

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board
(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 10, 2026

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

EXECUTIVE INVITED:

Violet CIESLIK, Chair;
vacant, Director of Internal/University Relations;
Victor MARRUGAT, Director of External Relations;
Manuel CENTENO DUQUE, Director of Student Life
Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting);

REGRETS: Eleanore TODD, Director of Finance;

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 11:01 by CIESLIK.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territory Acknowledgement offered by MARRUGAT. He is just returning to Turtle Island after five weeks visiting home in Spain and Portugal. He gave thanks for the stewardship of the beautiful nature on the Island as well as calling for more education on Indigenization across Europe.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: MARRUGAT/CENTENO

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. GRC INTERIM ELECTION PLAN AND BOARD ONBOARDING

Lead: CIESLIK

For: Discussion

We will have a new board member joining the board as of June 24! We need to plan some onboarding.

Please also keep in mind, Kyla's approved vacation for this year runs June 22-July 24 inclusive. This means she won't be here for the first month of our new board member's term. She has filmed the powerpoint training modules and circulated them to the rest of the board.

CIESLIK recommends using the June 24 meeting to review the orientation and training plans. CIESLIK will meet with the new member about board prep and appeals training. MARRUGAT to meet one on one re: A&C. TURNER recommended using the June-July board meetings to discuss annual planning. CENTENO noted that

we may need to review the briefing notes that TURNER prepped for April board meetings. CENTENO to meet one-on-one re: GSAW. All board members to give a briefing on their committee's current work.

TASKS: CIESLIK to review the forthcoming board and GRC meeting schedule and Wednesday Coffee schedule at June GRC prior to nominations opening. CIESLIK to prepare slides for June GRC to set the tone for elections prior to nominations opening.

All board members to attend Wednesday Coffee on July 8.

MARRUGAT to meet with new board member to onboard them to Advocacy and Campaigns Committee work.

CENTENO to meet with new board member to onboard them to GSAW planning.

CIESLIK to meet with new board member to onboard them to the D. Internal Role, i.e. pass off information received in her own onboarding one-on-one with Sarah. CIESLIK to provide Appeals Committee training to new board member.

2. KYLA VACATION PREP

Lead: TURNER

Reference: 2026-06 Exec Meetings and 2026-07 Exec Meetings

For: Discussion

TASK: TURNER to upload draft agendas to the 2026-06 and 2026-07 Exec Meeting folder on teams for the June 24, July 8 and July 22 board meetings and July 28 GRC meeting by end-of-day June 10.

TASK: MARRUGAT to take minutes for the June 24 board meeting.

TASK: CENTENO to take minutes for the July 8 board meeting.

TASK: [name] to take minutes for the July 22 board meetings. (Check in with Eleanore?)

TASK: CIESLIK to circulate the minutes from the prior board meeting and the agenda for the forthcoming meeting for the July 8 and July 22 board meetings. CIESLIK to include planning the July 28 GRC agenda during the July 8 board meeting. CIESLIK to provide Irfan Tanveer final copy of the July 28 GRC agenda for circulation on July 21.

TASK: TURNER to circulate old ED leave document and include updates for current vacation.

Board discussed creating an anonymous feedback survey to distribute to GRC for the July meeting.

3. HANDBOOK WELCOME LETTER

Lead: TURNER

Reference: Welcome from the GSS Board.docx

For: Decision

The board has traditionally included a welcome letter in our handbook/dayplanner. The prior year's letter is attached here. Does the board wish to draft a letter this year?

TASK: CIESLIK to draft/revise the welcome letter for the 2026-27 handbook and submit to Petri by Monday, June 29.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

M/S: MARRUGAT/CENTENTO

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: Welcome Lunch Invite

Item 2: Provincial Sexualized Violence Advisory Group – still seeking a rep

Motion: to receive the correspondence.

M/S: MARRUGAT/CENTENTO

CARRIED

TASK: CIESLIK to ask the new board member if they are interested in Senate Committees and Provincial Sexualized Violence Advisory Group.

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief:
2. Meeting agenda planning: June 23 GRC including previously submitted agenda items:
 - i. Interim D Internal election
 - ii. Any other items?? Often we ask GRC to give feedback on their experiences on GRC in the July GRC meeting (and there will be a prompt to consider this in a forthcoming board agenda) but do you want to give GRC the heads up that this will be on the July agenda so they can consider what feedback to give y'all?
3. Meeting agenda planning: July GRC
 - i. September event volunteer call-out

ii. Anonymous Survey

TASK: CENTENO to prep for a powerpoint slide and other information on the September orientation events to announce at July GRC and seek volunteers.

DECISION: Seek GRC representative feedback anonymously through a survey this year instead of discussion during the July GRC meeting.

TASK: CIESLIK to prep an anonymous feedback survey for GRC reps to circulate in July.

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: CIESLIK is digesting a lot of information as she is onboarding as the Chair.

Director of Finance: TODD no report

Director of Internal/University Relations: vacant

Director of External Relations: MARRUGAT reported that the Martlet reached out regarding the Presidential Hiring Committee and student involvement in that process. MARRUGAT met with UBC GSS D. External to discuss aligning advocacy campaigns, who has 40 possible campaigns, many of which focus on Indigenization.

Director of Student Life: CENTENO DUQUE Events and GSAW planning are going great!

Executive Director: TURNER is preparing for her vacation.

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 24, 2026

Next GRC Meeting: June 23, 2026

AGM: October 27, 2026

Office, Staff Scheduling:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting.

M/S: MARRUGAT/CENTENO

CARRIED

X 

Violet CIESLIK
GSS Interim Chair 2026-27

X 

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX C – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1 Welcome lunch invite

From: Kimberly Kuran <kkuran@uvic.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 1:21 PM

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

Subject: GSS Welcome lunch with STUA Exec

Hi Kyla,

I would like to schedule a welcome lunch for the new GSS exec with STUA Exec. I am looking at the week of August 17-21, are there any dates that won't work that week?

Kim Kuran (*she/her*)

Administrative Assistant to the AVP Student Affairs
and Student Initiatives Coordinator

Division of Student Affairs
250-853-3989

uvic.ca/studentaffairs

Together, we transform students' lives.



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

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Item 2: Provincial Sexualized Violence Advisory Group – still seeking a rep

From: Kusz, Jennifer PSFS:EX <Jennifer.Kusz@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 8:53 AM
To: [redacted]
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Invitation to Become the Graduate Student Representative on the SV Advisory Group

Hello Hayley,

Thank you for your follow-up and for coordinating with the other graduate student societies. We appreciate UBC's willingness to serve as the main representative and the strong interest from your organization.

In line with the Advisory Group's Terms of Reference and our goal of ensuring representation from across the sector, we are aiming to have the main and alternate representatives come from different graduate student societies.

As we already have representation from UBC across the Advisory Group, including through institutional representatives, student-led organizations, and provincial associations, we will not be selecting either of the proposed UBC students for the graduate student representative or alternate roles. We will instead look to confirm representation from another graduate student society for the upcoming term.

We recognize and value UBC's strong engagement on this work and would welcome opportunities to connect in other ways, including sharing updates or seeking input on specific initiatives as they arise. We would also encourage you to reach out to Monique Brown, the representative from Alliance of BC Students, as they would represent the interests of UBC GSS on the Advisory Group.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you again for your collaboration.

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.