University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 16, 2026

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;
Lillian ABELLS, interim Director of External Relations;
Curran CHAPMAN, interim Director of Student Life;
Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting);

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:08 by WEBB.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territory acknowledgement offered by TURNER.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.
M/S: LAWTON/ROBERTS
CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. ANNUAL PLAN REVIEW

Lead: WEBB
For: Discussion
What went well? What do we pass on to the next board? Was there anything that we would not recommend passing on to the next board?

Discussion:
WEBB gave an overview of the annual plan for CHAPMAN and ABELLS. They have also given a full report on work completed and ongoing for the SAGM.

Goal: strong feedback loop, celebrate successes
Outcome: very strong GRC that is acting as a feedback loop, providing briefs to Petri for website and bulletin updates, strong media presence this year
Issues arising: we made board attendance at events a mandate to gather member feedback and encourage engagement, however there has been discussion about event attendance as a board duty among SRC. GRC

Discussion:
ROBERTS noted that given the amount of information provided, spreading out the training was beneficial. However, condensed training allows the board to take action quickly.

WEBB stated that the Chair's weekly/biweekly meetings with board members should involve a review of the board manual and demonstrating it's use.

TURNER asked what materials should be reviewed in August. LAWTON/CHAPMAN included "schmoozing 101" and how to be a good representative of the GSS. CHAPMAN recommended a check in in summer about orientation planning. TURNER will include this material while training board members on how to deliver department orientations.

WEBB recommends a review of committee work (how is your committee going, what do you need to do differently over the new term) in August. ROBERTS recommends repeating chairing 101 in August.

WEBB has recommended that ROBERTS continue monthly meetings with each director and include a review of distal and proximal goals, schedules, etc.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2026 Executive Board Meeting as presented.
M/S: CHAPMAN/LAWTON
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 at this point in board terms!

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: BC Office of the Human Rights Commission training opportunity
Item 2: Transportation Barriers Consult
Item 3: Ending Violence Association of BC
Item 4: Campus Demonstration

Motion: to receive the correspondence.
M/S:
CARRIED

TASKS: WEBB to follow up with the Transit Barriers Consult to ask for their specific requests.
ABELLS and CHAPMAN to complete EVA BC consultation on March 31.
WEBB to follow up with Iranian students regarding campus demonstration.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief: Mar 13 Operational Relations
    i. Most items went well and we received the information expected
    ii. TURNER sent follow up to Jim Dunsdon re: Limerick Framework to distinguish questions for Nicole Greengoe and Robina Thomas
2. Meeting agenda planning: Mar 23 Exec to Exec – check in on strategy
    i. PSI Review
    ii. Limerick Framework
    iii. CHAPMAN sends regrets
3. Meeting agenda planning: SAGM TASK ASSIGNMENTS!

TASK: ABELLS, CHAPMAN, WEBB, ROBERTS to assist with room set up for SAGM (remove tables, set up chairs, projector, etc.) at 3:30 on the 24th. LAWTON to lead post-SAGM drinks.

I. LOBBYING REPORTS

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

TURNER submitted three lobbying reports for meetings with MLAs Gibson, Lore, Rotchford, Halford, and Warbus re: provincial PSI review across March 3-9.

CLOSING ITEMS

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: WEBB thanked the board for all their work covering during their travels. They

Director of Finance: LAWTON will be addressing Alumo service changes with TURNER shortly. AVPRI appointment committee is ongoing. AVPRI, Faculty of Science EDI and student life grant committee will be continued. She has a meeting with Eleanore booked today for onboarding.

Director of Internal/University Relations: ROBERTS remains excessively busy with Presidential Hiring.

Director of External Relations: ABELLS is working on transition prep, including a one-on-one meeting with Victor on Wednesday. ABELLS also reviewing the board manual.

Director of Student Life: CHAPMAN reported events is going well. The tea party was a major success. Events Committee is going to the Belfry in May.

Executive Director: TURNER reminded the board that Neil is out this week, so she's covering all management duties.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

Next meeting is transition only. Y'all are done the substantial work.

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 30, 2026

Next GRC Meeting: April 28, 2026

SAGM: March 24, 2026

Office, Staff Scheduling: Office closed Good Friday (Apr 3) and Easter Monday (Apr 6).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 11:27.
M/S: LAWTON/ROBERTS
CARRIED

X

Rosemary WEBB
GSS Chair 2025-26

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX D – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: BC Office of the Human Rights Commission training opportunity
From: Sarwar, Shanzae OHRC:EX <Shanzae.Sarwar@bchumanrights.ca>
Sent: February 27, 2026 11:35 AM
To: GSS Director of Internal/University Relations <gssinternal@uvic.ca>
Subject: Invitation to Participate in BCOHRC's Experiential Learning Session on Systemic Discrimination

> You don't often get email from shanzae.sarwar@bchumanrights.ca. Learn why this is important

Hello Sarah Roberts ,

My name is Shanzae Sarwar, I am an Engagement Advisor with BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner (BCOHRC).

I am reaching out to you to let you know that our Office has developed an experiential learning session on systemic discrimination, *Xenon 2: Your experience awaits*! We thought you might be interested in participating in a multi-organizational session we will be hosting soon. There is more information below.

