

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society
Graduate Representative Council

MINUTES

JULY 28, 2026, 5-7 PM

Executive Board Invited (1 vote per member):

Chair: Violet Cieslik

Director of Internal/University Relations: Hannah Brown

Director of Finance: Eleanore Todd

Director of Student Life: Manuel Centeno Duque

Director of External Relations: Victor Marrugat Arnal

Executive Director (non-voting):

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

Anthropology: Semyon Drozdetskii, Zenus Francis	Ed. Psych & Leadership Studies: Annie Wu	Indigenous Education:	Political Science: Max Backhaus; Cam Thiessen
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 Harray	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	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: Petranella Daviel, Communications and Events Coordinator (covering for Irfy)

Invited Guests: Kyla Turner, Executive Director;

Regrets Received: Irfan Tanveer, Governance Coordinator; Jessica Li, Max Backhaus, Anna-Elaine Rempel

Absent without regrets:

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OPENING ITEMS

CALL TO ORDER 5:00 PM

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 BROWN, who shared reflections from a class taken in Indigenous Health – Indigenous community leadership focused, highlighting a reading discussing how colonialism and capitalism are both very extractive, while decolonial approaches are working to be relational and reciprocal to the land, which has prompted Hannah to reflect on how they can be more reciprocal in their own work, and invited GRC to take a moment to reflect similarly.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA 5:05

MOTION: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: Executive Board / LEITE

CARRIED

TIMEKEEPER VOLUNTEER 5:03

Today's timekeeper was: DUFORT-GAGNON

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, MEETING QUORUM AND ATTENDANCE 5:04

GSS Membership: As of May 15, the GSS has 2896 members.

Meeting Quorum: With 2 regrets received, quorum for tonight's meeting is 16.

Welcome to new GRC reps:

REPORTS AND OPEN DIALOGUE

CHAIR'S REMARKS 5:05

CIESLIK will update GRC on the goings on of the Executive Board. CIESLIK shared what the Board has done while Kyla has been away – including working on a few advocacy campaigns, the first of which was the PSI review, working with a few associations of post-sec students in BC (info forthcoming), plus getting data for the heat campaign/advocacy, and have a key meeting scheduled for the end of August with an operations manager. Also, hopefully the Board will complete the Annual Plan by the end of August, ready for September GRC. The Board has been at a limited capacity over the last few months. There are a few updates with regards to the GSS Health & Dental – TODD will update. TODD was also at a recent Alumo conference.

GRC COMMITTEE, ELECTORAL OFFICER REPORTS, UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS 5:06

- Advocacy and Campaigns: MARRUGAT
 - 3 campaigns – Heat on Campus: Last week, during the spike in temperatures, they went around Petch, Elliot, the Library & Clearihue, talking to people to help locate the hottest point of the building – everyone instantly knew where the hottest point was. Data and feedback collected – some people reported that they cannot work safely (PPE on), as it's impossible for their wellbeing – they can't wear it, which can't be happening. MARRUGAT will prepare a report, to share with Operations, VP, etc.

Another feedback received – Operations is starting to work on it already (thanks Sophie!). An article is also in the Martlet about it. 2nd campaign: PSI campaign – preparing immediate response in case it gets released, and preparing a campaign in September, especially when families are here. Still in the works for how it's going to look, but more or less ready for it. 3rd campaign: BC Transit. For now, this has been primarily MARRUGAT as lead. Communication established with Camosun Student Society rep. MARRUGAT has got them up to speed, what are the pain points, what are we looking to do for September. Meeting today of the VRTC, next meeting in October. In October/November, there are also municipal elections – good opportunity to show up as Advocacy & Campaigns and get wish list to ask questions of candidates with respect to public transport.

