



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Representatives  
January Council Meeting 2017

[No reports submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the President  
January Council Meeting 2017

Dear Council,

I apologize for not having submitted a written report for this Council meeting. I will provide a full report verbally.

Thank you for your patience.

Saba Farbodkia  
President



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Vice President Graduate  
January Council Meeting 2017

There are no updates on my end since last council meeting. However, elections are coming up and I am more than happy to speak to anyone interested in my position. Please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Sebastian Gorlewski ([vp.graduate@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.graduate@sgps.ca))



Hello SGPS Council Members,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all had a safe and joyous holiday period and you've all returned energized and well rested. I wish you all a successful and prosperous new year. With that being said, there's a lot to do still this semester! Below are updates on the things I have been working on.

### **Careers Week**

Planning of Careers Week had some obstacles to overcome, but I've been working to ensure that the week is as beneficial as possible for as large of a proportion of our membership as possible. I am happy to announce that Careers Week will be **February 27 – March 3, 2017!** This week will provide many resources, including drop-in professional development sessions, a professional head shot booth, resume assistance, and much more. There will also be a Professional Development Workshop on March 1<sup>st</sup> as part of the SGPS Workshop Series.

### **Marketing/Media**

The SGPS has hired its Communications Facilitator, Natalie Anturri, and she will be working on the overall marketing and media strategies, but we together will be looking to establish a marketing strategy manual for incoming Executive and Facilitators so as to maintain a consistent and professional strategy. The goal is that this will improve student engagement and inform more of the membership of our great events and opportunities.

### **Human Resources**

We are ecstatic about our hiring of Andria Burke as our Executive Director, and I am continuing the review of our staff, roles, and operations. I will then be working on creating a manual to prepare incoming Executives, staff, commissioners, and facilitators for their terms and to ensure smooth transition and eventual operation.

As always, you can contact me at [vp.professional@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.professional@sgps.ca) with any questions or comments!

Cheers,

Kishan Lakhani  
Vice-President Professional  
[Vp.professional@sgps.ca](mailto:Vp.professional@sgps.ca)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Vice President Finance & Services  
January Council Meeting 2017

[No report submitted]



Dear Council,

I hope that everyone had a relaxing holiday and is feeling refreshed for the new semester. Considering the office has been closed for a few weeks, there aren't too many updates, however there have been a few changes in my objectives since the last meeting, which are noted below in my report. As always, if you have any questions about my report, or if you just want to email and say hi, please contact me at [vp.community@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.community@sgps.ca).

**Communication with Membership:**

I am just putting in a small note about this so that everyone is aware of some changes that have either already taken place, or are about to. So as of the December Council, we have instituted a condensed copy of the Newsletter that we are giving to you in order to post in your Grad Lounges/spaces that you know fellow graduate and professional students spend time in. If you have any questions about that, please come and talk to me after Council or email me. In another move to increase communication with the membership, we will be emailing you one extra time in order to let you know specifically about upcoming events so that you can disseminate that information within your Departments. We have found that word of mouth still seems to be the best way to get people out to events, and your help with that would go a long way to ensuring that everyone is aware of things that are going on and can take advantage of the services the SGPS provides them with. That said, if you have any other ideas for improved communication, please do let us know!

**O-Week:**

The first meeting for the Orientation Round Table Committee will be this month. I will be scheduling it for the last week of January, so if anyone wants to get involved, please contact me. I have also put out a call for participants in the Newsletter so if anyone you know is interested, please have them take a look at that for more information, or contact me directly.

**Commissioners:**

I am continuing to work with the Commissioners on a number of projects, including the Workshop Series and the Commissioner Manuals, as well as the Orientation Week Round Table and, as of this week, the Expanding Horizon workshop for Supervisors (which I will be talking more about below). I look forward to seeing more of our members at events this semester, especially at the Workshop Series!

**Research Assistants:**

I am continuing to check in regularly with my two Research Assistants, who have both already done a substantial amount of research. There will be a survey sent out this month by the International Resources Research Assistant and the information gathered by both Research Assistants will be amalgamated into a report by April 2017.

