



UVic ESS Council Weekly Meeting  
 November 18th, 2021  
 ESS Office and Google Hangouts

Council Members not in attendance:

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### Territory Acknowledgment

We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəḡən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

#### 1. Call to order

This meeting was called to order at 6:03, with Jessica Hubbs (le telescope) as the chair and Sam Morrow as the secretary.

#### 2. Adoption of the agenda and approval of previous minutes

BIRT the agenda be approved for the November 18th meeting, as shown.

BIFRT the minutes be approved for the November 4th meeting, as circulated.

Mover: Jessica Hubbs

Seconder: Russell

Result: PASSED

2.5 Russell goes first today!

#### 3. Presentations & Private Members' Business

- Amelia

- Abdul went to a UPS (Undergrads of Poly Sci) meeting, they are lovely!
- Thanks Amelia for being here!
- They have noticed an increase in negativity towards poly sci students
  - Cannot speak to full extent of things, but they want to form a public response that is invested in a collegiate undergrad community involving all faculties
  - If the ESS has any suggestions pertaining to that, you can talk to Amelia, and she can put out her email too
  - Abdul broke the rules
    - We are glad you are here!!! Nobody wants negativity towards poly sci students :(
- Can we do anything to help?
- Discussion Points
  - Everybody loves Amelia's outfit

- Jena Wheeldon

- Climate survey done in 2019 from the faculty EDI committee
  - No fun slide transitions in the powerpoint :(
  - BUT everybody was very excited at the prospect of a powerpoint presentation
  - PRESENTATION TIME

#### FINGER RULES



New Topic



Direct Response



Point of Clarification



Hangloose



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- Jenna is the undergrad rep on faculty EDI committee, which is advisory to the Dean of ECS
- Meets every week for 1.5-2 hours to just know what's going on on the faculty level
- In 2019 they put out a survey right before COVID, we got the results analyzed by a psychology team, dr. [name on other slide]
- Only caveat is that we cannot share the results of the survey because we did not go through the proper ethics channel at UVic
  - Cant rilly go through what students said
- 556 responses, mix of undergrad and grad students
- 5 sections, based on things like how people identify, diversity groups, int/local students, and how people feel about the climate at UVic (where most of the data came from), how people feel about the policies, and the student work/life balance
- 7 main themes emerged:
  - Gender equity (reduce harm)
    - Support for sexual harassment (where to go for help, etc) (specifically from grad students)
    - Calls to reduce sexism & alienation based on identity, how people look, etc. (seen at a more social level (i.e. group projects, lab,s etc.)) (comments about male privilege, alienation/othering, gender segregation)
  - Education
    - Improve quality of education
      - Content, quality of presentations including better representation and better ethical standards for implementation
    - Increase the amount of education (quantity) including comments about needing more education on diversity (e.g., gender, racism)
  - Student support
    - Mental health resources
      - More materials, counselling services
    - General academic support
      - Flexible hours, professors need to be inder/understanding, academic accommodations
    - Social belonging



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- General comments about needing more assistance with career and educational prospects
- Diversity representation (increase numbers)
  - Recruitment
  - Cross cultural expose and inclusiveness
  - Calls for role models and mentorship that feature the success of minority groups
- Organization and institutional
  - Physical environment
  - Improve morale among staff
  - Better communication of institutional policies and mandates around edi issues
  - Improvements of policies
- No improvements
  - Reasons are that a focus on EDI can lead to more issues and diversion
  - Nothing, no improvements necessary
- Racial and ethnic minority equity
  - Calls to reduce racism
    - Comments about discrimination, alienation/othering, creating a safe environment, etc.
    - Mainly at the TA level that these comments were made
- Next steps
  - Inspire (new mentor program)
    - Psych team recommended a mentor to incorporate belonging and know-how for resource attaining
    - Approached by Dr. Dana (computer science prof) that just won a grant; half the funding goes to EDI program she wants to start and half goes to her lab
      - Groups from highschool and first year students get to do design challenges with mentors to promote inclusivity at the start to prevent issues later on
        - Ground up approach
      - Looking for ambassadors!
  - Suggestions from the ESS?



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- Questions?

- Abdul asks about inspire - the ESS got approached by Brad Buckam, and they also want to help with peer support
  - Students would be hired to facilitate peer support, more of a drop in space where students could come in and out, looking for opinions and suggestions
- Back to Abdul's question - if many departments are all interested in this, maybe we could make a solid working group to take this on and handle peer support and give options. I.e., inspire as first thing, and go from there? He thinks this could be a good start - that way they all get support
- It sounds like the Civil department is also starting something like this (they have an EDI committee)
- If this is in partnership with a peer support centre, that could be great too. Doesn't just help address students later.
- Abdul was gonna say, he thinks (could be speculation) but some of these problems may be exacerbated by the lack of ESS involvement with first years until very recently
  - This was the first year with ESS first year involvement in ~6 years with orientation and giving some sense of early support (rather than scare tactics), but it would be interesting to see the difference made with early involvement vs. no involvement
  - He also thinks that these are great initiatives and he is happy they want to work with us
  - [Second time Abdul says he wants to ask a question and then proceeds to not ask a question]
- Actual question:
  - Max asks when the next EDI survey is done that we can have access to most of the data?