- Appeals: TODD
 - Appeals reviewed & rendered decision on 1 appeal. (Applause given).
- Bylaw & Policy: CIESLIK
 - WEBB reported that B&P have been working hard over last 6 weeks to get a lot of revisions done on Bylaw #4 (Elections & Referenda) to get changes put forward for AGM in October. The committee has had some awesome discussions, thanks to folks' flexibility to go through bylaws in great detail, and keeping track of changes to make down the line.
- Events: CENTENO
 - BERUBE reported that EC finalized July events (Mug Painting – great turnout, Beach Day was rained out, rescheduled for August 7th, Trivia in July. Also planned August events – Origami Overload, Bike Ride to Bamfield dock, and Ice Cream social at very end of August. We also planned a handful of the fall Orientation events.
- Finance: TODD
 - TODD reported that Finance committee discussed the Alumo Health renewal – to discuss shortly. Also briefly discussed (as prior) continuing to reach out to VanCity about investing. Just waiting on a response (2 month wait!).
- Stipend Review: FARR
 - FARR reported that SR reviewed all Board reports, and approved them.
- Electoral Officer: FIELDER
 - FIELDER not present. TURNER noted that FIELDER has not had any elections to oversee, but has been very active in B&P in helping to review bylaws & policies to ensure next elections run smoothly. CIESLIK also applauded FIELDER's work.

GRC STANDING COMMITTEES – APPOINTMENTS 5:15

This is the final GRC meeting of the 2025-26 year. No committee changes accepted at this time. Please note, the 2026-27 GRC reps will have an opportunity to select their committees in September.

FARR asked when open positions are refilled – TURNER replied that at Sept GRC, as we receive all appointments by emails from departments, TANVEER sends back committee preference form, rank ballot. FARR clarified the question was about Senate committees – FARR on committee for Academic Standards. TURNER clarified that Senate committees run from July until June – you're all done (if elected in September). If elected in May, and you got a 'thank you' email, that could be a mistake. DUFORT-GAGNON flagged that she has never heard back from the Library committee that they were elected for – TURNER found that the first meeting will be September. CIESLIK asked if that was an update from the last time we circulated Senate Committee appointments. TURNER said that the dates they are looking at are the from 2026-27 – maybe the website had been updated? TURNER confirmed that DUFORT-GAGNON is listed there as the grad student rep – term ends June 2027. CIESLIK requested that we double-check that timelines are correct for September.

OPEN DIALOGUE AND REPORTS 5:18

LEAD CIESLIK

WEBB shared that they have become aware of a student who did their undergrad and master's in Linguistics, and they would be interested in doing an interdisciplinary PhD between Slavic Studies and Linguistics, but because those are now component departments in the same school (School of Languages, Linguistics & Cultures), UVic doesn't allow interdisciplinary grad students – and Slavic studies doesn't accept PhD students. WEBB noted that collapsing departments into a single school was marketed as making it easier to collaborate, but there is an actual barrier for grad students wanting to do that very thing. The student in question will not apply for PhD here specifically because UVic has collapsed their department. There is no infrastructure for special permission to do it. TURNER added that they have seen strange combinations and tenuous connections to achieve interdisciplinary status – perhaps Jo at FGS might be worth connecting with.

LEITE asked question about the GSS membership. Do we have any numbers for fall – if immigration policies are still in place, will there be more impact? TURNER noted that we haven't got any notices to expect any drop – we don't get a lot of information. From a media scan, there will obviously be some countries (Iran, Ukraine) that will have difficulty getting their students here. While it's atrocious for international students, they are treated the same as domestic studies – UVic fills seats with domestic students, so membership has remained stable regardless of what IRCC is doing. Registration has started for the fall, we're at about 1936 students, which is normal for this time of year. Expectations of the next 1000 to register in the next few weeks.

CIESLIK asked to check in regarding the Science event that was advertised at last GRC! DUFORT-GAGNON clarified that the event hasn't yet taken place!

