



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

[No reports submitted]



Dear Council,

It is with great pleasure that I write my first report to Council as President of the SGPS. I am eager to work with each of you in the coming year to improve the graduate and professional student experience at Queen's. SGPS Council is an invaluable body of our Society, serving as the legislative forum for debate and consultation on many of our most pressing issues. I ask that as we engage in that process, we do so respectfully and courteously. This will maximize our ability to serve the students we have been elected (or hired) to represent.

The remainder of my report will provide you with brief updates on what I have been up to in the short time since taking office.

Commissioner Hiring

Along with Tyler (VP Campaigns & Community Affairs) and Pam (Director of Logistics), I sat on the hiring panel for our commissioners. Tyler's report will provide more detail on this process, but I want to quickly express how excited I am to work with this talented team of students. Each one stood out amongst a strong field of candidates, and will surely do a great job organizing events and advocating for your interests.

Review of Event Sanctioning

Based on feedback received from students during the campaign, as well as discussions with the previous Executive, I am engaging in a review of our event sanctioning policies and procedures. This will include an assessment of the risk the SGPS is willing to take on, as well as taking steps to make it easier for students to attend events. I hope these measures will allow the SGPS to both hold more events and improve attendance at them.

Review of SGPS Structures

Over the next few months, I will be conducting a broad review of current SGPS structures, and proposing recommendations for improvement. This initiative reflects the fact that there are many inefficiencies and shortcomings within our current structures, as evidenced by the proposals brought to Council last semester to hold the Executive more accountable. I plan on producing a report of my findings, for Council to review and debate, by the summer's end.

Graduate-Specific Space

The 2013 NCHA Student Health and Wellness Survey revealed that graduate students have a significantly lower sense of belonging and are less involved in activities than their undergraduate counterparts. Queen's is well known for its student experience, but graduate students often feel disconnected from this narrative. I believe part of this disparity stems from a lack of graduate-specific space on campus, which could serve as a hub and network for our community. Establishing such space is a long-term goal that I will get the ball rolling on in the coming year.

Queen's Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) Search Committee

I have been invited by the Principal to join his Advisory Committee that will search for, and select, a new Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation). Currently, the title of this position is Vice-Principal (Research). The

expansion to include innovation is in recognition and alignment with the university's strategic vision, as well as a better reflection of current responsibilities.

That's all for now. I suspect my next report, after a month in office, will be more fruitful. In the meantime, if you have any questions about anything in my report, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@sgps.ca. I'm also hoping to meet with each of you over the course of the summer to learn more about what you want to accomplish in your role, and how I can support you in those endeavors.

Sincerely,

Adam Grotsky
SGPS President



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

Dear SGPS Council,

Please accept this as my first formal report.

As of March 1st I have been in transition preparing to take office as of May 1st. This has entitled that I have several meetings with the incoming Executive, Andria, my predecessor Sebastian, our Health and Dental Plan insurer and the School of Graduate Studies. I am confident that this transition has been fruitful and I am happy to serve you as your new Vice-President Graduate.

Your incoming Executive and I have been working through a vision that encapsulates all of our platforms, ideas and passions together. We hope this will ensure cohesion, share of workload, productivity and success in our projects. Though our term has just officially started, we have been working with looking at the Health and Dental Plan.

Sebastian and I have met to discuss some of the main points of the VPG position. The first item on my agenda is the hiring of the Student Advisors. My goal and timeline is to have the two Advisor positions hired by May 24th 2017. I am currently in the process of contacting the hiring committee and moving along with this process.

I have met with Saba who is interested in me continuing to pursue the motion about student supervisors at Queen's University. I am currently in the process of speaking to the Executive about how to move forward with this in the most productive manner.

Finally, Adam and I have met with the SGS twice since March and it appears as though they are happy to work with us. They have asked us to get feedback from graduate students on ways to improve the International Student Handbook and Expanding Horizons Workshops. If you have comments, please send them my way. Also, the SGS and I are looking for an interested student in the Social Sciences and Humanities to sit on a grade appeal committee, if you are interested please let me know as soon as possible. The SGS is always looking for graduate student volunteers therefore if you want to get involved send their office an email and they may contact you if they are in need of a student for a committee or such.

I look forward to starting this term and working with all of you.

Best,

Stéfy McKnight
SGPS Vice-President Graduate



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

I am currently looking to determine the roles and functions of the VPP for this year and years to come. Mainly the internal role as the HR member of the executive.

