University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Graduate Representative Council

MINUTES

LOCATION: GSS BOARD ROOMS OR ZOOM: LINK

MAY 26, 2026, 5-7 PM

Executive Board Invited (1 vote per member):
Chair: vacant
Director of Internal/University Relations: Violet Cieslik
Director of Finance, Acting Chair: Eleanore Todd
Director of Student Life: Manuel Centeno Duque
Director of External Relations: Victor Marrugat Arnal
Executive Director (non-voting): Kyla Turner

Elected Academic Unit Reps Invited (1 vote per academic unit):

Anthropology: **Semyon Drozdetckii, Zenus Francis**	Ed. Psych & Leadership Studies: **Annie Wu**	Indigenous Education:	Political Science: **Max Backhaus; Anna-Elaine Rempel**
Art History and Visual Studies: **Melody Ray**	Electrical & Computer Engineering: **Latifa Yusuf**	Indigenous Governance:	Psychology: **Jessica Li**
Biochemistry & Microbiology: **Liam Mihalynuk, Sophie Culos**	English: **Becca Andelyn**	Interdisciplinary Studies:	Public Administration: **Andrea Sadowski**
Biology: **Sydney Houston,**	Environmental Studies: **Lauren Burton**	Law: **Chidimma Ike**	Public Health & Social Policy:
Business: **Ross Harrhy**	Exercise Science, Phys. & Health Ed:	Mathematics & Statistics:	Social Dimensions of Health: **Marcela Zamudio, Maren Akyurek**
Chemistry: Annabel Flint	French and Francophone Studies:	Mechanical Engineering: **Bernardo Leite, Ama Ouchen**	Social Work:
Child & Youth Care:	Geography: **Wyatt Maddox**	Medical Sciences/Neuroscience: **Frances Armas**	Sociology: **Jasmine Padam**
Civil Engineering:	Germanic & Slavic Studies:	Music: **Josie Hill**	Theatre:
Computer Science: **Chloë Farr**	Greek and Roman Studies: **Grace Niehaus**	Nursing:	Visual Arts: **Kylie Fineday**
Curriculum & Instruction: **Shina Khan**	Health Information Science: **Astrid Han**	Pacific and Asian Studies: **Made Caniapasis (Cania) Tatiana Popova**	Writing:
Earth & Ocean Science: **Nadiya Shore, Lekima Yakuden**	Hispanic & Italian Studies:	Philosophy:	CUPE:
Languages, Linguistics and Cultures: **Rosemary Webb**	History: **Kiran Gowdar**	Physics & Astronomy: **Maggie Berube, Laura Dufort-Gagnon**	Other Programs:

Recorder: DAVIEL
Invited Guests: Petranella Daviel, Communications/Events Coordinator covering for Irfan Tanveer;

Samuel Fielder, Electoral Officer
Regrets Received: Irfan Tanveer, Governance Coordinator; Chloe Farr, Computer Science; Laura Dufort-Gagnon, Physics and Astronomy; Astrid Han, Health Information Science;
Absent without regrets:

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER 5:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 5:01 by TODD.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5:01 PM

Councillors are asked to provide a personal, meaningful statement of land acknowledgement.

Today's personal land acknowledgement will be provided by TODD. TODD described how the Physics & Astronomy department has welcomed speaker Wilfred Buck, a member of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and Indigenous star lore expert with the University of Manitoba, who contributed to the naming of a star and exoplanet Nikawiy and Awasis, the Cree language names for mother and child.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA 5:05

MOTION: to approve the agenda as presented.
M/S: Executive Board/ RAY
CARRIED

TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER 5:10

Today's timekeeper was: BERUBE

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, MEETING QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE 5:12

GSS Membership: As of May 13, the GSS has 2438 members.
Meeting Quorum: With 2 regrets received, quorum for tonight's meeting is 16 (18 present)
Welcome to new GRC reps:

REPORTS AND OPEN DIALOGUE

CHAIR'S REMARKS 5:15

TODD updated GRC on the goings on of the Executive Board. First, she reported that Sarah Roberts, Chair and long-time GSS volunteer, resigned her position on the board on May 19 to focus on her candidacy and family. TODD reported that the Board will be electing a Chair from among their ranks tomorrow, May 27 and then interim elections for a new director will take place at the June 23 GRC meeting. The GSS will circulate information in the timelines required by our bylaws and policies. The text of the relevant bylaws and policies can be found under New Business item 3 in these minutes.

