

### **Bylaw and Policy revision**

I have begun the work of revising the SGPS bylaws and policies with VP Professional and the SGPS Speaker. This process will continue over the next month in time for the Annual General Meeting in March. Many members of the SGPS governance, including but not limited to other VPs, the Finance Standing Committee, Human Resources Committee as well as the Executive Director will be consulted. I also invite all Councilors to review the current bylaws and policies and contact the SGPS Speaker or myself with suggestions. All suggested changes will be circulated 10 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

### **Senate**

The bulk of January Senate meeting has been devoted to review of the Principal's vision statement. Of particular interest had been the Principal's focus on internationalization and multi-disciplinary approach. The results of the Exit Poll, which surveys recent graduates for their experiences at Queen's, has also been disseminated and reviewed.

### **International tuition increase**

Following the Council's resolution at the December meeting, a letter has been drafted voicing our concerns regarding the international tuition fee increase and the lack of student consultation in the readjustment process. I have met with the University Rector and the President of AMS to discuss forming a united front on this issue and signing off on behalf of all student bodies jointly. Once a common ground has been established between the three offices, the letter will be sent to various individuals of the Administration including the Principal, Vice Principal Academic and various Deans.

### **SGPS Referendum**

Please be sure to come out and vote in the SGPS referendum on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Elect the next Executive and your fees. Best of luck to all candidates!

### **Queen's Centre Capital Fee**

The Queen's Centre capital fee question will come to this meeting for Council's approval to be put on the referendum. I wish to clarify that the Council only decides if the question should be put to referendum and the Council alone does not have the authority to answer the question directly. I recognize that the establishment of this fee is a contentious issue and I certainly encourage you all to come to this meeting with questions and opinions so we can have a fruitful discussion. Having said that, I also recommend the Council to vote in favour of this motion to go to referendum so that the

membership can choose for themselves, as I recommend for all other referendum questions that have been submitted pursuant to our election bylaws and policies.

Apart from the issue itself, however, I regret to inform you that the Executive has been displeased with the University's approach. In this report, I wish to present both sides of the argument. I first wish to present my reasons for supporting this fee. I support the notion that students and schools must be in a quid pro quo relationship. I fully acknowledge and identify with the fact that schools exist for students and being a student myself, I feel that interests of students should be the priority of University. In return, I feel partially responsible for the well being of the institution itself and I am prepared to contribute to the University in times of difficulty. I am, therefore, supportive of making a contribution to Queen's to help with its debt load incurred from the Queen's Centre Project because this project unquestionably enhances and will continue to enhance the quality of education and life of all students at Queen's. Also, this contribution will directly strengthen the SGPS in many levels. It gives us a financial power which will directly translate into political power. It also brands us better within the University and external Queen's communities. By showing that the graduate and professional students give back to the University, lobbying and fund-raising activities for graduate and professional interests by the University and SGPS alike will run much more smoothly. I also feel that the timing enhances the impact of this contribution. At this troubled time, the University's financial difficulty will allow our contribution to be dearer and more warmly received. While financing is a crucial issue and each additional fee poses a toll on members' budget, I believe that this fee will ultimately return to individual members in various forms.

Now I wish to bring to your attention some recent developments that have deterred me in supporting the current initiative. For one, the way in which the University approached this issue has been inconsistent and has become unsatisfactory. The discussion started off in a pleasant and constructive manner with heavy emphasis on what the members of the SGPS will enjoy in return for this contribution that is sure to significantly lessen the University's financial burden. However, only a few weeks later, proposed benefits ceased to be mentioned and the discussion was instead focused on the possible negative consequences on the SGPS should this fee fail at referendum. Also, SGPS's request for a draft of Memorandum of Agreement to be submitted to Council as supporting document for this fee has been dismissed. Along with the lack of clear explanation on what our members can expect in return for this contribution, this means that members of the SGPS are being asked to fork over \$4,500,000 as it stands now.

I ask that the members of Administration attending the Council meeting to clarify the ambiguities, formally offer some tangible benefits for our members and also explain what and on what grounds our members can be negatively impacted if the membership decides to reject the fee. I also wish to ascertain from the University that this fee will only be collected and paid to the University if the terms and conditions are drafted by the SGPS Executive, approved by the SGPS Council and signed upon by both the SGPS and the University within a reasonable timeframe after the referendum question has been ratified and before Board of Trustees meeting at which the fee will be fully established.

I wish to emphasize that your input is desperately needed at the next Council meeting, for the campaigning period and for the actual election. I strongly urge all Councilors to

discuss this issue with students in your respective departments and schools and come to the Council well-equipped with the opinions of your constituency.

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Bae  
President

#### School of Graduate Studies:

At the 28 January 2010 meeting with the SGS a number of important issues were discussed. After hearing numerous complaints about the way in which conference travel awards have been allocated since being transferred from the SGS to individual departments, I raised the possibility with the SGS of having the SGPS administer the conference travel fund in the future. By the end of the fiscal year, more information should be available regarding how well individual departments have allocated the travel awards. If you have any complaints and/or concerns about the ways in which the travel funds have been administered this past year, please contact me at [vpg@sgps.ca](mailto:vpg@sgps.ca).

A number of students have also raised concern over the Qspace publication of dissertations and Master's theses. Currently, students can defer online publication of their work for up to two years so that they might publish their work in a journal(s) or as a monograph. The SGS will make no changes to the Qspace policy but will deal with concerns on a case by case basis. While I generally support open sourcing of academic work, I do think that the ultimate decision should be made by the author, not Queen's administration. If you have personal concerns about this policy you should contact the Student Advisor office.

