



Minutes

Society of Graduate and Professional Students' Council
Tuesday August 10th, 2014 6:30 PM
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentations

2. Adoption of the Agenda & Minutes

Motion

08/19/14:1

Moved: Kevin Wiener
Seconded: James MacLeod

BIRT the agenda for August 19th 2014 Council be adopted

Amendment: K. Wiener moves that the 2014-2015 budget be moved from discussion to main motions
Second: Dinah Jansen

Passes

Motion adopted as amended

Motion

08/19/14:2

Moved: Lorne Beswick
Seconded: Julian Chesterman

BIRT the minutes for May 13th 2014 Council meeting be accepted.

Discussion: Dinah requested the spelling of her name be corrected in the May minutes (it was spelled Diana)

Motion Passed

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

- a. President- Kevin Weiner (report attached)
- b. VP Graduate– Dinah Jansen (report attached)
- c. VP Professional– Thompson Hamilton (report attached)

- d. VP Campaigns & Community Affairs– Lorne Beswick (report attached)
- e. VP Finance & Services – Patrick Gajos (report attached)
- f. Executive Assistant – Andria Mahon (report attached)
- g. Speaker – Max Ma (report attached)

Motion

08/19/14:3

Moved: Patrick Gajos
Seconded: Thomas Vaughn

BIRT the Exectuvie and Speaker Reports be accepted.

Motion Passed

4. Senator, Board of Trustees, Commission, Committee & Other Reports

- a. Graduate Student Senator – Eric Rapos (report attached)
- b. Graduate Student Trustee – James MacLeod (report attached)
- c. Committee Reports
- d. Commissioner Reports
 - i. Social Commissioner – Margaux MacDonald (no report)
 - ii. Communciations Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
 - iii. Equity Commissioner: Tabasum Akaseer (report attached)
 - iv. International Students’ Affairs Commissioner: Tian Lu (no report)
- e. Other Reports
 - i. Rector – Mike Young (no report)
 - ii. Chief Returning Officer (position vacant)
 - iii. Departmental Reports

Motion

8/19/14:4

Moved: K. Wiener
Seconded: D. Jansen

BIRT the Senator, Board of Trustees, Commissioner, Committee and Other Reports be accepted.

Motion passed.

5. Question Period/Departmental Issues

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Main Motions

Motion

8/19/14:5

Moved: L. Beswick
Seconded: K. Weiner

T. Hamilton reported that the Social Commissioner, Margeaux MacDonald has taken a leave of absence. To fill the position in her absence, Ciara Bracken-Roche was appointed to the position of Social Commissioner.

Floor opened for questions: none.

BIRT that SGPS Council approve the appointment of Ciara Bracken-Roche as Social Commissioner for the remainder of the term of office.

Passed.

Motion
08/19/14:5.5

Tabled from April Council Meeting
Nominations for the position of Chief Returning Officer

D. Jansen nominated Peter Charbonneau (Law)

P. Charbonneau introduced himself to Council and discussed his history as a student at Queen's and his extracurricular activities. He noted that he believed key qualities one must have to do the work of the CRO are time management, reliance on process, and objectivity, something he learned from discussions he had with the last CRO.

J. MacLeod asked Charbonneau what he believed would be the biggest challenge with the upcoming election. Charbonneau responded that time management issues and the need to balance priorities would be the biggest challenges. Charbonneau also added he wanted to see people get out to vote and would like to increase awareness and ensure enough time between the announcement of the election and when the election itself will take place.

Votes in favor of Peter Charbonneau's appointment as CRO: unanimous

BIRT SGPS Council elect Peter Charbonneau as the SGPS Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the 2014-2015 term.

Motion passed.

Motion

08.19/14:6

Moved: P. Gajos
Seconded: J. MacLeod

Discussion about the meeting dates and times occurred. J. MacLeod wondered why the start time of each meeting was set for 6:30 PM. Tabitha Renaud remarked that the practice had been adopted in earlier years to accommodate students from Education who had not been able to attend council meetings at earlier times. K. Weiner suggested that we move the time of council meetings to 5:30 and then wait to see if there is a conflict. He also suggested the first meeting in September could be at 6:30 in case there was a conflict. T. Hamilton asked if it was ok to approve the schedule now and then we can change it if a conflict in fact presents itself in the fall term.

Motion passed.

BIRT SGPS Council approve the following as the meeting schedule for 2014-2015

Month	Agenda Items Due	Meeting Time
September	September 2 nd , 4 pm	September 9 th , 6:30 pm
October	October 7 th , 4 pm	October 14 th , 6:30 pm
November	November 4 th , 4 pm	November 11 th , 6:30 pm
Fall GM	November 14 th , 4 pm	November 25 th , 6:30 pm
December	December 2 nd , 4 pm	December 9 th , 6:30 pm
January	January 6 th , 4 pm	January 13 th , 6:30 pm
February	February 3 rd , 4 pm	February 10 th , 6:30 pm
March	March 3 rd , 4 pm	March 10 th , 6:30 pm
April	April 7 th , 4 pm	April 14 th , 6:30 pm
May	May 5 th , 4 pm	May 12 th , 6:30 pm

