



Minutes

November 24th, 2015 - 5:30pm
Wallace Hall, John Deutsch University Centre



Approval of the Agenda

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

A. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 11/24/15:1

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@sgps.ca)

BIRT the SGPS General Meeting adopt the Agenda for the November 24, 2015 Fall General Meeting.

Chris Cochrane: I would like to move Section IV to the beginning of the agenda following Section I, so we don't keep our guests waiting.

Eric Rapos: I will allow this. Any other changes?

Motion carried as amended.



SGPS & University Committee Reports

A. SGPS Committee Reports

- a. None Received

B. University Committee Reports

- a. Principal's Advisory Committee on Non-Academic Misconduct – Chris Cochrane (report attached in appendices)

C. Approval

MOTION 11/24/15:4

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@sgps.ca)

BIRT the SGPS General Meeting approve the SGPS & University Committee Reports.

The SGPS President and the Principal provided context for the session and the questions posed, and also encouraged individual comments via email. It was noted that the volume of cases dealt with annually by the SGPS system is very small; in recent years, it has been zero or one.



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The following comments/suggestions were made:

- increased communications across systems;
- the categorization of offences should be standardized across systems;
- centralized intake and record-keeping is desirable;
- peers can help identify students at risk;
- the inclusion of restorative justice is supported in principle; it should be responsive to the wishes/preferences of the person offended;
- conditions should be part of any agreement with independent bodies running sub-systems and could include mandatory training, an annual review, privacy protections etc.; and
- student involvement in adjudication is important.

Following this discussion, all of our invited guests departed.

Motion carried.



II. Executive Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Chris Cochrane (no report)
 - i. I was unable to submit a report on time, it's a long story, but I apologize. Thank you all for participating in the Non-Academic Misconduct discussion – it truly is very important.
 - ii. I have now been the president for 6 months, and am halfway through my term, but I want to encourage everyone to still get in touch with me if there is anything I can do to help. I am here to advocate on your behalf – there is no issue too small! As part of my position I sit on many committees across campus, and am one of few Graduate and Professional voices on these committees, so if there are things you want to see done, contact me, and I will be able to help, or point you in the right direction.
- b. VP Graduate – Mark Kellenberger (report attached)
 - i. In the first part of my term I spent a lot of time revamping and revitalizing the Student Advisor Program.
 - ii. Some of the things going forward include the IT system transition to Office 365 for the SGPS. Additionally, I am working on a Graduate Student Society Framework, which will become useful to departments wishing to formally



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become societies (the idea is to help with constitutions and resources). The SGPS has a lot of space and we want to find uses for it, so providing these resources will help clubs and societies be more aware of what the SGPS has to offer.

- c. VP Professional – Mark Asfar (report attached)
 - i. I submitted a very thorough year plan in the November Council Report, so please read through that for full details of plans to come.
 - ii. This has been a very positive year for the SGPS – there have been lots of revamps, and there is lots of potential for positive change. There are a number of issues that we are finding and coming up with great solutions for, so I look forward to reporting on these in the future.
 - iii. I will be calling meetings of the Human Resources Standing Committee in the new year, so if you are interesting in serving, please get in touch.
 - iv. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.
- d. VP Finance & Services – Christina Huber (report attached)
 - i. I will provide a more thorough update during the financial report.
- e. VP Campaigns & Community Affairs – Lorne Beswick (report attached)
 - i. Nothing further to add, other than that I have recently become a father!

B. Approval

MOTION 11/24/15:2

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@sgps.ca)

BIRT the SGPS General Meeting approve the Executive Reports.

Question for Mark K (asker unknown): You mentioned lots of space, can we rent that out to students?

Chris Cochrane: All SGPS Member Clubs can use space in the SLC for free.

Clarification (same person): Non-Clubs cannot do that?

Mark Asfar: All groups have access to academic space, however the SLC only allows ratified groups (AMS, SGPS, or departmental) to rent space. We are trying to find uses for our SGPS specific space, and one of our proposals is the ability to provide space for use by our members who are not ratified clubs. We also aim to create a study space on the 2nd floor of the JDUC for our membership.

