Society for Students with a Disability

Council Meeting Agenda

AUGUST 20TH 2026, 3:00pm PST

In-person: Campus Community Garden
Zoom: https://uvic.zoom.us/j/89495558371

In attendance: Bella, Kai, Arjun, Nicole, Lauren, Ame, Julia, Hannah, Acorn

1. Call to Order/Welcome 3:06pm

2. Land Acknowledgement

The Chair provided a land acknowledgement. Beginning with the next meeting, Council members will be invited to take turns delivering the land acknowledgement, similar to the practice at GSS Board meetings and Coordinator Meetings.

3. Access Needs Check-In

a. Break at 45 minutes

Outside today. If it is too hot we will go back to the SSD or end the meeting early.

4. Adoption of Agenda/Minutes

a. Adoption of today's agenda

Move: Nicole

Second: Julia

PASSED BY CONSENSUS

b. Ratification of 2026-07-16 - Minutes.docx

Move: Nicole

Second: Julia

PASSED BY CONSENSUS

5. Reports

a. Council

i. Operations Director

1. Hannah

Advocacy update: Advocacy work has continued as usual. The Council discussed the At-Risk policy over the last few weeks, and Hannah will raise the matter with the GSS Board to determine whether they would like to contribute.

CUPE 4163 is interested in hosting an ableism workshop as part of Five Days of Action. Planning is also underway for the Post-Secondary Disability Symposium.

Arjun asked about a potential collaboration with Pride. Pride is hosting an Advocacy 101 workshop and has invited SSD to consider becoming a collaborator.

Bella noted that SSD is already collaborating with Pride on the Advocacy and Affiliate Group Meet and Greet taking place on September 22. This is a different event! (Bella was confused, sorry!)

Kai shared that Liya had reached out to ask how SSD would like to be involved. Kai suggested that SSD could contribute information specific to disability advocacy and bring A4A pamphlets to the event.

Bella suggested bringing the collaboration forward as a motion on the agenda (thank you to Rjun for writing it).

ii. Finance Director

1. Nicole

We are doing well financially, but we may go into our trust this year. This is a good thing, as we want to be able to dip into it. We built up the trust because we were closed in 2020. Usually, we would not want to keep such a large trust, but we do like having a little bit of safety money.

iii. Communications Director

1. Vacant

iv. UVSS SSD Representative

1. Vacant

v. International Student Representative

1. Lauren

We have the International Student Welcome on September 3rd. Kai, Bella, or anyone else who would like to table, please do. There is a sign-up on the tabling sheet that Kai made in Teams. Lauren connected with Cherop, the International Student Director for the UVSS.

vi. Graduate Student Representative

1. Vacant

vii. Outreach Director

1. Julia

Have been going to meetings and will be doing an #A4A info session in September 😊. Will also be making an outreach form for people to submit feedback or ask questions to the SSD.

viii. Directors of Council at Large:

1. Carolyn
    a. Absent
2. Eve
    a. Absent
3. Valentine
    a. Absent
4. Arjun

Not much to report. The big things he has been looking at are residence and the PCR (Priority Consideration) process for housing. He is collecting a list of questions to figure out what we can ask Residence. He is also looking into what the new PCR proposal is and how we can make it better. We also have a new Accessibility Committee Representative (YAY!).

5. Acorn

Still the SSD rep on U-Pass Appeals, which only meets once a semester. Did not get the jobs they applied to yet and is applying to work-study, so cannot join the UVSS Board Rep until after.

Noticed that the SSD does not have a representative on the Ombudsperson Committee, which is a service many disabled students use. Asked if we should have an Ombudsperson Representative.

Hannah: Yes! Let's do it. It should not be the same person as the Board Rep.

b. Staff

i. Office Coordinator

1. Bella Jacobs

A thank-you card for Robbie is available to sign. Still working on the Office Coordinator role manual for when Bella leaves the role in the future, as well as the SSD Handbook when she has time (which is rare).

Working on the Student Life Grant for the Post-Secondary Disability Symposium and asking around different departments, including Graduate Studies and the Library, for funding/collaboration. Also working on the DABC grant ($40,000) for the Accessible First Aid Program.

Getting more information about the At-Risk Policy and gauging interest from other groups. Also looking for a UVSS Board Rep and may do outreach in the fall if no current members are interested. Working on the CSJ wrap-up report for Robbie and making a Fall infographic.

For A4A, following up with Tam for money and connecting Julia and Arjun to write a mission statement. Also working on the SSD, A4A, and PSG pamphlets. The SSD was nominated for an award (more info to come) and we are hosting the goat field trip on Monday.

Writing a letter of support for VDAC for a grant they are applying for. Haven't heard back from them on anything recently, but they reached out for support on this. Julia is following up with VDAC about CCF participation. There will also be a meeting with UVSS Communications, Graphics, and Campaigns, and possibly Allie, to talk about graphics for CCF.

ii. Education & Administration Coordinator

1. Kai Punt

For the Peer Support Groups, spent some time working on advertisements and met with the Peer Support Centre to learn more about what they do, compare what we offer, and connect with them. We want to make sure we are not creating groups that are too similar. Maybe we could also support them in finding facilitators.

SVRO has training documents that we could use, so Annette was emailed to see if they would be willing to share them. Working with Dawn to finalize the facilitator training and with Julia on the one-on-one facilitator groups. Facilitator sign-ups can be found on the website, Instagram, and Teams.

We have the fall workshops planned. For September CCF, the Elder request form has been submitted, Dawn is working on a burnout workshop, and we are waiting for Tam to get back to us about the keynote speaker. Maybe we could also do a panel, including Christine from Head, Heart and Hands Collective.