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- - Currently getting up and running, probably not for around 6 months, but within the year.
  - We would love a copy of the notes to be sent to the EDI committee!
  - It seems like so many people have approached us about needing input on EDI stuff, and so many people have had this idea separately, so we should really unite this rather than have a bunch of separate watered down projects
    - If another survey happens this year, abdul wants to see the differences between pre-covid, covid, and post-covid first year inputs
  - Hey you reading this! Any ideas? Reach out to Jena! (email below in President's section)
    - Major props to the team that analyzed this!
  - Surprise topic?!
    - Jena is helping organize GoEngGirl, and a bunch of highschool students are coming to do design challenges!
    - Happening november 27th, and they are doing [from 1-4pm] an open house, design challenge, etc
    - Has reached out to all the clubs - including the ESS! Does anybody want to do a speech?
      - [Jessica is voluntold to give a speech]
    - If we have any swag, then any buying or donations would be appreciated!
    - A spreadsheet will be sent for volunteers!
  - Discussion Points
    -

#### 4. Updates from the Council Members

President

- Jena is here!
  - Thanks so much for coming!!!!
  - [jena.wheeldon@outlook.com](mailto:jena.wheeldon@outlook.com)
- UVEC this weekend
  - Issue - UVEC is happening during 2 first year exams that p much everybody will be taking



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- Graphics were wrong - we could move junior design to the 21st. Not many options for first years
    - Problem with that - no industry judges if we do that
  - We will take more industry judges too. Dryden would be an industry judge for programming.
  - Jessica does not know what to do
    - Talked to Jordan about how in next term maybe this is a VPI and first year rep job for the future to gather exam dates.
  - We may have gotten some emails expressing this concern, but they seem to have been ignored?
  - Moving just one event could be ideal - Sarah
  - If Dryden is willing to judge, just one event on Sunday could be a nice compromise
    - This would require convincing another person entirely to move that date. Should we do an informal vote to move one event [junior design] to Sunday?
      - Russell misunderstands and loses interest immediately
  - Facilities has not responded to Jessica about booking spaces - booking again for Sunday could be possible
  - INFORMAL VOTE: anyone opposed to moving to Sunday?
    - Jeremy says as long as we can get the space
    - We could also just host it in the lobby tomorrow if all else fails
      - Dean's office does not book ECS but we could book ELW lobby
    - Email will be sent to everybody tonight to make sure everyone doing junior design gets it
  - Informal vote passes? It was just kinda ignored
- NDRAVAW
    - Day to remember what happened in Montreal (polytechnique)
  - Cinkant, hold for now
    - Finalize with faculty
      - Abdul says we could probably just email them with a list of concerns. Ultimately they have no control over decisions, it's just the ESS.
        - It *does* seem like they want to meet with us, but if we have no other options..
  - Discussion Points
    -

Equity Officer



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- EDI workshop next thursday after meeting - PLEASE attend if you can!!!
  - Jeremy is getting sent to montreal that day
    - Thankfully he has done EDI with his work, but not with the ESS, not even last year
    - Abdul knows we used to do this on training day
      - Jeremy can do it in january!
      - EDIT: not necessary :)
  - Is virtual okay? If so, do we want a zoom link from LTD or do we want to host it on discord or something??
    - Yes
    - Clarification: would be streamed over the computers
    - Jeremy could join separately from montreal! [late night fun]
    - Do we want them to send us a zoom link or do we host it on something?
      - Yes, zoom link
    - [Max and Jordan rudely interrupt by talking and continuing to talk despite Abdul's **death glare**]
- Went over EDI Committee applications with other committee member, got five, choose who we think were the best fits, will email them tonight
  - Should I invite them to join our EDI training?
    - Yes.
- Student rep from faculty EDI committee
  - I'm hoping to more formally make the connection between our committees a thing. Maybe in transition docs? Invite to open meetings?
    - Jessica thinks that if they are in close contact and they want to come to out committee, then it should be good
- Got an email from CIVE student rep & Dr. Buckley about a new CIVE EDI committee. They would like to know what supporting student EDI initiatives might look like.
  - Uhm, any initial thoughts?
    - Jessica asks why are there so many EDI committees????
      - 4 or 5 now???
    - Abdul thinks we should have our EDI committee and we can either make a working group or have the EDI committee take on the big push towards connecting everything together. We also have Shayla for outreach and we can have everyone begin to draw up plans for these initiatives. Faculty has a lot of resources and cool ideas for this. We should centralize this and start this up. He doesnt know if this is something there is space for on the plate.
      - This goes along with Kali's last point with a faculty committee. There is a certain amount of open and closed meetings, and there would still be a



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focus on getting students to attend, but we should also make one for the purposes to be meeting with the student faculty rep and mech reps, civ reps, etc. IF they could just come and talk to the EDI committee, and we can all just meet and use that meeting (that doesn't get used enough anyways) which could be good!

