

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING AGENDA

MARCH 3, 2026

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

EXECUTIVE INVITED:

Maggie LAWTON, Director of Finance;
Sarah ROBERTS, Director of Internal/University Relations;
Lillian ABELLS, interim Director of External Relations;
Curran CHAPMAN, interim Director of Student Life;
Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting);

REGRETS: Rosemary WEBB, Chair;

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:00 by LAWTON.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territory acknowledgement offered by TURNER.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: ABELLS/CHAPMAN

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. SAGM APPROVALS

Lead: WEBB

Reference: 2025-10-28 AGM draft minutes, 2026-03-24 SAGM agenda, any elections activities, any bylaw amendments forthcoming from BPC

For: Decision

Motion: to approve the October 2025 AGM minutes, March 2026 SAGM agenda,

M/S: CHAPMAN/LAWTON

CARRIED

TASK Reminder: All board members to submit their SAGM reports to the 2026-03-24 SAGM folder on Teams by 9am on March 10.

2. CAMPAIGN DEBRIEF

Lead: LAWTON

Reference: Kyla's email of insanity and draft revised schedule, Campaign Guides (Election, Referendum)

For: Discussion

How did campaigning go? What changes does the board recommend to our campaigning rules based on how things went?

Discussion: CHAPMAN noted that she supports extending the nomination period to improve recruitment. Also noted that we need better definitions of "fair comment" to distinguish campaigning from not campaigning – both for elections and referenda.

LAWTON asked to clarify whether campaigning is allowed at GRC (if so, include it in the calendar and state that candidates/campaigners should attend), and including instructions for tabling.

TURNER asked if clarification is needed to say "candidates and campaigners should plan to attend the Meet the Candidates and GRC". LAWTON and ABELLS said it is the responsibility of candidates/campaigners to conduct their own campaigns.

ROBERTS recommended clarification on listservs and their use, recommending the use for referenda and not elections.

3. TRANSITION PLANNING

Lead: TURNER

Reference: Draft training materials folder

For: Discussion

TASKS: TURNER to update board manual with any policy/appendix revisions required.

ABELLS and ROBERTS to review draft 2026 Board Manual

LAWTON to review training powerpoints on Finance and ED duties. CHAPMAN to review training powerpoints on services and membership and letter writing. ROBERTS to review training powerpoints on chairing 101 and advocacy 101. TURNER to request WEBB review training powerpoints on Governance and Constitution.

All board members to clear out email inboxes by March 30.

All board members to write transition reports by March 30.

Board members to reach out to successor to schedule one-on-one meeting upon their election.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2026 Executive Board Meeting as presented.

M/S: CHAPMAN/ABELLS

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 made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX D) 10:55

Item 1: Victoria Youth Advisory Council

Item 2: Qwul'sih'yah'maht Extends Term as Acting President

Item 3: Odd Bunch

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: ROBERTS/ABELLS

CARRIED

TASK: ABELLS to meet with TURNER, Neil Barney, Operations and Services Manager, and Odd Bunch.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief: Feb 24 GRC
 - i. Department grant discussion was mildly contentious, but productive.
2. Meeting agenda planning: Mar 13 Operational Relations
 - i. Limerick Framework?
 - ii. Building heating?
 - iii. Equity action plan?
 - iv. Housing update?
 - v. CHAPMAN sends regrets
3. Meeting agenda planning: Mar 23 Exec to Exec?
 - i. PSI Review – we want to hear from Chris! And update on GSS lobbying
 - ii. Limerick Framework

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 no report

Director of Finance: LAWTON is very busy with campaigning, lobbying and chairing the organization. After lobbying ends this evening, she will turn attention to SAGM, Finance Committee and transition prep. LAWTON reported that Dean Hicks has been re-appointed, the AVP Research and Innovation hiring committee is underway, and she will see her first appeal in the Senate Committee of Appeals.

Director of Internal/University Relations: ROBERTS is still working on Presidential Hiring, as well as lobbying and campaigning. She will meet with ABELLS shortly about the SAGM report.

Director of External Relations: ABELLS is coming off a very busy few weeks. Had a great meeting with the Ombudsperson. They have been invited to the Ending Violence Association and been asked by AVP to support the ratification of the grad representative.

Director of Student Life: CHAPMAN has also been very busy with school. She needs to respond to the housing/tenants rights workshop after Events Committee tomorrow.

Executive Director: TURNER is working on lobbying, SAGM, and Labour-Management Committee prep.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Our last meeting of substance is March 16 – last call to submit items to the 2025-26 board

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 16, 2026

Next GRC Meeting: April 28, 2026

SAGM: March 24, 2026

Office, Staff Scheduling: Neil out March 16-20.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting.