Otherwise, the Board has advocated with the Minister of Education, Jesse Summer. Cap on tuition increases amongst other affordability concerns, getting acquainted with UVic staff, Jim Dunsdon, tomorrow meeting with Robin Hicks.

GRC COMMITTEE, ELECTORAL OFFICER REPORTS, UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS 5:20

- Advocacy and Campaigns: MARRUGAT reported that we are still awaiting the results of the post-secondary institutions sector sustainability review, so no action was warranted on that campaign at this time. Likewise, CUPE 4163 is still at the bargaining table, so the GSS's work on getting TAs access to their students' accommodation letters from CAL has likewise been put on hold for the moment. MARRUGAT has continued to reach out to BC Transit regarding establishing a more robust level student representation of decision making and advisory bodies. Astrid HAN is currently investigating other transit student advisory bodies across Canada to support our demand for a voice at the table for Victoria Regional Transit. Astrid HAN has also been working on health information (particularly how to access BC MSP Supplementary Benefits and Fair Pharmacare) for our biweekly bulletin. Sophie CULOS remains very active on advocating for safer building temperatures and GRC will be asked to form a working group on this issue to support CULOS work. Lastly, Cania (CANIAPASIS) will be following up with the University Registrar regarding international student verification of enrolment (VOE) letters to ensure that students who are taking part-time studies with full-time status through their CAL registration are noted as full-time on their VOE letters.
  - CANIA reported that PSI Review on hold, communications of student accommodations to TA's on hold right now. Four campaigns ongoing – one is not on hold. VOE letters – talking to Registrar's office, ongoing. Three other ongoing campaigns – Transit, gathering information about transit system in Vancouver. Working group meeting this week re: research in high temperatures. How to share extra health information – how to feature this information permanently on the GSS website.
  - Question raised: Curious about parameters around pausing PSI Review campaign – ask about meeting with Minister Sunner – was there discussion of timelines?
  - CENTENO: Sunner's response – they will take their time, and release it with their action plan when they think it's right. Unsure if responding to every single thing that was included in Don Avison's report. Not clear on timeline.
  - TURNER: Similar messaging to 2022 review of our sector's finances – TURNER monitoring for release of report. Possibility that this will be swept under the rug again.
  - MARRUGAT has meetings scheduled with counterparts at UBC, and will be in touch with UVSS counterpart (newly elected), from these conversations hope to get more intel on what other organizations will be doing, and based on these conversations will have more action items, even if no information has been made public from the review. MARRUGAT is also part of an informal group of External Directors from multiple BC universities, keeping track of what actions are being taken elsewhere.
- Appeals: TODD reported that no appeals were submitted or heard this month.
- Bylaw & Policy: vacant; RAY reported that BPC has not met this month.
- Events: POPOVA reported that in April Events Committee hosted a Puzzle Party, Trivia, Painting and Planting, and Clothing Swap which all went very well.
- POPOVA further reported that the May events, including the pub crawl, mother's day card making event, etc. all went very well. As always, we encourage GRC reps to attend GSS events to connect with the grad school colleagues.

