



Dear Council,

September is over and hopefully everyone's back in the swing of things. There were two very major announcements on campus over the last week. The first was the donation of \$50 million to the School of Business, by Stephen Smith, Sci'72, which has resulted in the School being renamed the Smith School of Business. The second is the announcement that a Queen's professor, Arthur MacDonald, is the recipient of the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physics. I hope you all agree that it's a good time to be a member of the Queen's community.

The SGPS and the Queen's Student Alumni Association / Office of Advancement

Mid-September I had a meeting with the Office of Advancement and the President of the Queen's Student Alumni Association, Nathan Utioh, to discuss the state of affairs of the SGPS with respect to alumni involvement and alumni relations. The office is very keen on better understanding the special circumstances facing graduate and professional students, and particularly interested in understanding what could be done to help graduate students (both current and alumni) feel more connected to the Queen's alumni community. This discussion was separate from the meeting I mentioned in my September report, but the ongoing conversation certainly indicates that this is an area in which the SGPS could have a big impact and form stronger bonds on campus. I've also had a number of informal discussions with the President of the Queen's University Alumni Association, George Jackson, who is also interested in developing a stronger relationship with our Society. Fostering alumni relationships with graduate students specifically is an industry problem – graduates almost always feel a stronger connection to their undergraduate institution. At this stage, I believe the best way to strengthen this relationship is to form a strong and supported community of graduate students, and I hope to be able to convince other stakeholders that investing in graduate student life today is an investment in future alumni. If anyone has any ideas on how the SGPS could be better interacting with alumni, please let me know!

Advisory Committee on Non-Academic Misconduct

The University has started a process through which the current system of Non-Academic Discipline (NAD) is being significantly retooled. The SGPS has traditionally had very few (if any) cases go through the NAD system, so at first glance this may seem to be a non-issue for our members. However, there are a few factors of the new system that may make the system more relevant to our membership. I will be representing graduate and professional students on the committee that will be responsible for developing the new Non-Academic Misconduct (NAM) system, which will replace NAD, so look forward to more updates on this matter from me in the future.

SGPS Survey

In an effort to hear more directly from our members about what they would like us to do for them, we have put together a very short anonymous survey. Please fill out the survey at your leisure - <https://goo.gl/ODSOz2>. The results of this survey will be used to inform upcoming the Executive's actions and advocacy efforts over the year.

I've also taken part in meetings of the Campus Reputation Research Advisory Council, the Non-Code Harassment Working Group, the Senate, and the Board of Trustees, as well as a handful of one-on-one or small group meetings of SGPS members. These meetings with members will likely result in more initiatives coming out over the next month, so watch for new ways to get involved in the newsletter. If you would like more information about any of the things I've mentioned, or anything else going on in the SGPS, please feel free to send me an e-mail!

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Cochrane

SGPS President (president@sgps.ca)



Dear Council,

I hope you have settled into this new academic year nicely and are enjoying your courses/research! As the pace of work begins to pick up and midterms and other deadlines begin to approach, always remember to take some time to relax and do something for yourself. It might be as simple as going to the gym, or going to the Grad Club for some Thursday trivia.

Student Advisor Program

The Student Advisor Program had 11 cases total in the month of September and had 3 inquires that did not result in cases within that same month. The Program closed 6 of these cases by the end of September. Several recurring issues the Program has been dealing with include intellectual property concerns and harassment.

Tuition and Fees

After receiving several complaints from students regarding the assessment of tuition fees and signing up for the pre-authorized payment plan, I contacted the SGS to see if anything could be done to make the process go more smoothly. There was a great deal of confusion with having a deadline for sign up to the payment plan that was AFTER the deadline for tuition payment. Because of this, several students were charged late fees. In addition, the payout date from many scholarships and awards are after the day tuition is due. As a result, some students have been unable to pay tuition and were charged a financial penalty. One thing I will be exploring the possibility of with the SGS and the Registrar is the shifting of some of these dates to help make paying tuition as stress free as possible.

Committees

With everyone back, committees were in full swing in September, including the first GSEC meeting of the year where revisions to the SGS thesis defence visitor's regulation were discussed in an effort to make the regulation clearer.

