



society of graduate & professional students
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS LOCAL 27

MINUTES

Society of Graduate and Professional Students' Council
Local 27 of the Canadian Federation of Students

Tuesday January 13th, 2015 @ 5:30PM

McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentations

- a. Proposed JDUC Long-term Plan – Troy Sherman & Allison Williams

Troy and Allison: Presentation about long term plan for the JDUC. Engaging in consultation on revitalization project for the JDUC to meet needs of students today, including looking at more commercial tenant space, bookable space, student space, efficiencies between JDUC and PEC, enhancing circulation in the building. Shoalts and Zaback architects have provided preliminary plans for consideration. The plan is not set and can be changed throughout the consultation process. Video fly-through of plans shown to council. Some new features include a staircase to access each floor, adding more natural light, and an elevator.

Kevin: What is the timing for this project?

Troy and Allison: Plan will be in place hopefully by April. Fundraising for it would hopefully occur in tandem with PEC project, but because fundraising timeline is uncertain, there is no explicit timeline for the whole project yet.

Tabitha: If some large spaces are sectioned into smaller study rooms, where would student conference space be moved?

Troy and Allison: Smaller rooms on lower level would become large rooms that could be used for conferences.

Michael: Why turn large spaces into smaller rooms and smaller rooms into large rooms?

Troy and Allison: The bridges and hallways that would be added enhance the flow of traffic and circulation in the building so there is less separation.

Lorne: Where would this leave JDUC in terms of AODA compliance?

Troy and Allison: Just signed contract to audit university for this and will identify AODA concerns and also the cost of any changes for it. So we will make sure that any renovations comply. The accessibility committee is also being consulted on this issue.

Chris: Talked about PEC and JDUC connection, but what is the plan for the PEC in this process?

Troy and Allison: We are less involved in the PEC project but it will probably be a similar student hub like the JDUC and we hope that some of the university office space from here moves into PEC and that the HCDS health center can be reintroduced into PEC. That is best-case scenario, which would still have to undergo consultation. The university knows about what we are planning with JDUC so that any PEC plans will be considered efficiently.

Sarah: Beyond AODA accessibility, may also want to ask students about accessibility from their perspective. Bathrooms also are an issue for access here.

Troy and Allison: The bathroom issue is noted and has an even shorter-term turn around for being remedied.

Kevin: Will there be a written plan and map to look at?

Troy and Allison: We will have a portal online for feedback and some town halls with the architect.

Julian: The new elevator block runs through the residence building. Would that building stay as a residence?

Troy and Allison: Architect has suggested that it doesn't make sense to use that space as a residence, but we would have to find somewhere else to put those beds. Even if it stays as a residence though, it would still be helpful to have the elevator.

Kevin: Does the plan include any basement-level changes?

Troy and Allison: None right now. Everything in the basement is the Underground or services-related. So we would not be particularly involved in changing those.

2. Adoption of the Agenda & Minutes

Thompson: Would like to amend the agenda by adding an item. Would like to add a new motion as the first under "Main Motions" that "BIRT SGPS council approve Erica Baker as Equity Commissioner".

MOTION

01/13/15:1

Moved: Thompson (vpp@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Kevin

BIRT the amended agenda for January 13th, 2015 Council meeting be adopted.
Motion carried.

MOTION

01/13/15:2

Moved: Julian (julian.chesterman@chee.queensu.ca)
Seconded: Tabitha

BIRT the minutes for December 9th, 2014 Council meeting be accepted.
Motion carried.

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

- a. President – Kevin Weiner (report attached)
- b. VP Graduate – Dinah Jansen (report attached)
- c. VP Professional – Thompson Hamilton (report attached)
- d. VP Campaigns & Community Affairs – Lorne Beswick (report attached)
- e. VP Finance & Services – Patrick Gajos (report attached)
- f. Executive Assistant – Andria Mahon
- g. Speaker – Max Ma (report attached)

Kevin: Met with writing center workshop coordinator about what the writing center can do more to reach out to students, especially for international students and law students. Valerie may come to council to meet with us and get our feedback about this. Also met with the Provost about budget submissions. We may have a future budget meeting with the Provost to provide our thoughts.

Lorne: I contacted AMS Red Cross services and they have an undergrad version of OneMatch where you can get cheek swabs for potential future bone marrow donations. So I hope we can get grads and professionals in on that as well.

Patrick: The financial services committee has been considering the bus fee and student advisor program. That is in the works now so we may get a report ready in the next week or so.

MOTION

01/13/15:3

Moved: Thompson (vpp@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Julian

BIRT the Executive and Speaker Reports be accepted.
Motion carried.

4. Senator, Trustee, Commission, Committee & Other Reports

- a. Graduate Student Senator – Eric Rapos (report attached)
- b. Graduate Student Trustee – James MacLeod (report attached)
- c. Commission Reports
 - i. Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
 - ii. Equity Commissioner – Kuukuwa Andam (report attached)
 - iii. International Students’ Affairs Commissioner – Jhordan Layne
 - iv. Social Commissioner – Ciara Bracken-Roche (report attached)
 - v. Equity Coordinator – Erica Baker (report attached)
 - vi. Sustainability Coordinator – Megan MacCallum
- d. Committee Reports
- e. Other Reports
 - i. Rector – Mike Young (report attached)
 - ii. Chief Returning Officer – Peter Charboneau
 - iii. Departmental Reports

Eric: Graduate students have been underrepresented in the past on the Senate and it looks like we may get more representation in the future.