**Copyediting Service:**

So this is one of the areas where there has been the most change since our last meeting. After talking to one of the Associate Deans at the School of Graduate Studies, I will be applying for a fund through the SGS in order to run a pilot version of the copyediting program in March. It will include only a few students and just be a test of some of the steps that are in the works right now in order to create a full-fledged program. The reason I am proceeding this way is that the most likely way to get this program up and running is with the help and support of a number of university services, and this would make them much more comfortable in participating with the program in order to create a training module, as well as an online platform for the service. I know that this is taking a while, however my hope is that if I can get the foundation set, we will have a strong service that has wide-ranging support on campus and the necessary resources to flourish long-term.

**Workshop Series:**

We have finally had a chance to solidify our bookings for this semester and are happy to present our workshop series! Workshops for the next few months are already posted on our website: <http://sgps.ca/event-calendar/> I encourage you to let fellow students in your department know about the upcoming workshops as there is something for everyone. The workshop the day after council (January 18<sup>th</sup>), for example, is going to be a discussion with members of the TA Advisory Committee from the Centre for Teaching and Learning about Teaching Assistantships and some of the hurdles that are commonly encountered, as well as potential solutions. There is no sign up necessary—just come to JDUC Room 352 Wednesday night from 6-8! If you have any ideas for additional workshops, please feel free to contact me directly to discuss those.

**Expanding Horizons Workshops:**

This is another area where there has been a change from my original plan. As you know, QUIC ended up picking up the student version of the workshop idea and they have altered it in order to implement it as part of their programming. However, there was to be another workshop for supervisors, which I believe is extremely necessary and could go a long way in helping international students and their supervisors reach a positive working relationship in a shorter period of time. That said, it came down to me to create this workshop, which didn't seem fitting to me considering I am not an international student, and I am not equipped to create such programming for faculty. So instead, after meeting with the members of the International Student Affairs Committee, we have come up with a new strategy. We will be spending a few months getting feedback from international students about 'what you think your supervisor should know' in an anonymous data-gathering project in order to compile a document which we can then present to the Centre for Teaching and Learning and the SGS, and that will hopefully become an element of the Handbooks that students and supervisors receive, as well as a workshop for supervisors that will make them more aware of some of the more specified needs of international students.

**Clubs Office:**

No updates on this front, however I am continuing to meet with the Clubs Manager and participate in the process of grants distribution and club ratification.

Sincerely,

Anastasiya Boika

VP Campaigns & Community Affairs





Members of the SGPS Council,

I hope you all had a lovely, and hopefully restful, holiday break and first week back to campus.

A few updates from me:

- 1) In the upcoming weeks, we will be entering into the next election period for the 2017-2018 Executive team. I would encourage you to consider running in the election yourself, or recommending friends or colleagues run. Key election dates, fees, and the nomination package are being put forward at this January Council meeting. If you have any questions about the elections or how to run, feel free to email me at [speaker@sgps.ca](mailto:speaker@sgps.ca)
- 2) The Winter General Meeting will be held on February 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm – this is an opportunity for any SGPS member to attend and raise comments, questions, concerns about SGPS activities. It will also be the venue of the SGPS debate for all election candidates. I would encourage you to encourage members of your departments, friends, colleagues...etc. to attend! Food will be provided ☺
- 3) Speaking of food, based on discussion at December Council, we will be continuing to provide wraps from Common Ground, coffee and water, desserts, and vegetable trays. We will also be providing pizza at the Winter GM! We are also including ingredients for the wraps, and labelling the desserts. If you have an allergy or question/concern regarding food, please let me know.
- 4) At the February Council meeting, I will be bringing forward some updates for policy for the SGPS, to reflect the day-to-day activities of the Society. More details to come.

Thanks for reading through my report, and all the best with the rest of your January!

Yours in Education,

Jennifer Williams  
Council Speaker  
[speaker@sgps.ca](mailto:speaker@sgps.ca)



Hello Council,

Happy New Year to you all, I hope you had a good winter break and are ready for the term ahead. In this report I have included notes from the Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC) that took place in mid-December as well as an update following up on the last Senate meeting I reported on in December Council.

### **Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC)**

Highlights from the December 2016 meeting (as prepared by Monica Corbett)

#### **Dean's report: B. Brouwer reported:**

- The Graduate Diploma in Arts Management and the Master of Arts (Arts Leadership) were recently approved by the provincial Quality Council.
- Final enrolment projections for 2017-18 as well as enrolment projections out to 2019-20 have been submitted to the Office of Budget and Planning.
- B. Brouwer and M. Straznicky recently attended the annual meeting of the Council of Graduate Schools. M. Straznicky was part of a panel on supporting students' writing and degree completion. B. Brouwer was a panel member for a discussion on the future of the dissertation.
- In Winter 2017, the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) will implement e-forms for certain student administrative operations (e.g. Request for part time status, off campus study, etc.). SGS met with graduate assistants to provide a demonstration of the e-forms and the workflow associated with them. More information will be sent to departments in January 2017.