I also had the opportunity to travel to Toronto to attend the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS) meeting. Graduate student leaders from all Ontario universities were invited to have a discussion with the the graduate deans from across Ontario. The major topics discussed were internationalization and accessibility and specifically what schools can do to make international students feel more welcome.

The SGS invited me to take part in their annual Graduate Coordinators meeting, where ideas about academic supports for graduate students were discussed. Exceptional Graduate coordinators from different departments across campus were highlighted at the meeting and it was amazing to see how far some departments will go to help their students!

If you have any questions or comments about an issue, please feel free to send me an email at vpg@sgps.ca. Unfortunately, my awesome laser stopped working so I was forced to setup a new experiment. Not a great month for my lab work, but things are looking up. Just remember that stuff always works out in the end. Keep smiling!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kellenberger

Mark Kellenberger
Vice President Graduate
vpg@sgps.ca



Dear SGPS Council Members,

We are now well into our second month of the fall semester at Queen's, and the foot traffic has finally begun to decline around the SGPS offices. The executive has been hard at work to serve the students, and I have a few things to report.

First and foremost I am proud to announce that we have just completed interviews and hired 6 new researchers for the SGPS! These are new positions for the SGPS wherein hired students will engage in targeted research projects in areas of student interest and wellness, and ultimately produce reports for SGPS use. They will hopefully provide valuable insight into various areas concern, as well as guidelines for improving students' lives and developing effective new policies. We received many strong applications for these new work-study funded researcher roles, and interviewed candidates during the last week of September. As of the start of October we have selected the 6 candidates who will be taking on these new roles, and based on their application and interviews I have no doubt that they will make some very valuable contributions to our society. Congratulations to them, and a thank you to every one who took the time to apply.

In addition to the hiring process, I have been attending various committees and board meetings to represent the concerns and interests of the SGPS broadly. Noteworthy among these meetings was a follow-up from the summer meeting of the Queen's Journal Board. I met with the editors of the Journal last month and discussed the Journal's role in Grad Student Life. The Queen's Journal will be making an effort to include more pieces on graduate issues and the SGPS community this year, and had already begun the process by publishing articles on some of the SGPS' initiatives from last council. They have also expressed a strong interest in finding more graduate level contributors, and I would like to strongly encourage community members to reach out to the publication to become a regular contributor, or even to contribute topics or one-off articles about their research and interests. Our society pays into this campus service, and we should take advantage of that through participation. Interested council members should contact the Queen's Journal directly, or encourage their friends and colleagues to do so.

Some of you may have also attended the Professional Makeover Week events that happened last week (currently ongoing as I write this). I will report in greater detail on the success of the events in person at council, but the initial reception has been extremely positive, and I hope that this event will become a regular offering from our society. If you have any feedback or suggestions for next year, or for some workshops and training please let me know. I am hoping to organize a complementary event at the start of the winter semester.

Finally, thank you all for welcoming the CFS at last month's council meeting. We were happy to meet with them after council to discuss long term issues facing graduate students and the SGPS, and we currently looking into way to use the research and statistics that have come from the *Not in the Syllabus* survey and report.

Cha Gheill,

Mark Asfar
Vice-President Professional
vpp@sgps.ca



Dear Council,

September 2015 has been a crazy month with Health and Dental Plan Opt Outs, orientating new students and a flood of applications for bursaries, grants and club ratification.

I have had the opportunity over the past month to meet many new people including Queen's Board of Trustees. It has been a pleasure meeting all of our new members, connecting with members and meeting more of Queen's administration.

Bursaries and Grants

The Finance and Services Committee had its first meeting at the beginning of the month. It was great to finally meet all of the members. Everyone is very excited to be on the committee and has provided excellent feedback. During the meeting we discussed the changes I have proposed to the Bursary/Grants Program as well as their requirements for being part of the committee.

I have recently drafted new application forms for both grants and bursaries. The Finance and Services Committee is currently reviewing these forms and we hope to have them on our website ready for use within the next week or so. This will be the first step of implementing the more streamlined Bursary/Grants Program. I have decided to take the approach where we will implement changes to the program in stages to see how students react to them and flesh them out before we completely change policy on this topic. I will update you further at the next council meeting.