BREAK – 5 MINUTES – 5:25 PM

MEETING NEW BUSINESS

1. SEPTEMBER ORIENTATION EVENTS 5:30

Lead: CENTENO

Reference: September event lists and Orientation

For: Discussion

CENTENO and the Events Committee have planned an amazing series of events in September for orientation. But we need volunteers!

September 3- ICS Boardgames Night 5-8:30

Sept 4 – Post-FGS Orientation Tabling (11:30am – 1:30pm) – Need 2 volunteers

September 9 – Pancake Breakfast (9am – 10:30am)

September 11 Beach Day 2:30pm

September 18 Pub Crawl 7:30pm – need 4 volunteers (including CENTENO)

September 24th Welcome Back BBQ 5pm doors 6pm food

September 25th Trivia Night

The Board will be helping out at a lot of these but CENTENO requests that GRC members sign up for events that they are available to help out with! CENTENO will circulate an email once folks have signed up with all the details.

LEITE asked for clarification on the post-FGS orientation tabling. TURNER described the event – the scope of the orientation has fluctuated. DAVIEL added that FGS has booked out Side Project and ordered a load of food, inviting students post-orientation to our space to eat and socialize. Our volunteers will be tabling in the lobby. TURNER flagged the importance of GRC reps to advertise our orientation events!

TURNER also reminded everyone to buy their BBQ tickets and Pub Crawl tickets early – and requested that our volunteers are (slightly) more sober, and advertised that they will be forcing volunteers to bring condoms with them to hand out. MARRUGAT said he would be proud to be the condom bearer.

2. GRC FEEDBACK SURVEY OPEN NOW 5:37

Lead: CIESLIK

Reference: [GRC feedback from 2025-2026 – Fill out form\](#)

For: Discussion

CIESLIK invited everyone to fill out the survey. CIESLIK stated that the goal of the survey is to make sure that we learn from experiences in GRC this year, to improve next year. What worked for you – what didn't work for you, what resources would you have wanted, and advice that you might give a new GRC representative, and how you heard about us. 7 minutes was provided to complete the survey – QR code made available both in the room and on the slideshow.

FARR asked who will read the survey answers. CIESLIK replied that the Board will read them, but that they will be anonymous, and requested that everyone answer as anonymously as possible. FARR asked for confirmation that the answers will not be made public. CIESLIK and TURNER emphasized that the responses will absolutely not be made public.

TURNER will send the survey link to the GRC email list, so that folks not present will have the opportunity to sign up. CIESLIK noted that the survey will remain open until September 29th at 8am.

3. UPDATE ON HEALTH AND DENTAL FOR UPCOMING ACADEMIC 2026-27 YEAR 5:45

Lead: TODD

Reference: Presentation

For: Discussion

TODD provided context – every year we meet with our representative (broker, plan), who comes to tell us how much our plan was used in the last year, and how much they will charge next year for those continued services. TODD shared the slides – our broker is Alumo, and our provider is PBC. Every year going forward – Alumo will negotiate with PBC on our behalf, and will try to get a good deal. We are on a refund model – typically that brokerage process is a lot more straightforward. Each year usage is analyzed and new renewal fee is negotiated. For reference, we have a very high-coverage plans across grad student societies in Canada. We had a bit of a lowered rate with Alumo last year – PBC offered a good deal to keep us with them. This year, Alumo has said that PBC will be charging a hefty increase for the renewal. TURNER flagged that this amount will not be reflected on tuition. (\$935.88) This renewal rate is what will be charged to the GSS for the student's health care plan – not the cost of the health care plan on students' tuition. We can't just raise student fees. We have immediately been charged several hundred thousand dollars, which has been taken from our healthcare savings account. We can cover 2 years, maybe a little more. Which means that we have to use the tools at our disposal, to make sure that we offer students a plan they would like at the rate students would like. 2 levers to control that – we are not going into debt. In order to maintain a good relationship with our students & provider, it's best we come to an agreement with everybody. Lever 1: Increase fees – maintain current coverage. Uses for some services went up about 50% (physio, psych, prescription meds). Lever 2: Reduce services. Students don't like that – why reduce coverage further, etc. Some compromise between those two will have to be made. Finance Committee, D. Finance, Alumo, and GSS staff will be collaborating to plan out a balance, that will involved a lot of communication between us, GRC, and students in general. We will have town halls, lots of communications, in preparation for next fee referendum opportunity in March. TODD reassured everyone that we will be sure to get lots of feedback before taking any action – we are considering extending the financial burden over several years – possibly less sturdy in weathering storms, but financial burden is lower. Renewal rate has gone up – fees have only increased by CPI – we're working on a plan – stay tuned for more. TODD welcomes questions, but flags that there will plenty of opportunities for questions in the future.