George Calhoun: If there is free space that we aren't using, why not give it up?

Mark Kellenberger: We would lose the space forever and not be able to get it back if we did need it.

Travis Skippon: How easy is it to become a club?



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Mark Asfar: Single page form – very easy. We just ask that you are group that isn't committing criminal activity, and are not incorporated, and you are good to go – very easy.

Ciara Bracken-Roche: We often use some of the spaces for the Social team. How will you asses use, and how will it be allocated?

Mark Kellenberger: All space will be multi use with the exception of the study space, and we have policy on space allocation already.

Jared Houston (to Mark Asfar): We approved the anti-harassment policy previously, and I wanted to follow up if there was any more coming out of those recommendations from the report.

Mark Asfar: My year plan included several other things that have been completed in this regard, but yes we are following up indeed.

Motion carried.



Financial Report

- A. Financial Report – VP Finance & Services – Christina Huber (verbal report at meeting)**
 - a. Christina handed out the actuals, and introduced the report
 - b. Student fees are in!
 - c. We are right where we expected to be at this point in time.
 - d. Under the handbook, you'll note the budget says \$6000 but the cost is \$2000, this includes advertisement which we don't yet have.
 - e. There is still lots of revenue to come in.

- B. Approval**

MOTION 11/24/15:3

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@sgps.ca)

BIRT the SGPS General Meeting approve the Financial Report.

Julian Chesterman: What's up with the copier line for Sept?

Christina Huber: Students pay for printing in cash at the front desk, and this was just one lump deposit of that cash into the accounts.

Korey Pasch: How do clubs or groups get sponsorship?

Christina Huber: There will be policy coming to Council on this soon. There will be some groups each year that will be chosen to receive some funding.



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Jared Houston: Orientation Week budget seems to be a little low – did we save money?

Christina Huber: Not, not all of the expenses have come through yet. We may have save a little bit but not as much as shown here.

Julian Chesterman: The Capital Expenditures budget is almost all spent, but there are still plans to renovate, where will this come from?

Christina Huber: We actually plan to get a lot of the items from Queen's, which has a reserve of old furniture. If any adjusted spending is needed, we will come to Council to approve dipping into the reserves.

Mark Asfar: We're recycling; the University has a lot of stuff, we just need to move it. We are cutting costs wherever we can.

Julian Chesterman: What is the status of our investments?

Christina Huber: There is a lot of change going on right now, along with the audits. I am trying to get a better idea first before looking at investments. Audits should be done by January, then we can move forward.

Motion carried.



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Senator's Report

- A. Senator's Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Eric Rapos (report attached)
a. Nothing to add.

B. Approval

MOTION 11/24/15:5

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@sgps.ca)

BIRT the SGPS General Meeting approve the Senator's Report.

Motion carried.



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Other Reports

- A. Speaker Report** – Council Speaker – Eric Rapos (report attached)
 - a. I am working on cleaning up the Council list, and have removed some Councilors and am aiming to fill the vacant seats as soon as possible.
- B. Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – James MacLeod (report attached)
 - a. There will be more to come on the NAM front.
 - b. The Board has done a review of divestment, and has made a decision not to divest from fossil fuels – there is a link in my report.
 - c. At the Board level, I am pleased to see a focus on deferred maintenance.
- C. Commissioner Reports**
 - a. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Erica Baker (no report)
 - b. International Students Affairs Commissioner – vacant (no report)
 - c. Social Commissioner – Ciara Bracken-Roche (no report)
 - i. My name is Ciara Bracken-Roche and I am the Social Commissioner for the SGPS. The SGPS Social Team is comprised of the Social Commissioner, and three fantastic team members. An Athletics Coordinator (Prashant Agrawal), a Logistics Coordinator (Margaux MacDonald), and a Planning Coordinator (Jamie Summers) (more on the changes to the team structure later).
 - ii. Together, with input from the SGPS executive and through feedback from our constituents, we plan social events that range from family-friendly events like BBQs and the Corn Maze, athletics events like Wednesday Sports Hours at the ARC and curling and skiing trips, to social mixers at the Grad Club like bingo nights and end-of-semester socials. We plan several equitable, diverse and fun events for our members each month. We're always open to suggestions - we love to hear input and feedback as we are always striving for improvement.
 - iii. So far this year we planned a highly successful Orientation Week in September with all of our events selling out prior to the start of the week; athletics events including dodgeball, badminton, volleyball, basketball, ball-hockey, and soccer; and fun events like a mixer and trivia night, a movie night, with plans for other athletics events like a curling event, a skiing trip, and social mixers! We love seeing new faces at our events, and hope that all SGPS members will check out our events in the upcoming months.
 - iv. New business arising this year can be broken down into two parts:
 - 1. Our primary mode of advertising is online, and we rely on Facebook and email to inform students about our events. We hit a hiccup with



