

Dear Council,

As I write it is my first business day on the job, and there is much to do already. I want to thank the outgoing Executive for their hard work in training me. The same goes to the Executive Director and the Assistant Executive Director. I have been involved with the SGPS before this, but it is inspiring to meet and talk to so many people who have a passion for this organization. I look forward to the year ahead and to doing some good!

Although I just started, I have been in meetings throughout the last month. These include sitting on the Principal's Advisory Committee for the renewal of Kim Woodhouse, Dean of FEAS. Since Queen's contract with Coca-Cola is expiring soon, a Cold Beverage Steering Committee has been formed, and I sit on that, too. These two committees are ongoing, so there is nothing to report yet, but more information about the Cold Beverage Committee can be found at: <http://residences.housing.queensu.ca/residence-services/the-cold-beverage-exclusivity-agreement/>. I was supposed to sit on the Health Sciences Education Award Committee, but I had to delegate that to another SGPS member when a conflict with the Principal's Advisory Committee arose. It was just a one-time committee meeting, but I am happy that we had some representation there, all the same. One thing that I have learned in this past month is that this university is governed by committees, and that the SGPS has to be sure to have a voice on as many as possible.

I have also been shadowing my predecessor in major meetings, and met many administrators and student leaders whom I have never met before. I will continue the work of past SGPS Executives in solidifying these key relationships.

There are many things that I would like to do to make the lives of professional and graduate students easier over the coming year. But the major goal that I have is to increase the prominence of the SGPS as an organization across Queen's. The image comes up time and time again: "Queen's is an institution focused on the undergraduate experience." In the five years I have been at Queen's, I have learned many things and have had many valuable experiences that are also part of this university—as I'm sure most other graduate and professional students have. When making decisions or even just considering student life at the university, people should think of us too.

So how to make it happen? Part of it will just be efficient and thorough representation on the aforementioned committees, and in other meetings. But we can't ignore the basics. So to start, I've set up a Twitter account that I hope will be a source of information for the Queen's community about my job—and vice versa. You can follow me @SGPSPresident. Also, I'll make use of a little trick I learned as a TA—I'll hold office hours! I've already met with some of our members, and it is useful and eye-opening to hear concerns expressed face-to-face. I will let you know by next month when those office hours will be, but they will occur both in the SGPS offices in the upper JDUC and somewhere on West Campus.

Finally, one more thank you: to you, Council. You give up hours of your time every month just out of a desire to see this organization run smoothly. As I have been re-familiarizing myself with our Bylaws and Policy, I have come to appreciate just how central Council is to the democratic governance of the SGPS. It's been my pleasure working with you as a councilor, and I look forward to more good work accomplished over the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Scribner

Dear SGPS Council Members and Members-At-Large,

I am happy to be addressing Council for the first time as part of the incoming SGPS Executive Team, in the role of VP Graduate. It will be difficult to leave my two-year post with the International Commission (as Coordinator and then as Commissioner), but I plan to continue working closely with this Commission, to support international issues on campus. On a different note, I attended last month's transition weekend (March 23-25), and I can tell you that this is a great bunch of people, and transition proved to be a great opportunity to learn from the outgoing executive and to build ties with the incoming executive. I know that it will be a fun and productive year. Below is a very brief (having been in the role for only 10 days now) report on what I have been up to.

### **Academic Affairs Standing Committee Meeting – Progress Report Motion**

The ASSC met at the end of March to review comments about the progress report motion that was brought to the last regular SGPS Council meeting. The Committee thoroughly discussed how to improve the motion so as to properly reflect its intended purpose. Hopefully, you like what you see.

### **SGS-SGPS Meeting**

Members of the outgoing and incoming executive teams met with Deans Brouwer, Rappaport and den Otter last week to discuss issues regarding: Student Advisor training (including feedback from Student Advisors); suspension of admissions into an academic program; progress reports; and policy pro bono (regarding pro bono Student Advisor work). There was much discussion, particularly regarding SGS' initial sampling of progress reports across campus/departments.