LEITE thanked TODD for the brilliant graphics and slides shared, and asked for clarification on whether the provider can unilaterally increase the fee every year?

TURNER explained that there are 2 significant models for insurance that we need to pay attention to: Fully Insured (you share equally in the profits and losses – you are liable for any money for claims over your premiums – creates a ton of fluctuation for how much money the GSS might owe) We use a Refund Accounting Model -instead of getting an invoice for extra money owing, or getting a cheque for extra premiums sent in- all money put into unrestricted deposit account, and if our premiums don't cover claims in a given year, we use the unrestricted deposit account to cover the difference. If we pay more premium than we have in claims, we make a deposit into that unrestricted deposit account. We will be tapping heavily on that this year – there was not enough time to conduct a referendum to do an increase. That's the 'where is the money coming from to cover this' – it's coming from years of past plan underutilisation. Why are the fees going up so much? We used an unreal amount of the plan this year. They presented us with a 35% cost increase. TURNER explains

that PBC undercut themselves to keep us as their customer last year when we moved to Alumo. We are a stable client – they took away the discount we got and are charging for extra usage. We are already asking people to use Fair PharmaCare to help with costs – TURNER flagged the information about Fair PharmaCare that is posted to the GSS website (thank you A&C). TURNER went over Fair PharmaCare eligibility. We will be heavily advertising it this year, as this is one of the easiest levers we can pull to ensure that our coverage stays as strong as we can afford, and that our costs stay as low as we can manage. CIESLIK flagged the other supports posted to the website. TURNER encourages domestic students to sign up for MSP Supplementary Benefits, which covers some physio and psychology. Everyone is eligible to at least attempt to enroll in Fair PharmaCare – it is income-dependent. TURNER strongly encourages folks to get the government to pay for their needs over their own wallets.

MADDOX asked whether we could prioritize utilizing any of the Alumo partners that give discounts, would that give any impact on the actual cost through PBC in the end? Would it help to push more for those Alumo partners to be used in most things?

TURNER explains that MADDOX is referring to the Service Provider Networks. Alumo continually recommends we lower our coverage rate and advance the use of their Provider Networks, who have promised them a discount. We have 80% drug coverage through GSS insurance. Alumo has a provider network for drugs – Rexall. They have worked out a deal that folks with Alumo coverage get a 10% discount at Rexall. Alumo recommends we lower everybody's coverage rate to 70% - but if we encourage folks to use Rexall, they will still get 80% coverage. We have not pulled that kind of lever without member consent before. We will compile information

DUFORT-GAGNON raised a concern about out of province students – you would have to give up your other province's coverage, which is not always feasible for students who are planning to return.

TURNER state that the unfortunate reality is that BC expects all grad students in BC for 6 months or longer to have BC MSP. Flags have been raised about the wait time, but TURNER encourages folks with concerns to come talk to us. Everything we have is based on BC MSP. Uvic is very clear that grad students should enroll in BC MSP.