#### **Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees:**

The Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Council discussed the comprehensive examination purpose and structure and is generally supportive; concerns remain about the timing. The Graduate Studies and Research Committee in Education continues to explore how to integrate internship opportunities into their research-Master's and Ph.D. degree programs. A small subcommittee has been established to look into this.

#### **Report from the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS)**

The SGPS opened a new lounge for graduate students in Room 237 JDUC. Quite a few students are applying online for SGPS bursaries and grants.

GSEC approved:

1. Proposed Major Modification, Dual M.Ed. degree program, Queen's University and the South China Normal University
2. Omnibus Report December 2016
3. Fellowship Committee Report December 2016

GSEC discussed the enrolment summary and graduate student experience data presented to the Council.

### **Senate Follow Up**

The Principal's Implementation Committee is currently being put together. As a reminder, this committee will include 6 individuals in total: 3 chosen by/ from Senate, and 3 chosen by the Principal. Voting for the 3 senate positions opening on December 20 and closed on January 4, and all members of Senate were invited to vote online. It is hoped that the results of this selection process for the Implementation Committee will be announced on or before the next Senate meeting at the end of January.

If anyone has an interest in any of the above items or anything else on the Agenda and would like to speak to me about it further, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. My email address is senator@sgps.ca.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ciara Bracken-Roche  
Graduate Student Senator  
senator@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Trustee  
January Council Meeting 2017

No written report.



Dear Council,

During the December council meeting I reported on three events I hosted in December: indoor cycle class, basketball sports hour, and skating in Springer Market Square. The final event I partook in during December was the Holiday De-Stressor hosted by all commissioners. While attendance was fairly low at the event, those who did come had a great time playing foosball, crafting, and playing board games. I am greatly looking forward to the upcoming events this semester, which I will outline below.

### **Sports Hours**

Free, drop-in, all-levels, sports hour events will take place every 2-3 weeks during the upcoming semester. Due to the renovations in the PEC, the gym space on main campus is fairly booked this semester with intramurals and tournaments. However, I was able to secure fairly regular timing for the sports hours. The following is a list of the sports hours planned so far:

Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 5-6pm Indoor Soccer in MacBrown Gym

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 5-6pm Dodgeball in MacBrown Gym

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> 5-6pm Indoor Soccer in MacBrown Gym

Mar 11<sup>th</sup> Wheelchair Basketball in the ARC upper east gym (may require advanced registration depending on interest level)

Mar 25<sup>th</sup> 6-7pm Basketball in the ARC upper east gym

### **Restorative Yoga Class**

On January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:15-8:15pm we will be hosting a \$5 restorative yoga class at Metabodyworks, a studio located on Barrie between Princess and Queen. This class will require registration via Tilt and has a maximum capacity. It is open to all experience levels and will be an excellent chance for students to de-stress and practice self-care while experiencing one of Kingston's

many excellent yoga studios. The studio has a great range of equipment to enhance the class experience.

### **Mindful Meditation Workshop**

I am in the midst of planning a mindfulness/meditation workshop at Samatva, a yoga studio on Princess Street. The date will likely be March 18<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-3:30pm. The workshop will consist of a discussion of mindfulness, a short guided meditation, mindful walking, a silent meditation, as well as the sharing of everyday mindful tools. This workshop will help students as they head into a busy time of year. The workshop style will be a great introduction to students who are brand new to meditation, but will also cater to those who are looking to expand their meditation/mindfulness practices.

### **Main February and April Events**

I am currently in the process of planning out my main events for February and April. Ideas include skating again (February), another indoor cycle class due to the popularity of the first, rock climbing at the Boiler Room, and a nature walk at Lemoine Point (April).