- CENTENO further advertised the ORCID iD workshop happening during Wednesday Coffee on May 27th, invited members to suggest ideas for September orientations, and confirmed that EC's new meeting schedule is every 1st Friday from 2:30pm – 3:30pm.
- Finance: TODD reported that Finance Committee has reviewed Vancity's responsible investment policies and provided a list of questions to TODD to seek clarification on before the GSS considers investing fund from the Capital Fund into Guaranteed Investment Certificates (GICs). Please note, our policies allow the GSS to invest ONLY in "short term GICs" to minimize financial risk. Reached out to Vancity to discuss investment – should be able to report more in a month or two.
- Stipend Review: TURNER reported that SRC has submitted top-ups for the 2025-26 board to this meeting's agenda. SRC further reviewed the April reports from the current board. SR Committee looking at systematizing top-ups, 2 factors considered special projects & excess hours. Board paid stipends, not an hourly wage, cannot move toward making it appear to be an hourly wage; cannot look like employees.
- Electoral Officer: FIELDER will provide a report on the Spring 2026 Referendum, alongside DROZDETCKII during new business. He is also preparing to run an interim board election at the June 23 GRC meeting.

GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS 5:30

If anyone wishes to change committees, please raise your hand.

No committee appointments made.

OPEN DIALOGUE AND REPORTS 5:35

LEAD: TODD

Opted for no open dialogue due to a heavy new business agenda.

BREAK – 5 MINUTES –5:35 PM

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. IMPLEMENTING DEMOCRATIC RULES OF ORDER 5:40

Lead: REMPEL

References: GSS AGENDA SUBMISSION - REMPEL for May 26 2026.pdf

Slideshow hyperlink: Democratic Rules of Order Presentation GRC May 26, 2026 (1).pdf

Democratic Rules of Order 10th Edition: https://search.library.uvic.ca/permalink/01VIC_INST/1u2tr8p/alma9957759495607291

For: Decision

Whereas: Under Bylaw VI - 6.5.b. "Grad Council may set formal meeting structures for meetings of the Grad Council for the academic year in September,"
And
Whereas: GRC did not have a formal discussion about whether to adopt formal meeting structures in September 2025,

Motion: BIRT GRC adopt Democratic Rules of Order as the official rules of order for all remaining GRC meetings for the 2025/2026 academic year;
And
BIFRT a standing item be added to the first GRC meeting agenda for each academic year starting in September 2026 for GRC members to formally discuss whether to adopt formal rules of order per Bylaw VI – 6.5.b., and if so, what those rules of order will be.
M/S: REMPEL / BERUBE
Carried

Discussion:

REMPEL presented their slides (included in Agenda), noting that this proposal was made before the resignation of the Chair. REMPEL noted potential for uncertainty on how things currently work due to lack of guidance / unwritten customs.

TODD presented the Board's slides (included in Agenda), noting that GRC reps should receive training prior to any implementation. TODD added further note: with recent developments (loss of Chair), Board has lower capacity and would ask work be done by GRC committees / volunteer work.

FIELDER summarized the history of these Democratic Rules of Order, and that the GSS has gone through many iterations of how strongly they feel about implementing this kind of thing. In 2021, GRC received training on Robert's Rules, and had a dedicated session prior to first GRC meeting, just going through how to run a GRC meeting in the way that GRC wanted to. Very aggressively tied to understanding of the process on how to hold meetings. FIELDER felt this did not foster a welcoming environment for GRC. When FIELDER was on the Board, moved to no set rules and more focus on open dialogue. This may mean that individuals who are less outspoken may have less structure that ties them into the conversation. FIELDER says the Democratic Rules of Order gives opportunity for some formal structure for GRC, but not as aggressive as Robert's Rules, which can give unfair advantage to those more familiar with the rules.

RAY asked how to implement this – would there be a type of training for everyone at the beginning of the year? TURNER responded that there was training for Robert's Rules, created by former staff member and updated by former Chair. We do not have current training for Democratic Rules of Order, that training would need to be created by GRC, GRC committee, or the Board who has to create these. TURNER noted she will not be present at next GRC, and that there are no Staff capacity or resources available for this. TURNER noted that if that training is created it can be presented year on year.

MADDOX described the previous use of Robert's Rules and that even with training in GRC, it was difficult to know how to interact and contribute in meetings. MADDOX suggests that the system / lack of system has been functional and the current GRC members know how this works. MADDOX suggests that Democratic Rules of Order would be a great system to put forward at first September GRC meeting, and that this could be a great summer project to put together, and possibly put together training for a few options for GRC to vote on in September. MADDOX notes the colonial, restrictive nature of Robert's Rules, which contributed to the previous decision to stop their use. Language of adopting Democratic Rules of Order should be carefully phrased to indicate that we may not require them to be followed exactly, to prevent overwhelming barriers to participation.

