University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

MAY 27, 2026

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

EXECUTIVE INVITED:
vacant, Chair;
Eleanore TODD, Director of Finance;
Victor MARRUGAT, Director of External Relations;
Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting);

REGRETS: Violet CIESLIK, Director of Internal/University Relations;
ABSENT: Manuel CENTENO DUQUE, Director of Student Life
GUESTS: Jayanti Bachani Foelster, Cecelia Rose, Global Community Advisors; Tricia Best, Executive Director, International Centre for Students; Robin Hicks, Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 11:05 by TODD.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territory acknowledgement offered by TURNER.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

1. MEET AND GREET WITH INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR STUDENTS (ICS) AND GLOBAL COMMUNITY (GC)

Lead: Jayanti Bachani Foelster, Cecelia Rose, Global Community Advisors; Tricia Best, Executive Director, ICS.

REF DOC:
For: Training

BACHANI and ROSE gave an overview of Global Community (GC) services, including social drop ins, a conversation partner program, a mentorship program for newly arriving international students, and events. CENTENO DUQUE will work with on any joint events and cross promotion of social opportunities across the year. The entire board will advertise among current grad students seeking graduate level mentors and conversation partners, as these services have relatively few grad student volunteers compared to demand.

BACHANI is the lead for international student orientation, mostly in the Fall. CENTENO DUQUE will be provided contact information directly for BACHANI.

BEST gave an overview of ICS services, including the ever-expanding settlement advising that can handle matters of immigration that are not official part of the legal immigration process (e.g. housing, K-12 school enrolment for family members, etc.)

2. MEET AND GREET WITH ROBIN HICKS, FGS DEAN

Lead: HICKS
Reference:
For: Training

HICKS began by noting that he's pleased with the collaboration between GSS and FGS in the past few years, and excited to continue it. He gave an FGS 101 presentation: Graduate programs broken down into 3 pillars: FGS, GARO, and academic units. Governance: FGS Council and Graduate Executive Committee part of FGS, interfaces with VPAC, faculties, academic units, GSS, GARO, Senate. Dean's Office includes 4 Associate Deans, who offer arms-length (i.e. not the faculty of the associate dean) support to specific faculty in resolving issues of supervision and consulting on FGS policies/procedures. The Dean's Officer further includes one Associate Dean Indigenous who can consult with Indigenous students across campus, as well as consult on Indigenous community engaged research. What FGS does: Academic and Administrative institutional leadership/oversight, Support student progress/troubleshooting, funding, supports/organizes Graduate Advisors and Associate Deans.

Current FGS priorities include finalizing the Supervision Policy, and continuing work on GenAI policies, accessibility and part-time studies, supervision supports, etc.

MARRUGAT asked after funding. HICKS answered in brief the different funding streams (FGS funding, faculty grants, donor awards, external grants sought by students, TAships, RAships) and how the FGS administers these funding streams. FGS's administrative role ensures quality control, but the line faculty are given broad autonomy to recommend students for funding.

3. INTERIM CHAIR ELECTION

Lead: TODD
Reference: Bylaw XI – Vacancies on the Executive Board and Policy 8 Executive Board Vacancies
For: Decision

Sarah Roberts resigned her position as Chair on May 19. Per the Executive Board vacancy bylaws and policies, the Executive Board has shall elect a member from amongst themselves to replace the Chair for the duration of the term (ending March 31, 2027). Thereafter, their former, now vacant, position will be elected by GRC at the next available meeting.

Motion: to elect Violet CIESLIK as the interim Chair until March 31, 2027.
M/S: MARRUGAT/TODD
Vote count: Yes votes: 2 in person, 2 electronic votes. No votes: none. Abstentions: none.
CARRIED

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2026 Executive Board Meeting as presented.

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

No correspondence received.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief: GRC May 26
   i. The board's admin support communicating with our presenters
2. Meeting agenda planning: GRC June 23 Agenda Planning
   i. Interim Director Internal/University Relations Election

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: vacant – TODD updated that as Acting Chair, she has lead the last several governance meetings. She will attend the forthcoming one-on-one meeting with Jim Dunsdon in the place of the Chair.

Director of Finance: TODD has not yet heard back from Vancity regarding the Finance Committee's questions regarding ethical investments. TODD has also mathed out the best investment strategy.

Director of Internal/University Relations: CIESLIK no report.

Director of External Relations: MARRUGAT will be meeting the Ombudsperson Advisory Committee today to discuss the terms of reference for the committee. He will also be meeting with the Director External for UBC to discuss joint advocacy across student societies, including RA unionization, the PSI funding review, and transit. The Labour Relations Board decision on the SFU RA union is expected in July. Lastly this week, he'll meet with building heat working group on Friday.

Director of Student Life: CENTENO DUQUE no report.

Executive Director: TURNER is working on supporting the board transition and preparing the staff for my vacation this summer.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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

Next Executive Meetings: June 10, 2026

Next GRC Meeting: June 23, 2026

AGM: October 27, 2026

Office, Staff Scheduling: Neil is on vacation this week.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting.
M/S:
CARRIED/FAILED

X

Eleanore TODD
GSS Vice Chair 2026-27

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director