



Dear Council,

In the past month, I have been mostly focused on drafting my year plan, and preparing for the orientation week. I have also met with different offices of the University to discuss student fee exemptions, risk management with regard to event sanctioning, library resources, hiring of SGS embedded counselor, student representation at organizations external to Queen's, and research prominence at Queen's.

Year Plan: The executive met twice to discuss both the long and short-term goals for the organization and the role of each member in implementing those. We are currently in the process of reviewing and finalizing our plans.

Orientation Week: I have so far delivered two talks to introduce SGPS and its service to two departments, and attended a resource fair by the SGS.

Meetings: I have had two meetings with the Associate Dean at Student Affairs to discuss the exemption from student fees for different categories of students. These along with the Student Fee Protocol will be posted to our website to ensure students know about these exemptions.

I have attended a meeting with the office of Vice-Provost and University Librarian, where we discussed an international movement that Queen's is joining, aimed to make scientific knowledge financially more accessible to the public.

I have attended a meeting with Director of Risk Management from Office of Vice Principal Finance and Administration, to explore the plausibility of having a presentation about event-sanctioning and risk management by her at the Council, as well as consultation with the Council members.

I have had two meetings with the dean of SGS to discuss my project about student-supervisor relations, and how it would relate to, and interact with their report to the Audit and Risk Committee of Board of Trustees on the same topic. I have also discussed some of the concerns that the SGPS had over the hiring of a new SGS embedded counselor.

I had a meeting with the Principal and the Provost, where I could talk about two topics: First, I talked about research prominence at Queen's, and how it fits in the strategic framework in relation with the other elements of the framework, such as student learning experience. As a result, the Principal's Office recommended the Office of Vice Principal of Research to have a meeting with me to hear about my concerns. This meeting is arranged for September 14th. Second, I talked about lack of student representation at the Council of Ontario Universities, even though that COU is the main advocacy body for the universities in Ontario. Principal Woolf, as the Vice-Chair of COU promised to raise the issue for the student representation for at least the Graduate students.

I had two meetings with the Wellness Center to discuss the hiring of the new SGS embedded counselors and our concerns with the transition process.

Finally, I had a meeting with our VP Finance and Interim Director to discuss current and future SGPS space at JDUC.

Regards,
Saba Farbodkia
President



Over the past couple weeks, the executive has come together to address issues faced by our constituency and what can be done to resolve them. We have compiled year plans to be presented at next September's council date. For now, here are some interim updates:

Student Advisor Program:

- Our new Student Advisors are almost done their training which includes: (1) familiarization with on-campus services including the School of Graduate Studies, the University Ombudsperson, Student Wellness Services, Queen's University International Centre, Campus Security, and the Human Rights Office, (2) Student Advisor Program client intake, record keeping, and confidentiality procedures; (3) mental health assessment; (4) conflict resolution/mediation; (5) intercultural competency.
- The student advisor office has undergone some internal decoration changes to make it a more welcoming and professional looking environment.

Assessing Student Mental Health:

- One common concern among students I have talked to is the lack of available mental health services for SGPS members. Specifically, in regards to the long wait times in seeing the graduate specific counsellor.
- In order to better quantify the issue at hand, I will be hiring a Work Study student to compile a report on graduate student mental health and the steps that can be taken to address gaps in support services. This report will be shared with council in December and recommendations stemming from the report will be pursued in Winter Semester. The job posting can be found in the MyCareer Portal: <https://careers.sso.queensu.ca/myAccount/wsp/workstudy.htm> under Job ID: **79875**. Other members of the executive are likewise hiring research assistants to address issues pertaining to international students, time to completion, and more. I would appreciate it if you could share this to anyone you think would be interested.

Increasing Networking Opportunities for Graduate Students:

- Connecting graduate students with young professionals in their respective fields is an opportunity that could open up networking opportunities for our members.
- *175 Mentors* is a new program to help facilitate networking connections by the School of Graduate Studies. The portal should be up and running by next council meeting.

Other Business:

- We are excited that Room 237 in the JDUC will be opening up soon as a SGPS member lounge and work area. We are currently working on getting furniture in the room. Please feel free to share with us any ideas you would like to see implemented in the space. Hopefully, this can become a 'hangout' area for council members before and after council
- As an executive, we have decided to resume matters of the *Equity Issues Standing Committee* after the new Equity Commissioner is hired. Currently, there is not enough time given all the activities and events that surround Orientation Week.

Regards,
Sebastian Gorlewski (vp.graduate@sgps.ca)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Professional
September 13 2016

(No report)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Finance & Services
September 13 2016

Council Members,

Shorter report this time around because of the focus on the budget:

SGPS Budget

You'll find the 2016-2017 Budget attached in today's Council package. The purpose of tonight's discussion is two-fold. First, is a discussion about the budget itself, where the money comes from and where it is going. You'll notice that spending stays relatively constant this year, which puts us in a good, stable position to fund our core services. The second, and more interesting discussion is about the budget process itself. We understand that budgets themselves are relatively opaque to those without financial training, so we want to have a higher level talk about what information Council wants to receive and in what format so future Councils can have a meaningful and informed discussion of organization finances.

Bursaries and Grants

Finishing up final Bursaries for fiscal year 2015-2016. We should have a report on the changes made at the last GM by mid-November/December.