- Jessica thinks this is a good idea, just sending an email in advance and saying to get people together, etc., and having our EDI committee be the centralized one for all the other ones.
- Jeremy says that funding and grants could be a reason for all of these EDI committees, as a show of metrics for contribution to the community.
- Was there a mech thing?
  - We have a mech thing (peer support) that Brad wanted us to start looking into; wanted to provide TAs
    - Correction: they want peer student tutoring, because TAs are a conflict of interest
- Should the meeting be included in communication in some way??
- Anything else to say to Dr. Buckley and the civil EDI committee?
  - Absolument rien
- 2 things:
- 1. There is 5 days of action going on, but Kali hasn't had the time to look this through. Has anyone looked through, to look for events to advertise?
  - No comments, nobody has looked at it (typical engineering students)
  - There was a leadership thing yesterday
- 2. Incident reports. Kali can't access them, and she doesn't know who to talk to about the form
  - Form is on the website, but the folder is private and very hard to find
    - Is there not a form for the EDI committee?
      - 2 forms: one for things inside this room, and one for things in the IRC
        - Kali needs access to both
      - Side note: Can we not make those two things the same?
        - Abdul can say why there are two, but this can be left to after the meeting
          - The secretary's fingers thank you
  - Little reminder that whenever probably Viktor has time, the contact page on the website was...
    - [Viktor cannot hear]
    - ...what is the status on the contact page on the website??





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- Viktor has not started on that
  - That is fine, it just got brought up again in the committee's meeting. Nobody knows what the EDI committee is, so Kali wants a whole section on there
- Non-ESS related: passed my class 5 road test today :)
  - Everyone claps!
- Discussion Points

#### VP Finance

- Funding secured (student fees)
- Postponing cinkant meeting w faculty until next semester
- Been busy ensuring uvec runs smoothly
- Might have to leave early (sorry)
  - [he did]
- Discussion Points
  - Expense review:
    - \$7819 - CELC Flights (total)
      - Shock and horror ensues
      - Abdul would like to mention this has been a thing that every other uni in the west knows - flights over the past week went up 400-500 dollars one way, and unfortunately this is a function of flying to the end of the country.
      - Abdul will try to find flights to Kelowna ASAP (ie, tomorrow)
      - We could bus (much cheaper)
        - Postpone this convo for another time
    - \$972 - Sweaters
    - \$356 - Costco Run
  - Adding finding out exam dates to vp events/internal portfolio? to avoid stuff like this uvec (on same day as 2 first year exams)
    - We used to do this
    - Thoughts?
      - Russell would know most about this, but Abdul knows Vikelabs has a sophisticated system with courses, and vikelabs could be making an exam date system?
        - Max doesnt know if theyve been working on this but they can discuss this
      - Comment: VP internal could be the best option for this portfolio
        - General agreement



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- Alex or shayla should add this to the doc before shalya leaves

#### VP Communication

- Nothing much this week and before
- Plans for the future:
  - Reorganize the website a bit
    - A couple menus are kinda hard to find. I.e. uvec would expectedly be in “news and events”, but it is in the “get involved” section
  - Organize all the important passwords and such better
  - Scan through all of my files and update the Google Drive a bit
  - Work on the contact page for Kali
- Discussion Points
  - Has viktor had any time to think about the statue that we were talking w/ faculty about? Like the engineering E or civil tree?
    - Had some time to think about it, no time to start drafting. Viktor can also look into that this weekend.

#### VP Events

- Bob Ross December 4th at 1pm
  - Pushed date; will allow for a breather
  -
- Discussion Points
  - Bob Ross: Charity? Fee?
    - Abdul nominates our place society
      - “A good charity” -Russell
    - Maybe a mental health cause too? For variety
    - Abdul mentions that keeping it local is typically a goal
    - Any fee suggestions?
      - 2 bucks
      - If we want to push the event as a charity event, should we up it?
        - Between 10 and 20 dollars could be reasonable
          - Make that 10 , actually

#### VP Internal

- Volunteer Thank you
  - Booked!