TODD noted there are 2 more GRC meetings before the end of GRC term.

OUCHEN asked for clarification on whether Democratic Rules of Order limit *what* can be discussed or *how* topics are discussed.

TODD – more about *how* topics are discussed, but topics are not restricted.

REMPEL responded to MADDOX's hesitation around Robert's Rules – has seen them used poorly, and used well. Noted that Robert's Rules may not be the best system for GRC specifically. Noted that with the Democratic Rules of Order, a lot of responsibility lands on the Chair to foster and facilitate dialogue using the relatively flexible structures that are provided in Democratic Rules of Order guidelines. REMPEL suggested that it may be less necessary for every GRC member to have a super in-depth understanding of Democratic Rules of Order – responsibility on the Chair to explain things to members, help them through that process. REMPEL explained that the fundamental priority of Democratic Rules of Order is to foster dialogue, facilitate communication, and to prioritize the equitable inclusion of all voices at the table, and so GRC can choose to adapt the process to better suit the needs of the group. REMPEL acknowledges that the current lack of Chair places more burden on whoever becomes Chair, who will need further training. REMPEL asked for insight on Board's capacity for training.

TODD asked for clarification on whether 'training' specifically referred to adapting Democratic Rules of Order for the GRC? TODD posited that without training, adapting to Democratic Rules of Order would hinder the process of the meetings themselves, and GRC would be doing this for 2 meetings at most. TODD stated that it would slow down meetings, but if they had training (developed by the Board or by GRC), it could be better implemented.

CENTENO DUQUE noted that even if we had a Chair knowledgeable of rules of order, they may need to explain the rules / reasoning behind rules to GRC, possibly multiple times, which may slow down meetings. Further, CENTENO DUQUE stated that members should feel confident that they have the training in order to participate well, and this may not be possible with the current timeline, or the most effective use of time. CENTENO DUQUE noted his agreement with FIELDER that implementing these rules of order, particularly rules of order more flexible than Robert's Rules could be useful.

TODD added that if the positions of both sides regarding implementation and benefits – Democratic Rules of Order as a benefit for GRC – is this a good thing to implement for the next meeting? Noting limitation on time, TODD requested a brief confirmation whether the motion should reflect adopting the Democratic Rules of Order for next meeting.

BERUBE asked if 2-3 GRC members worked over the summer to come up with slides/videos, could they be presented in September GRC for training?

TODD affirmed that this would be an example of GRC volunteering to provide training.

CENTENO DUQUE asked to confirm that GRC will take on Democratic Rules of Order, flagging Bylaw 6 – in September GRC can vote on whether to adopt Democratic Rules of Order. CENTENO DUQUE noted that just because we make the training now doesn't mean that September GRC *will* vote to adopt Democratic Rules of Order.

REMPEL suggested that the best course of action is to have training developed over the summer, and to propose a motion / give a recommendation from this GRC to the next one to adapt Democratic Rules of Order and next GRC can decide. REMPEL noted in response to CENTENO DUQUE (issues of folks needing explanation), all of those issues still currently exist, and that there are rules, but not specific training provided. REMPEL suggested that having dedicated time to bring everybody up to speed in September, or throughout the term, would be very helpful.

REMPEL moved an amendment.

Bylaw & Policy requested to develop training for consideration at the September meeting – GRC recommends that the next GRC adapt DRO.

TURNER noted we are at time to take a vote. Noted B&P also tasked with full redraft of Electoral / Referendum procedure.

TODD – new motion voting on B&P will develop training for adoption of DRO for consideration at the September GRC meeting.