Ciara: To clarify the dates for events in my report, disco bingo is next Tuesday at Grad Club, Frontenacs game is on January 30, and we will have event on February 5 as well. Sports will start up again next week.

Michael: Met to discuss TA/TF designations as students or staff because it impacts access to disability services and have a followup meeting with the deputy provost. Also meeting with deputy provost of teaching and learning to discuss evaluation forms because right now you have to check male or female and we want to change that to be more gender neutral. We have tri-colour award nominees and will have recipients known by January 25.

Chris: Has the TA/TF union been consulted?

Michael: Not at this time.

David Thompson (from student advisor program): The student advisor program is a novel program and a flagship program of the SGPS. Very few schools have something comparable. Dinah has been doing a good job of promoting the program to others schools. We are a peer resource center run by and for SGPS members and we promise confidentiality. We average about 50 students per term. Some have small issues, others have multiple complex issues that can last one year or more. Issues are collective (unfair grading across the board), other times it is financial issues (got over \$200,000 for membership in retroactive medical leave, special bursaries, SGPS emergency fund), helping to defend students encountering academic integrity breaches, and breakdowns in supervisory relationships, so we look at a wide variety of issues. In July we hired a fourth advisor which has helped to even out the work and provide more

assistance to students. Our office hours have changed this term. We regularly meet with clients outside of office hours as needed. I also want to solicit support today. One year ago SGPS hired someone to study departmental handbooks. We discovered that only 35% of departments have up-to-date handbooks which is an issue because it can cause confusion for students, including what constitutes a passing grade. We showed SGS the departments that had the worst handbooks. Some of these may have made changes but a lot still have not. So I hope that I can send to you a checklist of what you should see in your departmental handbooks and you can go to your departments with it and see what is missing so that we can go through and update all of them. Only 11% of departments had complete web accessible handbooks.

MOTION

01/13/15:4

Moved: Julian (julian.chesterman@chee.queensu.ca)

Seconded: Eric

BIRT the Senator, Trustee, Commission, Committee and Other Reports be accepted.

Motion carried.

5. Question Period/Departmental Issues

Christina (ESS): Every September education has an intro BBQ. Faculty board wanted to know if SGPS always pays for it or if it is a year-to-year decision.

Kevin: SGPS used to do the BBQ but then it turned out to be expensive so we looked at pizza instead. Peter Chen said they were only going to do a BBQ and SGPS could sponsor part of it if they want. All of the money for this comes out of student fees either way. We put in about \$5,000 this year but the hope is that we may do a marquee event for all societies in the future rather than just ESS. It is an ongoing conversation. No decision has been made, but there are no commitments for the future.

Christina: With yearbooks, we pay yearbook fee but we don't receive them because we do our own. So we were wondering if we could get a fee breakdown to see exactly where our money goes.

Kevin: I don't know about the yearbook. The BBQ comes from the SGPS general fee that is levied on all SGPS members and 50% on ESS members. ESS students also pay its own specific fee. These are collected by SGPS and then remitted to the ESS when they need funds. I don't know if that includes the yearbook or not, but Queen's does not have a school-wide yearbook or SGPS yearbook. I'm happy to go over the numbers with you. Our financial events are open to all members to attend as well.

6. Business Arising From the Minutes

None.

7. Main Motions

Thompson: Our equity commissioner resigned yesterday. Erica is familiar with the equity commission and I have heard a lot of positive feedback about her work as equity coordinator, so I think it would be best to move her from the coordinator position to commissioner. I appointed her to commissioner and under policy I now request council to ratify that decision.

Eric: I support that but for the future I think we need to address that policy on this issue.

Thompson: I am looking into that as well.

MOTION

01/13/15:5

Moved: Thompson (vpp@sgps.ca)

Second: Lorne

BIRT SGPS council approve Erica Baker as Equity Commissioner.

Motion carried.

Kevin: We should harmonize rules for council and AGM meetings to have only one deadline to submit amendments to Speaker.

MOTION

01/13/15:6

Moved: Kevin (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Julian

BIRT SGPS Council approve changes to B.15 (see appendices) (first reading) (2/3 majority to pass)

Rudy abstains.

Motion carries.

Kevin: Would like to discuss the next two motions for P.4.1 and P.9 together, because they are related.

MOTION

01/13/15:7

Moved: Kevin (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Julian

BIRT SGPS Council consider the next two motions in omnibus.

Christian opposes.
Motion carried.

Kevin: These policy changes relate to various issues including changing how executive transition pay is spread out over time, avoiding elections and referenda when many students are away, changing nomination period timelines, changing requirements for by-election periods, making more components of the nomination package optional, and adding an appeals process with regards to nomination issues.