We are looking to host this workshop in the last week of March as a tentative date for our next session. Please let us know if you would be interested in taking part in this session along with 1-3 members of your team. If you have any questions about this session, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thanks so much for your time and looking forward to hearing from you,

Best wishes,
Shanzae

Xenon 2 Session Details:

The Xenon 2 session was created to develop an understanding of systemic discrimination through a simulation in an imaginary community where participants take on imaginary identities. This session is recommended for people with limited or no experience with systemic discrimination, with the goals of experiencing, to some degree, the impacts of systemic discrimination. The session is potentially harmful for people who experience systemic discrimination in their daily lives in ways that are emotionally or physically traumatizing because it takes participants through imaginary experiences of barriers and harms based on the identities of specific groups.

This particular Xenon 2 session is being offered to staff from organizations that may consider hosting a session for their staff and/or participating in our Xenon 2 community facilitator training program. It is important that session hosts and Xenon 2 community facilitators bring diverse identities and experiences with systemic discrimination to their roles, so participants in our multi-organizations Xenon 2 sessions are not representative of our usual sessions. We have kept this in mind when planning the session and will endeavor to create a safer, trauma-informed space.

You can learn more about the session here: https://bchumanrights.ca/resources/systemic-discrimination/xenon/.

What participants have to say about Xenon 2:

"It was one of the most well thought out simulations I have ever participated in. I was ... impressed with the unique ways in which the experience of systemic discrimination was generated within an old white guy like me."

"A simulation that allowed us to experience discrimination without it being associated closely with real life allowed us to look at discrimination from a new lens and set aside any existing prejudice we perpetuate or experience in the real world. I think that would work so well to address current harmful trends"

"I am planning to apply what I hope to be an increased amount of empathy and understanding to those around me based on my newfound knowledge."

Shanzae Sarwar *(she/her)*
Engagement Advisor
BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner

bchumanrights.ca | @humanrights4bc

British Columbia's
Office of the Human Rights Commissioner

To the Indigenous peoples of this place we now call British Columbia: Today we turn our minds to you and to your ancestors. You have kept your unceded homelands strong. We are grateful to live and work here.

BC's Office of the Human Rights Commissioner's email font size and colour contrast reflect current accessibility best practices. We welcome feedback about how we can make our communications more accessible: info@bchumanrights.ca

Disclaimer: This email and any attachments are only for the use of the intended recipient and must not be distributed, disclosed, used or copied by or to anyone else. If you receive this in error, please contact the sender by return email and delete all copies of this email and any attachments.

Item 2: Transportation Barriers Consult
From: Seamus Beairsto <sbeairsto@uvic.ca>
Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 10:11 AM
To: GSS Office <gssoffice@uvic.ca>
Subject: Transportation barriers

Dear GSS,

I am reaching out to you on behalf of my Coastal Climate Solutions Leadership project group. In collaboration with the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability, we are developing a framework for identifying cross sections of campus users who face barriers around transportation. These users may require special consideration as the university designs and implements policies to increase the usage of sustainable transit to campus such as public transit, cycling, and walking.

As a part of this project, we wish to (where possible):

- Understand and document how campus organizations desire to be engaged by the university regarding policy design (if at all).
- Pass on information from interest groups around equity considerations that might not be captured in surveys, jurisdictional scans, etc.
- Communicate these findings to the Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability.

We've identified GSS as well as UVSS, the centre for accessible learning, and Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement as organisations who may have engaged with the university and/or their members in the past around transportation barriers and may wish to be involved in this conversation.

We are wondering if you have the time/interest in providing information regarding either of the first two bullets above? If so, we would love to set up a meeting with someone at GSS to talk more about this, but in the interest of time e-mailing works well for us too :)

Hope you have a great day,

Seamus, Kun, Caitlin, Spencer, Brighid

Item 3: Ending Violence Association of BC
[emails from Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA BC) are marked as confidential and the text has been removed these minutes. EVA BC seeking board members to consult regarding upcoming BC-wide sexual violence prevention campaign, and government funded provincial gender-based violence (GBV) bystander intervention campaign for 25 post-secondary institutions across BC

Item 4: Campus Demonstration
From: [redacted]
Sent: March 4, 2026 12:21 PM
To: Aafiya Bhayani - SOCC Coordinator <socc@uvss.ca>; GSS Office <gssoffice@uvic.ca>; International Centre for Students <icsinfo@uvic.ca>; UVic Global Community Programs <gcmentor@uvic.ca>; Tricia Best <icsdir@uvic.ca>
Cc: UVSS Director of Student Affairs <affairs@uvss.ca>; irsa.uvic@gmail.com; UVSS Director of International Student Relations <internationalrep@uvss.ca>; UVSS Director of Events <events@uvss.ca>; Office of Student Life <studentlife@uvic.ca>
Subject: Upcoming Campus Demonstration for Iran

Dear All,

I hope you are well.

We are excited to announce the Persian Student Association has been re-activated again!

I would like to let you know that we are planning a campus demonstration in support of Iran on Monday March 9th 11:30 am to 1pm outside the library. We are in touch with campus security and office of student life and necessary arrangements and permissions have been made.

It would be great if you can help us with these below items and if you have any suggestions for us I really appreciate it:

1. We would like to have a tent if possible.

2. Do you have a portable speaker and microphone or do you know where we can get them from?

3. Can we have a board with the wheels to post photos of the people who got killed for freedom?

4. Would it be possible for you to promote our demonstration on your social media, email list or newsletters? Is it possible to put information about our club on your mass emails that get sent from UVSS and GSS to students?

5. We are currently trying to reach Iranian Grad students on campus but I do not know what is the best way to do an outreach?

Thank you so much for your support.

Best Regards,
[redacted]
Co-President
Persian Student Association At UVic