

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 15, 2026

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

EXECUTIVE INVITED:

Sarah ROBERTS, Chair;

Eleanore TODD, Director of Finance;

Victor MARRUGAT, Director of External Relations;

Violet CIESLIK, Director of Internal/University Relations;

Manuel CENTENO DUQUE, Director of Student Life

Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting);

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by ROBERTS at 12:02pm.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territory acknowledgement offered by MARRUGAT. MARRUGAT added that last year he went on a canoeing trip with the UVic Sustainability project, and on the trip the participants learned about the many uses of Indigenous canoes, including recreation and joy.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: MARRUGAT/CENTENO

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. BOARD TRAINING: GSS SERVICES AND MEMBERSHIP

Lead: TURNER

REF DOC: GSS Services and Membership powerpoint (see also: What is the GSS, GSS History, Using GSS Resources as a Board Member, Appendix H-I, sections of Board Manual)

For: Training

TURNER gave an overview of the services administered by the GSS staff (Grad House, UPASS, Modo Car Share, room bookings, Department Grants), which are administered externally (Extended Health and Dental insurance, travel/conference grants), and which include volunteers (events!)

TURNER also included a brief overview of current GSS membership. Our members are predominately Master's students, in professional programs, female or gender diverse, age 24-34, and domestic students (though grad students at UVic are six times more likely than undergrads to be international).

2. BOARD TRAINING: GSS FINANCES 101

Lead: TURNER

Reference: GSS Finances 101 (see also: GSS Finance 101 section of Board Manual)

For: Trainings

TURNER gave an overview of key high-level financial terminology and concepts, how the GSS is funded, how the budget operates, and where our money (and debts) are held. Further, TURNER noted that the building is jointly owned by UVic and the GSS, with the University holding the title and the GSS maintaining exclusive access rights (excluding force majeure). Lastly, we reviewed finance authority and decision making structures and risk areas.

Hint for this weekend: we moved up Chairing 101, which altered Kyla's intended training schedule. Truly eager beavers and/or hypercompetitive board members may wish to review pages 37-39 of the board manual before Saturday morning.

TASK: TODD to investigate Vancity GIC options in preparation for the investment of some funds from the Capital Fund.

3. ISSUE BRIEFING: REFERENDUM ONGOING

Lead: ROBERTS/TURNER

Reference: Electoral Officer's Recusal Notice

For: Discussion

A complaint was submitted about the Spring 2026 referendum. The 2025-26 Electoral Officer recused themselves for adjudicating the complaint. Until the newly elected 2026-27 Electoral Officer reviews the complaint, renders a decision, and either the appeal submission deadline passes without an appeal to the Electoral Officer's decision or an appeal to his decision is adjudicated, the referendum results are not final. Therefore, the Spring 2026 referendum is still ongoing.

Despite the above, the GSS is required to submit the fees that we would like charged on tuition for the May semester forward by the University of Victoria Board of Governors' March meeting each year. The UVic Board of Governors is the ONLY authority which can approve fees on tuition accounts and their meeting schedule is not required to align with the GSS's schedules. The fees were announced to UVic per the preliminary referendum results, as the referendum has not been altered by the complaint process as of yet. We have reserved the right to alter our fees for the September semester forward if required after the Electoral Officer reviews the complaint.

The Electoral Officer has sole authority to render decisions on referendum complaints. No member of the board should discuss this matter publicly or with the Electoral Officer until such time as the complaint review and appeal process concludes. Should an appeal of the Electoral Officer's decision be submitted, the Electoral Appeals Committee will need to be called from among GRC, so this matter should likewise not be discussed with GRC reps until a decision is rendered and the appeal process ends. To do otherwise will bias the pool of candidates for the Electoral Appeals Committee.

Discussion: ROBERTS gave an overview of the planning of the 2026 Spring GSS Fee Referendum, starting from January 2025 onwards, including the rationale for each question, the information gathering process that the previous Director of Finance, Maggie Lawton, lead, and the campaigning period and complaint.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2026 Executive Board Meeting with a minor edit for names.

M/S: TODD/CENTENO

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: TURNER to arrange for ROBERTS, TODD, to take over signing authority with the GSS Vancity account representative, Brent Fuller. ROBERTS, Personnel Officer to schedule time with Brent Fuller at the Mount Tolmie branch of Vancity to set up account access for all GSS Vancity accounts.

