UVIC GRADUATE STUDENTS' SOCIETY

Semi-Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

Location: Halpern Centre (GSS Building) or Zoom

Minutes

Voting Members and Guests Present (online attendants are noted):

Executive Board:	Jasmine Padam (Sociology – online)	Gavin Kierulf (INTD)
Rosemary Webb, Chair	Jessica Li (Psychology - online)	Lindsay Jackson (Philosophy)
Maggie Lawton, D. Finance	Astrid Han (Health Information – online)	Violet Cieslik (Psychology)
Sarah Roberts, D. Internal/University Relations	Liam Mihalnyuk (Biochemistry and Microbiology – online)	Asma Noureen (Curriculum and Instruction – online)
Curran Chapman, interim D. Student Life	Andrea Sadowski (Public Admin – online)	Joao de Freitas Figueira (Mechanical Engineering)
Lily Abells, interim D. External Relations	Frances Armas (Medical Sciences – online)	Kimberlee Motture (Computer Science)
GRC Reps:	Lekima Yakuden (Earth and Ocean Science – online)	Eleanore Todd (Physics and Astronomy, Director of Finance Elect)
Semyon Drozdetckii (Anthropology)	Laura Dufort-Gagnon (Physics and Astronomy)	Jono Qualter (Physics and Astronomy)
Chidimma Ike (Law - online)	Maggie Berube (Physics and Astronomy)	Shahwaiz Memon (Electrical and Computer Engineering)
Wyatt Maddox (Geography)	Manuel Centeno Duque (Biology)	Hannah Brown (Sociology – online)
Bernardo Leite (Mechanical Engineering)	Latifa Yusuf (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Sam Fielder (Physics and Astronomy)
Victor Marragut Arnal (Electrical and Computer Engineering)	Chloe Farr (Computer Science)	Maxine Angeley (Biology – online)
Marcela Zamudio (Social Dimensions of Health)	Tatiana Popova (Department of Pacific & Asian Studies - online)	Katherine Smith (Computer Science – online_
Shina Khan (Curriculum and Instruction - online)	**GSS Members:**	Antoine Pavesic (Chemistry – online)
Annabel Flint (Chemistry)	Anna Catrina Perrins (Mechanical Engineering)	Mackenzie McNiven (Biology)
Melody Ray (Art History and Visual Studies – online)	Pascalle Ricard (Art History)	Adrienne Scott (Physics and Astronomy)
Kiran Gowder (History)	Anna-Elaine Rempel (Political Science)	Graham Stokes (Mechanical Engineering)
Camerson Thiessen (CUPE 4163)	Branden Aitken (Physics and Astronomy)	Aaron Chegini (Electrical and Computer Engineering)

GSS staff present:
Kyla Turner, Executive Director
Irfan Tanveer, Governance Coordinator

Chair: Rosemary WEBB, Chair

1. Call to order – Rosemary WEBB, Chair
   Meeting called to order at 5:02pm by WEBB.

2. Land acknowledgement
   Land acknowledgement offered by WEBB.

3. SAGM Quorum Report – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director
   Quorum for GSS general membership meetings is 25 voting members. At 5:07pm, the meeting was quorate with 35 voting members present. After all registrations were confirmed, 51 voting members were present for the meeting.

4. Approval of agenda

   Motion: RESOLVED the Agenda of the March 24, 2026 GSS Semi-Annual General Meeting is approved as presented.
   Moved: Executive Board *Seconded: FARR*
   Discussion: None.
   CARRIED

5. Approval of previous GSS General Meeting minutes

   REF DOC: 2025-10-28 AGM Minutes

   Motion: RESOLVED the minutes of the October 28, 2025 GSS Annual General Meeting are approved as presented.
   Moved: Executive Board *Seconded: FIELDER*
   Discussion: None.
   CARRIED

6. Executive Stipends –Bernard LEITE, Chair of Stipend Review Committee

   Motion: RESOLVED THAT the stipends for the GSS Executive Board in 2026-27 are set as:

Chair:	$ 1070.66/month
Director of Finance:	$ 1070.66/month
Director of Internal/University Affairs:	$ 1070.66/month
Director of External Affairs:	$ 1070.66/month
Director of Student Life:	$ 1070.66/month

   Moved: Stipend Review Committee *Seconded: QUALTER*

   Discussion:
   Question from SCOTT about whether the amount paid is different from the prior year. LEITE confirmed these are unchanged. TURNER provided background on the previous decisions at the 2020 AGM to fix the rate of pay for stipends at the TA wage rate from

the previous (or last available) September. Stipend Review Committee will review this rate of pay once there is more data.
CARRIED

Abstentions from LEITE, FARR and ZAMUDIO.

