

PGSC Meeting

May 20, 2021
3:30-4:30
Zoom

Attendees

Liz Williams (Co-Pres.; TAC)
Chrissy Robillard (Co-Pres.) (Incoming Clinical)
Helia Sehatpour (Sec./Treas.)
Lauren Matheson (Social)
Breanna McCreary (Social;UnionRep)
(Incoming Co-Pres.)

Eric Mah (CaBS, SP, INDV)
Sybil Goulet-Stock (Lifespan)

Yaewon Kim (CPA)
Tom Ferguson (GSS) (Continuing GSS)
Lauren Qualls (Incoming Co-Pres)
Alejandra Contreras (Incoming Sec./Treas.)
Erin Light (Incoming Social)
Brooke Lagore (Incoming Lifespan)
Elysia Desgrosseilliers (Incoming Ombuddy)
Maddie Gregory (Incoming CPA)

Call to Order:

Called by Chrissy at 3:30

Approval of Minutes April 8, 2021:

Minutes approved as read

Absent

Cindy Quan (Clinical)

Julie Prud'homme (GEC) (Continuing GEC)
Debra Torok (Ombuddy)

Member Updates

Secretary/Treasurer

- The annual PGSC financial report is available on Microsoft Teams.

Social Events and Student Engagement Coordinators

- The murder mystery event was a big success!

Clinical Representative

- None

CaBS, SP, INDV Representative

- The GEC passed a motion to approve the GEC’s handbook revisions. They need a standardized allocation process of funding. There was also a motion to work on curriculum reconciliation with the Indigenous community in Psychology.
- The GEC was updated about the community report and will receive it soon.

Lifespan Representative

- The Grad Advisor noted in this month’s Department Meeting that we went from receiving 15 tri-council awards last year to 5 this year. The Grad Advisor will be looking into the reason for the low number of awards. This should be followed up on by the PGSC. Receiving fewer tri-council awards may lead to less departmental funding for everyone.
- There was a record high number of applications to the psychology graduate program this year, and the acceptance rate was %4.

GEC Representative

- None

Ombuddy

- None

GSS Representative

- The issue of cuts to graduate entrance scholarships was brought up with the GSS Chair and was in turn brought up with the Dean of Social Sciences. The parties do not have the same information about the budgetary cuts. The GSS rep will meet with the GSS Chair again to address the gap in information.

CUPE 4163 Representative

- None

TAC

- The TAC job posting is closing at the end of the month. The role is wrapped up for the year and the report has been submitted.

CPA Representative

- CPA conference registration is still open.

Co-Presidents

- Faculty instructor survey had a great response, and we are creating a report based on the survey to be shared.

Minutes

Agenda Item	Summary of PGSC accomplishments over past year	Presenter:	Chrissy & Liz
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Discussion

Accomplishments:

- Established clear communication channels

- Created the PGSC website, Facebook account, email, listserv, Microsoft Teams, department newsletter, and maintained regular communication with department/committees.
- Orientation:
 - Student meet and greet, Grad Buddy Trivia Night, campus tour, takeout picnic
- Social events:
 - 6 virtual events – 42 students attending at least 1 event
 - Werewolf x2, Murder Mystery, Trivia night x2, Murder Mystery
- Combatting COVID isolation
 - Hosted Zoom work-spaces twice a week
- Advocacy and consultation:
 - Provided consultation and feedback for GEC departmental external review and Graduate Training Handbook
- Graduate student check-in survey and community report:
 - ~50% of students responded
 - Findings were presented in the department meeting, compiled in a report, and feedback based on the findings is being provided to the department
 - Sharing the findings with faculty and students soon
 - Will continue using surveys to check in with grad students and identify any gaps
 - Identified problems with TA positions; transparency in role allocation and hiring process.
 - Met with the department, the union, and other departments in this process
- Instructor/Faculty Survey:
 - 17 permanent and 7 sessional instructors completed the survey.
 - Resources for TAs are required. These include resources that help with:
 - Tracking hours, skill development, uniform grading practices across the department, paid TA training events
- BC Graduate Student Fund Initiative:
 - UVIC will receive \$630,000 to be awarded in scholarships of \$15,000
 - Over the next two years, 42 UVic grad students will receive scholarships from this fund
 - Will continue for the next 2 years
- Strengthened the Ombuddy role and presence:
 - Collaborated with the UVic Ombudsperson
 - Created anonymous contact and feedback form on the PGSC website
 - Increased awareness about the role
 - It is recommended to continue to increase awareness about the role (e.g., drop in Q&A session).

Moving forward:

- The transition manuals are prepared for incoming reps, and the outgoing and incoming reps will have opportunities to meet.
- Current reps are asked to attend the last department meeting of the year if possible.

Follow up on momentum of 2020/21

- Continue to work on gaps identified in the community report and instructor/faculty survey.
- Offer events to acquaint students with Ombuddy and engage on topics that are affecting their grad student supervision relationships and well-being.
- Continue better integration of GEC rep in GEC team.

New opportunities:

- Establishing more direct involvement in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives and Decolonization initiatives at UVic and in Psychology
- Explore the role of PGSC in supporting exceptional student circumstances including supervisor conflict, faculty misconduct, union grievances, etc.
- Solicit input from grad students (paid p/t advocacy position through GSS at some universities)

Agenda Item	Finalizing community report	Presenter:	Eric, Bre et al.
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Discussion

We are finalizing the community report based on the survey. We are working on creating a document outlining our recommendations to the department based on the findings of the survey. Other PGSC members are encouraged to look at this document and add any recommendations they find suitable.

The final task is to format the document.

We are interested in sending the report to all faculty to read. Particularly, we would like to make sure that the Department Chair and all GEC members read the report. The GEC rep is recommended to call her own meeting to address the report with the GEC.

Action Item(s)	Member Responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members to add information to recommendation document	All	May 27
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review general comments section of document for tone		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Format the document offline	Eric	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call GEC meeting to review the report and recommendations once it is completed	Julie	

Agenda Item	Breakout rooms for outgoing and incoming reps to review transition manuals	Presenter:	Council
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Notes and Recognitions

Welcome incoming council members!

Thank you to the outgoing council members and those who are continuing in the PGSC for all of their efforts and accomplishments over the past year!

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned by Chrissy at 4:35

Helia Sehat-pour

Secretary & Treasurer (*or proxy note-taker*)