

# PAGSA January 2024 Executive Council Meeting

Time: Wednesday January 24th, 11:30 to 13:00

Where: Elliott 038 (basement meeting room), or on Zoom:

<https://uvic.zoom.us/j/4045074427>

## Order of the day:

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Minutes:
  - a. [Agenda November #2 2023](#)
3. Chair's Remarks Alexandre
  - a. Future meetings schedule
  - b. Financial report & GSS grants top-up
4. External Updates Ted
  - a. CUPE
  - b. GSS Jade, Jonathan
5. New Business Alexandre
6. Old Business Alexandre
  - a. Student Research Talks WG Bryn, Jade, Olivia, Jono, Simon
  - b. Mentorship for senior undergraduates Bryn
  - c. Tech Cleanup Update Alexandre
7. Internal Updates Aydan
  - a. Tech Scott
  - b. Academic Simon
  - c. Social Simon
    - i. Spring event
  - d. Student Affairs Adrienne
  - e. Sports Max
  - f. Reps Annabelle, Bryn, Olivia

Taker: [Aydan McKay](#)

Executive Members:

- Alex Beaubien - Present - In Person
- Aydan McKay - Present - Online
- Max Kurzner - Present - Online
- Simon Smith - Present - In Person
- Scott Wilkinson - Present - In Person
- Adrienne Scott - Present - In Person
- Bryn Lonsbrough - Present - In Person
- Olivia Masella - Late - In Person, 12:24
- Annabelle Czihaly - Present - Online
- Jade Fischer - Late - In Person, 12:24
- Jonathan Qualter - Present - In Person
- Ted Grosson - Present - Online

**11:35 - Call to Order - Mover: Alexandre Beaubien**

**11:35 - Adoption of Minutes - Mover: Alexandre Beaubien**

Second: Scott Wilkinson

**11:35 - Chair's Remarks - Mover: Alexandre Beaubien**

**Future Meetings Schedule**

- Meetings are scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month from 11:30 to 13:00 in Elliott 038 or on Zoom

**Financial report & GSS grants top-up**

- The bank account has \$330.96, the expected GSS top-up is \$200 for a total of \$530.96
- Money spent since the beginning of the semester
  - BBQ: \$110.63
  - AGM: \$30.98
  - Winter Event: \$279.04 (Over budget, bought a lot of food but it was all eaten)

- Department top-up in April will be \$450 which will go towards SPACE talks, Software Plumbing, and *academic* events throughout the summer and beyond
- Social Fund will be \$251.96 + \$200 (conditional on GSS application)
  - Big enough for some large events this year
- Academic Fund until April: \$80 -> software plumbing ~\$20/event

### **11:45 - External Updates - Alex Beaubien**

### **11:45 - CUPE - Ted Grosson**

#### **Things brought up at the last CUPE meeting:**

- The new TA hour reviews are not being followed across the departments: i.e. the end-of-term review is not being handed out, just the mid-term review.
- CUPE General meeting on January 25th to vote on bylaw changes that weren't passed at the last AGM, Jono will attend as Ted cannot.
- The campaign for RA unionization is fully public at this point. There was an event yesterday (January 23rd) on the quad
  - People are reaching out to graduate students, RA is not represented by a union
- Event at Whistle Buoy on January 25th for RA Unionization

Question (Annabelle): Are UBC students included in this RA unionization?

Answer: TRIUMF students are not included in part of the union as the funding comes from UBC

Bryn Motioned to have the RA unionization endorsed by PAGSA

Ted seconded

9 for

0 against

1 abstained

**Motion passed**

### **11:54 - Old Business - Alex Beaubien**

### **Student Research Talks - Simon**

- Meeting took place Jan 25th, 1-2pm
- Tentative schedule was decided on where the rough format will be as follows: 20 min pizza/snacks + 3 x 40 min sessions, split up into half presentation half Q&A with 5 min breaks in between.
- Volunteer sheet will go out ~soon~ asking for presenters across all physics disciplines and phases of grad
- Will be held in Bob Wright, 5:30-8pm, either Mar 14th or 15th
- Event will be announced in last week of Feb
- Costs of food will be split evenly between PAGSA and PHASERS after the event

### **Undergraduate Mentorship Program - Bryn**

- The sign-up sheet has been distributed through email and discord.
- Current volunteer demographic is 1-2 people from each department and 9 from astronomy.
- PHASERS have distributed the form on their ends
- To be paired by the end of February. Length is up to the pairs, could go up to grad application time if wanted

### **Tech Cleanup - Alex**

- **Website** is under control now, permissions have been given to everyone that wants/needs editing ability. Aydan has changed the photos for the PAGSA exec and Cover photo for the website.
- **Google Drive** still is a pain to transfer ownership of files and the drive. Same looming issue of past members having access as each file needs to have the permissions changed manually and individually. Also running low on storage, may look into paying for extra storage on the website.
- **Discord** Still looking at how to handle previous members of PAGSA still on the discord. The best option seems to be to manually kick those who are no longer members by going down the list. Not a huge priority but important for cleaning up the space.