7. Presentation of 2026-27 Budget – Maggie LAWTON, Director of Finance

REF DOC: Proposed 2026-27 GSS Budget

Motion: RESOLVED the 2026-27 Budget is approved as presented.
Moved: Executive Board/Finance Committee Seconded: RICARD
Discussion:
JACKSON asked why the WUSC fee was reduced. LAWTON said there were a variety of reasons, the primary being bringing it in line with the constituency groups so the fees were more consistent.

CENTENO-DUQUE asked about the change in department grants and events and entertainment. LAWTON noted that GRC was consulted on the 2026-27 department grant application in February and that the incoming Board will approve the application on March 30. LAWTON further clarified that Board, staff, and Finance Committee consulted on the events and entertainment budget.

DROZDETCKII asked if the UVIC loans have interest, LAWTON said yes. TURNER elaborated that the interest is at a variable rate.

SCOTT asked if there will be more discussion on department grants later. LAWTON said they were discussed at GRC last month and they will be finalized at the board meeting on March 30. SCOTT said their department's regular grants will be reduced by 50% which will impact them significantly. LAWTON explained that department grants target all departments, and the $700 SCOTT's department was receiving was over the target. RICARD asked what department SCOTT is in and why they received more than other departments. SCOTT said they're in Physics and it was due to receiving the top-ups, which are now removed.

FIELDER asked for clarity on some of the numbers and said he was happy with how the budget looks.

MOTTURE asked about the administration fee for the health and dental fee. LAWTON said the administrative costs will go down because we are no longer paying for a health and dental coordinator, but there are still some administrative fees involved in the health insurance.
CARRIED

Abstentions from LEITE, FARR, DROZDETCKII and ZAMUDIO.

8. Reports to the Membership:

a. Report of the 2025-26 Executive Board – Rosemary WEBB, Chair
b. Membership and Representation Report – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director
c. Report of the Executive Director - Kyla TURNER, Executive Director

REF DOCS: 2025-26 Executive Board Report; Membership and Representation Report; 2025-26 Executive Director Report

Reports of Committees of the Society

REF DOCS: For full list see http://gss.uvic.ca/agm. For individual reports click the report title below

i. Advocacy & Campaigns – Sarah ROBERTS, Director of Internal/University Relations
ii. Appeals – Maggie LAWTON, Director of Finance
iii. Bylaw and Policy – Rosemary WEBB, Chair
iv. Events – Curran CHAPMAN, interim Director of Student Life and Maggie LAWTON, D. Finance
v. Finance – Maggie LAWTON, Director of Finance

Health and Dental Plan Update – Kyla TURNER, Executive Director

REF DOC: 2026-03-24 Semi-Annual Health and Dental Plan Update

Motion: RESOLVED the 2025-26 Executive Board report, reports from the committees of the society, and the semi-annual extended health and dental insurance plans update are received as information.
Moved: MADDOX Seconded: RICARD
Discussion:
Re: Executive Director Report: RICARD asked what Modo is. Clarification given: GSS maintains a business Modo account. It allows GSS members to sign up for a Modo car share account for a $25 non-refundable deposit, as opposed to a $500 refundable deposit for an individual Modo car share account. TANVEER confirmed that there were Modo spots available.

Re: Advocacy and Campaign: FIELDER asked after the duration of the Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) sector sustainability review. WEBB reported the process is expected by the end of March 2026. FARR asked what would happen if the review is not released, will universities still have to respond to it. WEBB said yes. TURNER clarified that the current board and Advocacy and Campaigns Committee have lobbied the Province to release the 2022 PSI review, which was not released and the future board will have the opportunity to do the same for the 2026 review. FARR asked if they don't make it public, will the GSS push back. WEBB said they hope so.