Bursaries and Grants applications have been non-stop over the past month. We have had a ton of applications and have been able to provide \$2,400 in Emergency Student Aid, \$302.40 in terms of Dental Bursary, \$2,550 for International Bursary, \$1,200 in Grants, \$185 in pre-approved club funding and \$535 for the Sports Fund. This is only for the month of September and we have already seen many more applications for October.

Health and Dental Plan

Many members (x) were able to successfully opt-out of our health and dental plan for this year. However, we had a few students who did not manage to meet our deadline. It was determined by the Finance and Services Committee that no member would be allowed to opt-out of the plan past the deadline, unless the member has such extenuating circumstances that can be proved by a doctor's note. We have only had 14 members at this point requesting opt-out past the deadline. A few of which tried to opt-out through the AMS.

I have contacted the AMS to discuss working together to ensure our opt-out deadlines match. This way we can assist each other in promoting the deadline, as well as ensure that all students are aware of the deadline, even if they get confused about which organization they are a part of.

Accountant

I have currently narrowed down a list of 5 accounting firms of which we will be looking into to provide us auditing services, as well as business services should we need them in the future. Both the executive director and I will be contacting these firms over the next week to set up meetings with them and to get quotes from them. I will then be

taking this information to the Finance and Services Committee who will assist me in making a recommendation for an accountant. I will be bringing this recommendation to all of you at the November 2015 Council Meeting.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Huber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christina Huber
Vice President Finance and Services
vpfs@sgps.ca



Dear Council,

Between the many events, initiatives, and gatherings of Orientation Month and other things of interest to the community, September has proven to be much busier, and far more productive than I could've anticipated. Here's an idea of what I've been up to since we last spoke.

Orientation Week(s)

Wrapped up the final few orientation week talks amongst Art Conservation and Law.

The October Election

My ongoing discussions for an all candidates' debate has bore fruit, and I'm quite pleased to announce that the SGPS is partnering with the AMS in order to bring you an MP Candidate's Debate for Kingston & the Islands. The event will be hosted by students from the Political Studies Department, and will take place on 15 October 2015, at 7PM in Grant Hall. Myself, and a few of the other executive will be there and we're hoping to see many of our engaged membership in attendance as well. Attendees may submit questions to a ballot box, while those following online via twitter will be able to tweet questions to the moderator, Queen's own Dr. Kyle Hanniman.

The Canadian Federation of Students & Mental Health

The executive met with representatives of the CFS, who presented the results of a mental health survey that they had undertaken. The results were not good and have encouraged the executive to investigate specific avenues that may offset some of the less beneficial aspects of grad and professional life.

It All Adds Up

Another exciting initiative that I've been involved in is Queen's Career Services "It All Adds Up," a student-centric information campaign where students share the little successes and often overlooked aspects of their lives that lead to their successes. Basically, the idea is for students to take a more holistic, mindful view of themselves to recognize that they're likely already quite hard-working, in order to ease anxiety or struggles over mental wellbeing. Starting with the idea that students feel overworked, directionless, and pressured to always "perform," this campaign seeks to remind them that even those small, or even academically unrelated things that they do for themselves "add up" to eventual success and happiness.

In order to offset the large number of undergraduates participating, I'm hoping that some of our members will get involved, be able to say a few things, and have their pictures taken for the benefit of other grads and professionals, or even future ones.

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Working Group

As part of my continued work with this group we met to discuss the workings of the implementation group. Quite a few of us in the community were nervous that as there was only a single student on this largely administrative-lead group, the concerns of all students wouldn't be adequately captured. Working closely with the Rector, we voiced our concerns and happily the implementation group allowed a graduate student, our own SGPS President to join this group. I'll keep you apprised of other developments as they happen.

SGPS Parenting Room

A few things about what was described as a Breastfeeding/Quiet Room in my last report. First and foremost, I had some brief discussions with some members who felt that calling it a Parenting Room allows for it to be more inclusive to all

parents, and ensures that student-parents and other guardians will be able to use this space not only for feeding their children, but also for quiet time, changing, or simply a private space on campus for play. The administration of the keys has securely been set up with the SLC within the JDUC, meaning that this location will also be open much later than our own offices - a big win for those parents finding themselves running late night labs.