### **Student Advisor Meeting**

I met with the Student Advisors on April 3 - Irene provided updates and Alisha Kassam presented her Pro Bono Policy Project, reviewing and examining student-related policies and guidelines from 44 of the 55 departments under SGS as well as reports prepared by the Student Advisors. She subsequently made recommendations for points of action and change. The full-report will be made available in the near future.

### **City's Student Relations Communications Subcommittee**

I attended a meeting of the City's Student Relations Communications Subcommittee last week, which discusses Town-Gown issues with various members of the community, including individuals from the AMS and the SGPS (me). During the meeting, the Committee discussed move out and orientation. It became clear to me that this Committee continues to misunderstand the role/needs of graduate and professional students at Queen's. There is a conference that I will attend in *May, from the 13-15*, called the *Town-Gown Symposium*, and SGPS has been invited to host a networking break. If you are interested in attending this break, please let me know. This is an important way to make our presence/needs known to the community-at-large. For more information on the Symposium, please visit:

<http://tourism.kingstoncanada.com/en/TGAO2012.asp>

### **Other Points of Interest**

- *FREE Queen's sessions continue* at Pathways to Education on Weller Avenue until April 25. Please see the website for more details: [www.sgps.ca/events/freequeens.html](http://www.sgps.ca/events/freequeens.html)
- The SGPS International Team submitted an article to the Queen's Journal, which was published on March 30, regarding the importance of extending healthcare to international students. The full story is available here: <http://queensjournal.ca/story/2012-03-30/dialogue/health-care-costs-deter-top-talent/>

- QUIC's *OAIE (Intercultural) Conference* will be held on *May 8-10* at Queen's and an International Affairs Committee member will attend the conference and report back to the Committee as well as to the Executive. I will also submit this member's report to Council. For more information, please visit:  
<http://quic.queensu.ca/resource/oaie.asp>

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns about the above, or if you have any ideas that you would like to share. I still urge you to become involved, if not with the Academic Affairs Standing Committee, than with other committees/initiatives within SGPS.

Warm Regards,

Becky Pero  
VP Graduate  
[vpg@sgps.ca](mailto:vpg@sgps.ca)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the VP Campaigns & Community Affairs  
April 2012

Dear SGPS members,

It is with great excitement and a degree of apprehension that I take up the position of Vice President of Campaigns & Community Affairs. Not the least of this is that I am assuming this office in Anne-Marie Grondin's place, thanks to whose tireless work and in whose capable hands the VPCCA was rescued from its planned retirement from irrelevance. All of this was discussed in her final report to the SGPS Council, so I won't belabour the history of the position ... my intent is simply to acknowledge that she left big shoes to fill. I only hope that my feet grow to fill them quickly, for in them I must climb a steep learning curve.

Given the low profile and dismal turnout of the recent SGPS elections (or more accurately, acclamations), I have no reason to expect that many of you know much about me, and so shall take some space to introduce myself, and hope that in the process I might reassure this council that my particular talents are suited to the job at hand.

My home department is Physics, Engineering Physics and Astronomy, where I am enrolled as a doctoral student in the astronomy program, having recently completed my M.Sc. in the same. This hard science background will be valuable in consultations and negotiations with school administrators, whose most contentious concerns are first and foremost budgetary. Aside from this, it might seem strange for a physical scientist to occupy an executive position whose portfolio includes media communications, advocacy, awareness campaigns, liaising with provincial and national bodies, and other activities that involve a skill-set drawing more on communications than numerical manipulations and research. However, I have developed communication skills in the course of extracurricular activities both on and off campus: since coming to Queen's, I've been heavily involved in both issues-oriented (as supposed to partisan) grass-roots activism and political organizing, and in the local artistic and cultural community, both as an event facilitator and as an artist in my own right. Through these activities I have nurtured ties with numerous key individuals and groups both at Queen's and in the Kingston community.