The SGS agrees that there continues to be problems/disparities with supervisors/faculty claiming authorship of graduate student work. I stressed the need for there to be an independent referee of such disputes outside of the VP Research. The Student Advisors are unable to effectively deal with this problem on their own.

#### Student Advisors:

The Student Advisors continue to advocate on behalf of individual graduate and professional students. If you would like the advisors to speak to your departmental graduate/professional societies regarding their work, and the services they offer, please contact them so they might provide a brief presentation at your next society meeting. Their fall reports, along with student advisor reports dating back to 2004 are available for your perusal online at <http://www.sgps.ca/advisors/reports.html>.

#### TA Consultative Committee:

The TA Consultative Committee met on 26 January 2010. Responding to the financial cutbacks within departments, some graduate coordinators have been sending graduate students without adequate TA work to the Centre of Teaching and Learning (CTL) despite the fact that the CTL is not a human resources service. That students have been approaching the CTL looking for work is a testament to the struggles graduate students have had to confront in the face of cutbacks.

The CTL has also been forced to cut its free English Communication Assessment (ECA) Testing (a requirement for all international student TAs) in the Winter Term (the ECA will

be offered for free in the Fall term). International students that need to write the ECA in January 2010 will have to pay a \$100 fee to write the test.

According to the Equity Office, "to ensure that the University achieves regulatory compliance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005*, everyone who interacts on its behalf with the public must be trained in accessible customer service. This training requirement applies to all faculty, staff, student leaders, managers, department heads and senior administrators." While the Equity Office has requested that this training must be completed by 15 February 2010, very few departments have informed TAs and TFs that this approximately one hour on-line course is mandatory. You should request to your individual departments that this training session be part of your paid work. You can access the course at

<http://www.queensu.ca/equity/content.php?page=CSOnlineTraining>

TF Policy:

I'm still in the process of developing a TF policy to submit to Vice-Principal (Academic) Patrick Deane for consideration. If you would like to assist me in this process email me at [vpq@sgps.ca](mailto:vpq@sgps.ca)

Elections:

The bulk of my energies in January have been devoted to appealing to our membership to run as candidates for the upcoming SGPS elections. I'm pleased to announce that there are a number of excellent candidates who have submitted their nomination packages who are dedicated to continuing the important work of the SGPS.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Thompson  
VP Graduate



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Vice President Professional  
February 2010

Hello SGPS members,

Just a couple of quick items.

### **Renewal of Grad Club Fee**

The Grad Club fee is up for renewal this year. The Finance and Services Committee is currently preparing a recommendation for council as to whether to renew this fee, and a final decision will be voted on by council in an upcoming council meeting. If you have strong opinions about this issue, make sure to make these known to your Council representative.

### **Bylaw and Policy Revision**

Vicki and I are currently working on beefing up our bylaws and policies. This year, we are focusing on job descriptions, communications structures, and oversight of employees. We will be in the SGPS office on Wednesday mornings working on these revisions. If you have any specific concerns about bylaws and policies, feel free to stop by during this time, or to email Vicki or me.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Kahn  
vpp@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Vice President-Campaigns and  
Community Affairs  
February 2010

### **Here's My Plan: *Valentine's Day* the movie on Saturday, *Daytona 500* on Sunday**

Greetings once again fellow council members. I am not sure how my plan will go over but who schedules the Daytona 500 on Valentine's Day? I mean really? Anyway, much is afoot once again but I will try to be as succinct as possible (a difficulty you are all aware of by now for sure).

### **City of Kingston/Queen's Relations:**

We meet the Thursday after reports are due so nothing to report yet. However, the issue of snow removal, grey and blue bins, and park safety (thank you Stephanie Nairn from Sociology for all your hard work) will be on the agenda.

### **SGPS Campaigns:**

The journal did a horaweful (half horrible, half awful) report of the water Access group's campaign to increase accessibility to safe water and remove the sale of bottled water on campus. Despite their sub-par reporting, the "Talking Heads" section of Tuesday's Journal reveals a high level of support. Equally important, I keep speaking with Principal Woolf on the issue and he is energetically supportive. Our opportunity looks like it will come when the University re-negotiates the Beverage Exclusivity Contract with Coca-Cola Corporation. A public campaign will be coming in March to coincide with the anti-bottled water day on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

We will also be participating in the upcoming Jump Start Campaign (thanks Laura) initiated by Canadian Tire which provides sports equipment and registration for underprivileged children in the Kingston area.

### **CFS National General Meeting:**

The Semi-Annual general Meeting was held in Markham from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of January and though we sent no delegates my contacts (informants?) indicate that the information sessions were particularly good. Our plan still remains to return for the spring meeting in Ottawa and to put forth our motion to change the association/dis-association criteria. I plan to accompany my replacement to this meeting as I think the issue warrants an experienced presence. More to report soon.

### **Internal Affairs:**

To the point: where does the SGPs Executive stand on the Queen's Centre Fee and how have we responded to the Administration's requests for our financial support in paying down the enormous debt incurred during the construction of the

Queen's Centre?

We are wholeheartedly opposed. To be sure there are several issues that surround this proposed fee. Some arguments in favour warrant considerable debate and some do have merit, even in the minds of those of us who are staunchly against the fee. However, the manner in which the administration has conducted its business surrounding the SGPS participation in this fee has been insulting to our members and is a very poor reflection of the nature of this institution and the relationships of its members. To wit: administrative bullying is counter to Queen's stated essence of social purpose, spirit, and accountability.

