Constitution of the Psychology Graduate Student Council

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Constitution of the Psychology Graduate Student Council

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The Psychology Graduate Student Council (PGSC) was established February 4, 2020 after formalizing and amalgamating existing student representative roles within the Department of Psychology. The PGSC strives to give graduate students a voice and a venue to be involved in matters affecting their graduate program experience in the Psychology Department at the University of Victoria.

Website: https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/pgsc/

<u>Email:</u> pgsc.uvic@gmail.com

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Sec 1.01 The name of this council shall be the henceforth referred to as the

Sec 1.02 The purpose of the PGSC is to promote and represent graduate student interests within the Department of Psychology, pursuant to the mandate herein:

- (a) Hosting monthly meetings, open to all psychology graduate students, to discuss issues and voice concerns related to the graduate student experience
- (b) Advocating for graduate student interests both at departmental meetings and by bringing forward students' issues of concern to the GEC
- (c) Organizing and facilitating orientation events for new students in collaboration with the department and administrative staff
- (d) Fostering community among psychology graduate students by promoting social events, professional development events, seminars, workshops, and research collaboration
- (e) Promoting and advancing graduate student work, in collaboration with the department

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- Sec 2.01 Any student registered in the graduate program in psychology for the duration of the academic year may serve on the PGSC
 - (a) Both Masters and Doctoral students are encouraged to serve on the PGSC; a balance of both Masters and Doctoral students on the PGSC is preferred
- Sec 2.02 Students who are not serving in a PGSC position are encouraged to stay involved and informed through PGSC events, monthly meetings, and correspondence through the PsycGrads LISTSERV

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Sec	3.01	Elections shall occur in April, with May serving as a transition month for outgoing and incoming PGSC members
Sec	3.02	All elections information shall be communicated via the PsycGrads LISTSERV
Sec	3.03	Voting in the PGSC election shall occur via online voting platform
Sec	3.04	All psychology graduate students who are registered at the time of a PGSC election are eligible to vote in the election
Sec	3.05	

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Clinical Representative (1)	1 yr.; May-Apr.	PGSC election
Lifespan Representative (1)	1 yr.; May-Apr.	PGSC election
CaBS, SP, INDV Representative (1)	1 yr.; May-Apr.	PGSC election
GEC Representative (1)	1 yr.; May-Apr.	PGSC election
Graduate Student Ombuddy (1)	1 yr.; May-Apr.	PGSC election
CPA Representative (1)	2 yr.; May-Apr.	PGSC election
GSS Representative(s) (1+)	1 yr.; May-Apr. (GSS onboarding in Sep.)	PGSC election
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Teaching Assistant Consultant (TAC) (1)	Aug. – Apr.	Hired by department
CUPE 4163 Representative(s) (1+)	1 yr.; Sep. start	External vote at union meeting
SCCT Representatives (2)	1 yr.; Sep. start	External vote of clinical students

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Sec 5.01 Co-Presidents

The Co-Presidents are the representatives of the PGSC and its membership to the Department Head, GEC, and other members of the faculty and department administrative staff. The Co-Presidents are sensitive to student issues and concerns, and play a key role in promoting community and academic success of psycholchHe, and pl

- (d) Managing and regularly updating the PGSC website
- (e) Regularly monitoring and responding to emails via the PGSC Gmail account
- (f) Preparing and presenting an annual report to PGSC members and to the GEC or department at large
- (g) Transitioning the incoming Co-Presidents, ensuring timely and complete transfer of transition materials

Sec 5.02 Secretary and Treasurer

The PGSC Secretary and T

Duties and Responsibilities:

(a) Coordinating the buddy system for incoming students in the summer (i.e., before their first fall on campus, usually in July)

(b)

- (c) Attending regularly scheduled department meetings on which the representatives hold voting privileges
- (d) The Clinical program representative is asked to establish and maintain communication with the SCCT representatives (see Section 5.10) throughout the academic year

Sec 5.05 Graduate Student Ombuddy

This position is usually served by a senior graduate student. The Ombuddy is available both as a peer support and as an advocate for all graduate students in Psychology. On a strictly confidential basis, the Ombuddy may discuss student problems or concerns, offer advice or guidance, serve as an advocate on behalf of a student (if requested to do so) in relevant meetings, and bring forth complaints or issues to the Department to pursue equitable resolutions for the student(s) and/or graduate student body in Psychology.

Duties and Responsibilities:

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- (a) Attending GSS assembly meetings and representing psychology graduate students' interests
- (b) Regularly attending PGSC meetings and reporting on relevant GSS updates
- Sec 5.08 CUPE 4163 Representative(s) and Steward(s)*

*The role of representative and steward may be held by one student or separately by two or more students.

Both the CUPE 4163 Representative and Steward roles are established at the first union meeting in September (which is mandatory for all students holding TA positions in the upcoming academic year).

The CUPE 4163 Representative is the Psychology department's representative to the A0 0 0.20 0 /0.5 ()] TJ E

Duties and Responsibilities:

- (a) Regularly attending general PGSC meetings to inform executive/general membership of relevant CPA updates as necessary
- (b) As per the CPA program requirements for this position, and in collaboration with the undergraduate CPA rep (if present) and/or PsiChi (if applicable), the CPA rep must organize and implement one event relevant to psychology students and the CPA within the academic year. In our department, this has typically been an information session for undergraduate students on the process of applying for graduate programs in psychology.

Sec 5.10 SCCT Representatives

The Standing Committee on Clinical Training (SCCT) has two student representative positions, one for a student with a clinical neuropsychology emphasis and one for a student with a clinical lifespan emphasis. SCCT student r

Sec 6.05 Protocol for Changes to the PGSC Constitution

- (a) Any PGSC member may present a motion to amend the Constitution
- (b) The mover shall provide advance notice to all other PGSC members of their intended motion to amend the Constitution, and indicate their rationale for offering the amendment
- (c) The mover shall present all PGSC members with the proposed amendment, which shall include both the Constitution section or sub-section as it is currently written, and the Constitution section or sub-section as it will read if the amendment is adopted
- (d) A two-