



Hello Council,

Please find a summary of my work in the past month, in below:

**Selection Committee for Principal's 2016 Educational Leadership Award:** two meetings. Review of three nomination packages, one Professor was selected, one was referred for another relevant award category, one was referred for nominations next year

**Implementation Team on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence:** two meetings. Discussion and review of a policy on prevention of, and response to sexual violence on campus. I raised the question of prevention through education for younger generations (primary and secondary schools) and how it is reflected in the Education Program at Queen's.

**Women's Campus Safety Group:** One meeting and email follow up. Discussion of applications for a governmental grant to promote women's safety on campus. The eligible projects or project elements were identified and a report on the final decisions is prepared.

**Announcement of the Federal and Provincial governments funding:** The announcement that "a \$31 million investment from the Government of Canada, under the Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund (SIF), ..., in addition to a \$4.9 million investment from the Government of Ontario and the contributions of a number of benefactors, will support two capital projects on campus– the creation of the Queen's Innovation and Wellness Centre and a revitalization of on-campus biomedical research facilities."

**SGPS special Exec meeting:** Review of Commissioner's year plans and mandate letters

**SGPS Equity Working Group:** Setting the grounds for the work of SGPS Equity Standing Committee to meet its mandates

**Ombudsman Advisory Committee:** I discussed the issues around different intake processes for complaints against students, staff, and faculty, and how the different collective agreements between different groups of Queen's employees create an inherently unfair system to address these issues, which are already complicated by the imbalance of power between these different groups.

**Regular Meetings with the SGS:** Updated the SGS on my research progress

**Meeting with Suriya Akhtar:** Three meetings. Suriya is hired as a work-study research assistant to help me with my project on student-supervisor relations. We discussed the scope and timeline of the project, and the tasks that I was expecting for the first three weeks of her work, as well as some report on her progress.

**Emergency meeting with the Dean of the SGS:** Despite me having given her an overview of what issues the research will tackle, the dean seemed to be caught by surprise when the SGPS work-study RA contacted different people around the University to collect data relevant to her project. I discussed the methods that we are going to apply in details with the Dean, again.

**Regular Meeting with the Provost and the Principal:** I updated them about my research project and the roadblocks it has been facing. I updated them about SGPS decision about NAM agency agreements.

**Introductory meeting with Vice Principal Facilities and Administration:** We discussed the major projects that the SGPS is undertaking for this year. Donna promised she would ask her staff in Human Resources to lend us their expertise for our review of our internal structure and maximizing efficiency at our organization.

**Senate Advisory Research Committee:** We reviewed several nominations for Prizes for Excellence in Research and ranked them, in order to help the VP Research in selecting the receivers of the prizes.

**Senate Agenda and Summer Action Committee:** We discussed and approved the agenda for the Senate.

**Non-code Harassment Policy for the SGS:** Along with the University adviser on Equity and Human Rights from Equity Office, Ombudsman, SGS Dean and Associate Dean, and others, we discussed the progress on developing a policy that protects the Graduate and Professional students from harassment by the staff or faculty members. Particularly, the issue of confidentiality vs. the obligation for the report of the harassment cases to the Human Resources whenever an employee is involved was discussed. It is absolutely important that the Council members communicate this issue with their constituency to make sure the students know that there is chance that the information that they share with an SGS Dean may be shared with a third party against their will.

**Queen's National Scholar:** While I didn't attend this meeting, I sent my rankings for the submitted proposals through email.

**Town Hall with the SGPS members:** In order to create a venue for the members to share their concerns with me, I held an open consultation session for October, as promised in my year plan. Unfortunately, no one attended the meeting.

**Senate Governance and Nomination Committee:** Several issues including composition of Senate Orientation Activities Review Board, survey from Senators engagement at the Senate, Application forms for the Senate Committee memberships, and the roles of Senate Educational Equity Committee, and Senate Library Committee were discussed.