Re: Bylaw and Policy Committee – JACKSON asked after suspended versus ongoing projects when the membership of the committee changes, whether new members have to carry on the projects. WEBB clarified that is a decision for the chair of the committee for which projects to move forward, dependent on the annual plan and capacity..

Re: Events Committee – MARRAGUT asked after the current strength of our volunteer based. CHAPMAN noted our "mega volunteers" who volunteer for everything, but some of our current volunteers will be graduating soon. MEMON asked how many volunteers

the Events Committee has. CHAPMAN said there are 12-15 members in the committee at the moment. TURNER said there are three different categories of members for events committee: grad reps, other committee members at large, and volunteers. There was a very cute child interruption 😂 TURNER encouraged people to volunteer and reach out to the D. Student Life email. TODD asked if anyone can be on any committee. TURNER said there are some committees that have restrictions, like the Finance and SRC, but volunteers for events can be any grad student.

Re: Finance Committee - REMPEL asked about the UVSS Constituency Groups in regards to the fee referendum. REMPEL asked how many graduate students use and are aware of those services and what assurance was provided to the GSS for the appropriate use of future funds. LAWTON provided an overview of the referendum planning process, which involved asking how many active members of these groups are grad students. Grad student involvement was roughly equivalent to the grad student population of the university. REMPEL asked what kind of programs these groups host. TURNER said the Native Student Union runs a food program that is grant-funded that will no longer be covered by a grant, so our increase in fees will be able to support running that program. Other groups have been running at a deficit, so our fee increase will help them run at less of a deficit. TURNER also said we cross-referenced the groups' reports on how many grad students they have involved along with the Better Data Project, etc. LAWTON said she has detailed notes that she can share about this process, REMPEL said they would like to see them.

Re: Health and Dental – RICARD asked if the health and dental will be more functional next year. TURNER said Alumo will be more functional next year because they won't be switching people's numbers anymore. TURNER also said we no longer have staff covering health and dental, there is an Alumo office in the SUB.

CARRIED

Break

9. Ratification of Acclaimed Executive Board Candidates – Semyon DROZDETCKII, Electoral Officer

REF DOC: Electoral Officer Election Update 2026-27

Chair – Sarah Roberts
Director of External Relations – Victor Marrugat Arnal

WEBB relinquished the Chair. DROZDETCKII took over as meeting Chair at 6:02 pm.

DROZDETCKII called for an acclamation vote for Sarah ROBERTS for Chair.

ROBERTS abstained from voting.

ROBERTS received the majority vote and was ratified as Chair.

DROZDETCKII called for an acclamation vote for Victor Marrugat Arnal for Director of External Relations.

MARRAGUT abstained from voting.

MARRAGUT received the majority vote and was ratified as Director of External Relations.

10. Election of Unfilled 2026-27 Executive Board Seats– Semyon DROZDETCKII, Electoral Officer
    Seeking candidates for the positions of:
    Director of Internal/University Affairs
    Director of Student Life

    DROZDETCKII issued calls for nominations for Director of Internal/University Relations.

    Iram Zahra, nominated herself upon the first call for nominations in writing.

    Gavin Kierulf, Pascalle Ricard, Violet Cieslik, nominated themselves upon the second call for nominations.

    Kimberlee Motture nominated her upon the third and final call for nominations. No further nominations received.

    All candidates provided candidate statements. Iram's statement was provided in writing and read by DROZDETCKII.

    RICARD said she would like to get involved in governance and boards again, has been involved in a music committee as treasurer, was involved in the campus radio club, has experience in governance. Also on the Academic Senate as a student representative. Especially concerned with accessibility and CAL as well as cost of living/housing. Says her connections across the university would be helpful. She is from the art history department.

    ZAHRA's statement was read by DROZDETCKII, said they are a PhD student in education, wants to promote a strong student voice in decision making, eager to serve as a bridge between university students and administration to advocate for student needs. Background in governance and accessible education. If elected, they seek to be a strong liaison between students and administration, improving communication. Wants to champion equity and inclusion.

    KIERULF is a PhD student in Interdisciplinary studies. Finds university bureaucracy interesting to deal with, has experience conference planning and event organization, involved in the critical humanities commons. Wants to deepen his university relations.