From a more personal standpoint, Queen's means a lot to me. I represent the third generation of my family to pursue higher education at this institution. Queen's has been very good to us: had it not been for the education my grandfather received following WWII (an education paid for in full by the government), my family's history would have been very different. As a result it's important to me that Queen's continues to express the values of high-quality scholarship that have built the institution's reputation. Sadly, I have concerns that these values are eroding, here and elsewhere, in the face of budgetary pressures and business-oriented priorities.

Throughout the winter semester I worked closely with a small but dedicated group of undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty who became known as the "OcQpy" group. Together we tried to start a conversation on this campus regarding national, provincial, and local threats to the quality of and access to higher education arising from prohibitive student debt loads, rising tuition, increasing fees, and rapidly shrinking tenure-track employment opportunities (with implications for class sizes, the willingness of an aging faculty to instruct or supervise graduate students, and for the morale of a graduate student population for whom a future in academia is increasingly difficult to imagine). Due in part to our activity, we were able to sway the Senate to vote in favour of seeking a third, independent legal opinion on the proper jurisdictional boundaries of Queen's bicameral governing bodies, hoping to settle a power struggle that has seen academic concerns increasingly marginalized by fiscal considerations ... a story of which the final chapter is far from being written.

During my tenure in this office I intend to continue doing everything in my power to raise awareness of issues affecting graduate education at this campus, through on-campus educational campaigns, media communications, and regular, informal seminars covering copyright access and intellectual property rights, graduate student funding, healthcare, gender and racial equity, ethical purchasing and investment, stress and mental health, etc. I encourage all members of the SGPS to contact me with any concerns or questions they have regarding these, or other issues they feel deserve

attention within the wider Queen's community.

### **Transition**

Two weeks ago, the incoming and outgoing SGPS Executives spent a weekend together at a YMCA camp north of Kingston, where the incoming executives were given a crash-course in the history and structure of both the SGPS and Queen's governing bodies, important ongoing issues of relevance to our members, and the specific portfolios of our respective positions. We packed a lot in to a short time; personally, I emerged with a high degree of confidence in the new executive, a capable and experienced team bringing a diverse array of talents and a lot of passion to their jobs.

### **Canadian Federation of Students Provincial Meeting**

Last weekend, together with the outgoing VPCCA, I attended the provincial CFS meeting in Toronto. As the SGPS is the sole Queen's student union ratified as a local of the national student movement, liaising with this body is a substantial part of my mandate and will occupy a large part of my summer. Representatives from member locals updated us on the situations at their respective campuses; reported on the outcome of the Feb 1 'Drop Fees' national Day of Action, one of the most successful political campaigns in CFS history (which at Queen's saw a one-day occupation of the Queen's Centre); and presented research on disturbing provincial developments emerging from the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities, which seems intent on introducing a raft of radical changes to the organization and funding of higher education (and education in general) in this province. Also discussed were upcoming national and provincial meetings, including the CFS National AGM in Gatineau (29<sup>th</sup> May – 3 June), and a skills workshop in mid-June. I encourage anyone interested in accompanying me as a delegate to any or all of these meetings to contact me for further details.

In conclusion, let me wrap up by saying "Thank you!" to the outgoing executive for their tireless dedication over the previous year. I'm looking forward to continuing their work to the best of my ability.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Shultz  
VP Campaigns & Community Affairs



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the VP Finance & Services  
April 2012

It has been a great transition both leaving my role passing the torch to Matt and assuming my old/new role as VP Finance & Services all the while tending to academics. Given that I have only been in this position for three days now, I have very little to report so I would like to use this report to touch on some ideas I have for the upcoming year.

I would like to increase the visibility of the services that the SGPS provides. I am looking forward to expanding our skate lending service as well as creating new services. If you have an ideas, please pop me off an email.

#### COMMITTEES:

Although this is touched on regularly over the course of the year, I wish to encourage you all to join an SGPS committee or a committee in the larger University community. I will be sending a call out for members to join the finance & services committee in the near future.