Initial communications with Principal Woolf seemed fruitful and promising as the Executive understood the importance of the proposed fee to the administration, and as such, was willing to entertain its possible implementation. However, after only a few weeks of talks, it was made clear in no uncertain terms, that should the SGPS Executive refuse to bring the question of the proposed fee to referendum, the University would lock us out of the governance structure of the Queen's Centre, and although stated far more subtly, we would face reprisals in our future interactions with the University. What this amounts to in our minds is a clear example of bullying. What is surprising is the blatant disregard for due process and utter lack of respect for not only the Executive and the SGPS membership as a whole, but the importance of the question. The very notion that a \$4.5 million payment to fix the errors and unlucky circumstances of the Queen's Centre budgetary pitfalls should fall on us is questionable. But to suggest that this payment be made without due process, due consideration, due negotiation, or due consultation with our members is paramount to a gun to our heads. This is perhaps hyperbole, but the essence is true: we have been pressured and threatened by a "superior" body. This is counter to Canadian law, and insults the heritage and history of Queen's and its traditions.

However, we have chosen as an Executive to do our part and have worked, through appropriate committees and executive branches, to honour Principal Woolf's request. We have chosen to put the question, "Do you agree to a mandatory, class A fee of \$112.50 to be used exclusively for the repayment of outstanding debt accrued from the construction of the Queen's Centre", to the council for approval for inclusion in the upcoming referendum. We have not done so unanimously, as some feel this would represent succumbing to the extortionist tactics demonstrated by the administration. However, in keeping with our belief that this is a core question for the future of the SGPS and its members, we feel it should go to our highest governing level, which is of course our members through a referendum question.

The fee comes with no immediate benefits to the SGPS membership, as noted by Janice Deakin. It comes with no guarantees whatsoever of future benefit to the SGPS membership. All that has been noted we will receive is the knowledge that we contributed financially to the construction of the Queen's Centre. That is



one expensive pat on the back. However, the Executive does not wish to degrade the discussion into a hypothetical tally of what we could receive in return, or what we could do with such a vast sum of money. The University makes no suggestion at all to potential benefits for our members, and the executive would not impose such a fee without a very specific mandate as to its use. We have neither and so cannot endorse this type of discussion. Moreover, the very essence of the question is already contentious enough and needs no muddying with conjecture or wild speculation.

At its core then, this debate is about whether or not the SGPS membership feels some sort of obligation to pay for the costs of a building that we had no say in determining its design, use, or cost. The university has suggested that the massive debt load it now faces threatens its credit rating and prevents it from operating effectively. Principal Woolf has stated that \$4.5 million would go a long way to alleviating these strains on the University. It should be noted though that students contributed an additional \$26 million in tuition to the University this year (to a total of \$142.3 million up from \$116 million in 2008-2009), an incredible increase of 22.6%. For 2010-2011, we will contribute \$152.3 million, followed by \$162.4 million for 2011-2012. This means tuition will almost match government funding to Queen's by 2012. If the province deregulates more professional programs' tuitions, we will most certainly end up paying an even higher percentage.

There are several key elements we as graduate and professional students must bear in mind as we debate this issue and listen to Principal Woolf's presentation at our Council meeting. There are two very specific requirements we must demand before moving forward one way or another: EVERYTHING must be in writing (Ryerson initiated a similar fee to fund the building of its own student centre and once complete, the administration there attempted to take control of the building). We need legal guarantees of what it is we are paying for, what we are receiving in return, and to what degree we are committed. According to our own policies and by-laws, this fee would face tri-annual review and could be struck down from our fee schedule. What ramifications would this pose to our relations with the University. As we are seeing currently, the Administration is beginning a legal battle with the AMS, the ESS, and the SGPS in an attempt to tie ESS students to the AMS capital fee for the duration of the agreement, despite their membership in the SGPS and not the AMS. Would we as graduate and professional students be forced to pay this fee after we had graduated if subsequent Executives did not renew the fee? Additionally, we require binding and meaningful oversight in how the Queen's Centre is governed, and how this money is used. I confess I do not know the answers to these issues, and we would most definitely need legal counsel before we could proceed. The other specific item that needs to be addressed is whether or not this fee is in compliance with the specific policies of the University's rules governing the institution of a new fee. Once again, this is a legal matter that requires further investigation before I would feel comfortable as a representative of our members

deciding to support this fee.

The other key element that we need to consider with this fee is of much broader consequence and scope. It is beyond argument that this fee would represent a difficult financial burden on much of our membership, and this burden will only increase as tuition costs go up and student support diminishes. This is especially true for international students who are already more heavily constrained, but also for professional students as more and more programs' tuition requirements are de-regulated. Beyond our own personal connection to this issue, is the underlying, and I would argue, under-handed, attempts by Ontario universities to increase tuition fees by circumvention through ancillary fees. Succinctly put, because the government continually reduces funding to universities while restricting their ability to raise tuition, post secondary institutions are increasing our tuition by re-labeling those fees as ancillary. We are, regrettably, a far easier group upon which to exert pressure than the Federal or Provincial governments and as such, we must be vigilant against such tactics. Though legal, the practice of clothing a tuition increase in an ancillary fee so as to avoid provincial restriction, is duplicitous and in poor faith.