    CIESLIK is a PhD candidate in Psychology, president for psychology student council and has been involved in the council through her whole time at UVic in a variety of roles. Vice president of events at former university, engaged with a lot of student affairs. Wants to be an active voice in the councils she serves on. Knows the Grad House well because she's been here for four years.

    MOTTURE is a PhD student in computer science, has experience on different boards throughout the community and UVic. Interested in advocacy for disabled students, mature students, and students with children. Did her masters here in music and computer science, passionate about helping the GSS.

Votes received:
Iram Zahra – no votes in person, 3 votes online, total = 3 votes
Gavin Kierulf – nine votes in person, 1 vote online, total = 10 votes
Pascalle Ricard – two votes in person, 2 votes online, total = 4 votes
Violet Cieslik – ten votes in person, 2 votes online, total = 12 votes
Kimberlee Motture – two votes in person, 2 votes online, total = 4 votes

ROBERTS abstained from voting.

With all votes received and tallied, DROZDETCKII declared Violet Cieslik to be the successful candidate and the elected Director of Internal/University Relations.

DROZDETCKII issued calls for nominations for Director of Student Life.

No nominees received in the first call for nominations in writing.

Pascalle Ricard, Shahwaiz Memon, Manuel Centeno Duque nominated themselves on second call. A third and final call were issued. No further nominations received. All candidates provided candidate statements.

MENON said while campaigning for D. Finance he found that there is a disconnect between GSS and grad students because grad students don't know what the GSS provides. Has experience in an outreach club, wants to use this outreach experience so more grad students can benefit from the services the GSS provides.

CENTENO DUQUE is an MA student in biology, serves on the events committee and loves it, volunteers through the events committee. Sees this as an opportunity to have more of an impact for our students, has a lot of ideas for events, and says even if not elected, he will continue to rep on the events committee and share his ideas. Does non-profit work outside of UVic, specifically for microbiology outreach with children and indigenous communities. Passionate about making school fun for grad students and make everyone feel included.

RICARD has sat on a number of arts and music boards, including an arts and music non-profit that she started to create art events. Says she would bring art events forward but happy to bring the variety of events the committee would bring forward.

Votes received:
Pascalle Ricard – 6 votes in person, 3 votes online = 9 votes total
Shahwaiz Memon – zero votes in person, 1 vote online = 1 vote total
Manuel Centeno Duque – 16 votes in person, 6 = 22 votes total

ROBERTS and TODD abstained from voting.

With all votes received and tallied, DROZDETCKII declared Manuel Centeno Duque to be the successful candidate and the elected Director of Student Life.

11. Payment of Electoral Officer – Bernardo LEITE, Chair, Stipend Review Committee

DROZDETCKII relinquished the Chair. LEITE took over the meeting at 6:31 pm.

Motion: to approve payment of $1050 to Semyon Drozdetckii for their services as Electoral Officer 2025-26, inclusive of:
$150 for running interim elections in July,
$150 for running interim elections in January,
$250 redrafting the campaign materials and
$500 running a joint election and referendum in March
Moved: Stipend Review Committee Seconded: DUFORT-GAGNON
Discussion: None.
CARRIED

FARR, DROZDETCKII, LEITE, CHAPMAN, ZAMUDIO abstained from voting.

12. Election of Electoral Officer – Rosemary WEBB, Chair

    LEITE relinquished the Chair. WEBB returned to meeting Chair at 6:35pm.

    WEBB issued calls for nominations for Electoral Officer.

    Sam Fielder nominated himself. Being unopposed and receiving the majority votes for ratification, Sam Fielder was declared the Electoral Officer 2026-27.

    CHAPMAN and ROBERTS abstained from voting.

13. Introduction of the 2026-27 Executive Board

14. Other Business

15. Adjournment

    Motion: RESOLVED the 2026 GSS SAGM is adjourned at 6:40pm.
    Moved: REMPEL Seconded: RICARD
    CARRIED

~ Emergency preparedness: In the event a major power or technology failure disrupts the March 24 meeting, the AGM will be reconvened on Wednesday, March 25 at 5 pm.

X

Violet Cieslik
GSS Chair

X

Kyla Turner
GSS Executive Director