### **Various Items**

Due to my being out of province on an academic placement, I will be relying on the other commissioners to facilitate the January and February Athletics Events in person, and am thankful for their keenness to help. I will work with them so that they are fully prepared before attending each event and able to ensure the event flows smoothly and that any participant questions are fully answered or forwarded onto myself. I will also be unable to attend my upcoming committee meetings for these two months but will be as engaged and active as possible by reading and commenting on agendas and meeting minutes. I will be sure to include any information pertinent to SGPS members in subsequent reports.

During the upcoming two months I plan to put together several resources about physical activity and athletics that can be distributed to graduate students.

I am happy to take any suggestions or comments about future and past SGPS athletics events as well as general questions or comments about athletics and physical activity for graduate students. I can be reached at [athletics@sgps.ca](mailto:athletics@sgps.ca).

Sincerely,

Lindsay Ruitter

Athletics Commissioner, SGPS



Dear Members of the SGPS,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break. I am excited to get 2017 started with everyone.

### **Equity Commissioner Office Hours Change**

My office hours will take place every Thursday from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm in JDUC 205 (The SGPS Commissioner Office), please come in to discuss any equity issues, workshop ideas and/or feedback, or to simply sit down and chat with me in this confidential space.

### **February- April Events:**

There are a number of initiatives I am excited to bring to SGPS members and the wider Queen's University community this term. Keep your eyes peeled for a workshop on Employment Equity and knowing your rights in February, a photo exhibition and artistic expression night in March, and a workshop on negotiating your salary as a female or female identifying individual in April. Please feel free to email me or come talk to me about any specific questions or concerns about any of these events. I welcome your ideas and input.

### **Tabling at QUIC January 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>**

I'm taking portraits of people belonging to racialized groups as part of the photo exhibition on implicit biases and need some volunteers to be the beautiful faces of these photos! In return for helping me out, I'll gladly snap and edit a photo of you with an SLR camera for your professional/social networking use. If you're interested and willing to be a part of this project, please visit me in the QUIC lounge between 11:45 am-1:00 pm on Monday January 16th, 23rd, and 30th or please email me and we can find a time that works!

My email is [equity@sgps.ca](mailto:equity@sgps.ca) if anyone wants to get in touch with me, or if you want to get involved with any of the projects this term. I look forward to meeting some new faces!

In solidarity,

**Tahseen Chowdhury**  
**Equity & Diversity Commissioner**





Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the International Student's Affairs Commissioner  
January Council Meeting 2017

Dear Council,

Compliments of the season to you all. I hope you all had restful holidays. At the end of last year, the Equity, Social Commissioners and I hosted an End of Year Celebration/ Mixer at The Grad Club. The event was well attended and it seems the students that attended had a good time. We had about 20 people come out, and a good number of them stayed until the sanctioned end of the event. Thank you to all the councillors for spreading word about the event.

The International Student Affairs Committee (ISAC) met on the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. The committee is currently working on creating content that is more specific for international students (to supplement the information given by QUIC and SGS) that will be part of the O-Week guide produced by the SGPS. ISAC is also working on a 'Mission Document' that outlines the role of ISAC and how it differs from the services offered by QUIC. We hope to present it to Council at the next meeting.

I am currently working with an International Student Advisor and the Equity Commissioner to host a workshop on February 1<sup>st</sup> that will be part of the Black History month events. Event details will be posted on social media as soon as everything is confirmed.

By the time we meet for Council, I will have attended the QUIC Graduate Students Orientation and the Welcome Reception hosted by the School of Graduate Studies. Additionally, Vice President Ana and I will have hosted the Welcome Back Social during the workshop series time slot.

I will continue my office hours this semester and I look forward to interacting with you all at the various events that will be hosted throughout the semester. As always, I welcome any suggestions or comments, my email address is [international@sgps.ca](mailto:international@sgps.ca)

Best wishes for the semester,

Chiedza Pasipanodya  
**International Student Affairs Commissioner**



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Social Commissioner  
January Council Meeting 2017

Dear council,

Happy New Year! I hope this report finds you all well and rested, ready to tackle this exciting new year!

Not much has happened with Social since the last report due to the break. I am excited to announce that Social will be hosting two events this month: a trivia night at the Grad Club on Thursday January 26 and a social at Barcadia on Tuesday January 31.

Have a great week!

Yann Grand-Clément  
Social Commissioner



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the University Rector  
January Council Meeting 2017

Rector Yung will be providing an oral report at the January 2017 Council Meeting.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Chief Returning Officer  
January Council Meeting 2017

(Position vacant)