

University of Victoria Graduate Students' Society

Executive Board
(HYBRID) MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 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;

Kyla TURNER, Executive Director (non-voting);

STANDING ITEMS PART 1

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 11:03 by CIESLIK.

B. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Territory acknowledgement offered by TURNER.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: to approve the agenda as presented.

M/S: BROWN/TODD

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. GOVERNANCE MEETING SCHEDULE CHECK IN

Lead: CIESLIK

For: Decision

Does the following meeting schedule still work for y'all?

Wednesday, September 2, 11-12:30

Wednesday, September 16, 11-12:30

Monday, September 28, 2-3:30pm (STAT ON SEPT 30 - MEETING TIME ALTERED)

Wednesday, October 14, 11-12:30

Wednesday, October 28, 11-12:30

No meeting during Reading Break

Wednesday, November 25, 11-12:30

Wednesday, December 9, 11-12:30 (we'll vote on our Spring meetings here)

Motion: to amend the board meeting times to the following:

Monday, September 28, 11-2:30pm (STAT ON SEPT 30 - MEETING TIME ALTERED)
M/S: CENTENO/BROWN
CARRIED

2. ANNUAL PLAN CHECK IN

Lead: CIESLIK

REF DOC: Annual Plan Draft

For: Discussion

Draft has been circulated. Any edits to request once Petri is back in office next week?

TASK: TURNER to have the annual plan posted online.

3. GRC PREP CHECK IN

Lead: TURNER

Reference: GRC Committee Preference Form, GRC agendas for September and October

For: Discussion and Agenda Approval for September

Task check in: review training slidedeck(s) assigned to you and provide Kyla feedback and/or book committee training by Sept 8.

TASK: TURNER to circulate the September GRC agenda on Tuesday, September 15.

4. UVIC AT RISK POLICY – STUDENT CONCERN

Lead: BROWN

Reference: <https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/SS9125.pdf> Policy Doc

For: Discussion

- This is a theme in student concerns I wanted to discuss with the board to see if we want to do any advocacy work there.
- The President's office and VPAC is currently in a policy review for this policy, so sooner is better to possibly get input in.

BROWN brought up the fact that some students who have alerted UVic staff that they intend to harm themselves or others have been removed from campus. The policy was due for review in 2024. TURNER provided information on why the policy review was delayed (emergency changes to the non-academic misconduct policy re: substance use harms, presidential change over).

TASK: BROWN to correspond with USEC asking for immediate inclusion in any policy review committees re: At-Risk Policy.

5. EVENT COLLABORATION WITH SSD

Lead: BROWN

For: Discussion

- This is for a possible collab with the SSD that would be in March

- The SSD is looking for promotional support and a possible discount for part of the event at grad house – if that can be delt with by the events committee I can go there instead?

BROWN reported SSD is planning a disability in post-secondary conference in March. They are looking for promotional support and the use of the Grad House with a discounted rate.

CENTENO gave a brief overview of the use of the Grad House through the Events Committee. CENTENO asked about the conference (happening at the SUB and open to all levels of post-secondary) versus the post-conference social in the Grad House.

TASK: BROWN to propose a joint event with SSD for a disability in post-secondary conference in March to the Events Committee. CENTENO to correspond with the event planner with SSD (Bella Jacobs is the correct staff member) for more details on the same.

6. INVESTING THE CAPITAL FUND

Lead: TODD

Reference:

For: Decision

Background info: Capital fund terms of reference 35.5, included below, indicates that investment of capital fund funds into GICs may be initiated by the Executive Board. This motion is to invest \$50,000 dollars into a 1 year GIC, \$50,000 into a 2 year GIC, \$50,000 into a 3 year GIC, \$50,000 into a 4 year GIC, and \$50,000 into a 5 year GIC.

INTEREST/INVESTMENT OF FUNDS

35.5 The funds may be invested in short term GICs at the discretion of the Executive Board.

35.6 Interest/returns accrued by the fund shall be retained/reinvested within the fund.

Motion: to invest \$250,000 of the Capital Fund into GICs with Vancity Credit Union.

M/S: TODD/CENTENO

CARRIED

TASK: TODD and CIESLIK to meet with Vancity on September 9th, 4:00 PM (Appointment already made). The topic of this meeting will include an initiation of the investment process as described in the motion.

7. AGM REPORTS FORTHCOMING

Lead: TURNER/CIESLIK

Reference: [Report Template](#), [Link to Prior Reports](#), [Link to 2026 AGM Folder on Teams](#) (upload reports here)

For: Discussion

All board members draft reports on their GRC committee(s). Violet ALSO drafts a report from the board as a whole, presents the annual plan (maybe delegate that), present any bylaw amendments. Eleanore ALSO reports the results of the audit. This is the only item with a later due date, October 19. TURNER drafts a report on services and a report on membership/representation on UVic committees.

