University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board

(HYBRID) MEETING. Minutes

JULY 8, 2026

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); Eleanore TODD, Director of Finance
GUESTS:

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER 11:00

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 11:02

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA 11:05

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.
M/S: CENTENO/MARRUGAT
CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. ISSUE BRIEFING: UVIC GRAD DORM 11:10

From minutes from April:
"Issue briefing: UVic Grad dorm

For: Training

UVic has been planning a graduate student dorm since before 2020. The plan has gone through multiple iterations, but in 2025 the University and the Province landed on an agreement to build a 510 bed dorm with a large tower for upper-year undergrads and a smaller tower for graduate students. All approvals, except for minor bylaw variances from the District of Saanich were received in 2025. The project was planned to break ground in Summer 2026.

In February 2026, the Province announced that they were "re-phasing" for several major infrastructure projects across the province, including the UVic grad dorm for financial reasons. The UVic dorm was the only "re-phased" project given an updated delivery date of 2034, a delay of five years.

The GSS has been a key partner for UVic in all stages of planning for this building. We have submitted letters of support to the Provincial and municipal governments on a regular basis since 2021 about this matter. We have consulted heavily on design and location. We may wish to continue to lobby the

Province to increase speed on the delivery of the dorm. In conducting this work, we will need to be mindful that other "re-phased" projects, that have not been provided updated delivery dates, include a cancer care facility/hospital wing and several long-term care facilities."

Update since this meeting: UVic has asked for Saanich bylaw variances necessary to build this dorm. Their goal in seeking variance approval now is to ensure that the University is "shovel ready" as soon as approval from the Province to start building arrives. Sarah Roberts attended the Saanich Mayor and Council meeting to present our support for this dorm.

Discussion from July 8 meeting:
CIESLIK gave a brief overview as to the ongoing efforts of UVic to construct the Grad dorms. BROWN has previous knowledge so not much overview was needed.

2. ISSUE BRIEFING: SPRING 2026 REFERENDUM 11:30

Relevant sections of May meeting minutes: ELECTORAL OFFICER REPORTS

"Reference: Semyon's recusal, Semyon's EO report, Sam's EO Complaint Decision, Sam's election final results announcement, Elections and Referendum Policy and Electoral Appeals Committee Terms of Reference,
For: Discussion
Kyla's discussion prompts: The Board will need to consider the bylaw, policy and procedural concerns raised by both Sam and Semyon. This discussion will be ongoing throughout the year and is already on Sarah's radar for Bylaw and Policy Committee.

Discussion: ROBERTS gave an overview of the reference documents as well as the history of the Spring 2026 referendum complaint. TURNER provided guidance that in order to provide an unbiased Electoral Appeals Committee that the discussion regarding the contents of the complaint until the referendum is concluded."

Updates since this meeting: The Spring 2026 referendum has been finalized. However, there are very significant gaps in our bylaws, policies and procedures that the Bylaw and Policy Committee must address urgently this year. CIESLIK to provide an issue briefing on the work of BPC.

Discussion from July 8 meeting:
CIESLIK gave a brief overview of the referendum appeals and what our response has been.

3. DEPARTMENT GRANTS 11:50

Lead: TODD
Reference: 2026-27 Department Grant Application form
For: Discussion

Discussion from July 8 meeting:

CIESLIK gave a brief overview of the department grant changes and what the implications are for GSS membership.

4. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BYLAW 12.4

Lead: CIESLIK
Reference: 2026 Bylaw 12.4 Tracking Document.docx
For: Decision

Clarification was needed on the bylaw relating to leave of absence regardless of reason. This was because the prior bylaw did not have mention of maintaining membership while on leave. So, this change ensures that the board member still can maintain full membership as a GSS Executive Board member while on leave.

Motion: to approve the Bylaw 12.4 from the April 13, 2026, Bylaw and Policy Meeting as presented.
M/S:
FAILED

Discussion from July 8 meeting:
CENTENO brought up concerns regarding the redundancy and language used in the proposed amendments. Board has decided that they need more information to carry the motion.

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

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

Motion: to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2026 Executive Board Meeting as presented.
M/S: CENTENO/MARRUGAT
CARRIED

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

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:

TODD updated motion log for July 8 meeting from June 24 meeting

Tasks revoked or abandoned:

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 12:10

Motion: to remove the following members from the following committees:
Member: Violet CIESLIK

Committees: FGS Council; Convocation Committee; Campus Planning Committee; UVic Accessibility Committee; Health Promotion and Outreach Committee;

Further to elect the following members to the following committees:
Member: Violet CIESLIK
Committees: FGS Grad Exec Council;

Member: Hannah BROWN
Committees: FGS Council; Convocation Committee; Campus Planning Committee; UVic Accessibility Committee; Health Promotion and Outreach Committee;

M/S: CENTENO/MARRUGAT
CARRIED

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (APPENDIX C) 12:10

No Correspondence Received

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF 12:12

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief: None.
2. Meeting agenda planning: July 28 GRC agenda – to be sent to Irfy for circulation no later than July 20
    i. Previously submitted agenda items:
    ii. Orientation events needs volunteers! – 10 minutes
    iii. GRC member debrief/request for feedback – advertise anonymous survey
    iv. Confirm 2026-27 GRC Seats

TASK: CIESLIK to send Irfan Tanveer, Governance Coordinator final copy of the GRC agenda for circulation by Monday, July 20 to ensure timely delivery to GRC.

I. LOBBYING REPORTS 12:15

Lead: MARRUGAT
Reference: Councilor-phelps-bondaroff-Lobbyist-Report.docx
For: Discussion

J. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK-IN: 12:20

CLOSING ITEMS 12:20

EXECUTIVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION/UPDATES/QUESTIONS

Chair: CIESLIK

Met with Jim Dudson about seat on BC Transit Campaign about student voices being heard and Building Heat campaign. Organizing meeting with BC Transit CEO. Need data from Building Heat campaign (need by end of summer).

Director of Finance: TODD. No report.

Director of Internal/University Relations: BROWN. No report.

Director of External Relations: MARRUGAT

Working on Health Information campaign. Working on advocacy for PSI Review campaign. Organized Board to Board with UBC GSS.

Director of Student Life: CENTENO DUQUE

Working on PSI Review with MARRUGAT. Joined the Consent Coalition. Orientation and August events planned.

Executive Director: TURNER. No report.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

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 22, 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: CENTENO/MARRUGAT
CARRIED

X Violet Cieslik

Violet CIESLIK
GSS Interim Chair 2026-27

X Eleanore Todd

Eleanore Todd
GSS Vice Chair 2026-27