## **12:04 - Internal Updates - Alex Beaubien**

## **12:04 - Academic - Scott Wilkinson**

### **Software Plumbing:**

- Some confirmed and mostly confirmed speakers for later on in the semester:
  - William Thompson in March presenting a Julia workshop
  - Jamal Mohammad Khani presenting Quantum Computing
  - Sam Fielder on workflows and task management
- **In summary:** Work in progress, but will happen this semester
- Alex Beaubien may also still be present. There are plenty for this semester already though.

Comment (Alex): Dropbox for the slides after SPACE talks would be useful for people to reference when looking up what SPACE is about or remembering previous talks.

## **12:10 - Social - Simon Smith**

### **Winter event**

- A success! The budget is something to monitor more closely moving forward
- Suggestions for different-sized spring events:
  - Bowling - Large event
  - Skating - Small event, in planning already
  - Spirit Day - Small event
- Skating event poll to be sent out today, to see what days work best for PAGSA. - Expected ~\$6 per person

## **12:17 - Student Affairs - Adrienne Scott**

### **Website Page**

- Just about ready to be posted
- Need to figure out where to put the page, whether under the Graduate Student Manual or the resources page.

- Feedback form on EDI in the department or PAGSA draft is made, Should be sent out via both email and Discord soon.
  - Will be in Discord for comments and questions by exec before distribution.

### **12:25 - Sports - Max Kurzner**

#### **Suggestion**

- Some money should be allocated towards the different sports groups part of PAGSA. An example is purchasing a bike pump and repair kit for the cycling club. Other sports equipment would be nice for outdoor events like the Welcome Back BBQ. A poll will be sent around Discord about what the members of PAGSA would appreciate in terms of equipment for future events.

### **12:30 - Department Reps - Annabelle, Bryn, Olivia**

#### **Department Meeting - Olivia**

- The meeting for January was mostly about the undergraduate curriculum
  - E.g. Remove 248, Add a tutorial section to first-year physics courses
  - CAL requirements have changed so that classes that hold their midterms outside of class time may no longer be covered. First-year physics tutorials may be where the midterms can be held and in-class time to meet CAL requirements.
- International Students are required **federally** when applying for study permits to show that they have access to \$20,635 plus tuition, which is usually ~\$8000. Given that MSc funding is ~\$25,000, students now need to show they have access to an additional ~\$4000 when applying for permits.

#### **Department Funding Group - Annabelle**

- That funding group is not meeting anymore, probably due to RA Unionization

## **12:40 - GSS - Jade, Jono**

### **GSS Events:**

- Some events coming up, e.g. Pride events, will be posted around for information

### **From the GSS Meeting**

- The GSS is meeting with the operations committee on new grad student housing, there should be 500 studio apartments for new grads, but none of it will be guaranteed, expect a bit of a fight between GRC and the operations committee
- ECS and the library are getting upgrades
- GSS Core elections are coming up, nominations start in February
- March 19th is the AGM for GSS
- They will be closed for a reading break entirely

## **12:47 - Additional Remarks Before Meeting Adjournment - Alex Beaubien**

### **Student-Supervisor Relationships - Bryn**

Bryn motioned to create a working group for trying to parse through the documentation and resources on supervisor and student relationships and ways of conduct, trying to make it clear and available for students

Adrienne seconded

Unanimous

**Motion passed**

### **Department EDI Committee - Aydan**

- The Department EDI Committee has finally reconvened and is looking for a bit of a purpose currently.
- They are actively looking for members to join from Phasers and the undergraduate body.
- Will be hosting a coffee and cookies after the reading break.

### **Website updates - Aydan**

- Many website updates were brought up during this meeting that he will tackle.
  - Where to put the Health, Inclusivity, and Wellness section
  - Cleaning the navigation bar at the top of the website
  - Potentially adding a calendar to the website
  - Check the Website Wishlist

**12:56 - Meeting Adjournment - Alex Beaubien**