#### CONFERENCE:

This year, the SGPS is hoping to team up with the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and Student Affairs (SA) to have a university-side conference. The long-term goal is to have an interdisciplinary conference that eventually opens up to external scholars to come to Queen's to present their work alongside our SGPS members. Alumni and Queen's students will have the opportunity to attend and/or present if they are interested. At this moment in time, I am looking to recruit some volunteers to help plan and facilitate this massive endeavour-please email me if you are interested in helping out, attending or presenting. It would be ideal if we could brainstorm for a theme that would allow all disciplines embrace ideas & present their information or materials.

#### SGPS 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY/SPRING REUNION:

Well, it has finally arrived. The SGPS will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Grad Club during the Spring Reunion/MiniU. I would like to invite everyone to the Grad Club at 9p to close to celebrate the amazing accomplishments of the SGPS. Take time to come & meet alumni who traversed the campus before your arrival. To date, there are over 60 alumni registered for this event.

In addition to the Grad Club festivities, the SGPS will be participating in the Reunion and we are looking for volunteers to help at the registration booth/table and to attend some of the events. If anyone is interested, please email me to add you to our volunteer list. [Vpfs@sgps.ca](mailto:Vpfs@sgps.ca) I hope to see many of you out there in May!

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Burford-Grinnell  
[vpfs@sgps.ca](mailto:vpfs@sgps.ca)

Hello Council,

It is with both great pleasure and great sadness that I am submitting to you my final report as Speaker. It has certainly been a great year, and I have enjoyed every minute of it, thanks to all of the hard work you have put into it. I know at times I have been a stickler for policy and procedure, and this can often complicate things, but I appreciate everyone sticking with me while we got things done the right way.

Now on to my report; I will be highlighting the tasks I have worked on over the year in this report, as it is my final report, much like many of the large reports given at the last General Meeting by the previous Executive.

### **Bylaw and Policy Revisions**

There have been a number of changes that I have had the chance to work with and oversee their journey to Council, I will list them here for you:

- E-Newsletter and Listserv policies were updated to reflect current practices.
- The creation of Rector Policy (see section below)
- Ethical Purchasing Policy
- A Major overhaul and reshaping of bylaws and policies took place at the January Council and approval at the AGM in February that moved many items into policy from bylaws allowing for easier changes to be made to things that require changes, making the bylaws a smaller and more concise document. A number of other changes were made, but mostly rearrangements and aesthetic changes were the focus.
- Stipends Policy was cleaned up, and grouped together by type of position. Additionally, we differentiated between stipends and Honouraria.
- A bylaw on Leaves of Absence was created and approved, detailing procedures on how to work with members requesting leaves.
- A large overhaul was brought forth by the HR Committee to address issues with hiring/review policies, and this overhaul was approved at the March Council. This included the creation of an HR section of Policy.
- Additionally, transition policy was created to help with a more effective transition process between years.
- Along with the other recommendations from the HR Committee, a new full time staff position was brought forth and eventually approved; the Executive Assistant (EA) will be an employee whose job is to assist the executive as a collective in performing their duties. Along with this new position came a renaming of the existing Executive Assistant Position (filled by Pam), to her new title of Assistant Executive Director (AED).
- Terms of Reference were added to policy for SGPS Standing Committees that had up until that point not had them in B&P. These committees were: the Academic Affairs Standing Committee and the Sustainability Standing Committee.
- A new section on SGPS Equity Policy was drafted and approved.

And that about wraps up the changes that have come up this year in terms of Bylaws and Policies.

### **Rector Policy**

One of the big tasks that I took on this year was the drafting and creation of policy on the Rector. Up until last fall, there was a severe lack of policy surrounding the position, and this was troublesome, and brought into realization due to events occurring the previous year.

With the previous Rector having resigned at the end of the Summer, a new election had to be held, and it was the prime time for the student governance of Queen's to establish the policy surrounding electing and removing the rector from office.