How then, with all of this, do we continue to maintain a relationship with the Principal, and the University Administration? How do we avoid acrimony and conflict? The University's position is desperate and we must remain cognisant of their needs, their motivations, and their position of power. However, though we risk fomenting a negative atmosphere between our "governors" and ourselves, we risk setting a dangerous precedent in the larger political sense, a heavy financial burden in the personal sense, and a tragic weakness in the face of a bully in an ethical sense. I find all three unpalatable. I encourage and challenge us all to approach this issue with strength of conviction, strength of will, and the underlying fundamental belief that we are a part of this community and do much to make Queen's the institution it is. We must approach this with the knowledge we are partners in the effectiveness of this institution and as such must work with those who would govern us co-operatively and collegially, not subserviently.

Respectfully, submitted,  
Steve Osterberg

**Congratulations to Our Executive Director:**

I would like to congratulate our Executive Director, Sean Richards, for his newest child. I wish him and his family the best and a long healthy life. We at the SGPS owe Sean an immense debt for his work for the SGPS despite his rights to a paternity leave.

**Housing Authority:**

Council had decided in January 2010 (20-12) to establish a new Housing Authority. A new Housing Authority Initiation Working Group has been established in accordance with the initiation action plan proposed to Council. The HAIWG has convened and is currently reviewing the bylaws in consultation with the Queen's Business Legal Clinic. The most current draft of the bylaws is attached as an appendix to this package and will be presented to Council's April meeting for ratification.

**2008-2009 Budget:**

The audit of the 2008-2009 budgets has been completed. I am happy to report that we have recorded a \$13,000 surplus. The audit report has been attached as an appendix and will be put forward for ratification in March's general meeting.

**2009-2010 Budget Review:**

As required in our Bylaws and Policies, the annual budget has to be reviewed by the Finance and Services Standing Committee sometime in January and presented to Council for re-ratification. The committee did not have enough time to present a revisitation of the budget in January. We are projecting an expected \$5,000 increase than what was originally accounted for in the original budget. The committee has therefore recommended that the \$5,000 be split three ways between the Emergency Student Aid, the Grants Program, and the Dental Bursary lines.

**Dental Bursary:**

VP (Academics) Patrick Deane has donated \$3,000 to the SGPS Dental Bursary. Our insurance broker Morneaus Sobecau has also agreed to contribute roughly \$1,500 to the program for their server errors during opt-out period. While these contributions will help the program to remain alive for the remainder of the term, it will not suffice for the following year. Given the importance of the program, I have decided under the powers granted to me by Council in the Bylaws and Policies to increase the Dental Bursary optional fee by a total of \$3.00 for the following year. That is expected to provide \$9,000 a year towards the program.

**SGPS/AMS Service Agreement:**

I am happy to report that the AMS is in the final stages of approving the much negotiated service agreement between the SGPS and AMS. As such, I have put forward a motion such that Council can empower the Executive to enter into an agreement with the AMS. The final draft of the agreement is attached as an Appendix.

**Fee Referenda:**

I would like to thank the members of the Finance and Services committee for preparing the many recommendations for fee establishment and renewals. The majority of the applications have been processed and presented in the report of the Finance and Services Committee. The only two fees that are still being reviewed by the committee are the Queen's International Affairs Association and the Grad Club. The contentious Queen's Centre capital commitment fee has also been discussed and brought before Council. Seeing that there will be many reports on that fee and that I have already

outlined my opinion on the issue in the SGPS E-newsletter 52, I will save myself some time and defer the topic for others.

**Revamped Compensation Scheme and New Executive Assistant Position:**

The Finance and Services Committee is in the final stages of preparing a new compensation scheme as well as a new executive assistant position. Details of the Executive Assistant position have been attached as an appendix. The proposal will be formally put forward for March's general meeting. I cannot stress how important it is that we adopt this package.

**Office Space for SGPS and Subsocieties:**

We have secured three new additional rooms in JDUC. We are also in talks of securing additional space (in particular where the hair salon is located) to add to the SGPS office space. If any of the subsocieties are in need of additional space, we can certainly secure additional space for them. Please talk to myself or any of the Executive on what to do.

**Queen's Centre Transition Working Group (QCTWG):**

In response to Principal Woolf's tactic to leave us out of the Queen's Governance if we do not commit \$4.5 million towards the Queen's Centre, the Executive has decided to withhold any forms of contribution towards the operation of the Queen's Centre. This will be communicated formally to QCTWG at the next meeting.

**Strategic Planning Special Committee:**

I would like to thank Laura Gale for putting together the committee. The work is well underway and I sincerely hope that they can put forward pertinent recommendations by Council's April meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amir Hossein Nosrat  
VP Finance and Services

## Senate

### Informal session: Discussing “Where Next? Toward a University Academic Plan”

In a special session of Senate, Senators took up the important task of reviewing the Principal’s draft academic plan (see Appendix C for the central questions). The session included a discussion of Fundamental Principles, Institutional Priorities, and the “Ten Proposals”. It is my position that principles and priorities agreed upon in *Engaging the World* should be invoked when discussing the direction of Queen’s University in the upcoming planning process. Considering that hardly five years have passed since the commencement of the previous strategic planning initiative, these principles remain applicable today. I am referring specifically to equity, diversity, internationalization, an emphasis on graduate education, and accessibility commitments. While there is certainly room for improving upon the existing document I believe we should build on the strong points rather than abandon them. This will be my approach to discussing the issue in future Senate meetings.

### Response to Senate Question 1 (November 26)

“Question submitted by Senator Stevens (Submitted for the November 26, 2009 Senate Meeting) How does the University propose to effectively manage a growing graduate student population and new graduate programs if staff positions are being reduced, eliminated, and/or changed from continuing to term appointments?”