> *Amended motion: GRC assigns the Bylaw and Policy Committee the task of developing training on Democratic Rules of Order for the September 2026 GRC meeting; further to recommend that the September GRC vote on whether to implement the Democratic Rules of Order.*
> *13 for, 1 against*
> *CARRIED*
> *TODD, CIESLIK, CENTENO DUQUE AND MARRUGAT & SADOWSKI abstained.*

2. ELECTORAL OFFICER REPORTS: SPRING 2026 REFERENDUM 6:00

Lead: TODD
Reference: Preliminary Results, Semyon's Recusal, Semyon's EO report, Sam's EO Decision, Final Results. All materials on Teams here and the GSS website here: https://gss.uvic.ca/referendum/
For: Discussion

- Sam (10 mins): Elections and Referendum Context, Summary of Decisions and Results
- Semyon (10 mins): Election Results, Recommendations for Electoral Process, Explanation of Recusal
- Q&A (TBD):

FIELDER reported that the Board requested a wrap-up view of 2026 Referendum. FIELDER gave context on how referendums work for GSS, the process of complaints, and his decision. FIELDER stated that referendums in place so that membership can decide on fees charged to students, e.g. Healthcare coverage, Constituency groups. The membership votes on student fees. The Board can initiate a referendum, or they can be initiated by member petition. Board phrases the questions put to membership. The Electoral Officer (EO) acts as independent party to ensure fair process for all elections & referendums. The EO can approve campaign materials, address complaints, and can invalidate results in extreme cases. 6 questions on the ballot to do with changing fees. FIELDER noted all questions on ballot – Eliminate University 101, Re-allocate University 101, Eliminate Student Advocacy, increase Constituency, increase F&B, reduce WUSC from $5 per term to $1 per term. FIELDER described the long process to get to the point of referendum – discussions started last year in GRC committee meetings, put forth in Jan 2026 voted on in March 2026. All questions passed with YES percentage of vote. FIELDER stated that on March 13, WUSC filed a complaint, received by prev. Electoral Officer, who proposed a roundtable discussion of the issue. Before any substantive progress was made, WUSC requested DROZDETCKII recuse themselves based on a conflict of Interest. FIELDER made the decision on complaint. FIELDER described the process taken: on April 1, FIELDER met with University Ombudsperson, Angus Shaw, to have discussions on how an individual in FIELDER's position should approach the adjudication process. FIELDER also met with TURNER for factual background pieces that had to do with the components of the complaints. FIELDER spent 2 days and 28 pages of notes reviewing Bylaws, Governance Manual, the complaint, and all communications between the parties in order to have fulsome knowledge before making decision. FIELDER stated that the complaint had 3 grounds. 1: that the Board being a part of a Referendum side was unfair. Unfortunately, Bylaws explicitly state that Board members are allowed to participate on Referendum side, with equal rights to any other member. Other 2 grounds had to do with imbalance/unfair framing of FAQ produced by GSS staff. In brief, FIELDER stated that the complaints were not upheld. FIELDER noted another level to Electoral Officer's decision: any decision EO makes can be appealed within 7 days of decision. No appeal was filed, and so the referendum results are final. The WUSC fee reduction stands, and all 6 referendum questions passed and take effect in May.

FIELDER thanked POPOVA and RAY for their willingness to serve on the Electoral Appeals Committee if it had been formed, in spite of the tight turnaround.

DROZDETCKII reported on the complaints they received as Electoral Officer during their term, and recommendations for improvement of electoral processes. Before end of term and deadline on March 16, they received 2 complaints regarding the electoral process. 1st one regarding the use of departmental listserves to distribute campaigning materials by the candidates for the board positions. According to the complaint, this gave candidates an unfair advantage. 2nd complaint was from WUSC, but DROZDETCKII stated that FIELDER addressed that substantially. Regarding the 1st complaint – DROZDETCKII noted there were no explicit violations of GSS bylaws and campaign guidelines, as it is not specifically stated anywhere that candidates cannot use listserves. DROZDETCKII acknowledged that the use of those listserves may give unfair advantage. DROZDETCKII met with B&P committee to make recommendation regarding use of department listserves and made some recommended changes to campaigning packages, as follows.