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Facebook as we are no longer able to invite our entire group “society of graduate and professional students” to events, and we have seen a slight decline in numbers as a result. We are actively working to find a solution to this moving forward.

2. I mentioned our team earlier on but it is not an entirely accurate description of the social team going forward. Our team was very concerned with the sudden changes to the structure of the social commissions this fall, and our own positions put forward by the executive as well. We are saying good bye to two members of the team, moving forward with a Social Commissioner and an Athletics Commissioner instead. However, following a meeting with the Executive Director Sean Richards, and VP Mark Asfar, we discussed a number of concerns and a majority of our concerns were addressed. And we see the new changes as being a new step forward for the Social Commission overall. We need more people for social events so while we will only have two initially moving forward, we have been assured that going forward the commissioners will have the ability to hire sufficient staff to meet the needs of the social team - this year and in all future years.
- v. Please feel free to ask questions or make suggestions for future events at:
social@sgps.ca

D. Other Reports

- a. University Rector – Mike Young (no report)
- b. Chief Returning Officer – Travis Skippon (no report)
 - i. Most of the CRO position is later in the year, so I will have more to report at the next GM.
 - ii. I did help out with the ESS Elections, and my take away from that was that we should no longer be involved with their elections.
- c. Departmental Reports (none received)

E. Approval

MOTION 11/24/15:6

Moved: Chris Cochran (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@sgps.ca)

BIRT the SGPS General Meeting approve the Other Reports.

Jared Houston: When will we have access to an up to date B&P document?

Eric Rapos: My hope is to have this done by the new year.



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Mike Mollenhauer: How can the ESS run the elections without the SGPS?

Travis Skippon: With the 2 year program now, there is some overlap and they should be able to facilitate their own elections. We offered help in the past as there was no overlap, but needn't do this anymore. The ESS constitution shouldn't be able to dictate an SGPS Officer of Council's roles.

Eric Rapos: Further to this, I offer my services if you would like some policy assistance in making the changes to a program with more turnover an institutional memory.

Motion Carried.



Main Motions

A. None



New Business

A. None



Adjournment

A. **Adjournment**

Motion 11/24/15:7

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@sgps.ca)

BIRT this SGPS Fall General Meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried – meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.



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Attendance (as this is a General Meeting, Attendance is only taken for SGPS Personnel)

Executive Director	Sean Richards	Absent
Executive Assistant	Andria Burke	Absent
Social Commissioner	Ciara Bracken-Roche	Present
Equity & Diversity Commissioner	Erica Baker	Present
International Students Affairs Commissioner	Vacant	Vacant
Speaker	Eric Rapos	Present
Deputy Speaker	Alan Awez Mohammad	Regrets
Chief Returning Officer	Travis Skippon	Present
University Rector	Mike Young	Absent
President	Chris Cochrane	Present
Vice President Graduate	Mark Kellenberger	Present
Vice President Professional	Mark Asfar	Present
Vice President Finance and Services	Christina Huber	Present
Vice President Campaigns and Community Affairs	Lorne Beswick	Present
Graduate Student Trustee	James MacLeod	Present
Graduate Student Senator	Eric Rapos	Present
Law Senator	Ian Moore	Regrets
Rehab Senator	Cate Preston	Absent