LEITE asked whether we will have town halls – TURNER and TODD confirmed we have lots of time, we will have many town halls, many opportunities to hear member's concerns and voices. TURNER flagged that we will continue to get information throughout the fall, our representative from Alumo will answer all your questions at the AGM. Robyn will give a slideshow on whether it is worth the cost – TODD highlights that this will be a great time to ask why the plan is/will be so expensive. TODD noted that they have also requested a list of non-standard deductions, and their expected change in the cost of our plan – we are exploring every avenue we can. TODD flags that re-negotiation is not a good idea – it will be more expensive in the long run.

ANNABEL asked how much of an increase in plan use occurred – if the plan was typically underutilized

TURNER clarified that the plan has never been underutilized in a significant way. This year physio usage increased significantly, because coverage for physio was increased. There was an increase in psychological services – last year we added a bunch more providers. When we offer the coverage, our members use it. It does cost an insane amount to provide the coverage that is being requested, and it will always be a balancing act between the 3,000 grad students we have.

ANNABEL clarified- the coverage was expanded, but then it was used more, so PBC's perspective is that it was used more, so they're raising costs. TURNER and TODD confirmed, and TODD added that we are not expecting the same jump next year. TURNER added that there has been only 1 year in their 5 years of service where there was no H&D plan cost increase. TODD added that our Alumo rep said that we are being offered great service for cost compared to other plans... in other countries... e.g. USA (Laughter ensues.)

TODD encourages folks not to panic, and promises that more information and opportunities to ask questions will be forthcoming.

4. GRC SEAT LIST 2026-27 6:30

Lead: CIESLIK

Reference: 2026-27 UVic Depts Eligible for GRC.xlsx

For: Discussion

Each year, the GSS staff review the list of "academic units" (defined below) at UVic to create a GRC seat list compliant with Bylaw 6.3a-c (also below). We also ask the outgoing GRC member to review this list and recommend the creation of GRC seats for any groups not on the academic unit list for the creation of their seat(s) in September. TURNER has listed below the two motions that have created new, temporary GRC seats this term (September 2026-August 2027).

Question for GRC reps: Are the created seats for French, Linguistics and Health – Otherwise Undesignated still recommended for the next year? Are there other groups the list in the reference document may have missed?

Relevant Bylaws:

"6.3 Membership:

- a. Graduate Representative Council shall consist of:
 - i. The members of the Executive Board;
 - ii. The Grad Reps for each academic unit as defined by the Society's policy, subject to Bylaw 6.3.b; and
 - iii. A graduate student representative of CUPE 4163.
- b. Each academic unit with at least three graduate students shall be entitled to one (1) Grad Rep or two (2) Co-Reps, from among its graduate students. Unless specified, the term "Grad Rep" in these bylaws includes Co-Reps.

- c. Grad Council may create Grad Rep positions for any group by a majority resolution. This Grad Rep position will be temporary, ending with the term of the current Graduate Representative Council, on August 31."

Relevant Definitions (from the Governance/Policy Manual – Definitions)

- Academic Unit** Academic Unit means an administrative classification of students at the University of Victoria that meets all of the following criteria:
- a. Is the smallest available unit that is either a department, school, centre or faculty, or the Interdisciplinary Studies Program
 - b. Offers a Masters, Doctorate, Diploma or Certificate program, or previously offered such a program provided that graduate students remain enrolled in the discontinued program(s),
 - c. Is recognized by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and
 - d. Has actively enrolled graduate students.

Relevant motions from the 2025-26 GRC term:

September 2025:

"Background: In 2024, UVic combined four departments into a single mega-department. The Departments of French, Germanic and Slavic Studies, Hispanic and Italian Studies, and Linguistics became the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures (SLLC). When the merger happened, GRC lost 3 seats. We've historically had very strong representation from French and Linguistics (though the last time we had Germanic and Slavic Studies or Hispanic and Italian Studies reps was in 2018). In order to maintain strong representation from these productive departments, GRC voted to create additional seats for each former department in 2024-25. We did not fill the Germanic and Slavic Studies or Hispanic and Italian Studies seats. French and Linguistics remained heavy hitters for GRC involvement. Based on this, we're recommending the following motion:

MOTION: to create GRC seats for French and Linguistics in addition to the Languages, Linguistics, and Cultures seat.

