

Gender Empowerment Centre Annual General Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2019

Attendance: 12 general members – quorum met

Quorum: 7 general members or 2/3 of active collective

- 1) Approve Serena as facilitator and \$75 for AGM Facilitation honorarium
 - a) *As per Bylaw 10.5 General Meetings shall be facilitated by an outside resource person, as agreed upon by the Collective, who is practiced in the use of consensus.*
 - b) Serena is approved by group consensus
- 2) Territory Acknowledgement
- 3) Introductions
- 4) Introduction to consensus decision making
- 5) Reports
 - a) Coordinator
 - b) Board Rep
 - c) ABBEY (Work Study)
 - i) Outreach and tabling at the UVSS AGM and in the SUB
 - ii) Presence in the GEM space
 - iii) Working on a CFUV radio segment with other advocacy groups in the SUB
 - iv) Looking for a radio host or co-host who is familiar and comfortable with intersectional advocacy issues. Said host will need to do several hours of training with CFUV. Potentially Bo and Mackenzie.
 - d) CHARLOTTE (Work Study)
 - i) World Aids Day Post, Maintaining social media presence
 - ii) Kombucha and Conscious Conversation
 - iii) Presence in the space
 - iv) Outreach in the SUB
 - v) Stickers printed
 - vi) Goal to get more people aware of the space
 - vii) Menstrual cups have raised the visibility of the space
 - viii) Art by people in the community for the space? What does the GEM mean to you?
 - e) MACK (Work Study)
 - i) Outreach
 - ii) Planned and ran TDOR
 - iii) Button design
 - iv) Bulletin board: resources from Victoria
 - v) Organized list of resources
 - vi) December: “The Emily” archive, organization
 - vii) Blog posts
 - f) LILY (Work Study)
 - i) Outreach/tabling: new student welcome, UVSS AGM
 - ii) Planning for library remodel
 - iii) Compiling list of free/inexpensive mental health resources in Victoria

- iv) Sitting on the National Day of Remembrance of Violence against women planning committee
 - g) Budget
- 6) Establish policy committee
- a) *As per bylaw 11: Policy ... Gender Empowerment Centre policy shall be established through consensus at Collective Meetings or a General meeting.*
 - i) *All policy will remain in effect until it is changed or retracted through consensus.*
 - *6 collective members joined and approved*
- 7) Community Agreements
- Re-word “systems of oppression” to be more specific
 - Make a bullet point version and display outside the space
 - Approve pending revisions and provide a point form version for the space
 - The community agreements were approved
 - Add a section about approaching the GEM office if not comfortable approaching someone on their own
- Transition into collective meeting -----
- 8) Menstrual Cup order -- out of clear cups. Last order, we bought 100 cups for \$1995.
- i) Up to \$1500 from products budget approved by consensus for menstrual cups
- 9) Condom & dental dam order -- no dental dams, no latex free. Working on getting lubricated latex for free.
- i) Aids Vancouver Island or Island Sexual Health for latex free condoms
 - ii) Up to \$1000 from products budget for dental dams and latex free condoms
- 10) Canva -- \$160/year for premium membership
- i) From advertising budget
 - ii) Approved by general consensus
- 11) New blinds? -- \$650 in furniture fund
- i) Quote on blinds for the window in the office, and potentially for blinds in the general space
 - ii) Group consensus approved the furniture budget for the use of funds for blinds for the office
 - iii) Look into getting a clock, an extension cord, hooks on the wall behind the door, and a coat rack
- 12) Funding Requests
- a) Red Umbrella Rally
 - i) Donated \$1000 last year
 - ii) General consensus approves \$1000 from the GEM events budget for Red Umbrella Rally, and request the money be prioritized to be used for honorariums
 - b) NDRAVAW \$100 donation request
 - c) \$100 out of event collaboration budget approved by general consensus for an honorarium