School of Graduate Studies Dean, Janice Deakin, was given the task of responding to this question. My concern stemmed from discussions with administrative staff in the Faculty of Arts and Science who were uncertain about the status of continuing appointments in their department. It is strange for Dean Deakin to take up this duty considering that line deans are ultimately responsible for staff, even those who contribute to the administration of graduate student education in the departments. Deakin noted that she had no knowledge of any cutbacks to continuing staff and departments would make efforts to fulfill the recommendations made by OCGS in their review of graduate programs. Essentially no new or continuing programs will be left without adequate staff.

It is important to note that the Senate Agenda Committee rejected my initial question specifically aimed at the Faculty of Arts and Science (see Appendix A) with regards to this issue. The response I received from Georgina Moore reads as follows: “I believe that since the Senate Agenda Committee has decided that your question is about Arts and Science and it should properly be addressed there rather than through the Senate...”. I then opted to ask the Dean of Arts and Science, Alistair McLean, directly. His response can be found in Appendix A. Staff levels, and the status of continuing or term employment, are determined by specific conditions within departments and therefore subject to change considering the circumstances. While both Deans provided helpful responses, the specific nature of my concern was not addressed directly.

Response to Senate Question 2 (November 26)

The follow up question I asked Chris Conway regarding the number of TAs was adequately addressed once the figures were available. Please see Appendix B. In 2008 there were three less TA's employed compared to 2009, although the overall TA budget increased over that same period of time.

Coordinator of Dispute Resolution Mechanisms – Annual Report 2008-2009

[http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/Jan28\\_10/CDRMRpt.pdf](http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/Jan28_10/CDRMRpt.pdf)

As per a request by an SGPS Student Advisor, I asked the Coordinator of Dispute Resolution Mechanism to provide a breakdown of student cases dealt with by the office. This will involve sorting through and categorizing specific cases, which will prove to be an onerous task. *I recommend that the VP Internal Graduate and Student Advisors follow up with Harry Smith personally.*

Exit Poll 2009 – Results

<http://www.queensu.ca/registrar/aboutus/reports/exitpoll.html>

On the exit poll data for "Satisfaction with services for International Students" (page 67), there were noticeably low agreed or strongly agreed numbers compared with other questions and services. Unfortunately when I raised the question of how services have changed over a five-year period the Director of QUIC, Susan Anderson, had already left after the release of QUIC's annual report. *I recommend that the SGPS Executive follow up with QUIC as Senate is not the appropriate venue through which to address specific details.*

Report on the Annual Budget

[http://www.queensu.ca/financialservices/reports/budget/ROAB\\_09-10.pdf](http://www.queensu.ca/financialservices/reports/budget/ROAB_09-10.pdf)

Noteworthy highlights:

“ Queen's has set tuition fees to the maximum allowable for most programs. Board approved tuition fees for 2009-10 are included as Appendix B. Tuition fees for international students are not regulated.”

Provincial Government Grant Revenue has decreased \$4.3 million from last year (page 9)

Queen's Operating Budget (2008-09 until 2011-12): Fees have increased by \$26.2 million from 2008-09; Investment income has decreased by \$3.8 million (page 9); Operating Deficit (2009-10) is \$8.3 million.

**Senate Operations Review Committee (SORC)**

Because most of SORC was devoted to discussing the University Planning Committee with Principal Woolf, the committee has yet to resolve the questions of a) Senate composition or b) Education student representation. *The SGPS, working with the ESS*

*and CESA (Concurrent Education Student Association), needs to come to the table with an agreement on question B. This should involve two Education Senate positions, one for CESA and one for the ESS, or barring that, a joint CESA-ESS election in September for the single Education student senate position. As per Senate conventions faculty societies have been entitled to Senate representation – the ESS should not be an exception. Discussions with CESA and the ESS are ongoing. We hope to resolve question A this month.*



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Social Commissioner  
February 2010

Hello Everyone,

I just wanted to update you on two upcoming social events for the month of February. The details are below.

### **SGPS Jazz Night**

**Start Time:** Monday, February 8, 2010 at  
9:00pm  
**End Time:** Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at  
12:00am  
**Location:** Alfie's Nightclub (JDUC)

**Come out and enjoy live Jazz, cheap wine and martinis, and mingle with other grad students! Alfie's Jazz night is a low key and entertaining way to unwind after a long Monday back at work.**

**Everyone is welcome to meet at the Grad Club at 8pm for drinks and appetizers, then we can head over to Alfie's together for 9pm.**

**Looking forward to seeing you out there!**

### **SGPS FAMILY SKATE AT MARKET SQUARE**

**Date:** Monday, February 15,  
2010  
**Time:** 3:00pm - 5:00pm  
**Location:** Kingston Market Square

**Bring your family and friends out to enjoy some free skating and music at the Market Square, downtown Kingston. We will have hot chocolate!!!!**

**Hope to see you out there!**

**Please stay tuned for our March event!**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Diala Habib**



### SGPS Computer Network

- I installed the new server as described in my previous report to Council. I'm very happy to report that I had no major issues when replacing our old servers with the new one.
- All major parts of the server are functioning as expected (e-mail, calendars, user access control, wikis, blogs, central authentication).
- I'm working with Queen's IT to fix some networking details that are preventing us from using a couple of non-crucial parts of our server.

