*University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society*

# Executive Board

## (HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

## JUNE 24, 2026

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

**EXECUTIVE INVITED:**
Violet CIESLIK, Chair;
Hannah Brown, Director of Internal/University Relations;
Eleanore TODD, Director of Finance;
Victor MARRUGAT, Director of External Relations;
Manuel CENTENO DUQUE, Director of Student Life

**REGRETS**: Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting);
**GUESTS:**

## STANDING ITEMS PART 1

### A. CALL TO ORDER 11:00

Called to order 10:36.

### B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 11:02

MARRUGAT DISCUSSED TRANSPORTATIONS METHODS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, PARTIALLY CANOES. THERE WAS A UVSS SUSTAINABILITY EVENT DISCUSSING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CANOE HERE IN VICTORIA AROUND THE GORGE. THE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION HAVE EVOLVED OVER TIME.

### C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA 11:05

*Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.*
*M/S: Todd/Centeno-Duque*
*CARRIED*

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER! 11:07

Lead: CIESLIKE

REF DOC: Board Transition and Training materials on Teams, Youtube playlist, Board Manual 2026.pdf
For: Training

CIESLIK to give a brief overview of the work already underway by the current board, direct the new board member to the resources available on Teams and in TURNER's welcome email.

Each board member to give 5 minutes overview of their committee work.

**Possible tasks: CIESLIK to instruct BARNEY to add BROWN to Exec Board teams channel (TURNER and BARNEY are the only owners of this channel and are the only ones who can add people to this channel).**

**CIESLIK to forward TURNER's welcome email (sent May 21, titled "Onboarding a new board member while I'm away") to BROWN's personal and GSS email address for ease of access.**

**BROWN to review all materials prior to July 8 and return onboarding paperwork (TD-1s, board information form, conflict of interest) to Neil BARNEY.**

**TODD to copy and paste the finalized tasks from the minutes of the June 24 board meeting into the Motion Log for the July 8 meeting.**

Discussion:

Task: Hannah to complete training playlist which is about 9 hours by July 8th.

BARNEY to contact computing help desk for addition of BROWN to D-Internal email.

TODD Gave overview of DFinance, Audit, Budget, Healthcare relationship and student direction plans. Description of role of Finance and Appeals committee.

MARRUGAT gave overview of Advocacy and Campaigns, PSI review. Mentioned our advocacy efforts to maintain the current tuition caps on postsecondary education. Mentioned meeting of ABCS with TURNER and CENTENO-DUQUE. Good to have quick and direct response to the outcome of the PSI review. Outreach to UVic parents for similar concerns. Transit campaign, frequent and more fair transit. Met with considerate from Saanich, sharing transit debate with suggested advocacy to have a voice in the city council advisory council. MARRUGAT is able to join the Victoria council, will look into joining. Oak Bay and Saanich still open. Small campaigns, verification of enrollment for international students who need accommodations, registrar is working on it. Another small campaign updating health information with Alumo.

CENTENO-DUQUE gave overview of Student Life position and Events committee. Facilitation of member ideas to fold into events run. Mentioned DAVIEL's role. GSAW and EGRS mentioned. Desire for a 1 on 1 with BROWN to plan EGRS and GSAW.

CIESLIK gave overview of Bylaw and Policy Committee, focuses on bylaws around elections and leaves of absences for the board, as well as stipend review reports. We will be together on July 27th to work on our annual plan.

## 2. GOVERNANCE MEETING SCHEDULE CHECK IN 11:27

Lead: CIESLIK
For: Decision
The currently approved board meeting schedule is below. We have to rebook the Aug 19 meeting. Does the schedule otherwise work for the new board member?

Note: We will check in again in August about Fall scheduling to ensure that no one has class or other conflicts.

