Council Meeting

JUNE 16th, 2026, 11:30pm PST

Zoom: https://uvic.zoom.us/j/82573348672

In attendance: Nicole, Bella, Hannah, Arjun, Valentine

1. Call to Order/Welcome 11:35pm

2. Land Acknowledgement

Chair offers land acknowledgement. For your information on Sunday June 21st it is National Indigenous Peoples Day. Offers opportunity for others to add where they are from.

3. Check-In Question

a. What's one thing you like about summer?

Hannah: Went to the lake, loves lake days! They like to cool off on hot days in the water.

Valentine: Likes taking walks at dawn/dusk before it gets too hot/crowded.

Bella: Enjoys that its watermelon season and lake days.

Nicole: Loves the lake!

4. Access Needs Check-In

a. Break at 45 minutes

5. Adoption of Agenda/Minutes

a. Adoption of today's agenda

Valentine: Moves

Nicole: Seconds

Passed by consensus.

b. Ratification of 2026-05-19.docx

Valentine: Moves

Arjun: Seconds

Passed by consensus.

6. Reports

a. Council

i. Operations Director

1. Hannah

Since our last Council meeting in May, Hannah attended the accessibility committee and they discussed current issues with accessibility on campus. The main points include problems with inaccessible events, and residence. Hannah also gave a talk on #Access4All, it was very well received, and folks were excited about the campaign. Melissa from Faculty Management would like to meet with us to discuss improving classroom accessibility (YAY!).

Hannah also met with EQHR (with Acorn) to discuss the Systemic Discrimination Complaint Policy; this is something we will look at more in the future when we have a bit more capacity.

They met with EQHR to discuss putting on a workshop with him and to share our resources back and forth.

Hannah was interviewed by the Martlet in regard to accommodations at UVic and the lack of student consultation.

Just so folks know Elizabeth Croft announced they are working on the new exam centre which they are going to put in the basement of the library (they did no consult anyone).

ii. Finance Director

1. Nicole

Nothing to report.

iii. Communications Director

1. Vacant

iv. UVSS SSD Representative

1. Acorn

Absent.

v. International Student Representative

1. Lauren

Nothing to report.

vi. Graduate Student Representative

1. Vacant

vii. Outreach Director

1. Julia

Absent.

viii. Directors of Council at Large:

1. Carolyn

Absent.

2. Eve

Absent.

3. Valentine

Nothing to report.

4. Arjun

Orientation meeting with Bella last week. Will reach out to Acorn and Hannah about PCR.

b. Staff

i. Office Coordinator

1. Bella Jacobs

Has been planning the Disability Pride Events with Kai, coming up in a few weeks (July 6th-10th). The initial post came out today, and the rest will come out this week (reminder posts the week after). We are finishing up making sure we have enough food/vendors/tables/chairs/tents etc.

Brass Iris do not have capacity to come to campus but will do a flash day at their studio for our community members, still tattoos as an option but just not at/during the market. We are exploring other tattoo artists within the community in the meantime.

Working on organizing the Mental health resource Fair (name change pending), currently we are updating the forms/email templates etc. We are connecting with UVSS shortly to get it integrated into CCU days and hopefully get funded for parking and food for vendors.

We are also starting to order SWAG for September, it is the best time of the year to bribe folks 😀.

Hoping to hire our Canada Summer Jobs person soon! We have two potential candidates fingers crossed that we can get one of them to take the position. We did offer the position to someone last week but they declined our offer.

Accessible first aid program – in contact with Steps Forwards which support students in accessing post-secondary education, looking at getting it run in smaller chunks over the week rather than one long day.

ii. Education & Administration Coordinator

1. Kai Punt

Kai is currently at First Aid Training; Bella will do her best to update everyone on Kai's work!

Currently planning all the workshops for the year (we are hoping to have all workshops and events planned before the school year starts). Meeting with LTI, CAL, Ombudsperson, and Hannah to get workshops planned and ideas flowing. Hannah and Kai will also be updating the Neurodiversity and Awareness Training workshop to present the HR and ECS 1st year program.

The Autism Peer Support Group is up and running for the summer semester. Kai is planning updates for the PSG that will run in the fall. Dawn from the Wellness Centre will be collaborating with us to train the facilitators each semester.

Bella and Kai have both been working on updating the website so that it is ready to go for September!

Kai is following up on the Campus Community Garden accessible bed, we will discuss who is going to maintain it and how we can make it more accessible. It is currently difficult for wheelchair users to reach.

7. Discussion

a. Campaigns

- #A4A Updates

Started our weekly social media posts, common misconceptions are going up this week! We have a 4 week break between our meeting this Wednesday and July 17th meeting. SWAG will also be involved for #A4A. Looking at how to connect with the new president in the fall. AGM in September. Hannah is hoping to work on an #A4A timeline for the website.