This involved several meetings with members of the AMS, as the Rector Position is shared by all students, meaning that we had to work in collaboration to come up with a policy that was mutually agreed upon. I worked closely with the AMS Exec (Morgan, Keiran, and Ashley), the SGPS Exec (Jillian, Andrea, Anne-Marie, Cody, and Irene), the AMS Commissioner of Internal Affairs Mark Preston, as well as Sean Richards the SGPS Executive Director to come negotiate terms that would be agreeable by all. This was a long process as we wanted to make sure that all bases were covered.

The outcome of this process was a full policy governing the election and removal of the Rector that was to be approved by both AMS Assembly and SGPS Council. I was present at both meetings to answer questions on behalf of the SGPS and was quite thrilled when this all came to fruition.

### **Rector Elections**

As a result of the Policy created, there was a joint body to oversee the election of the new Rector, and I was one of the SGPS representatives on the Rector Election Team (RET). We worked closely to collect nominations, oversee the campaign period, and collaborate with the SGPS to coordinate the two separate voting systems.

Additionally, I brought in my own personal background, and wrote computer software that would merge the results from the two voting systems and present one single set of results, obfuscating any society specific results, and perform preferential balloting on the results.

This was an experience I really enjoyed, working with the AMS to strengthen the relationship between them and the SGPS, which is always a good thing.

In the end, Nick Francis was elected the new Rector of Queen's University.

### **Student Life Center Council Bylaws**

I was asked to join the SLC Council Bylaw Committee as an external consultant in terms of policy. In this Committee we drafted a set of bylaws to govern the SLC Council, including things such as detailing how the meeting would be chaired, quorum for meetings, and other procedural issues.

### **Conclusion**

So this marks the end of my final report as Speaker, and the tapering off of my duties. All that remains at this point is acting as Speaker for the final meeting, and then transitioning my successor into the role over the remainder of the month.

The new Speaker is going to be elected at this Council Meeting, so if you are interested, please feel free to contact me for more information, and please spread the word to your departments. It is a really rewarding experience and I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Respectfully submitted, one last time,

Eric Rapos  
SGPS Speaker  
[speaker@sgps.ca](mailto:speaker@sgps.ca)



### SGPS Computer Network

- I have cost quotes for new webserver equipment. I will discuss with the new Exec and work with them to come up with a plan of attack. I will report once the Exec discusses.
- I had to replace one of the in-office backup hard drives. The drive had a bent read arm. I have fixed the broken hard drive so it can be used somewhere else as needed.
- I cleaned Exec laptop computers in preparation for the incoming Exec.
- I have updated all user spaces (mail/wiki/etc) for Exec members because of the turnover from outgoing to incoming Executive.
- I had to repair one of the office workstation computers. There was a bad sector in the random access memory (RAM).
- I completed necessary server-side modifications on our master servers for the transition of the Executive Assistant to the Assistant Executive Director (name change in preparation for the new Executive Assistant position).

### SGPS Website

- I have updated the people section of our website to reflect the incoming Executive.
- I have replaced all instances of Executive Assistant on the website with the updated position name of Assistant Executive Director. This caused changes in several of our forms and several other locations throughout the website.
- I have prepared the website for the upcoming call for a new Executive Assistant.
- I have added all available Commissioner and Coordinator positions to the website. I also needed to make significant edits to the job posting documents due to changes made in SGPS Bylaw and Policy.
- The SGPS Award nomination period is open. I have updated the website so the nomination forms are available.