**TASK: TURNER to provide a review of the AGM report templates at the September 16 board meeting.
Board to approve AGM agenda at Sept 28 board meeting.
All board members to draft their committee or other AGM reports and submit to Kyla and Irfy by
October 12.**

STANDING ITEMS PART 2

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2026 Executive Board Meeting as presented.

M/S: TODD/MARRUGAT

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:

TASK: Each board member to draft a bullet-point, personal and fun "who/what/where/how" guide for our members contacting the board and submit to DAVIEL by the Aug 19. DAVIEL to create a section for the GSS website for this materials. Format requests: bullet points or who/what/when/how and make it fun.

TASK: DAVIEL to post the board's "who/what/when/how" introductions as single-board member social media posts.

TASK: All board members to sign up for 5-10 department orientations events before August 20.

TASKS: CENTENO and MARRUGAT to continue conversations with BC-FS and ask about how to access their materials (for example we don't have a photo printer), etc.

Everybody can read the 2025 Ombudsperson's report at their leisure.

MARRUGAT to meet with UBC-O GSA for introductions and campaign coordination

MARRUGAT to check in with Allie McFarland at UVSS (allisonmcfarland@uvic.ca) about the local election debate planning (which municipalities?)

Follow up tasks assigned:

TURNER to request available dates for media relations training.

MARRUGAT and CENTENO follow up with the BC-FS on the Cuts Suck campaign.

CIESLIK to check in with UBC AMS President on grad funding re: PSI review

MARRUGAT to check in with D. External with UBC AMS, UBC-O GSA, and SFU GSS regarding PSI release and advocacy.

F. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

No committee appointments made.

G. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: 5 Days of Action

Item 2: Yet another call to support commercial housing

*Motion: to receive the correspondence.**M/S:**CARRIED/FAILED***TASK: BROWN to respond to the announcement of another commercial housing venture.**

H. AGENDA PLANNING, OR MEETING DEBRIEF

Reference: Meeting Debrief Template

1. Meeting debrief: None.
2. Meeting agenda planning: September 16 Operational Relations FINAL MEETING TO SUBMIT ITEMS
 - i. Item: Planned power outage on August 8 – notice to GSS
 1. Description: UVic is doing work on their electrical grid that requires 8 hours of continuous power loss. The GSS was not included in stakeholder engagements on this issue and therefore received three weeks notice (or less) to arrange food storage for stock in the Grad House. GSS requesting inclusion on future stakeholder engagements for planned maintenance impacting electricity, gas and water. Issue previously addressed to Jim Forbes and Melissa Donaldson, July 31. Melissa responded same day. Item submitted without need for further discussion. Ensuring that operational related concerns go through Operational Relations.
 - ii. Item: Annual Plan presentation
 1. GSS to present their 2026-27 Annual Plan.
 - iii. Item: Building Heat Campaign –
 1. GSS asking for project timeline window film in Petch building and how effectiveness will be monitored going forward.
 2. GSS requesting a consultation on next steps with OHSE on training and signage for heat safety.

For Exec-to-Exec on Building Heat Campaign:

 3. GSS requesting further information on compliance and reporting structures for reporting heat safety issues. GSS requesting that grad students to report to OHSE on heat safety.

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 no report

Director of Finance: TODD audit ongoing and the requests for information are standard and routine.

Director of Internal/University Relations: BROWN no report

Director of External Relations: MARRUGAT no longer tabling on Sept 7 for residence move in but will be attending the orientation sushi social on Monday, Sept 7. He is continuing to meet regularly with other student societies and BC-FS on sector-wide advocacy work. Re: Transit: he is continuing to push for a direct bus route from Langford and UVic as well as airport and UVic.

Director of Student Life: CENTENO DUQUE attendance is super strong with events right now and the positive September vibes are flowing. Seeking volunteers for the Beach Day on Sept 11 and Welcome Back BBQ Sept 24. Updates on other orientation events (FGS joint orientation planning, EGRS, etc.) Still seeking judges for EGRS, MARRUGAT to ask at the Sept 21 FGS Council meeting (1-3pm).

Executive Director: TURNER will be covering the front office for the next two days. Reminder that Monday is a stat holiday. The office and restaurant will be closed.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS, AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING

September 16 Board Meeting:

- Introduce AGM reports, review template, and assign deadline for submission
- Media Relations Training with UVic
- Correspondence: UVSS looking to re-open the UPASS contract
- Check on ongoing campaigns/newly emerging issues. This is our slower Sept meeting as of Aug 14.