For October, we have the Five Days of Action, potentially with CUPE and towards the end of the month. In November, we have NSU workshops and the 16 Days of Action with GEM, including a zine-making workshop.

Also working on department outreach.

iii. Communications Officer

1. Robbie Honnell

6. Discussion

a. Campaigns

- #A4A

Working through our work plan and getting ready for our AGM at the end of September.

b. Committees

- AIR

Body Inclusive Yoga is happening again on Sundays 😊. This time, we want to be better at setting up the hybrid option. If anyone would like to go on Sundays and help set up the hybrid, that would be great.

We are also doing a community walk on October 8th. AIR will be at Thunderfest and the CCF. Climbing is changing their timings so that accessible climbing coincides with AIR.

- Accessibility Committee

Nothing new to report. If you want us to talk about anything specific at the committee meeting let us (Hannah, Arjun, or Acorn) know!

c. Upcoming Programming

- Tabling

We have 9 days of tabling in September. Please see the sign-up sheet in Teams!

September 7th (Stat): Bella and Kai cannot be there, so if no one volunteers, we will not be tabling that day. Whoever volunteers can take the tabling supplies home and bring them on Monday, or Bella is okay with bringing the supplies over Monday morning since she lives close by.

- Golf Cart Program
    - Working Group

Ame talked with the UVSS Group Coordinators about creating a working group. The upcoming motion is not approving the program itself; it is just a vote to allow us to work on it.

The UVSS Lead Directors met with UVic. One of the main concerns UVic raised was the lack of Safe Walks or the denial of Safe Walks. We want to get more information about this, as this oversight is impacting UVic students. So, we need a working group to plan out how to get testimonials, how to safely disperse the information, and how to turn those testimonials into a program.

- Award Nominations
    - Tabled to online discussion.

ALL NEXT ITEMS (except voting) WILL BE MOVED TO ONLINE VOTING/DISCUSSION.

It is too hot outside, so we are going to end the meeting for everyone's comfort. Thank you all for coming!

7. Adjournm ent 4:15pm

8. Business

a. Voting

- Motion to appoint Scrutineer and Electoral Officer.
- Nominations for Interim Council position:
  - UVSS Constituency Representative

b. Motions

MOTION 2026/08/20: 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 approve up to $1,500 for snacks and meals in the SSD space for the Fall 2026 semester; this amount has already been allocated in the approved Space Snacks budget line.

MOTION 2026/08/20: 2

WHEREAS the SSD supports the creation of a Golf Cart Program at the University of Victoria; and

WHEREAS the SSD seeks to contribute to the planning and implementation of the Golf Cart Program;

BIRT the SSD approve the appointment and participation of an SSD representative(s) to participate in the Golf Cart Working Group.

c. Email Motions

MOTION 2026/07/29: 1

WHEREAS the SSD did not receive the 4imprint grant for 2026; and

WHEREAS the branded fidget pop-it balls have consistently been a successful promotional item at Campus Kick-off;

BIRT the SSD approve up to $600 for the purchase of 4imprint branded fidget pop-it balls.

PASSED

MOTION 2026/07/29: 2

WHEREAS the SSD wishes to support the collaborative field trip to the Beacon Hill Petting Zoo and ice cream outing; and

WHEREAS this event has been a successful annual tradition for the SSD over multiple years; and

WHEREAS the event continues the SSD's collaborative programming with advocacy, service, and affiliate groups;

BIRT the SSD approve up to **$350** to support the Beacon Hill Petting Zoo field trip and ice cream outing.

PASSED

MOTION 2026/07/29: 3

WHEREAS the SSD is hosting the 4th Annual Community Care Fair; and

WHEREAS collaborating with the UVSS would provide additional funding, promotional support, and increased visibility for the event;

BIRT the SSD collaborate with the UVSS to host the 2026 Community Care Fair.

PASSED

MOTION 2026/07/29: 4

WHEREAS the SSD is committed to promoting student mental health, suicide prevention, and access to mental health education; and

WHEREAS Josh Rivedal's keynote program aligns with the goals of the Community Care Fair and the ReThink Mental Health Campaign; and

WHEREAS the UVSS Campaigns Department and Josh's organization have committed funding that would reduce the SSD's contribution to around $1,000;

BIRT the SSD approve up to **$1,000** to support bringing Josh Rivedal to UVic to deliver his keynote presentation as part of the 2026 Community Care Fair.

NOT PASSED

MOTION 2026/07/29: 5

WHEREAS the SSD holds a seat on UVic's Accessibility Committee; and

WHEREAS our seat on the committee has become vacant and we would like to fill the position;

BIRT the SSD appoint Arjun VedBrat as the SSD's new Accessibility Committee Representative.

PASSED

9. Future Meeting Times

Below are our upcoming meeting times, as well as the meetings that will need to be rescheduled as the fall semester begins! Our Thrive and #A4A meetings are coming to an end for the summer. Since September is an incredibly busy time for both staff and Council, I'm suggesting that we do what we did last year and postpone starting Thrive and #A4A meetings until the end of September. This would mean restarting meetings during the week of September 21st. Please fill out the following polls by September 4th so I can plan our meeting schedule for the upcoming semester. Thank you!

a. Council Meetings

- September Council Meeting: https://crab.fit/ssd-september-council-meeting-374325

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

- Fall Thrive Meetings: https://crab.fit/fall-thrive-meetings-835143

c. #Access4All Meetings

- Fall #A4A Meetings: https://crab.fit/fall-a4a-meetings-435170

10. In-Camera (If needed)

11. Adjournment

Thank you for coming!