I am looking into additional personnel, such as an HR member that is separate from the Exec, as well as a person who acts as the voice of the Council outside of the monthly council meetings.

I have been in contact with the Grad Club Board, and the department of Occupational and Physical Therapy. My plan is to communicate with all the leaders of the professional departments to start a raport which will continue and prosper over the course of the year.

I have begun the thought process of career's day. It is mainly in the theoretical and idea part of the process, hopefully it will become more substantial as time goes along.



Council Members,

I'm excited to be joining a great executive for the 2017-18 term. Although I have not had much opportunity to work on my portfolio during the transition period there a few items I would like to update you all on.

Health and Dental Coverage

We have finished renegotiating our health and dental coverage with our provider and have made many exciting changes to our plan. More details will be shared in the near future.

Bursary and Grant System

I will be working closely with the Finance and Services Standing Committee to improve the turn-around time it takes to approve grants and bursaries as well as to streamline the transition period between the incoming and outgoing committees. With the help of the finance committee I will also be reviewing the current bursary and grant offerings to see if they can be improved to better serve SGPS member needs.

Procurement Process

One of my main projects for this year will be to develop a procurement process for SGPS purchases (examples include things like orientation swag and other orientation expenditures and other major SGPS partnerships). By creating a procurement process we have the potential to lower costs through competition and multiple sources.

These are just some examples of the general areas I plan to work on in my time as VP Finance & Services. Much more detail will follow in time for the August Council meeting.

As a final note, I will be looking for a few individuals to join the Finance and Standing Committee for the 2017-18 term. General committee duties include review and approval (or denial) of bursary and grant applications as well as approving the budget before it is sent to council. There is potential for Ad Hoc projects during the term as well. If you are interested please send me a quick email outlining your interest to vp.finance@sgps.ca.

Regards,

Lauren Peacock
Vice President (Finance & Services)
Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS)
vp.finance@sgps.ca



Hello Everyone,

I would like to start my first report by saying how excited I am to be one of your VP's this year. I have been busy transitioning and look forward to working with all of you to make graduate and professional student life an even greater experience than it already is. As I write this report it is my first day officially in office so there won't be much to include. However, I want to take this opportunity to outline some of my larger initiatives for the year and what I have done over transition to help get these started.

1. Commissioner Hiring

I am pleased to say that this year's commissioners have been hired. The panel which included myself, Adam, and our director of logistics Pam wrapped up hiring at the beginning of April. We are very excited about our new group, which includes Lindsey Ruitter (Athletics & Wellness) who is returning from last year, Martyna Kamela (Social), Atul Jaiswal (International), and Kelly Watson (Equity & Diversity). I am currently in the process of putting together mandate letters for each commission to help guide them in the production of their year plans. As you may have noticed the Athletics commissioner's title has changed to Athletics and Wellness. This year, at the request of the past (and current) commissioner Lindsay, the exec has decided to expand this commission's portfolio to include initiatives that deal with Wellness as a whole, and not just athletics.

2. Mental Health Initiatives

As you may know the largest part of my platform for VPCCA was to help increase the exposure and access our students have to mental health resources. To begin this process, I wanted to find out exactly what is available to students through the school, and through our insurance provider. I along with other members of the executive sat down with Ann Tierney (Vice-Provost Student Affairs) to tell her about my advocacy goals and begin a dialogue with her office about the need for expanded mental health services. I look forward to continuing to grow this relationship and work with Ann's office in an effort to increase resources on campus. The second aspect of this initiative is to look for resources off campus that students can use. This began with evaluating our insurance coverage for mental health resources. As we will be announcing shortly this year's insurance plan will include more overall coverage for paramedical and counselling services. The next step for me is to work with Student Wellness Services to establish a list of off campus counsellors who students have had success with in the past, and making this list available through the SGPS website. Furthermore, with the help of our insurance provider I want to approach these counsellors to encourage them to join a network of counsellors that our students could work with at a reduced cost.

3. Orientation Week

I have taken over as the chair for the Orientation Round Table that has gone on over the last year. With the feedback from this group I have begun to make plans for this year's Orientation Week. Some of our more successful events such as the boat cruise will definitely be making their return while I also look to create

some new and unique events. A large part of Orientation Week has always been to promote the SGPS, the resources we offer, and the opportunities we offer for students to get involved. I plan to continue the great work that has been done by our past executive to ensure all incoming students learn everything they need to know about the SGPS. This will be done through the orientation package that I have begun to put together, and the welcome day speeches me and the other executive will be making.