**Fall term Break Task Force: Two meeting:** Consultations with stakeholders started by inviting the Rector as a guest and will be continued through November. The Task Force will be meeting with the SGPS Council at November's GM.

**Food committee:** (delegated, two meetings) issues surrounding allergies, green sustainability, freshness of the food, meal plans, different available services around campus, waste aversion, and donations have been discussed. I could not attend the Senate, and Senate Student Caucus this month.

Regards,

Saba Farbodkia  
President  
[president@sgps.ca](mailto:president@sgps.ca)



Please find my updates below:

**Student Advisor Program:**

- Student Advisors is operating with drop-in hours on Mondays.
- New promotional materials and in person advertising/class talks will be occurring in November.

**Student Mental Health:**

- Work-study candidate for SGPS member mental health report has been hired.
- Currently doing a literature review on past studies to determine how to conduct ours. We are looking at past Queen's studies that have looked at similar concerns. Look for a mental health survey to go out in December.

**Networking Opportunities for Graduate Students:**

- The *175 Mentors* portal is live! Students can now sign up for an alumni mentor on the School of Graduate Studies website.
- The School of Graduate studies is soliciting feedback on their Expanding Horizons workshops. If there is anything you'd like to see in the future or aspects that can be improved, please send your feedback to [steerc@queensu.ca](mailto:steerc@queensu.ca)

**Other Business:**

- By council, the SGPS will have hired a new communication facilitator to create a marketing protocol for the organization and handle social media advertisements. This will provide another student employment opportunity and allow the permanent staff to focus on responsibilities that lie more in their field of expertise.
- If anyone has suggestions of what to add to the new Room 237 student space, please let me know. We'd like to create as great of a study and social space for SGPS members as possible.

Regards,

Sebastian Gorlewski  
Vice-President Graduate  
[vp.graduate@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.graduate@sgps.ca)



Hello SGPS Council Members,

I would first like to apologize for my absence from this council meeting as I am in Toronto interviewing. I hope this report finds you all well and answers any questions you may have for me!

### **Careers Week**

I am extremely excited about how things are coming together for Careers Week, which will be occurring in November (stay tuned for marketing materials!). This year we really aim to supply students with helpful workshops and resources that can supplement job searches, prepare for interviews, or simply polish up the skills and materials all graduate and professional students may have. StudioQ and Queen's Career Services will be assisting us by providing workshops on resume building, cover letters, headshots, and more! Stay tuned for more specific details and a schedule of events on the week!

### **Marketing**

We had hiring for the Communications Facilitator occur this past week and I am excited to announce that we have now hired the SGPS' first ever Communications Facilitator. The position will work alongside myself to present uniform, effective, and attractive content for all SGPS platforms. I am very excited about how this rebranding will shape up and look forward to working with our new Communications Facilitator, Natalie Antturi!

### **Professional Development**

We are excited to announce the opening of the SGPS Multi Purpose Room (Room 237 in the JDUC)! This room will serve to provide students with space to use for studying, socializing, and for workshops. We look forward to holding our first workshop in the coming weeks, which will occur weekly from 6:30 – 8:30. Stay tuned for a schedule of workshops, and please contact me if you or anyone you know would like the space to teach a new skill, educate about something of interest, or discuss a specific topic with your fellow SGPS Members.

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)



Council Members,

Some short updates on the ongoing projects from my annual plan:

**Structural/Governance Reform**

We have begun the process for realigning permanent and student staff responsibilities in the office to better distribute the work between positions and skill-sets. We have also conducted interviews to hire a student communications facilitator who will run our online presence—which used to be done by permanent staff, but was not a good use of their time.

**Bursary Program**

The finance committee will be reviewing the 6-month retrospective of the program this month. Here’s a rough sketch of where we are at:

<b>Bursaries Approved</b>	<b>Bursaries Denied by Committee</b>	<b>Inactive Applications</b>	<b>Total Expenditure (Fiscal Year 2016-2017)</b>
33	3	12	\$15,769.50

**Grants/Strategic Funds**

The finance committee will be reviewing the 6-month retrospective of the program this month.