### Communications

- I continue working with the VP Finance, Assistant Executive Director and Front Desk Staff to update some of our bursary application forms. This is very close to completion, after which time we will update the forms on the website.
- I completed significant work in transitional documents for incoming Executive members. I will soon turn my focus to improving transitional documents for staff.
- I continue to work with Queen's IT to work out kinks with mailing list services. I am making plans to ensure all mailing lists are kept up-to-date.
- I am working with the Office of the University Registrar (OUR) to improve communications between SGPS members and the OUR.
- I continue working on the 2012-2013 version of the SGPS Handbook (dayplanner).
- I have started work on the 2012-2013 Orientation Week Survival Guide.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Richards - [info@sgps.ca](mailto:info@sgps.ca)

### **Concerning Disability awareness**

- Met with Jill, Steph and Li to discuss the \$11000 surplus in the disability fund
  - o Proposed the possibility of using the excess to subsidize the Access Bus for SGPS members with mobility issues
  - o Followed up by contacting Access Kingston and trying to get more information generally
  - o This issue concerning the Access Bus will garner more discussion, to take place over the next month or two
- Also, attending the AODA Town Hall meeting
  - o Took part in a small group discussion regarding educational barriers for those with disabilities and how they might be addressed.
  - o There were many interesting ideas “put out there” and given in written form to the AODA organizers
  - o Also, there was a suggestion made regarding short videos that could be sent to the student population to help spread awareness about disability issues. This technique could be applied to all Equity issues. There is some email-discussion happening about this currently
  - o I have volunteered to be more involved in this process

### **Concerning International students**

- Met with Holly McIndoe to discuss UHIP/OHIP as well as issues regarding accent discrimination
  - o Holly and I have agreed that, if we are both in our same positions next term, that we would work together to help educate international students about their Health Care plan.
  - o The long range goal would be to get international students back on OHIP. I am not sure yet if I fully support this position (need to look into it more) but I am happy to help Holly with the educational part for now
  - o Regarding accent discrimination, Holly would like to focus on this as well next term. I have told her that I would be happy to support her, if she would like to take the lead (there are several other things brewing that I might do)

### **Concerning Anti-Oppression Training**

- I have a meeting with Human Rights this coming week to arrange official dates for training. Also, there were things that the contact there wishes to “discuss”. Stay tuned.

### **General**

- In general, this month I have been trying to make contacts, learn the ropes and get caught up on things regarding Equity Commissioner. I have a series of meetings to get to know people and have had a series of meetings as well. Lots to do!



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Athletics Coordinator  
April 2012

Hello Everyone,

### **UCAR**

This past month I attended two budget meetings to approve the budget going forth for the 2012-2013 year. In summation, the ARC is running at a surplus; varsity budgets have had an overall increase due to their successes and the fact they are traveling more this year; maintenance budget is also increased as the warranties on gym equipment has expired. Also, a budget has been set aside for the newly unionized workers (USW). Our ARC fees will increase by cost of living next year.

### **SGPS:**

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, six runners were sponsored by the SGPS to run in the CDC 10km Race. It was a well attended event and despite the chilly weather everyone finished the race.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Bowling Night: Thursday April 19, 2012 at Cloverleaf Lanes at 9:00pm  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/203787089731881/>

Frisbee Golf: Tuesday April 24, 2012 at Victoria Park 6:30pm  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/392823570741512/>

I wish everyone a safe and healthy summer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Meaghan Frauts  
Athletics Coordinator

I was appointed Chief Returning Officer (CRO) 2nd week of August 2010 and continued as CRO until the end of April 2012.

In September ESS positions were acclaimed within accordance with the ESS constitution. EGSS nominating representative CJ Dalton and Career and Recruitment Advisor and TORF Registrar, Elspeth Morgan were extremely helpful in the process. There is always difficulty with the nomination period and transition to elections caused by short time period that the ESS students are actually on campus, the timeline for elections outlined in the ESS constitution, and the poor transitional set-up from the outgoing ESS to the in-coming ESS. My recommendations are as follow to ease the transition from year to year for the ESS elections.