*Motion: to reschedule the August 19 board meeting to accommodate the UVIC welcome lunch at the UClub at noon on August 19. The revised meeting time is: 10:30-11:45 PM*
*M/S: MARRUGAT/TODD*
*CARRIED*

Motion from March 30: the following dates and times are scheduled for Executive Board meetings:
Wednesday, June 24, 11-12:30

Wednesday, July 8, 11-12:30
Wednesday, July 22, 11-12:30
Wednesday, August 5, 11-12:30
Wednesday, August 19, 11-12:30
Wednesday, September 2, 11-12:30
Wednesday, September 16, 11:30-1 later time to accommodate Operational Relations Meeting
Wednesday, September 30, 11-12:30
Wednesday, October 14, 11-12:30
Wednesday, October 28, 11-12:30
Wednesday, November 25, 11-12:30
Wednesday, December 9, 11-12:30

**TASK: CIESLIK to rebook board room with front office staff for any rescheduled board meetings.**

BROWN remote from Friday 26th of June to [Unknown]

## 3. BRIEFING NOTE: PSI REVIEW 11:35

Minutes from April discussion:

"Issue briefing: Post-secondary institutional (PSI) sector sustainability review

Reference: Materials linked on: https://gss.uvic.ca/advocacy/psireview/ including:

a. Announcement of Review: https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025PSFS0056-001159
b. PSI Review Terms of Reference: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/ReviewofSectorSustainability_TermsofReference.pdf
c. GSS Letters:
   i. Letter to Don Avison https://gss.uvic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/UVicGSS_PostSecondaryFundingReview.pdf
   ii. Keep the Cap Briefing Note: https://gss.uvic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Keep-The-Cap.pdf
   iii. Keep Public Education Public Briefing Note: https://gss.uvic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Keep-Public-Education-Public.pdf
   iv. Fund BC's Future Briefing Note: https://gss.uvic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Fund-BCs-Future.pdf

Discussion from April:
ROBERTS and TURNER provided an overview of the current PSI sector sustainability review, work completed by the 2025-26 board, information and work outstanding.

TURNER reported that on November 25, 2025, the Province announced a Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) sector sustainability review. It should be noted that the Province conducted a PSI funding formula review in 2022, but did not release the results. The Province states that the restrictions on student visas imposed by the federal government starting in 2023 has made the findings of the 2022 funding formula review irrelevant. The GSS is given to understand from multiple sources (campus unions and a public Freedom of Information request) that the 2022 review noted that the Province was underfunding PSI domestic seats and that the overreliance on international tuition was a significant risk area.

The GSS, along with many other student societies, campus unions, etc. responded to the 2025 PSI sector sustainability review as soon as it was announced in November. We issued multiple letters (some from board, some from Kyla individually) to the lead reviewer, Don Avison. The 2025-26 Board also lobbied the provincial NDP and Conservative parties regarding this issue. We are still awaiting Don Avison's final report. It was initially scheduled for release by March 31, 2026, however Mr. Avison requested additional time for consultations and no new release date has been provided. Once that report is received, the GSS Board and Advocacy and Campaigns Committee, will need to determine how to respond. UVic is prepared to partner with the GSS on responding to the Provincial government about this issue."

Since this meeting, the Province has NOT released the results of Don Avison's review. During a May 1 meeting with the Minister for Post Secondary Education, Jessie Sunner, CIESLIK, TODD and CENTENO asked when to expect the results of the review. SUNNER said that the Province would need to "review the report" before it could be released – which may indicate that, like in 2022, the review found that the Province was underfunding post secondaries and the Province would rather burry that information than release the report and have to address the chronic underfunding issue.

MARRUGAT and CENTENO met with representatives from student societies across BC on June 11 to discuss forthcoming actions that students can take if the results are released, particularly if the 2005 Tuition Limit Policy, which limits tuition increases to 2% annually on domestic tuition, is rescinded or revised.

Discussion from June 24 meeting:
CENTENO-DUQUE discussed that the PSI is a review offering feedback on the current funding model and any recommendations to be made on the post secondary institution model in general. The review has been reviewed but not released. We lobbyed with Minister Jesse Sunner, talking about how the investment in post secondary education offfers a good return in training of skilled personnel and in community. It looks like they will not be giving more funding to post secondary education so we are lobbying to maintain the 2% cap and have a 2 fold tack to try to make students and the public aware of the meaning of the changes to tuition cap. The other would be our response if they cut the cap.

BROWN was interested if the D Internal role carries the responsibility of contacting UVic in the case they are interested in helping us with our PSI review response.

