

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board (HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

MAY 13, 2026

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

EXECUTIVE INVITED:

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);

REGRETS: Sarah ROBERTS, Chair;

GUESTS: Jim Dunsdon, Associate Vice President (AVP) Student Affairs

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 11:02 by TODD.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territory acknowledgement offered by TURNER. She offered thanks for the Indigenous medicines she is currently reifying on, specifically Labrador tea harvested outside Williams Lake by indigenous elders she knows. She thanked those elders for their medicine that supports her health.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: CIESLIK/CENTENO DUQUE

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. REFERENDUM DEBRIEF

Lead: TODD

Reference: [Referendum FAQ](#), [EO Recusal](#), [EO Final Report 25-26](#), [EO Complaint Decision](#), [Final Results](#)

For: Discussion

TODD gave an overview of the process and opened the floor for an open dialogue for the new board to discuss the referendum that occurred prior to their election. Dialogue flowed through our elections/referendum rules, the process of establishing the campaign guides, and the discussions at GRC about this referendum.

2. MEET AND GREET WITH JIM DUNSDON, AVP STUDENT AFFAIRS

Lead: DUNSDON

Reference:

For: Training

TODD started us off with a round of introductions. DUNSDON gave his professional background and history with UVic, as well as the duties of the AVP Student Affairs.

DUNSDON gave a brief overview of the Exec-to-Exec and Operational Relations meetings. Exec-to-Exec is an excellent opportunity to connect with UVic leadership to align on government advocacy efforts. Operational Relations is the space for student leaders to connect with the UVic staff and faculty who can resolve student issues across a wide range of issues. Additionally, Operational Relations allows for UVic to seek student consultations or the GSS to seek UVic consultations on current issues on campus.

DUNSDON also noted that across the internal structures of the Student Affairs office, there are many staff who can support, advise, give perspective/information to the board to support their work.

DUNSDON finally noted that there is always an open line of communication between his office and the GSS through both the Chair and Executive Director. TURNER noted that sometimes this communication is confidential, but she will provide as much information as permissible as soon as permissible.

TODD asked what DUNSDON's office is currently advocating for. DUNSDON listed the 510 bed upper year undergrad/grad dorm being "re-pace," VIHA funding for the Student Wellness Centre, and IRCC student visa changes. On the dorm project, DUNSDON highlighted that student housing supports affordability, accessibility and sustainability. The Vancouver Island Health Authority is responsible for significant portions of funding for staffing at the Student Wellness Centre. Recently, VIHA reduced funding to staff at the Student Wellness Centre (both medical office assistants and care providers) was reduced substantially. UVic has appealed the decision to reduce funding, but the appeal was denied. With 80% of UVic students come from outside the region and do not have alternative access to primary care, the lack of care providers or efficient care provision at the SWC results in negative impacts for the entire local health sector, as well as the obvious negative impacts for student health.

MARRUGAT brought forward that the GSS intends to advocate for improvements to local transit this year. DUNSDON noted that Government Relations office can support that effort and noted that a collaborative approach with the Capital Region District and local municipalities. TURNER stated that the key first issues for the GSS on BC transit will be an update to the Student Advisory Commission to include seats for each of the student societies in the region.

DUNSDON finally offered appreciation for the detailed questions and context setting in the agenda items we submit to the Operational Relations and Exec-to-Exec.

[CENTENO DUQUE departed the meeting at 12:26pm.]

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2026 Executive Board Meeting as presented.

M/S: CIESLIK/MARRAGUT
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:

April 27: TASK: ROBERTS to attend the Saanich Mayor and Council meeting on Monday, May 4 to present our advocate for the UVic dorm bylaw variances.

Tasks revoked or abandoned:

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No committee appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX C)

Item 1: Saanich Councillor Phelps Bondaroff Reaches out to GSS

Items 2: Martlet article regarding recent collaboration between Phelps Bondaroff and UVSS

Item 3: Second Martlet article regarding recent collaboration between Phelps Bondaroff and UVSS

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: CIESLIK/MARRUGAT
CARRIED

TASK: Advocacy and Campaigns Committee to consider Councillor Phelps Bondaroff's offer of consultation and support.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief: April 28 GRC – how'd the meeting go?
 - i. We debriefed on policy review mid-meeting and calling for a five minute break to allow staff and board to review before conversation moves forward. CIESLIK is able to consult policy mid-meeting as Director Internal.
2. Meeting agenda planning: May 26 GRC meeting, previously submitted agenda items:
 - i. Implementing Democratic Rules of Order
 1. The board position on this item will be that training on the Democratic Rules of Order would be required prior to implementing these rules. This training would allow all GRC reps to have a equal understanding of the rules.
 2. The labour available to GRC in order to create and implement training would be the GRC committees or the Executive Board.
 - ii. Spring 2026 Referendum Report – present all EO reports/decisions to GRC

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 no report.

Director of Finance: TODD reported that Finance Committee met and discussed priorities for investment. TODD will continue correspondence with Vancity about this matter to answer all questions submitted by Finance Committee.

Director of Internal/University Relations: CIESLIK has an Accessibility Committee meeting forthcoming, but needs to submit regrets.

Director of External Relations: MARRUGAT will be meeting with A&C tomorrow. He is seeking a more support on the building heat and transit in that meeting. The UBC AMS External Relations Director will be meeting with MARRUGAT in two weeks.

Director of Student Life: CENTENO DUQUE no report.

Executive Director: TURNER updated on staffing availability and her health, which continues to take her away from work.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Forthcoming issue briefing: Ombudsperson Office funding and what the GSS can do about it. – kyia 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 27, 2026

Next GRC Meeting: May 26, 2026

AGM: October 27, 2026


Office, Staff Scheduling: Irfy is on vacation this week. Neil will be out on vacation May 25-29.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 12:38.

M/S: MARRUGAT/CIESLIK

CARRIED

X 

Eleanore TODD
GSS Vice Chair 2026-27

X 

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX C – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1 Saanich Councillor Phelps Bondaroff Reaches out to GSS

From: Teale Phelps Bondaroff <Teale.PhelpsBondaroff@saanich.ca>

Sent: May 4, 2026 8:30 PM

To: GSS Chair <gsschair@uvic.ca>

Subject: Housing on Campus

Sarah,

Thank you for your presentation to Council this evening. I wanted to reach out and connect about a motion I'm working on regarding the same project you spoke about. I've been working with Tam and Micheal on the UVSS and Councillor DeVries, on a motion asking the Mayor to write the provincial government to ask them to renew the funding for the housing project on campus.

As it was raised as a motion arising, so we got the motion through without much rigmarole. I would still love to loop you into the conversation about future advocacy priorities.

Always happy to grab a seasonally appropriate beverage to chat local issues any time, hit me up.

What are you studying?

Warm regards,

Teale

Dr. Teale Phelps Bondaroff

Saanich Councillor

250-882-6261

We acknowledge that the District of Saanich lies within the territories of the ləkʷəŋən peoples represented by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and the W̱SÁNEĆ peoples represented by the W̱JOLELP (Tsartlip), BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), S̱ÁUTW (Tsawout), W̱SIKEM (Tseycum) and MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) Nations.

We are committed to celebrating the rich diversity of people in our community. We are guided by the principle that embracing diversity enriches the lives of all people. We all share the responsibility for creating an equitable and inclusive community and for addressing discrimination in all forms.

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