Recommendations – DROZDETCKII notes ambiguity that can lead to potentially unequal access to communication channels and give candidates unfair advantage. They recommended that GSS establish clear rules around use of listserves. DROZDETCKII stated that during this electoral term that there was no mail sent to departments with candidates' campaigning materials, or an email from the GSS sent to all departments with all candidate statements. DROZDETCKII noted that the Governance manual lacks detailed procedural guidelines for Electoral Officer, which led to an overreliance on personal judgement and on staff, which led to inconsistency and uncertainty in the decision-making process, and which undermined the integrity of the overall process. DROZDETCKII suggested that the GSS should adopt and develop clear electoral written procedures, and suggested that the E.O should receive formal training before the electoral period. DROZDETCKII further commented on the necessity of boundaries of staff influence on the electoral processes, stressing that GSS staff should not have access to votegss inbox email correspondence. In relation to that, DROZDETCKII also stated that they did not receive training in Society governance. They stated that the current process of choosing E.O at general meeting leads to individuals with limited experience to take on the role, which can lead to risks and unfairness in the electoral process. DROZDETCKII recommended the transition of the role from a volunteer period to temporary hired position, potentially seeking someone outside the society. They further outlined recommendations in their report included in Agenda. DROZDETCKII added that if the process of choosing E.O remains the same, the training should be more substantial, and that greater advertising should be done in advance of SAGM regarding the election of E.O. DROZDETCKII added that like other positions elected at the SAGM, the candidates for Electoral Officer positions should present statements and let attendees ask them questions. They also noted that the compensation rate is substantially lower than industry standard, and suggested that increasing compensation will attract more qualified candidates for the position.

DROZDETCKII explained their recusal from WUSC complaint on the referendum. WUSC pointed out that DROZDETCKII had a personal relationship with a GSS Board member at the time, and that DROZDETCKII was involved in the approval of the Referendum FAQ to which the WUSC had their complaints. DROZDETCKII's decision to recuse was based on the fact that even if there was a perception of bias, this could undermine the legitimacy of the decision. DROZDETCKII recused and transferred the decision to the next chosen E.O, FIELDER.

Discussion:

TODD noted B&P have received reports from both EO's, and that complaints regarding Society staff / confidential information is handled in a different process, not in GRC.

REMPEL noted that the topic of compensation for the EO position is a matter for the Finance Committee to look into – REMPEL noted that the rate for an Electoral Officer is $1000 total day rate standard, to put into perspective what is typical compensation for this type of role.

TURNER noted, having sat through 5 elections & referenda, that what likely created complexity was the expansions of rules over the past few years. TURNER outlined 2 options for change – scaling up, or scaling back. What is proposed by DROZDETCKII, and the concerning factor identified – if we are looking to scale up, we do not have the funds for that. The other option is scaling back significantly. B&P, when they start considering this, can refer to a folder TURNER has put together of all previous Bylaws, campaign guides. What was changed over the past few years – allowing external organizations to campaign for us without drafting rules of what that meant. The GSS has gone from the Board appointing EO, to GRC appointing EO with the term being 1 month, to being appointed at SAGM by general membership for a full year. TURNER noted that any decisions for change will be made by B&P with more discussion of where they want to go. TURNER flags that scaling up will be costly, and may mean implementing an Elections fee, similar to UVSS, who has a fee as part of their Elections & Campaigns structure.

TURNER requested DROZDETCKII send the Chair an email commenting on plain language texts received from TANVEER as DROZDETCKII was the first EO who received those supporting documents. Key point - were those actually understandable, so we know whether that material was useful going forward. TANVEER sent onboarding materials in November including a plain language version of all rules.

DROZDETCKII agreed to send email.

FIELDER acknowledges DROZDETCKII's point re: Governance Manual lacking clear direction and text on what to do in certain circumstances. On the one hand, it's always nice to have more clear direction in a role like this, given how complex it is. At the same time, because of that complexity, you don't want to write in too many things that don't allow you to be able to solve the issues brought forward due to restrictive language. Governance Manual allows EO to be independent and make their own decisions. An easy step to make is to have a bit better training when those positions are elected. Where that training comes from can be discussed. That may come head to head with the amount of independence that the EO should have. FIELDER noted that it may take a lot more discussion with B&P for potential improvements.