M/S: BURTON/SHORE

CARRIED"

April 2026:

"Motion: Recognizing that the Social Dimensions of Health academic unit was granted a seat on GRC at the June 2025 GRC meeting in compliance with existing policies and procedures;

Further recognizing that UVic has ceased listing "Social Dimensions of Health" as an academic unit on their registration system after the June 2025 GRC meeting;

Further recognizing that the Social Dimensions of Health GRC reps were duly elected in Fall 2025;

RESOLVED to maintain a GRC seat for the Social Dimensions of Health program until August 31, 2026.

Moved: FARR Seconded: BACKHAUS

CARRIED

Motion: Recognizing that only academic units accepting graduate students as announced by UVic in summer 2025 were granted a seat on GRC for September 2025-August 2026;

Further recognizing that 30 graduate students have been coded on UVic registration system, Viewcat, as being registered only to the "Faculty of Health" without a department recognized by GRC at the June 2025 meeting;

RESOLVED to create a GRC seat for students who are registered only in the Faculty of Health until August 31, 2026.

Moved: WEBB Seconded: POPOVA

CARRIED

Motion: to recommend to the 2026-27 Graduate Representative Council that seats for the Social Dimensions of Health program and Faculty of Health "academic unit" be included on the 2026-27 UVic Departments Eligible for a GRC Seat list.

Moved: FARR Seconded: POPOVA

CARRIED"

BERUBE asked for clarification regarding the difference between Linguistics and Languages, Linguistics & Cultrues. TURNER clarified the difference between an academic unit – per our Bylaws, these 4 former departments should get 1 GRC seat. Unfortunately, the GSS independently cannot actually tell the difference between these students – we will have to trust the Linguistics students to correctly identify their reps. There will be an additional seat for folks not in French and Linguistics. The reason we're not creating additional seats for all the rest is that in the last 5 years of GRC, they have not typically had a rep. WEBB noted this is likely because they don't admit graduate students. Likely students in these situations would get filed under the SLLC seat. TURNER explains that this is a recommendation to the next board to extend the seats where we have previously seen them – no Social Dimensions of Health. CIESLIK adds that this was previously moved and accepted. TURNER explains that we want to ensure that we have seats for groups of students that don't fit within a Faculty of business, school or department – let us know!

BROWN asked for clarification that this series of motions gives the LLC unit 3 separate seats for that one unit due to various reasons. How many students does that academic unit have at one time?

CIESLIK replied that we have that information – not on hand, but it's on our GRC department grant form.

TURNER asked if the question was regarding fairness? BROWN said sort of. TURNER asked regarding the overall representation at GRC – we don't have a good way to solve it. B&P could take it up after November.

LEITE shared that in the last 2 years we have been in, there is a lot of department representation, but SLLC reps have participated a lot, which is really valuable. They are very active, their voices should be heard as well

FARR – so we are rewarding engagement?

LEITE confirmed that they are interested, committed to the GSS, and shared his honest opinion that we need people like that on GRC.

DUFORT-GAGNON asked if there is a limit to the amount of people that should be participating in GRC?

TURNER replied – unfortunately yes. One of the attempts to make representation more fair that was made in the ‘bad old days’ – co-reps was capped at 2. D.G. checked whether bigger departments have more votes – TURNER replied that each department has 1 vote. TURNER clarified that the bare minimum number of students in an academic department to participate in GRC is 3.

CIESLIK flagged that on the GSS website under the GRC page with information about the department grant, if you click on the form, there is a complete list of all academic units currently

TODD clarifies that some departments have 10 people represented by 1 person, and some departments have 200 people represented by 1 person, so we already have quite a large skew. SLLC would be 33 students represented by 4, which would be close to our lowest number of students per representative, but not *the* lowest.