M/S: ROBERTS/ABELLS

CARRIED/FAILED

X

Rosemary WEBB
GSS Chair 2025-26

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1 Victoria Youth Advisory Council

From: Tristan Denniston <tdenn@uvic.ca>

Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2026 1:58 PM

To: Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>; [redacted]

Subject: Call for Applications from MP Will Greaves' Office - Victoria Youth Advisory Council - Due March 1st

Good Afternoon,

I have received the following from the Constituency Office of Victoria MP Will Greaves regarding the establishment of a Victoria Youth Advisory Council that he is forming this spring.

For clarity, I am sharing this because they are seeking UVic students to apply, and I am not directly involved in this council or its ongoing administration/activities. That said, it appears to be a unique opportunity to engage directly with a local elected representative.

The Council aims to bring together youth aged 15 to 24 from across the riding in a non-partisan setting to discuss community issues, current events, and policy topics directly with the MP.

Applications are open until March 1, 2026, and details, including how to apply, are included below. Please feel free to share this opportunity with any interested students or youth networks.

Kind Regards,
Tristan

Original Email from MP Will Greaves' Office:

We are starting a Victoria Youth Advisory Council – a non-partisan group where youth in the riding of Victoria will meet once a month to connect with each other and provide input to MP Greaves on current events, world issues, bills, and more. By getting involved in the Victoria Youth Advisory Council, young people will have the opportunity to engage and learn about Canada's political processes, develop leadership skills, and most importantly, be involved in our community.

This group is for youth ages 15–24 who are looking for ways to engage in democracy and get involved in the community to make their voices heard.

We will be accepting applications up until March 1, 2026. Complete applications will include a copy of the student's resume highlighting their school and community experience and a brief cover letter (maximum two pages) that answers at least one of the following questions:

1. What makes you want to get involved in politics?
2. What makes you want to get involved within the community?
3. What do you want to see for the future of Victoria?

All applications and inquiries can be sent to: will.greaves@parl.gc.ca

Item 2: Qwul'sih'yah'maht Extends Term as Acting President

From: Brian Cant, Chair, UVic Board of Governors <bulkmail-noreply@uvic.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 10:02
To: Morag Mochan <mmochan@uvic.ca>
Subject: An update on UVic leadership

Dear Staff and Faculty,

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I am pleased to announce that Qwul'sih'yah'maht, Dr. Robina Thomas, has agreed to an extension of her role as Acting President and Vice-Chancellor until June 30, 2026.

We express our gratitude to Robina for agreeing to remain as acting president. She continues to provide strong and consistent leadership at UVic's executive table, while moving the university forward.

As you know, a search for the next president and vice-chancellor of the University of Victoria is currently underway. Updates on the appointment process will be shared with the university community in the coming months.

Current information about the search process is available on the [University Secretary website](#). If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to usec3@uvic.ca.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Cant

Chair, University of Victoria Board of Governors

Item 3: Odd Bunch

From: Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 11:43 AM
To: GSS Director of External Relations <gssexternal@uvic.ca>; GSS Director of Internal/University Relations <gssinternal@uvic.ca>; GSS Director of Student Life <gsslife@uvic.ca>
Subject: FW: GSS x Odd Bunch

Hey Sarah, Lily, Curran,

Question for you: do you have any interest in meeting with Odd Bunch, a produce distributor that sells produce that does not meet appearance standards set by grocery stores at a reduced cost, to see if we want to advertise this service to our members? If so, I'll ask for a meeting with Odd Bunch, Neil, me, and whoever among you want to join to ask after how we could explore a partnership for both the members and the Grad House. If not, no worries. I have already referred these folks to the Campus Food Bank.

From: Charles Balcita <charles@oddbunch.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 8:32 AM
To: Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>
Subject: GSS x Odd Bunch

 Hi Kyla,

Checking back to confirm you received the email I sent over last month? I'd love to get something on the calendar to discuss ways we can help support your food programs and extend your impact bolstering student nutrition this year.

Best regards,
Charles Balcita
(778) 683-2795
charles@oddbunch.ca



On Tue, Jan 27, 2026 at 12:48 PM, Charles Balcita <charles@oddbunch.ca> wrote:
Hi Kyla,

I would love to connect to discuss supporting GSS's food programs this school year.

Odd Bunch is a sustainable produce service that is committed to bolstering student health & nutrition and we would like to help reduce your spend on produce.

We are working with TMU, UBC, BCIT, and George Brown as well as food security initiatives across Canada and have been successful in extending our partners' purchasing power on produce items quite significantly.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,
Charles Balcita
(778) 683-2795
charles@oddbunch.ca