TASK: CENTENO, CIESLIK, & TURNER to discuss lunch pick up further on the 15th.

Tasks revoked or abandoned:

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No committee appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX C) 12:37

Item 1: Student Parking Email

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: CIESLIK/CENTENO

CARRIED

TASK: ROBERTS to respond to the student with a parking inquiry

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief:
2. Meeting agenda planning: April 28 GRC – Finalize Agenda Items – agenda goes out April 21
 - i. GRC Seats – see Kyla's email re: department grants
 - ii. Building Heat and finding Sophie a successor on them advocacy campaign

iii. Electoral Officer reports – If Sam is done this work by the 21st.

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: ROBERTS reported presidential hiring committee is short-listing.

Director of Finance: TODD no report. TODD had to depart at 1:55.

Director of Internal/University Relations: CIESLIK FGS Council is meeting Monday next week

Director of External Relations: MARRUGAT

Director of Student Life: CENTENO has had his first Events Committee meeting. May events are planned. He has met with representatives from ICS and GC.

Executive Director: TURNER reported staffing updates.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

April 18 Training Day:

Review of GSS Governance, Services, and Finance materials (GSS Jeopardy)

Training: Advocacy 101

Time allowing: Training: Advocacy Letter Writing (or catch up if we postponed anything so far)

Super secret values-setting and team building exercise

April 22 meeting:

Training: Supervising an Executive Director (Kyla's job description)

Issue briefing: UVic needs a grad dorm

Meet and greet with Stipend Review Committee chair? (To be confirmed)

April 27 meeting:

Meet and greet with Robin Hicks, Faculty of Graduate Studies Dean – rescheduling this to May 13

Training: Advocacy Letter Writing (if not previously provided)

Training review and recap: Confirm understanding of training powerpoint materials, understanding of Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, and Board Manual

May 13 meeting:

Meet and greet with Jim Dunsdon, Associate Vice President Student Affairs

Meet and greet with Robin Hicks, Faculty of Graduate Studies Dean

Rabbit hole!: Ombudsperson Office funding and what the GSS can do about it.

Rabbit hole! RA Unionization campaign history

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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

Next Executive Meetings: April 22, 2026

Next GRC Meeting: April 28, 2026

AGM: October 27, 2026

Office, Staff Scheduling:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 2:02.

M/S: CIESLIK/CENTENO

CARRIED



Sarah ROBERTS
GSS Chair 2026-27



Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

Item 1 Student Parking Email

From: [redacted]

Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 11:40 PM

To: UVSS Info Booth <uvssinfo@uvss.ca>; GSS Office <gssoffice@uvic.ca>

Subject: Request for UVSS and GSS Support to Reinstate Full-Semester Parking Passes

Dear UVSS and GSS Representatives,

I am writing to request your support in advocating that UVic Parking Services, and by extension, the university itself, restore the option for students to purchase parking passes for a full semester, two semesters, or a full calendar year, as was previously available.

In past years, UVic offered discounted longer-duration parking passes (semester, two-semester, and annual options as I recall), but those choices have quietly been removed. Currently, the longest period available is only one month. This change has created a predatory and highly inconvenient system that disproportionately affects students. When parking passes must be renewed every month, it significantly increases the likelihood of students accidentally lapsing, which leads to parking tickets ranging from \$40 to \$80 if unpaid within two weeks.

Students are already under growing financial strain with rising tuition and the steep cost of living in Victoria. The removal of longer-duration parking passes adds unnecessary administrative and financial stress. Moreover, UVic Parking Services does not provide email reminders for pass expiration, despite the fact that students must log in using their UVic credentials to purchase parking. It is also not easy to see when your current pass expires. To my knowledge, the only way to confirm the expiration date is by reviewing personal banking transaction history. About a month ago I asked a member of staff in the

parking services department why the full semester option was removed and was told that it was removed because less students purchased the full semester option causing more students to park without paying, and that it costs them more money to have that option on the website. In my opinion, former statement seems to be untrue and the latter is objectively a flat-out lie.

This policy change seems deliberately designed to maximize parking ticket revenue rather than support students. I strongly urge the UVSS and GSS to raise this issue with UVic Parking Services and university administration and to advocate for the reinstatement of multi-month or full-semester passes at fair rates.

Thank you for considering this matter. I would greatly appreciate updates on any initiatives or discussions that stem from this concern.

Kind regards

[redacted], BSc (honours)

Graduate Student, [redacted]