CIESLIK highlighted the dept of Greek & Roman Studies who have around 10 grad students, who have a seat on GRC. This motion just helps us make sure that there is representation for a larger department that has been merged.

LEITE added that for bigger students it’s by all-member vote. TURNER added that we have never had full representation, highlighting the School of Nursing – which is one of the largest departments, but we have no rep as all their students are actively practising nurses, who are understandably too busy to sit on GRC.

CIESLIK called to motion.

MOTION: to recommend to the 2026-27 Graduate Representative Council that a seat for the French and Francophone “academic unit” be included on the 2026-27 UVic Departments Eligible for a GRC Seat list.

MOTION: to recommend to the 2026-27 Graduate Representative Council that a seat for the Linguistics “academic unit” be included on the 2026-27 UVic Departments Eligible for a GRC Seat list.

MOTION: to recommend to the 2026-27 Graduate Representative Council that a seat for the Languages, Linguistics, and Cultures “academic unit” be included on the 2026-27 UVic Departments Eligible for a GRC Seat list.

M/S: FARR/LEITE

CARRIED

STANDING ITEMS 6:35 PM

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (APPENDIX A) 6:35

MOTION: to approve the Minutes of the June 23, 2026 GRC meeting as presented [OR approved with minor corrections as provided].

M/S: DUFORT-GAGNON/BERUBE

EXECUTIVE BOARD STIPEND REPORTS – QUESTIONS ARISING AND MOTION TO ACCEPT – 6:37

LEAD: FARR

REF DOCS: 2025-26 Board Reports

Councillors are required to read the Executive Board reports prior to the meeting. TURNER clarified that BROWN has just started, and so doesn't have a stipend for the past month.

MOTION: To approve Eleanore's, Manuel's, Victor's, and Violet's June board reports, as presented.

M/S: Stipend Review Committee/WEBB

CARRIED

REPORTS FROM GRAD REPS ON UVIC COMMITTEES 6:40

LEAD: CIESLIK

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

- Board of Governors:
- Senate:
- Faculty of Graduate Studies Council:
- Previously appointed committees:
- UVic Award Committee – MARRUGAT said that most staff/contacts are away.

Committee	Appointment Date	Rep Name
Senate Committee on Libraries		Bernardo Leite

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

GRADUATE REPRESENTATION ON UVIC COMMITTEES (APPENDIX B) 6:42

LEAD: CIESLIK

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

None!

MOTION: to elect graduate student representatives to the following UVic committees:
Committee:

Member:

M/S:

CARRIED/FAILED

REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT/ADVOCACY/PARTICIPATION 6:29

LEAD: CIESLIK

CIESLIK invited anyone with requests for advocacy... conferences... CENTENO-DUQUE flagged folks to volunteer for Orientation events... and the Ice Cream Social on August 28th. LEITE volunteered as tribute.

NOTICES OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (APPENDIX C)

LEAD: CIESLIK

IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS:

LEAD: TURNER

Next GRC Meeting: September 22, 2026 – First GRC meeting of a new year!

- Please have any potential agenda items, with supporting materials, to the Executive Board for consideration, in advance of September 8, 2026
- Agenda to be posted: September 15, 2026

CIESLIK, TODD, and TURNER thanked everyone for their dedication – TURNER offered to write beautiful, moving reference letters for anyone who has served on GRC.

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

- Agenda to be posted: October 13, 2026

Office, Staff Scheduling Notes: BC day on Monday!

ADJOURNMENT

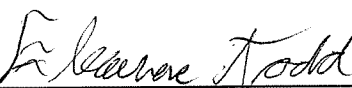
MOTION: to adjourn the meeting.

M/S: BERUBE/LEITE

CARRIED

x 

Violet CIESLIK
GSS Chair 2026-27

x 

Eleanore TODD
GSS Vice Chair 2026-27