Student Fee Policy Review

This is still ongoing with the committee. I am adamant about not coming back with a report until we have a fully agreed upon and justified set of changes.

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



Dear Council,

I apologize for not being able to be here again, but look forward to seeing all of you on September 20th for the next Council Meeting. If you have any questions about my report, or about some of the projects I have been working on, please feel free to email me at vp.campaigns@queensu.ca.

O-Week:

One of the projects that I am currently working on, with the help of the Social Commissioner, is a review of Orientation Week. In order to receive feedback from students on their experience this year, I have created an exit survey which is available through the SGPS website for those who attended this year's SGPS orientation. If you or other students you know attended this year's SGPS Orientation events, please take a few minutes to fill out the survey. As a thank you for completing the survey, you will be entered into a draw to win one of two 25\$ gift cards to the Tea Room or Common Ground.

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 AMS Clubs Manager, Grace, will be speaking to you at the September 13th Council Meeting to relay some of that information directly. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact myself or Grace. More information will be available soon on both the AMS and SGPS website, however both websites are currently undergoing changes so if you are unsure of something, don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Expanding Horizons Workshops:

As part of my ongoing project to improve the experience of international students in graduate and professional programs, I have received confirmation from the School of Graduate Studies on creating two new workshops as part of the Expanding Horizons series to specifically address the needs of international students and those supervising them. I am currently working with the Centre for Teaching and Learning to create the content for these workshops and will be consulting with the QUIC and the International Student Commissioner on further steps.

Research Assistants:

All Research Assistant job postings are now up through Career Services. The deadline to apply is September 26, 2016 so if you or anyone you know is interested in working on any of the 5 projects posted, please apply!

Sincerely,
Anastasiya Boika
VP Campaigns & Community Affairs



Hello Council,

I have little to report on this month. What I would like to do though, is thank all of you for showing up to the first of our two September council meetings. The primary reason we're having two meetings this month is that the budget requires two readings and this allows us to debate and approve the budget in a timely manner so that the operations of the SGPS are not impacted by delaying the approval too late. I'd also like to draw your attention to the last motion on this meeting's agenda, which proposes to extend the submission deadline for the September 20th council meeting by two days. This was included at my suggestion, so that you will all have some time between this meeting and the next to submit any items you may wish to see addressed. It's my hope that it'll help alleviate some of the inconvenience of having two meetings packed so closely together.

Submitted,

Travis Skippon
SGPS Council Speaker
speaker@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Graduate Student Senator
September 13 2016

(no report)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Trustee
September 13 2016

To the SGPS Membership,

There are no updates to my recent report from the August council meeting. The first regular Board of Trustee Meeting is occurring September 30 and October 1, 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.

Thanks,
Adam

trustee@sgps.ca



Dear Council,

I would like to welcome everyone back to the start of another school year! I am truly excited to see all of the new initiatives unfold that our Executive team has been working on so diligently.

In terms of my post as Athletics Commissioner, I am yet unable to report on how orientation week has unfolded but I am confident that our Sport's Day on Thursday September 8th will prove successful in a meaningful way. To quickly recap, the aim of our upcoming Sport's Day- which will have already taken place by the time this report is submitted to council, is to provide students with a platform to meet new people, interact with one another, check out the ARC facilities and have fun all while engaging with the adapted sport community in Kingston. We are hoping to have speakers come in and speak about their journeys into adapted sport and teach the basics of some of these activities.

With the start of another school year comes the bitter sweet nearing end of my tenure as Athletics Commissioner. Throughout the term of my contract, I have experienced many positive changes within the SGPS and its structure surrounding the work we as commissioners have done and are able to do. I am happy to have been a part of some ground work that will surely pave the way for our future commissioners to properly organize, plan and grow future SGPS events while maintaining a strong relationship with effective communication between the commissioners, the staff and the executive. I hope that we can continue to see increased participation and meaningful events that provide our student body with a platform to interact with one another.

Since my term is nearing an end, I would like to encourage members of the SGPS to apply for our upcoming commissioner openings. For those that are wondering, the Athletics Commissioner is responsible for organizing and planning all athletic events held by the society; sitting on the SGPS Social Events Standing Committee and other external committees; administering all athletic programs run through the SGPS; and working closely with Queen's Athletics and Recreation to represent the interests of SGPS members. To apply for this position, please check our SGPS Facebook Page or please see <http://sgps.ca/about-the-sgps/job-postings/> where you can find more information. Keep in mind that the deadline to submit a resume and cover letter will be Friday, September 16th. Please spread the word!

I would like to extent a final thank you to all of those SGPS members, executive, and staff that I have met during my tenure here as well as those members that came out to our events during the course of the year. I have no doubt that we can continue to grow our numbers and represent the interests of our society. Even though my time is officially nearing an end, I am still endorsing an open door policy and I would be more than happy to speak with any of you about SGPS related matters. Once again thank you and I wish you all a successful school year!

Regards,
Dominic Kucharski
Athletics Commissioner
athletics@sgps.ca



(no report)

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity & Diversity Commissioner
September 13 2016



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the International Student's Affairs Commissioner
September 13 2016

(no report)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Social Commissioner
September 13 2016

(no report)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the University Rector
September 13 2016

(no report)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Chief Returning Officer
September 13 2016

(no report)