Motion: Added from discussion of approval of 2014-2015 Budget

Moved: P. Gajos
Seconded: K. Weiner

P. Gajos presented the 2014-2015 Budget which is also outlined in the VP Finance and Services Council Report. The scope of his discussion encapsulated revenues, expenses, and new changes to expenses. In relation to changes in expenses, one of these is a cut in the spending SGPS will do for transition costs between old and new Executives. J. MacLeod asked when this money would be cut and if this meant that people were not going to be paid during the transition time. He also asked about the carry forward of money to reserves. K. Weiner responded noting that carry forward was taking into account a lack of expenditure in one year and creating a revenue

line for this amount the following year. He added that we have not really needed to do this as the SGPS has roughly \$1 million in its savings account and if we really needed to extract money from our reserves to fund something because we remove carry forward, this extraction could be done at Council.

J. Macleod asked with regard to the reserves that we have and the VP Finance & Services focus on searching for potential investment opportunities, will these be brought to Council before any investments are made? K. Weiner responded noting the various options being explored and that these options would find consideration first at the Financing Services Committee and then onward to Council for approval or at least as a report.

T. Vaughn asked if the budget and budget guide were described online. P. Gajos responded that it will be if it is not there already. T. Vaughn also asked what the International Student Reimbursement was. P. Gajos replied that this fund in for international students and the money comes from PSAC 901 which can likely cover costs despite the cut. K. Weiner followed up noting that PSAC 901 created the International student bursary, but they did not have the overhead to cover it so we added to it. The change in the budget therefore brings the SGPS contribution in line with the original agreement with PSAC 901. T. Vaughn summarized that the bursary is therefore still available in its full amount but is funded less by SGPS and more by PSAC 901.

BIRT that the 2014-2015 Budget be approved at First Reading

Vote: Unanimous
Motion passed.

8. Other Business

a. 2014-2015 Budget, attached (P. Gajos)

b. Academic White Paper, attached (K. Wiener)

K. Weiner described the scope and intent of the Academic White Paper (attached). He described the governance of the university, where graduate councils and committees are located in this structure, and how graduate students have been appointed/elected in the past in inconsistent ways and how reports from those student representatives have not been received. The new structure proposed in the white paper will standardize appointments to those Faculty Graduate Councils we can make appoints to and create mechanisms by which we can get consistent reportage from our representatives including the creation of a Graduate Academic Caucus.

T. Renaud wondered asked if traditional SGPS committees would continue as well. She wondered if volunteers for SGPS might be deterred if the time

commitment involved increased for them significantly. She added that the SGPS has had trouble with attendance for existing committees in the past and therefore adding more positions could possibly affect participation. This concern was echoed by Sarah (Barnes?) K. Weiner noted that traditional committees would stand and that there is still time to make suggestions and changes and bring them back to Council in September. The important part is to note that councillors could choose the representatives from amongst their own committees based on faculty.

T. Vaughn asked for a clearer definition of the role of an Academic Representative which K. Weiner described. J. Chesterman noted his strong support for the initiative. In the Engineering Faculty, he remarked that there had been a disconnect between different grad reps on that board and other grad reps on other boards. As well, there is no guarantee that department-level student government would share information with the faculty level and vice versa. This plan helps fill gaps.

T. Vaughn asked how many reps there would be in total. K. Weiner responded there would be between 20-25. He also noted that the various Deans have been amenable to having alternates attend if there isn't someone there. J. Chesterman remarked that attendance is a problem because issues discussed at Faculty Grad Councils and Committees may not be specific enough to each department. With the new plan, the new issues would be more relevant to specific faculties, thus allowing more depth of conversation at SGPS Council.

K. Weiner asked if there were any recommendations. T. Hamilton remarked that we should bring this up in September as an action item. K. Weiner wondered if the Academic Affairs Standing Committee ought to continue to exist separately or if it could be rolled up into the new, larger Graduate Academic Caucus. J. Chesterman said that historically, the AASC is entirely dependent on who shows up from what faculty. The new set up would ensure broader, more consistent representation. K. Weiner suggested that the AASC could be suspended for a year to see how it goes. J. MacLeod wondered if there was a bylaw or policy prohibiting this. Andria Mahon noted there is nothing specifying who has to be on it. K. Weiner suggested that whoever is on the AASC can be on the new committee as well to avoid problems.

9. Notice of Motions & Announcements

- a. Reports and Motions for the next SGPS Council Meeting are due on Tuesday September 2nd, 2014 at 4 pm.
- b. The next SGPS Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 9th, 2014
- c. T. Hamilton asked Councillors to pass on information about the Work Study positions advertised on the SGPS website
- d. K. Weiner asked Councillors to tell departments and faculty we have a new health and dental plan and noted that the biggest difference between

the old and new plan is the differentiation between brand names and certified pharmacies: we can get 100% back from certain pharmacies if one purchases generic brands.

10. Adjournment

Motion

08/19/14:7

Moved: K. Weiner

Seconded: T. Renaud

BIRT the SGPS Council meeting be adjourned.

Motion passed.