September 22 GRC:

- Board introductions
- Quick review of GRC agenda norms during approval of agenda (five minutes)
- Welcome to GRC (five minutes)
- Training (20 minutes)
- Vote on establishing seats for French, Linguistics, Social Dimensions of Health, Faculty of Health
- Vote on Democratic Rules of Order
- Vote on Budget Amendment – Grad House fryer repair
- Brief advertisement for EGRS
- Brief verbal overview of committees
- Committee placements – GRC
- Committee placements – UVic

September 28 board meeting (early due to stat)

- Approve AGM agenda (must be approved and posted by Oct 13, we'll approve reports, etc. Oct 14)
- Likely check in on Health and Dental Referendum Planning?
- Heads Up: Kyla's Annual Performance Review Forthcoming

October 14 Board Meeting:

- Vote to approve all motions on AGM agenda (since we won't have reports or audit when we approve the agenda)
- Confirm in-meeting AGM tasks
- Introduce ED Performance Review, review templates, assign deadlines
- EGRS Check In – Support Needs

October 20 GRC:

- GRC Rep Introductions!

Committee placements – late comers and those who want to swap committees
Welcome to FGS by Robin Hicks
(Often a special funding topic selected by Robin)
Democratic Rules of Order Training

October 27 AGM:

Present Audit and Re-Appointment of Auditors
Present Annual Plan
Present GRC Committee Reports, Board Report, ED Report, Health and Dental Report
Bylaw Amendments

October 28 Board Meeting:

Go in-camera to review board/staff feedback for Kyla's performance review?
Any actual new topics or ongoing advocacy campaigns!

November 25:

Go in-camera to review results of Kyla's performance review?

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND IMPORTANT DATES

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

Next Executive Meetings: September 16, 2026

Next GRC Meeting: September 22, 2026

AGM: October 27, 2026

Office, Staff Scheduling:

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: to adjourn the meeting at 12:44pm.

M/S: TODD/CENTENO

CARRIED



Violet CIESLIK
GSS Interim Chair 2026-27



Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director

APPENDIX C – CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Item 1: 5 Days of Action

From: 5 Days of Action <daysofaction@uvic.ca>

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 3:03 PM

To: GSS Chair <gsschair@uvic.ca>; GSS Director of Student Life <gsslife@uvic.ca>; GSS Director of Finance <gssfinan@uvic.ca>; GSS Director of External Relations <gssexternal@uvic.ca>; GSS Director of Internal/University Relations <gssinternal@uvic.ca>; Kyla Turner <kylaturner@uvic.ca>;

'gsscomms@uvic.ca' <gsscomms@uvic.ca>

Subject: 5 Days of Action - Calls for Events

Dear Graduate Student Society ,

UVic's 9th annual **5 Days of Action: 365 Days of Commitment** will be held from October 26 - 30, 2026.

The event is focused on engaging the UVic community in creating a more diverse, supportive, and inclusive environment which includes tackling racism, sexism, transphobia, ableism, antisemitism, Islamophobia and other intersecting forms of oppression.

Like last year, Equity and Human Rights (EQHR) will be hosting several events, such as a keynote panel, a networking event and tabling activities throughout the week. We'll also be highlighting events sponsored and organized by UVic units, departments, and faculties. We want to make this year's program as broad reaching as possible and showcase the collective commitment to equity and human rights across campus.

If you have workshops or events planned during that week that fit the themes of the week, please let us know if you'd like them to be included in the official 5 Days of Action schedule and outreach efforts. Reach out to daysofaction@uvic.ca for more information including the criteria for additions to the schedule of events. We will be accepting additions to the schedule until the end of September.

Thank you

Equity and Human Rights

Item 2: Commercial Housing

From: Jag Gillan <jagdish.gillan@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, August 15, 2026 10:06 AM

To: GSS Office <gssoffice@uvic.ca>

Subject: Re: 3945, 3947, 3949, 3953 Gordon Head Road ("University View")

You don't often get email from jagdish.gillan@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. Hannah Brown,

I hope all is well with you! I wanted to put this matter on your radar as you are acutely aware of the housing needs for UVIC students.

April 2026, we submitted an application for the above captioned addresses and are currently going through the consultation process with city staff.

The proposed site is a 4-lot assembly at the corner of McKenzie Avenue and Gordon Head Road. The proposal is for a 6-storey building containing 150 rental units with two commercial retail units, and one level of underground parking and bicycle room.

This is a purpose-built rental project practically within the University of Victoria (600m from the University centre).

UVIC recently announced the delay of a 500-bed student residence building. However, our project will contribute to much needed housing for students and the general public on a shorter timeline.

On a personal note, I lived and grew-up on the site. I attended Mount Douglas HS and UVIC. Therefore, completing this project would be a personal milestone and a contribution to my home town.

Please let me know if you would like additional information as I would be pleased to discuss further.

Sincerely,
Jag Gillan, esq
604-726-0046
Rajpur Developments Ltd.