1. Could the ESS out-going ensure that yearly reports, suggestions for the next council etc.... are left somewhere or with someone so that next year's incoming council has some guidance.
2. Advertising of the ESS council, descriptions of the positions on the ESS council, and the ESS constitution should be included into all incoming ESS students orientation package before they arrive on campus
3. Amendments need to be made to the ESS constitution if all positions are to be filled before ESS students leave for placement ~ 30<sup>th</sup> of September of each year. The reality is there is never a nomination for all positions on the council. You will receive a few nominations for more of the "popular" positions, however, most of those students just want to be on the council and will want to take another position that would be acclaimed to them rather than having to be elected to that position. So most of the time is spent receiving nominations, contacting all the students who have submitted nominations on time and seeing if they would like another position on council, then acclaiming all the positions that have nominees that have submitted full nomination packages on time, then extending nominations for an extra week to fill positions not already acclaimed.

Therefore, my main recommendation is for the ESS council to streamline this process. Maybe allowing for nominees to select a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice on their nomination form and stating that they would rather be acclaimed an open position rather than being elected to the position they wish.

The main issue is that ESS elections are always held later in September and the incoming council has little time to meet before leaving for practicum. Students do not arrive to campus until sometime around September 1<sup>st</sup> and depending on the calendar year Labour day may interrupt "Welcome week" taking away a day that Education students can be involved with the election process. The suggestion is that students need to be "aware" of elections well before they arrive on campus September 1<sup>st</sup>. And based on the current model that is really the only option, regardless of how pragmatic it is. Article 10.3. of the ESS constitution that nominations " shall be open four consecutive school days during Welcome Week, ending at 4:00pm on Friday". Therefore, we are asking students that have just arrived on campus to decide that they want to have council position, find five colleagues to sign their nomination form & submit it. Article 10.4.-10.6. call for the campaign period over the next 3 days (i.e. Mon-Wed) and the elections to be held the Thursday and Friday of the same week. However, the ESS council has ~30 positions to fill and it is not realistic to expect that there will be one nomination for each position at the end of the 4 day nomination period that takes place within the first few days that Education students are on campus. Because not all 30 positions are filled at the end of the short nomination period, it inevitability causes the nomination period to be extended. Therefore, elections are delayed by about a week, and the newly elected ESS only has one week to meet before all students leave for practicum. And the main concern is that the ESS council does not have enough time to meet before they

all have to leave. Thus, my main suggestion with regard to the ESS elections is that the expectation of elections to fill ~30 positions in 8-10 work day period needs to be re-assessed. Is it truly feasible to expect democratic nomination, campaigning, and voting for the number of available positions in 8-10 workdays? Especially when you consider that the nomination period would begin at 9am of the day that students arrive on campus.

SGPS general elections & referenda were held on March 1-2, 2012. Nominations were open February 1<sup>st</sup> and closed on February 21<sup>st</sup> (originally scheduled to close February 13<sup>th</sup>, extended to 21<sup>st</sup>, accidentally advertised as the 20<sup>th</sup>, family day). The intent was to extend the nomination period (compared to those in the past) in hopes that all positions will have nominees and campaigning can begin before Reading week of 2012. However, not all positions had nominations by February 13<sup>th</sup>, therefore the nomination period was extended. On, February 21<sup>st</sup> all positions had one nominee and elections proceeded to be held on March 1-2, 2012 in accordance with SGPS bylaw 10.1f. I would recommend in that in the future this bylaw is amended to "The annual SGPS elections and referenda shall occur not later than the second week of March". It is my opinion that this bylaw is too rigid. Because of the hard deadline of the first week of March and the fact that nomination periods frequently need to be extended, this causes the majority of the "campaign period" to fall during the reading week. Future councillors and executive of the SGPS should address this issue.

SGPS general elections and referenda were completed via online balloting. 250 ballots were cast (this constitutes approx. 5.7 percent of the SGPS membership). All candidates and referenda were affirmed. We only had 1 nominee for each position up for election despite the nomination period opening and advertised ~28 days before the election and for extended by 1 week as per SGPS by-laws and policies. Unfortunately, there was an issue with some SGPS members not being able to vote online because the voting survey did not appear as an option in their Moodle account. After discussion with the Executive Director, it appears that some students were randomly left off the list of students that are ordinary members of the SGPS; therefore, they did not have access to the voting survey. The error is attributed to registrar's office incorrectly compiling the list of eligible SGPS members primarily due to an error with the new "PeopleSoft" software. We tried to remedy the problem as soon as we became aware of it, however, once the election had started only the IT department (not the Executive Director or CRO) can make changes to Moodle. The only remedy was to obtain the net ID & student number of members who were not able to vote, send them to the registrar, have them confirm that they were members of the SGPS, and then forward that information to IT and have them add the voting ballot to that individual's Moodle.