Although I drove to Toronto last weekend to purchase some of the final objects for the room, unfortunately, due to some untimely events in the JDUC yesterday, the opening of the room itself will be delayed until the university has finished their larger cleanup of the area.

Queen's Day Care

My efforts of working with the director of the day care to assemble a semi-official FAQ for SGPS membership in Kingston regarding daycare have been delayed due to her happily busy schedule, but this is something that I am committed to completing.

Further, there remains just a few spots at the new An Clachan facility - if you or someone else is in need of this vital service, please don't hesitate to let them know.

Thrive

This initiative continues to unfold rather well. I took part in several pillar groups (sleep hygiene, academic stress) and will be present on the panels of either; in addition to the unique stresses of graduate life, you might not have known this about me, but I take my sleep very seriously. Too, our brainstorming session for opening day went better than expected and I believe we will be able to use the information gained to ensure an inclusive, and welcoming atmosphere accessible to all students.

As I'd mentioned last time, if any of you are interested please let me know and I can forward your information along to the event's planning committee.

Student Wellness, Health, and Safety Working Group

As this group has outlived its original mandate, we're seeking to tie up all of the loose ends and to adequately find locations for what remains. This past meeting we discuss student events and clubs, insofar as bringing them under one inclusive framework. Myself, and the AMS representative raised some concerns that should the university conduct an environmental scan and implement its own directives, they might overrule the preexistent policy that the AMS and the SGPS regarding clubs and events. My thoughts are that despite the AMS having more of either, this still is something that we as fellow students should keep our eyes on, and seek where possible to assist.

SGPS Research Assistant Hiring

And finally, over the past few months, we've undertaken a new initiative to draw upon the skills and talents of our members in assisting us in researching several issues related to grad and professional students. I'm quite pleased to announce that the call for applicants brought in far more than were expected, a development that saw myself, our VP Professional, and Executive Assistant dedicating an entire day to hiring. Although Mark will probably have more to say on this topic, I would like to again congratulate the successful applicants and look forward to working with them on the many issues pressing to our membership.



Hello Council,

Non-Academic Discipline/Misconduct

As some of you may have heard, there have been some changes to the way Non-Academic Discipline, now referred to as Non-Academic Misconduct (NAM) is handled at Queen's. There will be a committee working on revamping the way the process works, based on recommendations from the Board of Trustees. In the meantime, an Interim Protocol on Non-Academic Misconduct has been put in place. The Interim Protocol can be found here: http://queensu.ca/principal/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.opvcwww/files/files/Interim-Protocol_Non-academic-Misconduct_20150915.pdf

The major change that you need to be aware of is that complaints are no longer directly sent to me as the SGPS Complaints Officer, but are filed through a Central Intake Office, which will then forward cases to the appropriate NAM System. The second major change that you should be aware of is that there is now the concept of a University Level misconduct, which is defined in the interim protocol, meaning that a number of cases that would have been handed by the AMS/SGPS/Residence/Athletics systems in the past are now handled by the Provost's office.

If you have any comments or concerns regarding this issue, please feel free to contact me.