DROZDETCKII followed up regarding the lack of clear rules and definition, which in combination with the lack of defined independence of the role of EO creates a deadly combination where an EO has to rely on their own judgement, and because there is no strong training, they have to ask advice from GSS staff. DROZDETCKII flagged that this may create a situation where the integrity of the electoral process, which depends on decisions of the EO, could not be guaranteed. If the EO cannot make their own independent decision if they rely on Society staff / guidance on how to make those decisions. DROZDETCKII noted a need to define the rules specifically, or define where the boundaries of staff influence on EO/ electoral process lie. FIELDER agrees.

TURNER reminded that most of this will be considered by B&P, and that it was not until 2015 that they removed guidance that EO may recruit anyone's assistance. B&P will review and consider extant versions of campaign guides and campaign policies to consider what worked best and may work best going forward for GSS with the resources that we have.

Request for 5 min break.

3. NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING INTERIM ELECTION 6:35

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

Sarah Roberts has resigned as Chair to focus on her doctoral candidacy, family and her personal wellbeing as of May 19. Per the bylaws and policies below, the Executive Board will be electing a Chair from amongst themselves, and thereafter, with at least 14 days notice, we will be asking the

GRC to elect an interim replacement for the Board member who becomes Chair. Please see bylaw/policy text below:

BYLAW XI – VACANCIES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

11.1 Where an Executive office falls vacant prior to the normal expiry of the term of office, the position shall be filled during the next scheduled elections following the rules outlined in the Elections Bylaw.

11.2 Grad Council may appoint a member of the Society to fill the portion of the term remaining until the next scheduled elections for all Executive offices except Chair.

11.2 In the case of Chair, another member of the Executive Board shall assume all incumbent responsibility and authority of Chair until the next scheduled elections and a replacement for the Executive Board member's position may be appointed in accordance with Bylaw 12.4(b-d). Grad Council shall determine which Executive Board member shall assume the role of Chair in the event of disagreement.

Policy 8 – Executive Board Vacancies Policy Details

8.1 General

8.1.1. Where an Executive Board vacancy occurs with two months or more remaining in the Executive Board's term of office, an election shall be held at the next regular or special GRC meeting provided that at least 14 days' notice may be provided to Society members prior to the meeting.

8.1.2. Where an Executive Board vacancy occurs with fewer than two months remaining in the Executive Board's term of office, the vacancy may remain unfilled until the end of the term of office.

8.1.3. The Electoral Officer shall issue a call for nominations to the Society membership at least 14 days in advance of a GRC meeting where a member is to be elected to an Executive Board vacancy.

8.2 Election Process

8.2.1. The Electoral Officer shall determine procedures governing candidates' campaign activities during the nomination period.

8.2.2. The Electoral Officer shall conduct the election of a Society member to an Executive Board vacancy by secret ballot.

8.2.3. Where a candidate for a vacant position is unopposed, the Electoral Officer shall conduct a vote to approve or disapprove the candidate.

8.2.4. Where an election is held and no candidate receives a majority of the vote, the Electoral Officer shall hold runoff votes until one candidate receives a majority.

Discussion:

TURNER noted that the formal announcement will be on June 9th and will go out to membership via mass member email, and bulletin. The Interim Election will be on the June 23rd GRC meeting as led by FIELDER. TURNER noted that she will be away for 1st month of this new person's term. TURNER has recorded videos for training, in GRC Teams. TODD noted that whoever's position is elected next – new Chair will need to spend time training newly voted Board member – capacity will be limited. REMPEL asked – in the case that there isn't a clear decision on who the next Chair will be from the current Board, will both the new Chair and new Board election happen at next GRC? TURNER confirmed – yes. If there was a tie vote for next Chair, the interim elections at GRC would be first Chair. Would probably list both potential available positions. TURNER is currently working hard to support the Board.