**Student Activity Fees**

With the successful passage of the student fee policy, I have begun to draft training materials and application guides for prospective fee-seeking groups. All of these should be approved through the Finance and Services Committee and launched online in December.

**JDUC Revitalization**

I completed the programmatic assessment of existing SGPS space (basically a list of all the space and what we use it for). This is just the initial step to begin creating a unified plan for designers to work off of. Waiting on the AMS for next steps.

As always, I am free to take your questions.

Respectively Submitted,

**Stuart Clark**  
Vice President (Finance & Services)  
Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS)  
[vp.finance@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.finance@sgps.ca)



Dear Council,

I apologize for not being able to attend this month's Council Meeting. I am away at an academic conference but will be available via email as per usual for any follow up questions regarding my report. Below is a run-down of some of what I have been working on since last Council meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email at [vp.community@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.community@sgps.ca).

**O-Week:**

As per last Council Meeting and my last few reports on Orientation Week Survey materials, I am looking to create a committee in order to start planning Orientation Week for September 2017. There is a motion included in the agenda which I am hoping will be supported by Council in order to be able to strike this committee for January.

**Clubs Office:**

The AMS Clubs Manager and I continue to meet regularly to discuss upcoming deadlines and other information pertinent to the merger of the SGPS and AMS Clubs. The new clubs that went up for ratification have now been ratified and the next step is going through the grant distribution for the Fall term.

**Commissioners:**

The Commissioners have now submitted their year plans and started their official terms in the position. The first meeting with myself and the Commissioners will be scheduled for mid-November.

**Research Assistants:**

Two Research Assistants (International student resources & Indigenous student resources) have been hired. Their terms began as of the last week of October. I have already met with both and discussed steps moving forward. Updates on their progress will be available during Winter Semester, as well as in their final reports to Council in April.

**Editing Service:**

I have met with a number of groups on campus, including the CTL, SASS, and QUIC, and have a meeting scheduled with the SGS in order to determine the best path forward with the provision of an editing service geared towards international graduate and professional students. There will be an update on this process at the Council Meeting in December following the discussion with SGS and the input of from a focus group of international graduate and professional students being created by the International Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Anastasiya Boika  
VP Campaigns & Community Affairs  
[vp.community@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.community@sgps.ca)





No report, position vacant.



Hello Council,

In this report I have included notes about the two primary meetings that I have attended this past month as Senator. Notes for the GSEC are included as well as a brief summary of the Senate Meeting Agenda for November. Unfortunately, at the time this report is submitted, I will be in the November Senate meeting so I will give you any necessary updates in person at the Council meeting next week.

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

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

Dean's report: B. Brouwer reported:

- Graduate and Post-Doctoral Career Week was a great success. Events were well attended, and positive feedback received. The homecoming Research Showcase on Saturday October 15 featured the work of 11 PhD students and was well received by alumni and community members. Dr. Art McDonald gave a warm welcome and provided valuable feedback to our students.
- Career Services and the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) collaborated to develop over 70 program-specific Grad Maps which provide a visual timeline of the curriculum, research advice, and opportunities to develop employability skills. A story in a recent edition of the Queen's Gazette describes the Grad Maps project.
- The pilot PhD-Community Initiative launches this week. This program will bring together interdisciplinary teams of 3 to 6 PhD students to work with local community organizations to help them address a specific issue or challenge.
- Queen's is participating in the Education Policy Research Initiative project led by R. Finnie from the University of Ottawa to examine the outcomes (degree completion, labour outcomes) of graduate TriCouncil award winners.
- SGS, Faculties and Schools have begun the annual consultation about enrolment projections.
- On October 19 SGS hosted 67 participants for a webinar for potential Canada Graduate Scholarships and Academic Excellence Award (AEA) applicants.
- Fall Graduate Forum will be held on November 22 from 10:30-noon (Kin 101). Christine Macdonald from Mitacs will discuss the many programs that can support graduate students in all disciplines, describe how to access these programs and strategies adopted elsewhere to integrate Mitacs internships in graduate programs.
- The Quality Council accepted a recommendation to revise the Quality Assurance Framework effective immediately. Collaborative programs, now collaborative specializations require internal approval only.
- Five Fall Convocation ceremonies will be held November 15, 16, and 17 in Grant Hall. Faculty members are encouraged to attend. Over 800 graduate students will receive their degrees this fall.

Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees and SGPS:

Most Graduate Councils and Committees began or will soon begin discussion of one or more of 3 documents discussed at September GSEC: Graduate degree completion, attrition and financial support at Queen's; PhD thesis format; and comprehensive examination purpose and structure.

The SGPS has developed plans to communicate widely about the Student Peer Advisor program to promote the service.

GSEC approved:

1. Preapproval of proposed Ph.D. in Healthcare Quality
2. Preapproval of proposed Ph.D. in Global Development Studies
3. Major/minor modifications, Master of Engineering, Design & Manufacturing (ADMI M.Eng.)
4. Omnibus Report October 2016

GSEC discussed:

- i. Applicant Survey results and Recruitment Tips
- ii. The visualization of SGS Exit Survey data (available with Tableau Reader)

### **Senate Meeting**

Major discussions on the table for November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting that I think are of interest to our SGPS community in particular are listed here and I will follow up with any necessary updates orally at the meeting. Further discussion of the “Professors of Colour Letter”( that I told Council about in my oral report in October) will likely take place as the student who wrote this letter followed up to express her concern that Senate was not doing more to address her concerns. A Truth and Reconciliation Task Force is being formed to develop a set of proposals to respond to the TRC’s call to action as they pertain to Queen’s.

For anyone that is interested, the meeting agenda can be found here:

<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=1079>.

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Ciara Bracken-Roche  
Graduate Student Senator  
[senator@sgps.ca](mailto:senator@sgps.ca)



To the SGPS Membership,

There are no updates to my recent report from the October council meeting. The second regular Board of Trustee Meeting is occurring December 2 and 3, where I will also attend the meeting of the capital projects and finance committee.

If you have any questions concerning the Board of Trustees, or Queen's University generally, please feel free to e-mail me <[trustee@sgps.ca](mailto:trustee@sgps.ca)>

Thanks,

Adam Ali  
Graduate Student Trustee  
[trustee@sgps.ca](mailto:trustee@sgps.ca)



Dear Council,

Having just begun my term in October, I am happy to announce that I am enjoying the role so far and have a large number of ideas through which I plan to engage graduate students in physical activity during the coming months. During October I created my year plan and budget, for which I am currently waiting for approval. I will take a moment here to outline my main goals and the events that I anticipate running during my term.

My goals that I hope to achieve by the spring are to increase awareness and attendance at SGPS athletics events, to expose students to a broader range of physical activities both on campus and in the Kingston community, and to increase the social component of athletics events to encourage consistent participation and promote a supportive community environment.

The main events I hope to run include two re-occurring events: the continuation of sports hours, and a running and social group that will meet bi-weekly. Events held in the community will include an indoor cycling class, indoor rock climbing, skating downtown, and a nature walk in the spring. Events to be held on campus will include a meditation workshop, a yoga class, and a boot-camp. I have chosen these events to allow for both indoor and outdoor activities, sport and non-sport activities, awareness of activities that are available in Kingston, and a workshop that focuses on stress reduction and the mind-body connection.

During November I hope to be able to begin hosting events, depending on approval and event sanctioning, and will also plan all December events. I will be hiring a logistics facilitator to work with me to help actualize these events, and hope to begin training this student by the start of December. I will also use November to familiarize myself with event sanctioning and approval processes, as I have just received access to my email today. I will also be sitting on several committee meetings in the coming month, upon which I will report at the December meeting.