Cheers,

Eric Rapos
Council Speaker
speaker@sgps.ca



Hello Council,

GSEC Meeting – September 17, 2015

- Dean's Report:
 - The following business was conducted on behalf of GSEC over the summer:
 - Pre-approval of the following programs: Graduate Diploma in Heritage Planning and Conservation (Department of Geography and Planning); Graduate Diploma in Arts Management and Master's in Arts Leadership (Department of Drama, School of Music & the Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts); Master of Philosophy (Department of English Language and Literature).
 - Minor changes as per the Omnibus report.
 - In August 2015, Queen's released the Comprehensive International Plan, which includes the SGS goal to increase the proportion of international sponsored graduate students to 10% of total incoming graduate enrolment.
 - The Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) will recommend to Senate on September 29th that the major modifications submitted by the Faculty of Education (change concentrations to fields), the Centre for Neuroscience Studies (combined BSCh/MSc and BAH/MA programs) and Queen's School of Business (dual degree programs associated with the Master of International Business) be approved
 - B. Brouwer will be attending departmental meetings throughout the fall term, to provide a "graduate program report card" and to talk about recruitment, enhancing the graduate student experience at Queen's and several SGS updates (e.g. the planned 2016 increase in PhD Tri-Agency Recipient Recognition Awards (TARRAs), the introduction of the Academic Excellence Awards (AEAs), the launch of the SGS Habitat website).
 - The Graduate coordinator orientation will be held in B176 Mac-Corry September 23, 11:30-1:00.
 - New this year, SGS will also host a Graduate Assistant orientation, on September 29, 9:30-10:30 B176 Mac-Corry
 - SGS and the SGPS will co-host a Graduate Leadership Summit on October 17.
 - **Career Week for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows will be held October 19-23, and will include workshops and events designed to support for career exploration and preparation.**
 - **Fall Graduate Forum will be held November 12, 10:00-11:30, Kinesiology 101.** The guest speaker will be Dr. Mahadeo Sukhai, from the National Educational Association of Disabled Students. Dr. Sukai will discuss disability issues in graduate education, in particular the determination of essential degree requirements, including research.
 - An update on discussions and announcements from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). MTCU has provided universities with an allocation of the number of international PhD students who may be considered domestic in the November 1 count and be assessed domestic fees. The MTCU is engaged in consultation in regards to the funding formula review and they have announced the next round of online course development funding.
 - Several Graduate Council/ Committee representatives are still needed for the Fellowships Committee and the Academic Appeal Board. Council Chairs are asked to follow up with Council members about this.
- Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees and SGPS:
 - At the recent Arts Graduate Council meeting, a discussion was held about the use of the SGS Thesis Defense Room facilities, and some issues encountered recently. The Science Graduate Council recently approved the proposed dual Master's degree between the Department of Chemistry, Queen's University

and the Department of Chemistry, University of Stuttgart. At its September 2015 meeting the Engineering and Applied Science Graduate Council approved a Master of Engineering with Internship from the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering. The School of Business reported on a very successful 3rd annual Graduate Student Open Consortium held in early September, which this year included a 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

- GSEC approved:
 - Omnibus Report Summer 2015
 - Report of the Fellowship Committee Summer 2015
- GSEC discussed proposed revisions to the SGS General Regulation Visitors at the Oral Thesis examination.

Senate Meeting – September 29, 2015

Unfortunately I was way for a conference and was unable to attend the September meeting of Senate.

The agenda for the meeting is available here:

<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&id=804>

Chris should be able to answer any questions you may have about this meeting.

Senator Term Motion

As you will see, I have a motion on the agenda to shift the term of the Graduate Student Senator to keep it in line with many of the other Senators across the University. This is in line with many of the changes made by the SGPS recently (shifting our Exec terms to match the AMS and others) and makes sense in terms of the general function of Senate.

Along with this would come the extension of my current term for 4 months to ensure the cycle starts on the correct term. The election for my replacement would still take place in the winter term with the Exec and Trustee, they would just not take office until September 1, 2016.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Cheers,

Eric Rapos
Graduate Student Senator
senator@sgps.ca



Hello Council,

I am pleased to provide an update on the Board's recent activities surrounding non-academic discipline "NAD" (now known as non-academic misconduct "NAM"). Non-academic discipline was first raised as an issue when an external audit was performed by PricewaterhouseCoopers – It is worth noting that the subject of the audit was not how the NAD system worked, but rather an audit of internal controls and an assessment of Queen's risk and exposures.

The Audit and Risk committee, on the basis of PricewaterhouseCoopers' report, initiated a review of our system by Harriet Lewis, legal counsel and secretary at York University. Upon conclusion of the review, Audit and Risk recommended to the Board that an advisory committee be struck to make recommendations surrounding changes to the NAM.

While the advisory committee drafts recommendations for the NAM framework, the Board elected to implement an interim protocol whereby all NAM referrals will now filter through a Central Intake Office which will refer cases to the appropriate body on campus. The Central Intake Office adds a layer of tracking cases across the university, as previously residence, athletics and recreation, the AMS, and the SGPS independently operated their own systems. The addition of tracking of cases across the university will allow the Central Intake Office to identify risky patterns of behavior with the goal of providing intervention and support where appropriate.