RAY – Election process next month, will it be similar to or not the same in December / January?

TURNER – confirmed that as it is an Interim election it will be done by show of hands. Will make an announcement to entire membership.

STANDING ITEMS 6:40 PM

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (APPENDIX A) 6:40

MOTION: to approve the Minutes of the April 28, 2026 GRC meeting as presented [OR approved with minor corrections as provided].
M/S: RAY / FLINT
CARRIED

EXECUTIVE BOARD STIPEND REPORTS – QUESTIONS ARISING AND MOTION TO ACCEPT – 6:40

LEAD: FARR
REF DOCS: 2025-26 Board Reports
Councillors are required to read the Executive Board reports prior to the meeting.

MOTION: to approve the April board reports for Violet Cieslik, Victor Marrugat, Sarah Roberts, Manuel Centeno Duque, and Eleanore Todd as presented.
Further: to approve top-ups for the 2025-26 board members as follows:
Rosemary Webb, Chair 2025-26, $700
Maggie Lawton, Director of Finance 2025-26, $550
Sarah Roberts, Director of Internal/University Relations 2025-26, $800
M/S: Stipend Review Committee / REMPEL
CARRIED

MARRUGAT, CENTENO DUQUE, CIESLIK, WEBB, MADDOX abstained.

TURNER reminded this was calculated on excess hours / special projects undertaken. MADDOX – clarifying that SRC made special consideration that these numbers are not tied to numbers of hours worked. Do not want to create expectation that if Board works more hours, they get more money. The majority of this is exceptional circumstances, in light of projects and months that the Board members had to cover. SRC committee actively working on clarifying guidelines.

REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES 6:45

LEAD: TODD

Open Floor to hear any reports from graduate student representatives on:

- Board of Governors:
- Senate:
- Faculty of Graduate Studies Council: CIESLIK noted vote to have distinguished in Academic Calendar professional and research based Masters and the language of those are now described.
- Previously appointed committees:

Committee	Appointment Date	Rep Name

Reps are encouraged to submit short written reports to gssgov@uvic.ca for inclusion in the minutes.

GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES (APPENDIX B) 6:50

LEAD: TURNER

Reps serve on one or more UVic committee(s) to ensure grad student interests are represented.

MOTION: to elect graduate student representatives to the following UVic committees:
Committee: Senate Committee on Academic Standards
Member: Ama Ouchen

Committee: Senate Committee on Appeals
Member: None.

Committee: Senate Committee on Awards
Member: Victor Marrugat

Committee: Senate Committee on Continuing Studies
Member: None.

Committee Senate Committee on Learning and Teaching
Member: Sarah Roberts

Committee Senate Committee on Libraries
Member: Laura Dufort-Gagnon

Board will meet on 27th with last chance to sign up. GRC vote again on Appeals and Continuing Studies at June GRC.

CARRIED

REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION 6:55

LEAD: TODD

NOTICES OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (APPENDIX C)

LEAD: TODD

Interim Board Election – the position that will be elected at the June 23 GRC will be circulated to the entire GRC membership on or before June 9 by email. Interested parties should email Sam Fielder at votegss@uvic.ca or nominate themselves at the June GRC meeting. TURNER noted that BARNEY will be present at June 23 GRC.

IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS:

LEAD: TODD

Next GRC Meeting: June 23, 2026

- Please have any potential agenda items, with supporting materials, to the Executive Board for consideration, in advance of June 9, 2026
- Agenda to be posted: June 16, 2026

Next General Membership Meeting: GSS Semi-Annual General Meeting! October 27, 2026

- Agenda to be posted: October 13, 2026

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes:

TURNER notes that GH continues to be closed on Mondays. TURNER will be one vacation June 22 until July 24 inclusive. Staff and Board will be present to support GRC until TURNER's return.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 6:56pm.
M/S: BERUBE/REMPEL
CARRIED

X Eleanore Todd

Eleanore TODD
GSS Vice Chair 2026-27

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director