As the CRO of the SGPS I am subject to council to fulfill my responsibilities as outlined by Polices P.3.1.3, "Responsibilities of the Officers of the Council", "Chief Returning Officer". Because there has been a question of my performance I will address all responsibilities.

*The Chief Returning Officer (CRO):*

*(1) is responsible for running all SGPS elections and referenda, including arranging for advertising, receiving nominations, printing ballots, arranging for polling booths, procuring of ballots and other necessary supplies, counting ballots and announcing the results of the election or referenda in accordance with B.10;*

- I arranged all elections, sent a variety of emails, submitted posters to be posted in Libraries around campus, received and approved all nomination packages delivered to the SGPS main office, arranged for a polling station during the voting period in the SGPS main office, approved the ballots & results, and all election & referenda were in accordance with B.10

*(2) is authorized to spend the funds allocated by the SGPS budget for such administration*

- The CRO was allocated \$1200. Including payment of individuals working the polling station, SGPS “meet the candidates” event, and my full honourarium will be within the allocated \$1200.

*(3) shall vote 24 hours in advance of an election or referendum, and place the ballot in a sealed envelope. This envelope shall be opened and the ballot cast only in the event of a tie vote. Should there be more than two candidates for one position, the Chief Returning Officer shall indicate order of preference on the ballot form. The Chief Returning Officer is not otherwise allowed to vote;*

- Online balloting nullifies this stipulation

*4) may designate additional members of the SGPS to assist in the counting of ballots;*

- Online balloting nullifies this stipulation

*(5) shall keep the ballots from an election and/or referendum for a period of not less than four months. After that time they shall be destroyed after issuance of a directive to do so from Council;*

- Online balloting nullifies this stipulation

*(6) shall make the selection, through Council, of up to two Deputy Returning Officers to aid the Chief Returning Officer in performance of her/his duties; and*

- I did not select any deputy officers.

*(7) shall set election or referenda date(s) in accordance with B.10.1 provided at least 3 weeks notice is given to all members of the SGPS.*

- Election and referenda dates were made during the SGPS council meeting on January 10, 2012 (motion 1/10/12.7) and emails started to be sent out as early as January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

*b. In the event that the Chief Returning Officer is in a position of conflict of interest with respect to a particular election or referendum, that person must resign his or her position, and be replaced by an Appointee of Council until such time as a replacement can be elected according to B.12.1.*

- N/A

*c. The term of office for the Chief Returning Officer will be from May 1st to April 30th.*

- Done

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Mikhail Kellawan,

Chief Returning Officer



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Education Graduate Student Society  
April 2012

Dear Council,

Thank you very much for inviting us as SGPS council this year. We thank you on behalf of EGSS for the help you have provided this year to overcome past departmental issues the graduate students at the Faculty of Education have been through. Special thanks to Anne Marie Grondin for teaching us all the SGPS rules and how things work in such a sufficient pace and we highly encourage this will be continued next year. We are now finishing my role as Faculty Board and SGPS council Education Representatives (Ph.D and M.Ed) for this academic year and will be handing over to the new generation. Jessica Chan will be taking over as Queenie's role as Faculty Board and SGPS Council Education Representative (M.Ed). We wish her all the best and keep in good contact with the SGPS and a great team member for next year's SGPS executive.

All the best next year to SGPS executive.

Miao Li and Queenie Wong

Education Graduate Student Society – Faculty Board and SGPS Council M.Ed and PhD Representatives