As a final note I will be here all summer, if you have anything you would like to discuss please feel free to email me at vp.community@sgps.ca or swing by the exec offices to have a quick chat. Once again, I look forward to working with all of you and hope this will be the SGPS's greatest year yet!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Morrison', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

VP Community
Tyler Morrison



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Council Speaker
May Council Meeting 2017

Oral report to be presented at Council.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Graduate Student Senator
May Council Meeting 2017

Hello Council,

I hope you all had a successful end-of-term and are looking forward to the summer ahead. In this report I have included notes from the Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC) that took place in April as well as an update following up on the last Senate.

Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC)

Dean's report:

- The PhD Community Initiative pilot program held its capstone event at the Donald Gordon Centre on March 22, 2017. The initiative was a great success with several teams/individuals being invited to share their work through other venues. Planning is underway for the next iteration.
- The Task Force on Graduate Enrolment has submitted the final report to the Provost. The report will be discussed at the May 2017 GSEC meeting.
- The proposed PhD in Gender Studies has been approved by the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) and Senate, and has been sent to the provincial Quality Council and to the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD).
- Last week's site visit of the external reviewers for the Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in English Language and Literature) went very well.
- The Provincial 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition, hosted by the University of Waterloo, was held on April 12, 2017. V. Donovan, a PhD student Neuroscience represented Queen's brilliantly. The provincial competition was won by a student from the University of Toronto.
- GSEC members were reminded that Spring 2017 convocation ceremonies are coming up and faculty members should try to attend a ceremony to support our students.
- M. Corbett provided an update on the SGS online application renewal project. New and improved functionality developed over the past 6-8 months is ready to be presented to graduate assistants for their feedback. Two meetings are planned for May 2017.

Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees:

The Faculty of Arts and Science Arts Graduate Council discussed amending the process for identifying student members of Council, with the goal of getting student representative members involved in Council business and discussions in a more timely way. The Graduate Committee for Business reported that admissions to 2017-18 are ongoing. The Graduate Studies and Research Committee in Education reported that their 2017-18 PhD enrolment targets have been met and that admission to the M.Ed. including the new dual degree program with the South China Normal University is almost complete. This Committee continues to discuss improving times to completion, as well as overall student satisfaction with graduate programs in Education. Other Committees/Councils discussed regular business such as course changes at recent meetings.

GSEC approved:

1. Preapproval for Proposed Graduate Diploma and Master's in Health Research Methods
2. Omnibus Report April 2017

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, concerns, or questions at senator@sgps.ca.

Senate Meeting

Major updates from the Senate meeting are mostly regarding the PICRDI Report which was officially presented to Principal Woolf on April 10 and to Senate on April 18. Since January, the Principal's Implementation Committee on Racism, Diversity and Inclusion (PICRDI) researched and consulted our Queen's community for better racial inclusion at Queen's. At Senate, members of this committee presented their findings and recommendations. Major recommendations include the creation of the Alfie Pierce Student Centre for Racial Equity and Social Justice, A Cross-Cultural Advisor with Student Wellness Services, and University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity (UCARE) which will oversee and facilitate the implementation of PICRDI and its recommendations. There was also a recommendation for an Associate Vice-Principal of Equity to oversee issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion at Queen's by 2018/2019. Other initiatives on campus have been recommended to improve the culture around equity, diversity, and inclusion at Queen's such as anti-oppression training during Orientation Week, increasing the visibility of equity goals on campus, and making efforts to hire underrepresented groups in Faculty as well as offering more support to students of colour.

Overall, the committee's recommendations have been well received and would benefit our campus greatly; however it relies on the actual implementation of the recommendations from the PICRDI Report. As we know, recommendations from past reports have been all but ignored, and so the SGPS Executive, Council, Trustee and Senator need to follow up and ask questions in order to make sure that these recommendations do not fall by the wayside.

Respectfully submitted,
Ciara Bracken-Roche
Graduate Student Senator



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

[No report submitted]



Dear Council,

In this report I will review April events. As I write this report, I have not yet received my mandate for the upcoming term, and thus cannot yet comment on May events. At the council meeting I will provide a verbal update about May events and initiatives if possible.