### SGPS Website

- The bulk of my time this month was dedicated to populating the wikis with data. I have added a tremendous amount of data to the wiki. The new wiki server is working out as good as I had hoped. This will be a very important way for SGPS Exec/Staff to collaborate and keep track of work that has been done. This will also serve as a major resource during our transition period.
- Election information is posted on our website. There is a link to the election info from our main page. I will continue to add more information to the site (poll times and locations, candidate details, etc).
- I am still working to secure the new mailing list features of our website. At this point I have the mailing list programs working but they are non-secure. I'm working to get all access points secure so we can begin using the new features of the new mailing lists.

### Communications

- The 2010/2011 handbook process has started. I have submitted our contract for the handbook and have started to work on the content. If you have any suggestions or comments I would love to hear them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Richards - info@sgps.ca

### **Accessibility Queen's**

One of the side projects undertaken by Accessibility Queen's is the NoteTaking program. Current plans to improve the program include an investment in a couple hundred recorders that might improve and provide an alternative to notes. However, the program is in need of feedback and any feedback provided by persons who have taken advantage of the service would be greatly appreciated.

Also, the washroom accessibility project for the 4-Directions building is moving well.

### **Disability Awareness Month**

Watch out for Disability Awareness Month coming up in March. David Roche's performance and several other exciting events will be taking place. If you would like to be involved in the planning or have any specific activities or fundraisers in mind, feel free to contact [kl\\_charby@hotmail.com](mailto:kl_charby@hotmail.com)

### **Kaleidoscope Program**

Kaleidoscope is a buddy program that allows Queen's students to spend an hour with an elementary school buddy once a week. Half of the time together is spent tutoring the child, and half of the time is spent socializing and doing crafts. To get involved contact [mac@ams.queensu.ca](mailto:mac@ams.queensu.ca)

### **Anti-Oppression Workshop**

In the workings is another Anti-O workshop to be held on Feb 16, 2010 from 6 – 9pm.

### **International Women's Week**

Coming up in the first week of March is International Women's Week. Several Queen's University and community organizations have been invited to be a part of this week including Kingston International Home, EQUIP, Women's Center, Accessibility Queen's, etc. Stay tuned for more details to come.

### **Positive Space Committee**

Nominations for the Awards Luncheon, to be held during Queen's Pride Week in March, are due soon. To nominate a student go to

<http://www.queensu.ca/positivespace/award.htm>.

Also the Transsexual Transgender Policy Group have been working on putting together a transitioning guide and are at the editing stages of this guide. They are also working on putting together a gender neutral washrooms campus map as well as policy for any new building constructions regarding gender neutral washrooms are being put in place right now. They are awaiting endorsements from several committees including Council on Equity Committee and the Senate Education Equity Committee.

Additionally, the 'Here and Queer in Kingston Guide' has already been put online but the committee is working with creating a functional online version and an updated print version for the Kingston Community in order to start their own Positive Space like programs. To get involved: <mailto:posspace@queensu.ca>

**Queer Grad Student Group**

Several grad students have expressed interest in starting up a queer grad student group. Things are starting up and Pride Week is due in the month of March. To get involved with the group or in Pride Week please contact Meg Southee at [megsouthee@gmail.com](mailto:megsouthee@gmail.com)

Please feel free to contact me regarding any equity or otherwise related issues at [equity@sgps.ca](mailto:equity@sgps.ca)

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Virani  
Equity Commissioner

And so the month of love is upon us, and what better way to start it off than writing a report for this month's council meeting! I have a few things to report of which the most significant is the proposition of the new SGPS optional sustainability fee, introduced by the SGPS Sustainability Standing Committee which I Chair.

### **Proposed SGPS Sustainability Action Fund (SAF)**

The SGPS Sustainability Standing Committee has developed a policy and a proposal to introduce an optional sustainability fee at this month's council meeting. This fee is optional, realistically drafted and we will provide the necessary funds for project development, collaboration and general promotion of sustainability initiatives and education at Queen's University and in the community. Below is the brief overview:

The SGPS Sustainability Action Fund (SAF) is an optional class B graduate student fee dedicated to sustainability-focused graduate and professional student initiatives at Queen's University as a part of the SGPS Sustainability's operational budget and shall be available in the form of grants for any graduate or professional student group. The fee of \$1.50, will generate approximately \$2,500 annually which will be made available in grants to any graduate or professional student group that focuses on campus energy efficiency, waste reduction or education on sustainability-related issues. Any project that reduces Queen's University's negative environmental impact and/or makes campus more sustainable is eligible for funding, including those projects initiated by the SGPS Sustainability Committee itself. Examples of the fund's use by the SGPS Sustainability committee are organizing workshops, bringing in speakers, running drives, supporting and collaborating with groups and initiatives at Queen's and etc.

### **SGPS Sustainability link on the Queen's Sustainability Office's Student Pages**

Seeing there were no mention of the SGPS Sustainability on the Queen's Sustainability's Office website I got in touch with the Management Rep. Aaron Ball and Llynwen Osborne to put a promo/ info link of the SGPS Sustainability Committee briefly describing us and promoting free recycling and other services offered by the SGPS.

### **Trash to Art and Movie Night**

SGPS Sustainability will collaborate with the MES (Masters of Environmental Studies) group in organizing a Trash to Art exhibit in the Biosciences atrium (stage by Tim Horton's). This year's project will be made of 3D letters consisting of lightweight food and packaging trash gathered from around Queen's to spell out letters R-E-D-U-C-E. They will most likely be suspended hanging over the atrium stage. I've managed to book us

the space free of charge for March 1<sup>st</sup> – stay tuned for more on this as we get the wheels rolling! In the same lieu, SGPS Sustainability will also have a movie night sometimes by the end of February. The “movie” is actually a PBS production 30 min. series entitled e2 – The Economics of being Environmentally Friendly. Once again more info will follow once we book the room.

