following candidates. All were ratified by show of hands.

Chair – Rosemary Webb

Director of Finance – Maggie Lawton

Director of External Relations – Jitendra Palaparty

WEBB, LAWTON and PALAPARTY each abstained from the ratification vote for themselves.

11. Election of Electoral Officer – Wyatt MADDOX, Chair

a. Call for nominations from the floor.

b. If there are multiple candidates, an election will be held by members present.

OR

- ii. **Where a referendum on GSS fees would necessitate alterations of bylaw 14.3 Membership Fees, the revised bylaw text shall be presented in the referendum.**
- c. Where the referendum is initiated by the Executive Board, the Graduate Representative Council will be notified within 48 hours of the Executive Board Meeting.

Bylaw 14.3 Membership Fees:

- a. Membership fees shall be set by majority vote of a referendum held according to Society Bylaws. **Where the referendum which set or revised the fee included provisions to increase the fee annual by the Consumer Price Index, the fees shall increase by the Provincial Consumer Price Index in line with GSS Core Membership Fees.**
 - i. **Fees which include a CPI increase include: Campus Food Bank, CFUV, University 101, Conference Travel Fee, and Distance Travel Fee.**
 - ii. **Fees which do not include a CPI increase include: Childcare fee, Anti-Violence Project, Ombudsperson, Constituency Groups, Clubs, WUSC, Student Advocate, and Food and Beverage Fees.**
- b. Total core membership fees are automatically increased annually to a maximum determined by the provincial Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous calendar **fiscal** year.

Bylaw 14.4 Funds:

As per the Societies Act (2015), the funds of the Society shall consist of:

- a. Membership fees;
- b. Private endowments;
- c. Any revenue accruing from a Society transaction;
- d. **Any grants received from the municipal, provincial, federal government(s), and/or non-governmental organizations; and**
- e. **Any public donations.**