Changing the structure of a historic system such as NAD at Queen's is not something that the trustees took lightly. I am pleased to report that trustees are supportive of development of a NAM system that retains student involvement, and are actively engaged in this issue as it unfolds.

Respectfully submitted,

James MacLeod

Trustee
trustee@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity & Diversity Commissioner
October 2015

Dear SGPS Members,

This month is the end of the Equity & Diversity Commission's annual cycle, as Commissioner and Coordinator contracts expire and a new round of hiring begins. It has been an absolute pleasure serving the SGPS in this capacity and I am really pleased with all that we have accomplished.

We are happy to report that we have recently completed updating the "Good to Know" document that the SGPS maintains as a resource on all equity and diversity resources available to the membership on campus and in the greater community. This took the work of four individuals over the summer months, and I am very thankful for their handwork and effort. Moving forward, it is my recommendation that we find new ways to circulate its information and to update it annually in a more time effective manner.

Those are our updates for this month. I hope you have a wonderful rest of October and a spooky Halloween.

Sincerely,

Erica Baker
Equity & Diversity Commissioner



Dear Council,

I would like to break this report into two parts, the first of which will discuss Orientation Week, and the second of which will give you a rundown of our upcoming events.

Orientation Week

This year's Orientation Week was a ton of fun and events sold out quickly! The Social Team worked really hard to ensure that all new and returning students felt welcome, had fun, and were able to settle into the Queen's community before kicking off their school term. This Orientation Week was much like last year's, with almost all of our events selling out before the week even started. All events ran extremely smoothly with the exception of one, which I describe in detail below. I would like to reiterate my thanks to everybody who helped out during Orientation Week this September. The SGPS executive, the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Executive Assistant, and the front desk staff were all extremely helpful and supportive throughout (and leading up to) Orientation. It would be impossible for the Social Team to do their job well without the support from the entire SGPS staff and volunteers. A special thanks to my team—Prashant, Margaux, and Jamie—for their outstanding work and the long hours that they put in over the week, and that they continue to put in to running various social events.

A few keys points on Orientation Week:

1. We have still found that a lot of people who sign up for free events (with an email to social@sgps.ca) do not actually attend the events. We had fewer people show up for the Amazing Race than had signed up, although Sports Day had fewer people sign up but had more attend. Looking forward to next orientation week, perhaps a more formal registration on the website would encourage individuals who have signed up for free events to attend.
2. This year's boat cruise was a hit, and the traffic flow from top deck to bottom was well managed by Thousand Island Cruises. We initially sold 254 tickets, 4 over capacity, but only 228 who bought tickets showed up, and so we allowed 4 people who had shown up without tickets to pay and board. Although we were initially afraid we might go over capacity, this didn't end up being as issue, and we had total of 232 on board.
3. Speed Meeting is always a very popular event, and although 80 tickets were sold (the event sold out ahead of time) only 66 people were in attendance. Since this event is so popular and we receive many requests for tickets after it sells out, perhaps we could charge a penalty for no shows? Something to think about for next year.
4. Due to inclement weather, the Corn Maze had to be cancelled and postponed at the last minute. The number of attendees on the date two weeks later was much lower than the number registered (only 33 of 58 ticket holders attended). That said, the husband and wife who run the Corn Maze (who are amazing, and have been unbelievably accommodating and extremely flexible in the past) gave us vouchers for those who were unable to attend (because they are lovely, lovely people who very much appreciate our business).
5. The semi-formal this year was moved to the University Club where we enjoyed a delicious meal and a beautiful venue. However, due to what we mainly believe is the proximity of the venue to downtown and student neighbourhoods, we had a number of people show up late. In previous years when the event was held at Portsmouth Harbour, almost all

students had to take the SGPS-provided bus to and from the venue. This had ensured that everyone arrived and left around the same time. This year, people came and left as they pleased, which slightly detracted from the celebratory atmosphere of the night. There were also a number of alcohol related incidents due to students pre-drinking prior to the semi-formal, which we hadn't experienced in any previous years. We were able to manage the situation thanks to help from the SGPS Executive and Queen's First Aid. For next year, we would recommend that the Social Team bring along a few volunteers from the Social Committee to help host the event in case such a situation should arise again. The Social Team also recommends, and despite the amazing staff, food and venue, that we return to Portsmouth Harbour for the semi-formal next year.