### **AMS Roundtable Forum**

I also had a representative attend the AMS monthly roundtable Jan. 26<sup>th</sup> as I could not attend. The following is a short summary:

1. Eco-office program has been coordinated by the AMS Sustainability committee.
2. Kingston Sustainability Centre presented their mission. They are hosting workshops, want more presence on Queen's campus and would like volunteers.
3. Greenovations will be hosting another light bulb retrofit program. This will last for 2 days – more detail on the date will follow. They also want to host a speaker at the end of term: speaker to be determined.
4. REC: Residence Energy Challenge will be going on in the month of February. They want to create an Energy Saving Brochure.
5. Anti-Food waste Pledge occurred this past Saturday at Queen's cafeterias.
6. Eco-Art Show: MCRC will be holding a workshop on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> to create the art with exhibit on March 4<sup>th</sup> – we are in touch with them as we too are doing a similar event and could collaborate on a press release.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivana Zelenika  
Sustainability Coordinator

SGPS Mandatory and Optional Fees Requiring Renewal 2009 / 2010

| <b>Fee Group</b>                     | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Renewal Date</b> | <b>Renewal Method</b> | <b>Notes</b> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b><i>Class A Mandatory Fees</i></b> |               |                     |                       |              |
| Queen's Journal                      | \$3.50        | 2009/2010           | Council               |              |
| <b><i>Class B Mandatory Fees</i></b> |               |                     |                       |              |
| Queen's Work Bursary                 | \$4.86        | 2009/2010           | Referendum            |              |
| <b><i>Class A Optional Fees</i></b>  |               |                     |                       |              |
| International Affairs Ass.           | \$1.00        | 2009/2010           | Council               |              |
| Grad Club                            | \$20.00       | 2009/2010           | Council               |              |
| AMS Food Bank                        | \$1.00        | 2009/2010           | Council               |              |
| KCAP                                 | \$2.50        | 2009/2010           | Council               |              |
| <b><i>Class B Optional Fees</i></b>  |               |                     |                       |              |
| Dawn House Women's Shelter           | \$0.52        | 2009/2010           | Council               |              |
| QISS Bursary Program                 | \$0.64        | 2009/2010           | Referendum            |              |
| Student Refugee Support              | \$3.04        | 2009/2010           | Referendum            |              |
| Positive Space Program               | \$0.27        | 2009/2010           | Council               |              |
| OPIRG                                | \$4.28        | 2009/2010           | Council               |              |
| Kingston Youth Shelter               | \$0.91        | 2009/2010           | Council               |              |

## Fees Subject To Renewal By Council

### OPIRG Kingston

Organization Description: Making links between social justice and environmental issues. Supporting research and assisting with research endeavours. (Initiatives: Positive Space, Lovin Spoonful, Reelout Queer Film and Video Festival, Black History Month, Yellow Bike Action, and Alternative Resource Library)



Fee Amount: \$4.28  
Fee Class: Class B Optional Fee  
Negotiations: N/A

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend that Council approve renewal of this fee.

### Human Rights Office: Positive Space Program

Organization Description: Sponsored by the Human Rights Office, the Education on Queer Issues Project (EQulP), and OPIRG, and facilitated by the Human Rights Office. Identifies and encourages the development of positive spaces within the Queen's community; locations in which sexual and gender identity is affirmed and individuals can receive support and information on lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer issues.



Fee Amount: \$0.27  
Fee Class: Class B Optional Fee  
Negotiations: N/A

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend that Council approve renewal of this fee.

### Dawn House Women's Shelter

Organization Description: Dawn's House was opened in 1986 and provides affordable, safe accommodation for women and their children 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They are a community based shelter seeking to eradicate homelessness and they collaborate with many other organizations and groups within the community.



Fee Amount: \$0.52  
Fee Class: Class B Optional  
Negotiations: N/A

Recommendation: It is the recommendation of the Finance and Services Committee to renew the Dawn House women's Shelter fee.

## Queen's Journal

The student run newspaper of the Queen's campus. It's reporting of student issues is well documented in back issues. Questions exist surrounding the quality and bias of many articles but there is little we can do.



Fee Amount: \$3.50

Fee Class: Class A Mandatory

Negotiations: There will be no guarantees of Graduate issue representation. However, this year we have seen an increase in reportage of our issues.

Recommendation: It is the recommendation of the Finance and Services Committee to renew the Queen's Journal fee.

## Kingston Coalition Against Poverty

Organization description: The Kingston Coalition Against Poverty is a direct-action anti-poverty organization based in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. KCAP mounts campaigns against regressive government policies as they affect poor and working people. In addition, we provide direct-action advocacy for individuals against eviction, termination of welfare benefits, and offer support to those being abused by agencies such as the CAS. We believe in the power of people to organize themselves. If you are mad as hell and unwilling to take it anymore then KCAP can help you to fight to win!"



Fee amount: \$2.50

Fee class: Class A Optional

Negotiations:

Asked for a copy of constitution/bylaws (optional per SGPS covering letter). Per email correspondence KCAP provided the above description as their mandate, do not have a constitution/bylaws. "The Kingston Coalition Against Poverty does not have a Constitution. We do, however, have a mandate."

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend that Council approve renewal of this fee.

## AMS/SGPS Food Bank

Organization Description: Student fees from the SGPS, the AMS, as well as grants and donations from independent donors make up the revenue that allows the centre to provide fresh food, non-perishable goods, and basic household items to all students enrolled at Queen's.