Christian: Can you explain the executive compensation during transition periods?

Kevin: There used to be one month of transition pay so that incoming execs get paid for that during their learning period. We changed the wording so that the same amount of one month transition pay is applied, but over two months so that the transition period is longer. Also clarified that executives returning to their same position do not get transition pay, but if they are returning to a new position then they would get transition pay.

Eric: Do people ever submit election nominations early?

Kevin: It only requires 25 signatures, which is not too difficult to get, so maybe some people want to wait but I think it makes sense to keep the amendment as it is and then we can see how it works this year if people all submit late.

MOTION

01/13/15:8

Considered in omnibus with 01/13/15:9
Moved: Kevin Wiener (president@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Julian

BIRT SGPS Council approve changes to P.4.1 (see appendices) (2/3 majority to pass)
Motion carried.

MOTION

01/13/15:9

Considered in omnibus with 01/13/15:8
Moved: Kevin Wiener (president@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Julian

BIRT SGPS Council approve changes to P.9 (see appendices) (2/3 majority to pass)
Motion carried.

Peter (CRO): Picked election and nomination dates to work with these recently passed policy changes.

Sean: Does campaigning end on February 10 at 12:00 AM or 11:59 PM?

Peter: Yes.

Max: We will change the time in the agenda to reflect that detail.

MOTION

01/13/15:10

Moved: Peter Charbonneau (cro@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Paul

BIRT SGPS Council approve February 11 and 12, 2015 as the dates for the 2015 SGPS Election and Referendum.

BIFRT the following timeline be recognized as conforming to the newly approved SGPS Bylaws and Policies:

- Jan 16: Nomination forms made available at the SGPS Office and Online
- Jan 29 - 4pm: Nomination period comes to a close
- Jan 30: Campaign Period Begins
- Feb 10: Campaigning Ends at 11:59 PM.
- Feb 11 and Feb 12: Online Voting

Motion carried.

8. Other Business

- a. DISCUSSION – Council Composition – Eric Rapos (for slides see December minutes)

Eric: My slides have been passed out and I just wanted to know if anyone has questions about them.

Peter: My department hasn't met since last meeting so maybe another month would give us time to talk about it and get back to you.

Rudy: Same for my department.

Eric: We already gave this a long time to be considered, so if you are meeting with departments soon, please let me know as soon as possible before next meeting because I want to bring this to council in February.

9. Notice of Motions & Announcements

Kevin: I called a special council meeting in two weeks to approve the referendum questions. There are three fee increase proposals. Patrick will provide recommendations. Sean is going to contact others to make sure requests get in to renew fees from other groups. The special meeting will be held January 27 at 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM in Wallace Hall.

10. Adjournment

MOTION

01/13/15:11

Moved: Sarah (8skmb@queensu.ca)

Seconded: Michael

BIRT the SGPS Council Meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried at 7:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Z. Ma, Speaker

Jonathan Samosh, Deputy Speaker

January Meeting Attendance		
Name	Department	Attendance
Sean Richards	SGPS	Present
Kevin Wiener	President	Present
Eric Rapos	Senator	Present
Thompson Hamilton	VPP	Present
Peter Charbonneau	CRO	Present
Michael Carter	Geography	Present
Julian Chesterman	Biomed Engineering	Present
Peter Gilbert	Chemical Engineering	Present
Chris Cochrane	Mechanical Engineering	Present
Mark Ramsay	Sociology	Present
Sean Coughlin	Law	Present
Rudy Schueder	Civil Engineering	Present
Nakkiran Arulmozhi	Chemistry	Present
Sarah Budd	Art History	Present
Robert Bentley	SKHS	Present
Yongfei Chu	Education	Present
Jessica Rich	Education	Present
Danielle Porplycia	Biology	Present
Courtney Holden	Biology	Present
Patrick Gajos	Law	Present
Michael Grossman	Psychology	Present
Chuka Achu	Law	Present
Ciara Bracken-Roche	Social Commissioner	Present
Korey Pasch	Political Studies	Present
Emily Cloutier	Art Conservation	Present
Tristan DiFrancesco	Industrial Relations	Present
Paul Warchuk	Law	Present
Erin Eisen	ESS	Present
Christina Hoffman	ESS	Present
Kristin Ostler	Rehab	Present
Tabitha Renaud	History	Present
Erica Baker	Equity Commissioner	Present
Lorne Beswick	VPCCA	Present
Dave Northeast	Physics	Present
Mike Young	Rector	Present
Jared Houston	Philosophy	Present
Ian Moore	Senate	Proxy
James MacLeod	Board of Trustees	Regrets
Dinah Jansen	VPG	Regrets

Megan MacCallum	Sustainability Coordinator	Regrets
Jackie Leonard	Pathology	Regrets
Kuukuwa Andam	Equity Commissioner	Regrets
Jhordan Layne	International Commissioner	Regrets
Fallon Bowman	Classics	Regrets
Jennifer Wigglesworth	SKHS	Regrets
All Other Council Members	All Other Council Members	Absent