Learn to Run

A second learn to run event was held in April. We went for a 3km run/walk together. Attendees expressed interested in having more regular running events. As the incoming commissioner I hope to begin to host more regular run groups this summer.

Nature Walk

The rain held off for us as we embarked upon our Nature Walk at Lemoine Point. The event was full and unfortunately some students were turned away since capacity was reached. We took a bus to the conservation area and spent about an hour walking on trails before returning to campus. Attendees expressed lots of interest in having more events like this in the future. Hopefully we can increase capacity of such events in the future as well, so that we don't have to turn students away.

Committees:

Orientation Round Table

Healthy and Wellness Steering Committee

University Council on Athletics and Recreation

At the most recent UCAR meeting there was discussion of how to improve student attendance at Gael's games. A lack of communication about when games are and how to get tickets was seen as a barrier to attendance as well as lack of excitement about going to games. As the bridge between UCAR and SGPS I hope to work with both parties to increase communication about games to the SGPS population and host several events where a group of SGPS members is invited to attend a game together, in the upcoming year. Attending games is a great way to experience the 'Queen's spirit'.

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.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Ruitter

Athletics Commissioner, SGPS



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity & Diversity Commissioner
May Council Meeting 2017

Regrets received – Kelly Watson, Equity & Diversity Commissioner, is away for the summer period (May/August Council meetings).



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

Dear Council,

Compliments of the season to you all. To begin with, I would like to first introduce myself to you all. My name is Atul Jaiswal and I joined as SGPS International Student Affairs Commissioner from April 12, 2017. I am a doctoral candidate at School of Rehabilitation Therapy, Queen's University and was working with Chiedza on ISAC Standing Committee.

After joining SGPS last month, I had regular meetings with Pam Asselstine and Chiedza Pasipanodya regarding my job role and responsibilities. The agenda of the meetings were year plan, budget, ISAC Mission document, website, and possible ideas for my term. Mentoring support from Pam and handholding support from Chiedza are very helpful for me to take on my responsibilities in best possible way. I am currently reading through all the documents supplied to me by Chiedza and developing my year plan. I will be sharing my year plan and budget with Pam by May 12, 2017 after my next meeting with Pam on May 9, 2017.

Currently, there are possible collaborations with Lindsay (SGPS Athletics Commissioner) for planning joint events for graduate professional and international students from May to December, 2017. Information regarding the joint events will be shared once confirmed.

I look forward to interacting with you all at the various events that will be hosted throughout the year. As always, I welcome any suggestions or comments, my email address is international@sgps.ca

Best wishes for the semester,

Atul Jaiswal
International Student Affairs Commissioner
2017-2018



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

Dear Council,

I am pleased to announce that I will be the Incoming Social Commissioner for the 2017/18 school year, and have been transitioning into the role over the past two weeks. I am looking forward to working with all council members in the planning of many social events that will hopefully engage many of our graduate and professional students here at Queen's. I am currently in the midst of creating my year plan and my budget plan for this school year, as well as planning and thinking of different ideas for this year's SGPS Orientation Week.

One of the main goals I have as a Social Commissioner is to increase student engagement in the various graduate and professional programs we have at Queen's University. I will work to achieve this objective through my planning and organizational skills, by creatively thinking of events that could be enjoyed by individuals of diverse backgrounds and abilities, and by promoting as much as possible to raise awareness and excitement in preparation for my events. I will aim to make these events accessible, fun, and intriguing to all members of the SGPS. My goal is to provide exciting opportunities for the SGPS members to attend various memorable events and to meet and form meaningful relationships with members of other graduate and professional programs.

I am happy to announce that I will be holding open office hours every Monday from 1-3pm in JDUC 021 (The SGPS Commissioner Office). Please know that everyone is welcome to come in to discuss social events, ideas, feedback or any concerns/thought in this safe, confidential space with me. In addition, I am looking into hiring a Social Deputy Commissioner in order to help me facilitate many of the events I have planned for the summer and especially for Orientation Week.

I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to the many social events that I have planned for the school year.

Sincerely,

Martyna Kamela
Social Commissioner
social@sgps.ca



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

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

Dear Assembly,

I hope that your final assignments, papers, presentations, or thesis defenses went well and that you all take time to enjoy your summers. For those of you finishing your degrees, I wish you the best of luck with your future endeavors.

Princeps Servesque Es

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cam Yung'.

Cam Yung
35th Rector of Queen's University



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

Position vacant.