

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 27, 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 at 12:04 by ROBERTS.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territory Acknowledgement offered by CIESLIK. She learned today that there was a figure by Lloyd Joseph previously outside the Engineering buildings that was taken down on campus for work. Joseph can no longer work on this figure, so the figure will be honoured on the quad to recognize Joseph's artistic work.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: CENTENO/TODD

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. ELECTORAL OFFICER REPORTS

Lead: ROBERTS

Reference: Semyon's EO report, Sam's EO report, Elections and Referendum Policy and Electoral Appeals Committee Terms of Reference

For: Discussion

Kyla's discussion prompts: There are two aspects of these reports the board should consider: the first is responding to Sam's decision regarding the WUSC complaint. I've recommended to Sarah that we make a motion at the start of GRC tomorrow to add an agenda item to strike an Electoral Appeals Committee, in case WUSC appeals Sam's decision. I've suggested the following language:

"Selection of Electoral Appeals Committee Members

Lead: ROBERTS

Reference doc: Electoral Appeals Committee Terms of Reference

Per the Electoral Appeals Committee Terms of Reference, the Committee shall consist of the Electoral Officer and two full society members as selected by the GRC. The selected members cannot be (or have been in the most recent election/referendum) a candidate for the board or a referendum campaign member. In light of a recent decision by the Electoral Officer, which was published last Friday, we are seeking to establish an Electoral Appeals Committee now.

The GSS Board will present the final results of the Spring 2026 referendum and all required Electoral Officer Reports at the May GRC meeting. Until the appeals period for the current EO's decisions ends (on Friday, May 1), the results of the referendum cannot be deemed finalized."

Second, the Board will need to consider the bylaw, policy and procedural concerns raised by both Sam and Semyon. This discussion will be ongoing throughout the year and is already on Sarah's radar for Bylaw and Policy Committee.

Discussion: ROBERTS gave an overview of the reference documents as well as the history of the Spring 2026 referendum complaint. TURNER provided guidance that in order to provide an unbiased Electoral Appeals Committee that the discussion regarding the contents of the complaint until the referendum is concluded.

2. UVIC GRAD DORM: PRESENTATION TO SAANICH MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Lead: ROBERTS

Reference: [UVic GSS Letter to Mayor and Council re BOV.docx](#)

For: Decision

UVic is moving forward with the necessary bylaw variance request required to build the planned grad/upper-year undergraduate dorm. This allows them to be "shovel-ready" once funds to build are released from the Province. The Saanich Mayor and Council meeting Monday, May 4 at 6:30pm. The previous board worked closely with UVic to produce the attached letter to Mayor and Council, which we will submit for this meeting. When we submit our letter, Kyla can include the names of any speakers from the GSS who wish to make a verbal presentation.

The purpose of this meeting is to advocate for the District of Saanich to waive several bylaws that would otherwise disallow the planned dorm. These include a building height variance, a parking variance, and a tree removal variance. Kyla can provide previous letters addressing to Saanich Mayor and Council to assist any board member who wishes to present verbally to prepare to do so.

TASK: ROBERTS to attend the Saanich Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, May 4 to present our advocate for the UVic dorm bylaw variances.

3. ANNUAL PLAN PRESENTATION

Lead: ROBERTS

Reference: [2025-26_GSSAnnualPlan.pdf](#)

For: Training

ROBERTS presented the 2025-26 Annual Plan as a useful tool for defining scope of work for the year and for training as the current board gets ready to write their own annual plan.

MARRAGUT asked what the next steps look like for annual planning.

Annual plan brainstorming:

- a. Project: BPC re-writes everything elections
- b. Respond to post-secondary funding review and take action
- c. Establish and strengthen feedback channels between members and board
- d. Long-term financial stability – investments and 20 year vision
- e. Advocacy project: Environmental sustainability and climate resiliency – lab safety and public transit. Campus planning has recent survey data on public transit uptake noting that cycling is up 34% but public transit is the lowest it's been since the early 2000's.
- f. Welcoming new members and FGS orientation overhaul – accurate orientation to GSS services, making things accessible and welcoming. Working with FGS on their new orientation plans
- g. Support research assistants through the reclassification imposed by FGS, particularly fairness for Academic Research Assistants
- h. Supporting fairness on campus – Ombudsperson funding and FGS accommodations

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2026 Executive Board Meeting as presented.

M/S: MARRUGAT/TODD

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 C)

Item 1 Provincial Sexualized Violence Advisory Group

Item 2: Saanich Mayor and Council Meeting

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: CENTENO/MARRUGAT

CARRIED

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief:
2. Meeting agenda planning:

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 Presidential Hiring Committee is making a motion to the Board of Governors. ROBERTS reminded the board of GRC tomorrow evening. ~~She has~~

Director of Finance: TODD met with FGS.

Director of Internal/University Relations: CIESLIK attended Campus Planning meeting and got excellent details on transit usage we will use in future advocacy efforts. New updates on Cedar Hill Cross and Ian Stewart which are both mixed use commercial and residential.

Director of External Relations: MARRUGAT is figuring out the BC Transit Student Advisory Committee.