I look forward to the many exciting events that I plan to run throughout the school year.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Rüter  
Athletics Commissioner  
[athletics@sgps.ca](mailto:athletics@sgps.ca)



Dear Members of the SGPS,

I hope you all had a great weekend and a spirited Halloween. It is with great pleasure that I submit this report as the newly appointed Equity and Diversity Commissioner.

### **Equity Commissioner Office Hours – All Are Welcome**

I'm pleased to announce that I will be holding open office hours every Monday from 1-3pm in JDUC 205 (The SGPS Commissioner Office). Please know that everyone is welcome to come in to discuss any equity or otherwise related issue in this safe, confidential space with me.

### **Student Outreach for Equity Issues Standing Committee**

The SGPS Equity Issues Standing Committee met for the first time this academic year to discuss the creation of a Strategic Equity Plan. To develop a comprehensive plan and ensure that it reflects the needs and concerns of the Graduate and Professional student body, we would like to introduce Equity Representatives to individual Graduate departments and begin a community consultation process. There will be a call for interest sent out with the next SGPS newsletter, but we'd also like to request Council members to relay this information forward and encourage progressive and equity-minded folks to contact me at [equity@sgps.ca](mailto:equity@sgps.ca) if they'd like to serve as Equity Representative for their Graduate program or faculty.

### **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Task Force**

The Provost has established a Task Force to develop a set of proposals that respond to the TRC calls to action that pertain to Queen's University (calls to action found [here](#)). To help inform their final report, the task force is holding consultation meetings this fall and encourages students and community members to attend. I strongly encourage members to be a part of this process with the remaining 3 meetings. For more information, please visit this page:  
<http://queensu.ca/provost/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca/provwww/files/files/Comittees/TRC%20Reports/TRC%20Flyer%2002.pdf>

### **Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Working Group**

The Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group is currently in the process of revising Queen's sexual violence policy in response to new provincial regulations released in May. Campus consultation dates are not yet finalized, but please get in touch with me if there are any issues you'd like me to bring to the attention of the working group, as member discussions have already begun.

### **Committee Involvement**

Over the last few weeks, I have been involved with the Senate Educational Equity Committee, Built Environment Working Group, AMS Equity Caucus, the Staff Recognition Awards Committee, and the Positive Space Steering Committee. While I am still transitioning into my role, I am committed to increasing the visibility of SGPS Equity Commissioner by engaging with various campus stakeholders to ensure a collaborative and intersectional approach to equity-related issues. If you have any suggestions for a group that I should establish or reestablish a stronger partnership with, please send their information to me at [equity@sgps.ca](mailto:equity@sgps.ca).

In solidarity,

Tahseen Chowdhury  
Equity & Diversity Commissioner  
[equity@sgps.ca](mailto:equity@sgps.ca)



Dear Council,

I am the Incoming International Students' Affairs Commissioner and have been transitioning into the role over the past two weeks. This is my first year at Queen's and I am excited about the work that this role will enable me to do. I was an international student throughout my undergrad years, and am looking to serve international graduate and professional students through my skills and experience.

I have just submitted my detailed year plan, detailing my goals and planned events for the year and I am looking forward to working with the International Students' Affairs Standing Committee and the international graduate and professional students to accomplish these. My three main goals are to:

- Increase international student engagement with the SGPS
- Increase knowledge of places to access resources and information
- Build community connections and solidarities

The event coming up for the international commission this month is a combined International Students' 'Town Hall'/ Meet and Greet. I will be planning for those in the coming weeks and look forward to your support. I am also in the midst of putting together the International Students' Affairs Standing Committee and would appreciate if you could spread the word and recommend any international students to email me about the opportunity. I welcome any suggestions and comments that you may have and I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Kind regards,

Chiedza Pasipanodya  
International Students' Affairs Commissioner  
[international@sgps.ca](mailto:international@sgps.ca)



Dear members of the SGPS Council,

It is with great excitement that I write this first report. Excitement for the year ahead, where I am sure that we will be able to work together to make the 2016-2017 year a memorable one for the SGPS. I would like to use this report to first introduce myself and then to introduce the plans I want to put into action for this coming year.