6. Total attendance numbers are the following for paid events: Speed Meeting (80 tickets issued, 66 people attended), Boat Cruise (254 tickets issued, 232 people attended), Semi Formal (130 tickets issued, 125 people attended), and Corn Maze (58 tickets sold, 33 attended rain date). Total attendance numbers for the free events are roughly as follows: Amazing Race (30-40 people attended), Sports Day (Volleyball: 40-50 people attended, Yoga: 16 people attended), Billiards (50-60 people attended), and both events at the Grad Club were at occupancy.

7. I have emailed all of our venues to thank them for accommodating us during Orientation Week and for helping us make our events amazing!

October Events

Sports events have picked back up again, every Wednesday from 5:30pm-6:20pm in the Upper Gym of the ARC. Our Athletics' coordinator, Prashant, has contacted the Facility Operations Assistant at the ARC to book our sports nights right through to next April.

For October, we're looking forward to returning to Fort Fright towards the end of the month (close to Halloween but not on Halloween). Planning is looking into the price of the bus with Stover's Bus Lines from the JDUC to Fort Fright and Logistics is going to look into the group price admission at Fort Fright. Planning is also booking a trivia evening with the alibi (on Princess St.) for mid-October (we're considering October 20th for the tentative date). More details to come in the October newsletter. The Social Team will be having a meeting mid-October to finalize the rest of the events for 2015 and will meet with new Social Committee volunteers who will help us organize and run social events.

Hope you're all having a great start to your school year and please pass along our Facebook group information so your colleagues and departments can keep up with our social events: "Society of Graduate and Professional Students at Queens," <http://www.facebook.com/groups/2310661892/>.

Sincerely,

Ciara Bracken-Roche

Social Commissioner (social@sgps.ca)



It's been a very busy couple of weeks in the office. Here are my updates:

Board of Trustees and Non-Academic Misconduct | The Board of Trustees met this past weekend. I will let Trustee MacLeod report on the general developments from our meeting, but I wanted to address the issue of NAM (previously NAD) specifically. Though NAM isn't something that the SGPS often administers on a yearly basis, I think this is an issue of great importance to all Queen's students. During my speech to Board members on the open session on Friday night, I highlighted the importance of what I believe to be the 3 core questions that need to be accurately answered by the Advisory Committee moving forward:

1. What (if any) are the shortcomings of the current system?
2. How does (if at all) a NAM system interact with student health and safety, and how can a NAM system most effectively keep students safe?
3. How can the unique positionality of students, in the context of joint accountability and peer-to-peer leadership, be leveraged within our NAM system for the benefit of students and Queen's?

I have my own thoughts about the answers to these questions, but if the Advisory Committee is able to come to a consensus when answering these questions, where students on the committee are completely satisfied in concert with university administrators, I am very optimistic that we will have a NAM system we are happy with. It is time for us to turn the page and look forward as best we can. I am happy to meet with students to discuss this issue further, understanding that I am not able to discuss the details discussed in the closed session of Board.

New Assistant | It brings me immense pleasure that 2nd year undergraduate Life Science student Elsa Mastrogiacomo has been hired to work with me for the coming year. She blew me away in her interview and has already proven to be an enthusiastic, positive, and dynamic person to work with! She can be reached at rector.assist@queensu.ca and will be working with me to schedule meetings this year, in addition to special events. Welcome to the family, Elsa!

Smith School of Business | There was obviously quite the scene at Goodes Hall this past week with the unveiling of the new Smith School name. The funds will be split between creating new faculty positions and student financial assistance. I am very excited at the prospect of having a Queen's business degree that is financially accessible to more students who wish to obtain it. Thank you to Stephen Smith for his generosity.

2015-16 SGPS Outlook | It is very important to me that I remain connected with my SGPS constituents throughout the course of the year. Please feel free to reach out at any time to discuss anything of interest. My door is always open!