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- Fifth St. Bar & Grill (Hillside and Quadra) 7pm Friday Nov. 26th
  - Booked for 16, 13 people confirmed that they wanted to come, plus wiggle room
- Met with Rishi about CSCU/ESS Merger (ECSU)
  - What happened to SECS???
  - Rishi wants feedback about a peer support centre
- Lots of AGMR 2022 Stuff in the works
- Are we all burnt out or just me? :(
- Discussion Points
  - Exam Cram - Tutor session for first years, any others?
    - Any other big classes for exam prep?
      - ECE260
        - Wait nevermind, no final exam for this class
      - ECE250
      - MATH204

#### VP External

- AGM Stuff
  - Statement
    - They are not doing the motion
    - Want to talk with CU's and PDU's apparently
  - ~~○ I recieved an email from them after about talking with us one on one~~
  - ~~○ I said no, let's make it a meeting with all the groups to make it more productive~~
  - ~~○ They took the suggestion and have a meeting about it today~~
  - ~~○ Do we want to wait until we hear back or should we do something?~~
    - ~~■ Start gathering signatures?~~
    - ~~■ Reach out to CU's, PDU's, and other campus groups?~~
    - ~~■ Just wait?~~
    - **ON HOLD**
    - **MOTION TO GO IN CAMERA**
      - Motion seconded by Russell
      - Motion passed :(
      - **GOODBYE COUNCIL**
  - Also we are famous now:
    - <https://www.martlet.ca/uvss-says-motion-to-change-dals-to-faculty-representatives-invalid/>
    - <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/seagull/2021/11/10/what-happened-at-the-agm/>
- UVEC this weekend



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- Thanks to Jessica, Jordan, Jeremy, and all the volunteers
- Red Bull bringing stuff tomorrow
- We need a Costco trip tomorrow or Saturday for the snacks throughout the day
- Conferences
  - CELC Delegates selected
    - Sam, Abdul, Jessica, and Marie-Therese [CAN I GET NAMES RIGHT FOR ONCE PLEASE]
    - Flights have been booked
    - around \$8k for flights total (with 10% discount too)
  - CDE this weekend
    - I won't be there cause UVEC but it looks like it will be fun
      - Can reach out to organizing committee to get Kali in
        - Kali is very embarrassed
  - WEC
    - Registration due the 28th, I'll give the winners of UVEC the link on the 21st and they should have a week to fill it out
    - Should start looking at flights to Kelowna too cause things are getting expensive
      - Or buses
      - We could take the new BC ferries route to Kamloops
- 1-on-1 meeting with Regan (WESST President and CFES West Ambassador)
  - Everyone at all the eng-socs is burnt out
    - Who could have guessed
    - It has been across the nation, uniting ALL Canadians, Anglo and Francophone, coast to coast, across all disciplines
  - You are all doing a wonderful job!!
  - We need to schedule some rest/downtime over the next weeks and learn to delegate and spread the work out better
  - "How to volunteer" session in the new year?
    - Show options, try to get people out there. We need people to help us out, we are tired, and take too much on
- Discussion Points

#### VP Corporate

- He did stuff
  - Sponsors attained, +50 social credit
- Discussion Points

#### VP Student-Life



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- Updates
  - Scanned 152 exams
  - Setup a QR code for the online exam bank
  - Updated computer OS
  - Got slushie syrup into the office
  - Restocked menstrual and sex products
  - Helped with Cinkant
  - Fix “light thing”
- Goals for the week
  - Setup a reno committee of 3 people
  - Meet with committee and come up with a plan
    - Meet over reading break, order all the stuff
    - Any objections to this plan?
      - No
    - SURPRISE: Sweaters should be here today! Including pink ones!!
  - Call facilities and ask if they provide chairs
- Discussion Points
  - Who wants to help renovate (Must be available during christmas break, up to and including the 20th of December)
    - Abdul, Eila, Joban
    - Russell is also open to do things in January
  - THANK YOU TIM FOR NAMING 152 GOD AWFUL FILES.

#### First-Year Representative

- Event planning has been challenging - people aren't answering calls or emails but we are working on it, may need to push date back (hopefully not)
- Is there someone that can go to a store with a car for us to buy snacks, drinks...
  - Kyle can, or russell, and russell will tell kyle
  - Or another friend outside of the ESS can go
- How can I go about getting people to give a review session for finals - who can I contact
  - Are TAs able to?
    - Can email profs asking if TAs are willing to provide TAs
      - Clarify: TAs are paid
- People are concerned/wondering about how to declare and what discipline to choose, I think I will set up an info session next semester and maybe some upper year students could come and talk about why they chose their discipline and a how to on declaration (will probably receive announcements about it later though)
  - The discipline student panel!!!! Our best turnout first year event!!!



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- Just ask anyone from ESS council to sit on the panel
- Discussion Points
  -

## 5. New Business

## 6. Other Business

BIRT \_\_\_\_\_

Mover:

Seconder:

Result:

## 7. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_.

## Next Meeting

The next ESS Council Meeting will take place on \_\_\_\_.