13) Event Proposal

a) UVic Greens - Women & NB people in politics

- i) Respond and tell them we do not have the capacity and feel that Elizabeth May is not the person to speak about gender non-conforming folks in politics

14) Charlotte Event Proposal

- KK Labia, non-profit sex education, menstruation, and consensuality book
- For every book that's purchased, two books are given away for free
- Host a workshop with KK in January potentially and purchase books for the GEM library

Appendices:

A. Coordinator Report

Outreach and Communications Coordinator Report 2018-2019

Space Updates:

- New name, new logo! (including GEM stickers & buttons!)
 - o New website, instagram, facebook
- We now provide snacks! (granola bars, fruit)
- We have menstrual cups!
- New books in library
- New plants & shelf in the main space
- Once again offer bus tickets for people using the space

Administrative:

- Developed resource manuals (housed in the office)
- Developed training manuals for new GEM staff

Outreach:

- Participated in orientation week outreach
- Added 80+ new people to mailchimp list
- Nearly 300 followers on instagram
- Doing outreach 1-2 times per semester in the SUB

Education:

- Launched gender diversity workshops
 - o Workshops provided to Pro Bono Students Canada, Faculty of Law, UVic faculty and staff at 5 Days of Action
- Sexual health workshops currently in development
 - o Providing a sex positivity workshop to the Office of Student Life in Feb/March 2020
- Began providing social media-based education (regarding sexual health, menstruation, etc)

Events & Collaborations:

- Held joint event with AVP: *Simple Tools for Skillful Boundaries*
- Donated to Pro Bono Students Canada's Trans ID Clinics in Victoria
- Held Trans Day of Remembrance gathering this week
- Kombucha workshop coming up next Tuesday

Tasks Upcoming:

- Library Renovation (awaiting a timeline)
 - o Need to choose colour of accent wall
- Ordering more GEM swag and making more GEM buttons
- NDRAVAW event Dec 4
- Organize storage unit & archives
- More social media education – World AIDS Day, NDRAVAW, etc

B. Community Agreements

Gender Empowerment (GEM) Centre Community Agreements

UVic and GEM reside on stolen Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ lands. GEM recognizes the ways in which colonization has impacted and continues to impact our concepts of gender and sexuality, most notably through the colonial creation of the gender binary and the fostering of systems of oppression. We actively work to keep this in the forefront of our minds in the work we do.

Please note that this space is for and actively centres self-identified women, non-binary, and gender nonconforming folks.

Language & Communication

- Don't assume people's pronouns – ask folks what their pronouns are and share your own.
 - If you do not know someone's pronouns, use neutral pronouns (ie they/them/theirs) until you confirm what their pronouns are.
- Use anti-oppressive and respectful language.
 - We do our best to foster a space for learning. We strive to respond in a compassionate and educational way when people make mistakes.

Respect

- Respect the space you are using and the land you are on, if you are a settler. We encourage folks to actively think about their relationship to this land. We are happy to foster conversations about this and can direct you to further resources in our library and online if requested.
- Clean up after yourself – this includes washing your dishes and tidying up after yourself.
- Mark personal food items in the fridge. Items for everyone should also be marked as such.
- Consume food at the table in the lounge instead of in the library to reduce mess.
- Return GEM items to their appropriate places.

Accessibility & Accountability

- The GEM is a scent-free space. Please refrain from wearing scented products while in the GEM.
- If you have any access needs, please chat with us or send us an email so that we can make this space more accessible to you.
- GEM recognizes that all folks come from different backgrounds and are in different stages of their learning journeys.

- When appropriate, we do our best to call each other in and hold each other accountable in a caring way.
- If you are actively using oppressive language in intentionally harmful ways and do not respond to our attempts to call you in and hold you accountable for your words and actions, you may be asked to leave the space.

If you have questions about anti-oppression, intersectional feminism, inclusive language, or any other related topics, we are always happy to chat with you about these things. Pop into the office or send us an email at gemcentre@uvss.ca.