MARRUGAT mentioned that this is a good joint project for Advocacy and Campaigns to do together to ensure a strong united front.

CENTENO-DUQUE mentioned that other student societies are also interested in this, and that the board as a whole is dedicated to advocating for this concern.

CIESLIK reiterated this.

4. ANNUAL PLAN! 11:55

Lead: CIESLIK
Reference: Exec Duties - Strategic Planning, and Bylaw 15: Executive Board Annual Plan Policy
For: Discussion

CIESLIK to introduce the new board member to the need to create an annual plan and review the brainstorming ideas the board drafted during the April 27, 2026 meeting:
From April 27 minutes:
"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"

Discussion:
CIESLIK outlined our process so far, brainstorming of annual plan ideals. Mentioned there will be a specific meeting for this, and we should review this list before the July 22nd meeting for our themes. Showcased the prior annual plan document pdf. We can come up with more items but we should brainstorm further.

## STANDING ITEMS PART 2

### D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (APPENDIX A) 12:05

*Motion: to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2026 Executive Board Meeting as presented.*
*M/S: TODD/MARRUGAT*
*CARRIED*
*Motion: to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2026 Executive Board Meeting as presented.*
*M/S: MARRUGAT/CENTENO-DUQUE*
*CARRIED*

### E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (APPENDIX B) 12:05

Lead: CIESLIK

**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 [CIESLIK or minute taker: delete these from the motion log]:**

**June 10:** 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: TURNER to circulate old ED leave document and include updates for current vacation.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

**Tasks revoked or abandoned:**

## F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 12:10

Checking in with new board member: are you able to take on any of these committees? (Info in hyperlinks for Senate Committee. The Province is seeking an ALTERNATE only for the Sexualized Violence Advisory Group – UBC has filled the grad student seat on that committee. They are looking for a back up in case anything happens to the UBC rep. Info in correspondence received from June 10, see minutes in this document)

*Motion: to elect the following members to the following committees:*
*Committees: Provincial Sexualized Violence Advisory Group*
*Member:*
*Committees: Senate Committee on Continuing Studies*
*Member:*
*Committees: Senate Committee on Appeals*
*Member:*
*M/S:*
*CARRIED/FAILED*

*Discussion: No members elected to these committees.*

## G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX C) 12:10

*No correspondence received.*

## H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF 12:15

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief: June 23 GRC Meeting
2. Meeting agenda planning: July 28 GRC agenda
   i. Previously submitted agenda items:
   ii. Orientation events need volunteers! – 10 minutes for Manuel to review the September event schedule and seek volunteers
   iii. GRC member debrief/request for feedback? – Seek anonymous survey responses

### I. LOBBYING REPORTS 12:20

Reports due at the first meeting of every month.

### J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN: 12:20

## CLOSING ITEMS 12:20

### EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: CIESLIK

Onboarding going well, Bylaw and Policy meeting biweekly to ensure bylaw 4 is updated.

Director of Finance: TODD

TODD mentioned that Alumo fees will likely increase, which will be a decision for membership, higher fees or lower services.

Director of Internal/University Relations: BROWN

Director of External Relations: MARRUGAT

Board to board meeting is of interest August/September (We prefer August). Interest and contact with Charles Adkins.

Director of Student Life: CENTENO DUQUE

Events planned for next month, mug painting, EGRS a bit behind schedule, will compensate.

Executive Director: TURNER no report

### NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

July 8: Issue Briefing: UVic Grad Dorm

July 8: Issue Briefing: Spring 2026 Referendum and new BPC projects!

July 8: Department Grant info

July 22: Annual Planning

### UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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

Next Executive Meetings: July 8, 2026

Next GRC Meeting: July 28, 2026

AGM: October 27, 2026

Office, Staff Scheduling: TURNER is on vacation June 22-July 24, inclusive.

ADJOURNMENT

*Motion: to adjourn the meeting.*
*M/S: TODD/MARRUGAT*
*CARRIED*

X

Violet CIESLIK
GSS Interim Chair 2026-27

X Eleanore Todd

Eleanore Todd
GSS Vice Chair 2026-27