A little bit about me first. I am a second year law student here at Queen's Law. I am originally from Bordeaux, a city in the southwestern part of France mostly known for its wine and nice weather. Deciding that I would much rather live in a country where the outside temperature is in the negative five months of the year, I chose to immigrate to Montreal in 2011 where I studied political science at Concordia University. During my time in Montreal, I did a lot of work for a student organization on campus called Sustainable Concordia. Sustainable Concordia's main goal was to engage the community on campus and within Montreal by organizing educational events about sustainability. It is during my two years with Sustainable Concordia that I really developed a liking for community engagement and outreach. This experience is what pushed me towards the position of social commissioner here at the SGPS.

My main goal as social commissioner will be to increase engagement. The long-term effect of reaching this objective will be to create a greater sense of community between the different members of the SGPS and between the SGPS and the rest of Kingston. Getting to this objective will require three things to happen: 1) attendance of events must increase; 2) those who attend must come from a variety of faculties; 3) we must be able to gage the SGPS's standing within the Kingston community.

These sub-objectives can be achieved through a three-step process. First we have to host simple yet engaging events. We want to make it so students will be able to easily come to our events. In my year plan, I take into account this step by proposing to host more mixers in places that are easily accessible from campus. The low barrier of entry will increase attendance. The second step is to increase information. This will involve documenting not only how many students are attending our events but also from which faculties they are coming from and whether they have attended our events before. We will also create a survey that will be filled out by those who host our events (when possible) in order to better understand what the Kingston community expects from us. The third step is to increase outreach. The SGPS needs to increase its outreach efforts in order to make their events more visible. We are going to do this by hiring a communications coordinator who will specifically target those departments from where students tend not to show up.

I sincerely believe that this plan will increase engagement and help the SGPS develop a system to better reach out towards the community.

I look forward to getting to know all of you on council over the course of the coming months!

Best regards,

Yann Grand-Clément  
Social Commissioner  
[social@sgps.ca](mailto:social@sgps.ca)



No report.



No report, position vacant.



Dear Council,

I'm pleased to announce that I've been re-elected to the position of SGPS representative by the Department of Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PSGSA). I look forward to continuing to work with the SGPS Executive and Council on the important issues we face as graduate and professional students. I appreciate the opportunity to serve my colleagues and represent our department for another year and look forward to the challenges ahead.

The Department of Political Studies welcomed 42 new graduate students in September, a substantial portion of which are participating in the new Masters in Political and Legal Thought in collaboration with the Department of Philosophy and Faculty of Law. We are also working to further promote graduate student research and collaboration within our department by establishing a graduate student colloquium series. The Department of Philosophy was central to these efforts, sharing their experience and knowledge of their own long-running graduate colloquium series. It is my hope that the colloquium series generates greater collaboration and communication between graduate students within our department.

As the representative of the Department of Political Studies, I'd like to express the PSGSA's disappointment regarding the SGPS's decision to reject our application for official recognition with the SGPS and access to the SGPS event sanctioning process. The PSGSA feels that important reforms need to take place with regard to both the registration and event sanctioning process. As a member of the Finance and Services Standing Committee, I look forward to contributing to this review process.

Submitted in good faith,

Korey Pasch  
Department of Political Studies Representative



Dear Council,

Couple things to report:

- 1) The Civil Engineering graduate students participated in the habitat for humanity Napanee build 2016 last week
- 2) Shuang Liang was elected as President

Thanks,

Alexander Rey  
Department of Civil Engineering Councillor