That is all for now – I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Princeps Servusque Es,



This month the elections for the Education Students Society (ESS) council were concluded after some delays. Nine members of their Council were elected, six of which ran unopposed, and four positions were left vacant. Though I was happy to help out with this election, I recommend that in the future the SGPS CRO not be involved in the running of the ESS elections. This is for two reasons: firstly, the main justification for the SGPS being involved in facilitating these elections was the complete turnover of the ESS membership every year. Now that the education program has been restructured, and is more than a year long, this should no longer be an issue. The second reason I am recommending that the ESS be left to run their own election is the fact that my role this year seemed to be entirely as a go-between. I had no real decision making authority, since all decisions were (rightfully) left up to the ESS elections officer, and I had no real ability to help with the implementation of the ballots, since that was all handled by SGPS staff (Sean). In hindsight, I believe that this election would have gone smoother if I had simply put the ESS elections officer in touch with Sean and then distanced myself from the whole process.

-Travis Skippon
Chief Returning Officer



Hello Council,

After 4.5 years on Council, it is time for me to step down from my position. Serving as the Councillor for Biomedical Engineering has been an enjoyable and informative experience. I am happy to have been able to contribute in a number of ways including as a member of the Academic Affairs Standing Committee, a writer/editor of SGPS Bylaws and Policy, and an active voice on council. To current and future councillors, I would strongly encourage you to actively participate in the discussions that occur at Council and contribute to committees that interest you. It is both your responsibility as councillors and an opportunity to learn and grow. Over the years, I have been constantly impressed with the dedication of the members of the executive and the Officers of Council who put in far more work than their compensation would suggest. In particular, I would like to commend last year's Executive and especially former president Kevin Wiener, who accomplished an incredible amount during their terms and have left the SGPS on a very solid footing moving forward. This year's Executive have big shoes to fill, but have so far proven that they are up to the task.

The last couple of years have seen a significant amount of turnover within the Biomedical Engineering program with the departure/retirement of several faculty members and the hiring of several new ones. This has resulted in the normal transitional turmoil, but things should be settling down now and it's exciting to have the influx of new ideas and new students as they get their research programs established. In September, we had a successful start to our annual seminar series with a very packed room. Following the seminar, we elected a new Councillor and I am pleased to announce that Fiona Serack will be my successor effective as of the October council meeting, which I will be attending as well to facilitate the transition.

Cheers,

Julian Chesterman



Fellow Councillors,

The 2014-2015 year was an exciting one for the Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA). Highlights include:

- A well attended Women's and Equity Committee event with guest speaker Dr. Karyn Freedman.
- A student organized conference 'Hobbes and Spinoza in the 21st Century'.
- Successful engage with our department's board of graduate studies where we raised a number of collective concerns.

I was happy to be re-elected by my constituency at our first meeting of the new academic year in September. I was also happy to enjoy the support of my constituency in pressing for transparency and accountability regarding the Spring 2015 changes to the SGPS Student Advisor program. I assured my constituency that I would continue to represent what I take to be the core values of our graduate student community: democracy, equity, and priority for the least advantaged among Queen's graduate student.

If anyone would like to share best practices on representation or departmental student associations, feel free to contact me.

I look forward to another year of meeting and working with a broad range of committed Queen's graduate students.

Regards,

--

Jared Houston
SGPS Councillor (Philosophy)



I'm submitting this report to ensure that the Department of Political Studies' representation carries forward as required by the SGPS. I'm pleased to announce that at the Political Studies Graduate Student Association (PSGSA) meeting on September 18th, I received the endorsement and continued support of my colleagues to remain their SGPS Council representative for 2015-2016. I look forward to another productive and collaborative year working with council and the executive.

The Department of Political Studies has had a few events of note:

- On September 17th, we held our annual welcome orientation and softball event for new and returning graduate students.
- The department hosted a field research workshop as well as a TA training session, both of which were well attended.
- A SSHRC grant application workshop was also hosted, with previous winners providing valuable advice on the application process.
- The department is pleased to announce that one of our current PhD candidates, Nadège Compaoré, will be presenting her research as part of our annual speaker series.
- The PSGSA is currently in the process of organizing a student symposium as a forum for the presentation of research.

Respectfully submitted,

Korey Pasch, Department of Political Studies Council Representative