- Residence Statement

Lots of issues for disabled students! They are removing PCR in the 2027-2028 cycle, they are putting disabled students into the residence lottery with everyone else. This is the standard that they believe we should continue with. SSD is hoping to write a statement about this so student know what residence is planning. Bella will start something, then we will edit, and then approve via e-votes. Reach out to the Martlet too ☺

- Atlantic Crip

Previously discussed at Thrive meeting last week, a quick review below. The North Atlantic Crip Public Engagement Event planned by Christine a PhD student here at UVic. The event is about Capacity Building Through Deaf, Disability, and Mad Arts — Crip Culture as Knowledge, Methodology, and Praxis. She asked for our support in the following: designing the poster and social assets; running a social media campaign (copy + scheduling + posting); helping it land across time zones — the daytime Monday timing is intentional so BC folks can attend, and there's interest from community in Ireland and Scotland as well.

We originally responded saying no to supporting the event as we don't have the capacity and it is not a UVic based event, however we did offer to make one educational post to send people their way, and we could advertise if they wanted to hire a disabled student.

In reply Christine has said since they are a UVic student with SHRCC funding it is an SSD/Uvic thing, we have good disability facing student connection, and that this would connect us across Canada. They said they want partner with us on the event asking us to contribute the following: creating a small set of disability-facing social media materials for the event; developing accessible captions, hashtags, and framing language; creating one educational post or carousel introducing Crip culture/theory; preparing materials that Women's Work, RCA/LSPU Hall, MUN, Tangled, and others could also share; helping the event reach disabled students and disability communities beyond Newfoundland.

What are our thoughts now?

- Sounds like she needs an RA and this is a better role for one.
- We do not have the capacity to run a social media campaign.
- If we were partners why were we not included in the whole creation of the event?
- Some of our community is still uncomfortable with the word Crip.

b. Committees

- Pride Events Committee Meeting

Will be reaching out for volunteers soon 😊

- AIR Updates

Monthly walks starting soon – low key walks around campus monthly – Kai joining

- Accessibility Committee Updates

See Hannah's update

c. Upcoming Programming

- Mental Health Resource Fair

Looking to change name, possible stigma around "Mental health" and not wanting to out self as needing supports – possible names:

- **Community Care Fair**

- Community Wellness Fair
- Support Social

Council big fan of Community Care Fair as name

- September SWAG

We will talk about this during motion time below!

- Golf Cart – Camosun

UVSS DAL has approached as they want to talk about having a golf cart program at UVic similar to Camosun, safe walk has been failing disabled students. This would take disabled students around campus in golf cart. Would be a work study position, mostly for disabled and other marginalized students. In early stages – is the SSD interested in doing?

- Think it would be better coming from us than UVSS.
- Support with set-up, taking it on after it has been set-up. Do a booking system
- Would need to be a golf cart that can accommodate mobility devices.
- Might be worth seeing about a general community interest poll (eg, "would you use [service description]" if X?")?
- Bella will follow-up.
- Accessible First Aid

See Bellas update

8. Business

a. Motions

MOTION 2026/06/15: 01

WHEREAS the SSD has successfully hosted a Mental health Resource Fair for the past three years and wishes to continue this annual tradition; and

WHEREAS the SSD is committed to informing and equipping students with the tools and resources they need to seek support for their mental well-being;

BIRT the SSD approves up to $500 to host the 4th annual Mental Health Resource Fair.

Valentine: Moves

Arjun: Seconds

PASSED

MOTION 2026/06/15: 02

WHEREAS the SSD purchases SWAG and marketing goods in the summer for September tabling to spread awareness about our community and invite students in; and,

WHEREAS the SSD would like to purchase stickers, fidgets, buttons, pamphlets, and other resources (last year example budget: https://canva.link/kma099r1fumi58e),

BIRT the SSD approves up to $1500 for the purchase of SWAG for September 2026 campus kick-off.

Valentine: Moves

Arjun: Seconds

PASSED

b. Email Motions

MOTION 2026/05/29: 1

WHEREAS the SSD provides free snacks and meals in our space to support all disabled students; and,

WHEREAS promoting food security is a key priority of the SSD;

BIRT the SSD Council approve up to $1,000 for snacks and meals in the SSD space for the Summer 2026 semester; this amount has already been allocated in the approved Space Snacks budget line.

PASSED

MOTION 2026/05/29: 2

WHEREAS there have been student concerns about the updated AIP policy; and,

WHEREAS it is important for disabled student voices to be included in the conversation;

BIRT the SSD Council approve writing a statement about the changes to the AIP.

DID NOT PASS – 0 votes yes/2 votes no

9. Future Meeting Times

a. Council Meetings

- Let's plan our July council meeting, please fill out the poll below.
  - https://crab.fit/ssd-july-council-meeting-231264

b. Bi-Weekly Staff/Admin (Thrive) Meetings

- Meetings throughout the summer are held bi-weekly on Mondays.
- Next Meeting: June 22nd at 12:00pm
- All are welcome, mandatory(ish) for Administrative Council.

c. #Access4All Meetings

- Meetings throughout the summer are held bi-weekly on Wednesdays.
- Next Meeting: June 17th at 1:00pm

- Email Bella if you would like to be involved.

10. In-Camera (If needed)

11. Adjournment 12:38pm

Thank you for coming!