Fee Amount: \$1.00

Fee Class: Class A Optional Fee

Negotiations: The organization was originally named the AMS Food Banks. Requested to change it to the AMS/SGPS Food Bank and was agreed to.

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend that Council approve renewal of this fee.



## Kingston Youth Shelter

Organization description: The Kingston Youth Shelter is a not for profit organization that provides a stable home environment for needy youth in the community.



Fee amount: \$0.91

Fee class: Class B Optional fee

Negotiations: N/A

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend that Council approve renewal of this fee.

## Fees Subject To Renewal, Increase or Establishment By Referendum

### Student Refugee Support

Organization Description: Funds collected from SGPS are used for the annual \$2500 WUSC service fee, books and supplies, and basic living expenses for refugee students (100% year 1, 75% year 2, 50% year 3, 25% year 4). This allows for a new student to be supported in alternate years. The University made a 5-year commitment from the Student Financial Assistance budget so that a new student could be supported each year.



Fee Amount: \$3.04

Fee Class: Class B Optional Fee

Negotiations: -

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend that Council put the following question to referendum:

"Should the SGPS renew a Class B (indexed for inflation) Optional fee of \$3.04 for the Student Refugee Support?"

### Sexual Health Resource Center

Organization Description: The Sexual Health Resource Centre (SHRC) is a confidential, non-judgmental, pro-choice, queer positive, non-heterosexist, feminist information and referral service for questions regarding sex, sexuality, and sexual health. We maintain an office in the John Deutsch University Centre and a confidential phone line in order to provide clients with current and accurate information, and referrals to community resources.



Fee Amount: \$\_\_\_

Fee Class: Class B Optional Fee

Negotiations: N/A

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend that Council put the following question to referendum:

"Should the SGPS establish a Class B (indexed for inflation) Optional fee of \$\_\_\_ for the Sexual Health Resource Center?"

## Queen's Walkhome

This is an important service provided by the AMS (and our funds) that offers a safe means of moving about campus and to students' homes. It is operated, managed, and serviced entirely by the AMS.



Fee Amount: increase of \$3.98 from \$13.83 to \$17.81

Fee Class: Class B Mandatory

Negotiations: We had several discussions with AMS representatives regarding the gross mismanagement of funds and ineffective running of the program. However, this is a service used by graduate students and is not as poorly run as the Student Constables. It would appear to me based on their budget that the fee increase is a grab for money that could be covered by a more diligent management of existing funding. The suggestions that the increase is due to an increase in usage and a wage increase are both valid ones, but the budget reveals a bloated expense line for social activities, depreciation of furniture, an advertising line and a separate posters and pamphlets line.

**Recommendation:** It is the recommendation of the Finance and Services Committee NOT to approve the following question for referendum:

"Do you agree to an increase to the Queen's Walkhome fee from \$13.83 to \$17.81, an increase of \$3.98 (indexed to inflation)?"

## Queen's Legal Aid

Organization Description: Queen's Legal Aid is to provide efficient and effective legal services to residents of Southern Frontenac and Southern Lennox and Addington Counties as well as students in attendance at Queen's University.



Fee Amount: \$5.00 (\$0.50 increase from \$4.50)

Fee Class: Class A Mandatory Fee

Negotiations: N/A

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend that Council put the following question to referendum:

"Do you agree to an increase from \$4.50 to \$5.00 in the mandatory Class A fee for Queen's Legal Aid? The fee is not indexed to inflation and has not been increased in 15 years. This fee provides Queen's students with legal services."

## SGPS Sustainability Action Fund

Organization Description: The SGPS Sustainability Action Fund (SGPS SAF) is an optional student fee to go towards a grant-making fund for sustainability focused graduate student initiatives at Queen's University. The fee of \$1.50 per graduate student will generate approximately \$2,500 which will also be made available for SGPS Sustainability related initiative as well as in forms of grants to any graduate group with focus on campus energy efficiency, waste reduction or education on sustainability-related issues.



Fee Amount: \$1.50

Fee Class: Class C Optional Fee

Negotiations: N/A

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend

that Council put the following question to referendum:

"Should the SGPS establish a \$1.50 Class C optional Sustainability fee (indexed for inflation) to be managed by the SGPS Sustainability Committee which is to go toward sustainability focused graduate initiatives at Queen's University?"

### **QISS Bursary Program**

Organization description: The student awards office administers bursary and award assistance for all Queen's graduate and undergraduate students as well as undergraduate scholarships and prizes, the Queen's Emergency Loan Program, the RBC/Queen's Line of Credit, Government Loans and Grants and the Work Study Program.



Fee amount: \$0.64

Fee class: Class B Optional Fee

Negotiations: None

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend that Council put the following question to referendum:

"Should the SGPS renew the \$0.64 Class B (indexed for inflation) optional QISS Bursary fee (indexed for inflation).

### **Queen's University - Queen's Centre Capital Fee**

Organization Description: Administers the functions of Queen's University's operations. Provides higher education to nearly 20,000 graduate and undergraduate students.



Fee amount: \$112.50

Fee class: Class A Mandatory Fee

Negotiations: To be presented to Council by committee representative and LSS member Gareth Stackhouse.

Recommendation: The Finance and Services Standing Committee would like to recommend that Council does NOT approve the following question for referendum:

"Do you agree to establish a mandatory Class A fee (not indexed for inflation) of \$112.50 to be contributed towards the Queen's Centre capital project?"