Director of Student Life: CENTENO DUQUÉ reported on the clothing swap tomorrow and pub night. CENTENO reminded folks to arrive by 1015 for set up support or take down at 3. Also seeking volunteers for the pub crawl on Friday.

Executive Director: TURNER reported on Friday that the Times Colonist ran an article that references our advocacy on the provincial PSI funding review. The article states that the PSI funding report is expected by the end of the month (April.) Please expect to see this on a future agenda for discussion in May. **Kyla will be out early on Thursday this week and all day Friday due to family care obligations.**

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

May 13: Meet and greet with Jim Dunsdon, AVP Student Affairs, and Robin Hicks, FGS Dean

Forthcoming issue briefing: Ombudsperson Office funding and what the GSS can do about it. – Kyla is meeting with Angus the Ombudsperson in May to discuss the issue and Angus's preferred resolutions. An issue briefing will be presented to the board in late May/June. This issue is not urgent.

Forthcoming issue briefing: recent federal report on the impacts of the International student visa caps

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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

Next Executive Meetings: May 13, 2026

Next GRC Meeting: April 28, 2026

AGM: October 27, 2026

Office, Staff Scheduling: **Kyla will be out early on Thursday this week and all day Friday due to family care obligations.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm.

M/S: MARRUGAT/CIESLIK

CARRIED

X 

Sarah ROBERTS
GSS Chair 2026-27

X 

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX C – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1 Provincial Sexualized Violence Advisory Group

From: Kusz, Jennifer PSFS:EX <Jennifer.Kusz@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:11 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Invitation to Become the Graduate Student Representative on the SV Advisory Group

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Jennifer Kusz, and I am a Senior Policy Analyst with the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS). Together with BC post-secondary institutions (PSIs) representatives, students/student associations, subject matter experts, and associations representing community organizations specific to sexual violence, we coordinate a Sexual Violence Advisory Group.

We are reaching out to all graduate student societies to see if you, or someone else in your organization who is engaged in sexual violence work, are interested in becoming the graduate student representative of the Sexual Violence Advisory Group and a voice for your community. Joining the Advisory Group gives you the opportunity to be the point of connection between the Ministry and post-secondary education representatives. This opportunity gives you the chance to be an active participant in the province-wide response to sexual violence within post-secondary system.

This group is the main connection point between PSFS, BC PSIs, students/student associations, subject matter experts, Indigenous organizations, and associations representing community organizations specific to sexual violence.

The main purposes of the group are to:

- ? Provide ongoing and annual recommendations and feedback to PSFS on its strategic direction, programs, and initiatives, relating to efforts at preventing and responding to sexual violence in the post-secondary system.
- ? Provide guidance to affiliated SV Working Groups when active.
- ? Consult with various partners and interested parties, including students, post-secondary institutions, and community organizations on matters related to sexual violence in post-secondary education.

The goal is for the group to include members with diverse experiences and strive to reflect the perspectives of those engaged in sexual violence work in the post-secondary system in BC. Membership should reflect the perspectives of those most often targeted for sexualized violence and those facing structural barriers to accessing justice and support.

As we are reaching out directly to the graduate student societies, we ask that you coordinate to determine which graduate student association/union will be the main representative on the committee for the next year. This structure means there is one person who is the main graduate student representative on the Advisory Group, with another graduate student association/union selecting one person to be the alternate representative.

Please see our [website](#) for more information, including the Terms of Reference. Currently, the group meets virtually once a month. As we are looking for representatives to join our meetings starting in May, we kindly request that you confirm the graduate student society representative and alternate by May 5, 2026.

If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information about the group, please contact me, jennifer.kusz@gov.bc.ca.

We look forward to hearing from you,

Jennifer

Jennifer Kusz (PhD)
Senior Policy Analyst
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Post-Secondary Policy Unit
Strategic Policy & Initiatives Branch
Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills (PSFS)
Email: Jennifer.Kusz@gov.bc.ca

I am grateful to live, learn/unlearn, work, and play on the traditional and unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, the traditional territories of the Snuneymuxw, First Nations People.

Item 2: Saanich Mayor and Council meeting

From: Alannah Rodgers <alannahrodgers@uvic.ca>

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 10:06 AM

To: Kyla Turner - Executive Director, Graduate Students' Society <gssmgr@uvic.ca>; GSS Chair <gsschair@uvic.ca>

Cc: Brett Zawadiuk <brettz@uvic.ca>

Subject: RE: 510-Bed Student Housing Update

Hi Kyla,

Hope you've been well. I wanted to let you know that the 510-Bed Project will be bringing the Development Variance Permit for Council's review on Monday May 3rd. The meeting will take place in Council Chambers (Saanich Municipal Hall, 770 Vernon Avenue) commencing at 6:30 p.m

While the project has been delayed, securing this municipal approval will put the project in a strong "shovel-ready" position when funding becomes available.

You can submit your Letter to Mayor and Council at anytime by emailing it to council@saanich.ca.

Further, if you or any of your colleagues wish to address Council, you can express your interest through that same email. Anyone from the public can participate in the "public input" portion for up to three minutes.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you for your support,

Alannah Rodgers (she/her)
Campus Planner

Office of Campus Planning and Sustainability
University of Victoria

250-472-4252

alannahrodgers@uvic.ca | | uvic.ca/campusplanning/



We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

