

PAGSA February 2024 Executive Council Meeting

Time: Wednesday February 28th, 11:30 to 13:00

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

<https://uvic.zoom.us/j/82433033792?pwd=MnRQcVpWSDV5YW1GbjhXdktaS>

Order of the day:

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Minutes:
 - a. [Agenda January 2024](#)
3. Chair's Remarks
 - a. GSS grant is approved (200\$)
4. External Updates
 - a. CUPE Ted
 - b. GSS Jade, Jonathan
5. New Business
 - a. Follow up on plans for end-of-term spring term events (we have money to spend, let's use it!)
6. Old Business
 - a. Student Research Talks WG Bryn, Jade, Olivia, Jono, Simon
 - b. Mentorship for senior undergraduates Bryn
7. Internal Updates
 - a. Tech Aydan
 - i. Minutes on website
 - b. Academic Scott
 - i. Software plumbing
 - c. Social Simon
 - d. Student Affairs Adrienne
 - i. Survey
 - e. Sports Max
 - i. Inventory/purchase
 - f. Reps Annabelle, Bryn, Olivia

Taker: Jade Fischer

Executive Members:

- Alex Beaubien - Absent - Regret Sent
- 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 - Present - In Person
- Annabelle Czihaly - Present - Online
- Jade Fischer - Present - In Person
- Jonathan Qualter - Present - In Person
- Ted Grosson - Absent - No Regret Sent

11:38 - Call to Order - Mover: Aydan McKay

11:38 - Adoption of Minutes - Mover: Aydan McKay

Second: Simon Smith

11:39 - Chair's Remarks - Mover: Aydan McKay

Extra GSS funding approved!

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

11:40 - External Update

11:40 - GSS - Jade, Jono

Election discussion - upcoming

- GSS SAGM March 19th 2024 at the grad house restaurant
- Open to everyone!

New regulations for international students

- Number of international students (cut 30%) but graduate students numbers will remain the same
- General Uvic funding will likely decrease due to these changes
- Number of hours worked off campus for international students will be returned to pre-pandemic levels
- Students currently on a visa with unlimited off campus work hours will not have a change in restrictions until visa is renewed

CUPE Unionization

- Aiming for 55%

FGS supervising policy is under review

- Looking for grad student feedback
- Physical anonymous dropbox will be open at the GSS or the GSS chair can be contacted

New student status: Full-time student with reduced workload

- Maintain full time status
- Allows student to reduce workload for events without losing privileges of full-time status for purposes such as a immigration etc

Support our science campaign is restarting

11:49 - Old Business

11:49 - Social - Simon Smith

End of semester event

- Meeting a Caddy bay for games and fun
- Action Items:
 - Determine food requirements
 - Similar budget to welcome back september event (\$110)
 - Decide on games
 - Perhaps split into teams
 - Decide on date (mid to late april)

Potential summer event

- Bowling

11:53 - Student Research Talks - Olivia

- Reduced event to 2 hours event
- Split talks into 'astronomy' and 'non-astronomy'
- Circulate registration ASAP following discussion with the undergraduates at 10 am feb 29th
- Room recommendation: A104 - medium sized
- Planning to book the lobby as well for pre-event food
- Split the costs in half between undergraduates (PASA) and graduate students (PAGSA)
- Estimated \$100 total
- Consider this an "academic event" to obtain funding from the department

11:58 - Mentorship for senior undergraduates - Bryn

- 11 pairs
- First event to allow all pairs to get to know each other and exchange contact information
- Left up to pairs to determine level of 'mentorship'

12:00 - Internal Updates

12:00 - Aydan Mckay

EDI committee event

- booked for March 1st at 1:30
- Coffee and snacks in the elliot lounge

12:06 - Academic - Scott Wilkinson

Grad Student workspace

- Grad student work space has been set up on the 5th floor from Monday-thursday to allows students to have a space to work
- Use the first floor lab key
- Fridays the space will be used for external researchers, thus not available to graduate students

Software plumbing

- Sam will be giving the first talk on Thesis template on Wednesday March 6th
 - Action item: Aydan will get food and drinks for the event
- Introduction to julia given by former grad student, william thompson
 - Action Item: book room for this event

12:09 - Social - Simon

Skating social

- Successful event, ran smoothly
- Costs PAGSA \$0

12:10 - Student Affairs - Adrienne

Mental Health resources page completed

Mental health student feedback

- Supervisors boundaries leading to mental health issues
- Students looking for clear expectation on work required for a week
- Considering event to discuss mental health for graduate students
- Reach out to wellness center or EDI center on campus to determine if workshops are offered
- Feedback may be passed on to GSS for use in the supervisory roles revision
- Continue gathering information on mental health of graduate students in the future to determine changes in graduate student health

TRIUMF students

- Students have to opt-out of UVic bus pass and pay for UBC bus pass
- Work on making the opt-out easier

- Students off-campus still pay for athletics and recreation fee

12:27 - Department Representatives - Bryn

Department meeting

Graduate student input

- Far fewer graduate students than previous years (5-10)
- FGS calculates funding based on 2 years ago, meaning budget for graduate students will be larger than required

Budget Cuts

- \$100,000-\$300,000 cut for physics and astronomy

New graduate awards

- New \$3000 awards for astronomy

“STRAC” policy

- Funding on sensitive topics (defense, Ai, quantum technology, medical and health technology, nanotechnology, etc) for topics we want to keep within canada:
 - You can't receive funding from those agencies if you are collaborating with at-risk institutions
 - Unclear on “funding” and “collaboration” and ‘sensitive topics’ definition
 - New students for international students that are still in communication with former supervisors from at-risk institutions then you may make your current supervisor ineligible for funding
 - This is a risk for large collaborations like ATLAS where coauthors may include authors from at-risk institutions
 - Most at-risk institutions are from russian, iran or china but this is list is not static and may change
 - End result: when applying for federal funding, you will need to attest that you are not working with individuals from at-risk institutions if your work is on sensitive topics
 - This will be checked with ‘random validation’

12:41 - Sports - Max

Looking into equipment and purchase for spring event

12:43 - Meeting Adjournment - Aydan