



society of graduate & professional students
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS LOCAL 27
MINUTES

Society of Graduate and Professional Students' Council
Local 27 of the Canadian Federation of Students
Tuesday April 8th, 2014 6:30PM
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentations

Nick (Rector): I would first like to say thank you to everyone for the hard work on council. Enrollment and new residences: who would go into the residences? Graduate or undergraduate students? Most recently, the agenda was released and Queen's would like to have 400 new enrolment students. Arts and sciences would like 350 new students and engineering would like 50. Graduate student growth will be modest. This is of concern to Queen's students as we are already over the capacity of shared services. The numbers are being pushed through at April's senate. Thank you for having me. Good luck in completing your future endeavors.

1. Kate Humphrys: Results of 2013 student health survey: Results from graduate students. This survey is a tool used across North America to assess health and wellness of students. 32 other Canadian schools used this tool at the same time. Sample size 34000 students. On campus, we had 1200 students completed survey (20% response). Grad students 320 (out of about 4000 grad students).
General health: 55% of grad students responded as excellent or very good; 93% excellent, very good, or good. Graduate students have a lower sense of connection than undergraduate students. Alcohol use was not different between grad and undergrad (>5 drinks in last 2 weeks). 82% would consider getting help from a mental health professional. 34% had very depressed feelings.
Physical: 73.5% did not meet Canadian physical activity guidelines. 81.9% not meeting Canadian food guide.
Sexual health: 15% use no birth control.
This data is available if you want more information.
To date, most of the work has been informing stakeholders, as well as to guide health promotion. The ARC has used this data to launch the get your 150 campaign.

Questions: social isolation compared to general population?

Kate: Sorry I am not sure; I would have to look it up.

Becky: how has the information been received at SGS?

Kate: The SGS received the same information. They were very interested in the material. It was also presented at senate. The areas that jumped out are physical activity and mental health data. The survey is being done again in 2016. It is not easy to get people to respond to an online survey. It is a representative sample in terms of the demographics.

Julian: Finances: is there any move towards how Queen's can improve this? Any feedback?

Kate: Student alumni association. Another group is the chaplain's office, she is interested in the finances, in terms of peoples perspectives on wellbeing and life. I encourage ongoing discussion.

Iain: one thing that jumped out was relationship stress. There are no couples or family based services available.

2. T.A education group: As graduate students at Queen's, we are one of 2 universities where training is mandatory. Now we have 3 more trainings modules that we want to add to the program. We presented a definition that got approved (anyone who is involved in making course material, teaching...) this includes T.A's/TF. The question is how much is this going to cost?

We are currently looking into how we are going to structure the mandatory training. Some suggestions include online training, or a booklet and brochure.

Julian: Do we get paid for these new modules?

Ans. Currently no you will not get paid

Iain: if this is mandatory, as with other jobs the training should be paid.

Julian Chesterman: the online training. People understand the benefit of the content, but not the best way to administer it. I don't think a brochure is going to fit the objective of training graduate students. If the students are paid for their work, they will take the program and the content seriously.

Iain: Collective bargaining for T.A union one thing not included was new pay, hours for more training. Every single person can think of something more valuable that could be added to his or her work.

Eric: PSSC. Training needs to be done, but not at the sacrifice of the students.

Julian Chesterman: We have many different roles as grad students. Work place violence is one training session that is mandatory in some departments; it was delivered in person and was very effective. If we pull together these training sessions, for examples as part of orientation, may help get information across, while keeping cost down.

2. Adoption of the Agenda & Minutes

MOTION

04/08/14:1

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Julian Chesterman

BIRT the agenda for April 8th, 2014 Council meeting be adopted.

Motion Carried

MOTION

04/08/14:2

Moved: Jillian Burford-Grinnell (vpfs@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Eric Rapos

BIRT the minutes for the March 11th, 2014 Council meeting be accepted.

Motion Carried

MOTION

04/08/14:3

Moved: Jillian Burford-Grinnell (vpfs@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Cody Yorke

BIRT the minutes for the March 18th, 2014 General Meeting be accepted.

Motion Carried

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

- a. President – Iain Reeve (report attached)
Two things, the elections were successful. 40% increase in ballots cast. 2. Nick was making defence to increase in enrolment, and stress on resources. I will be voicing my concern, in my last month.
- b. VP Graduate – Becky Pero (report attached)
- c. VP Professional – Cody Yorke (report attached)
Andria Mahon- new executive assistant. Reply to emails about committees.
- d. VP Campaigns & Community Affairs – Meagan Crane (report attached)
- e. VP Finance & Services – Jillian Burford-Grinnell (report attached)
The preauthorized payment plan was successful, as of June 2014 payments will come out on the 5th of each month. The executive has decided to change health and dental plans. Effective Sept 1, there will be changes to Health and dental plan. Information will be released in the near future. Briefly, there will be increases in coverage for health practitioners (athletic, chiropractor, massage therapy), changes to prescription medications, more information will follow (80% for most, we can off some medications at 100%).
- f. Executive Assistant – Andria Mahon (no report)
- g. Speaker – James MacLeod (report attached)
Case we spoke of, will take over responsibility for this case, they are seeking legal representation.

MOTION

04/08/14:4

Moved: Becky Pero (vpfg@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

BIRT the Executive and Speaker Reports be accepted.

Julian: Jillian, if we are changing suppliers is there change to fees?

Jillian: there are no changes in the fees.

Robert: health and dental fees are not increasing, is there anything major we are losing from the plan?

Jillian: non-generic drugs are not covered at 80%, they are covered at 60%. If you get it from 'direct to you' pharmacy you get it at 80%, if you get at shoppers for example, you get it at 60%. One of the things that Patrick will look into is creating a bursary; this carrier is going to donate money for emergency student aid. Maybe medication bursaries, for people who can only use drugs that aren't covered at the 80-100 %?

Question: name of carrier?

Jillian: RAMS is the new carrier. Effective Sept 1, the next executive will be doing advertisements so that everyone is aware.

Motion Carried

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

- a. Graduate Student Senator – Hamid Falahati (report attached)
Eric: big goal is to bridge gap between SGPS and AMS. I encourage people to get in contact with myself.
- b. Graduate Student Trustee – James MacLeod (report attached)
- c. Committee Reports
- d. Commissioner Reports
 - i. Social Commissioner – Margaux MacDonald (report attached)
 - ii. Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
 - iii. Equity Commissioner: Tabasum Akaseer (no report)
Overview: equal pay day April 16th, here on campus, music and snacks, we want students and staff to sign declaration to pay closer attention to pay-gap in Canada (between men and women and race). We want to raise awareness. We will be sending out emails about the event. Please come out and support us.
 - iv. International Students' Affairs Commissioner: Tian Lu (report attached)
- e. Other Reports
 - i. Rector – Nick Francis (no report)
 - ii. Chief Returning Officer – Laura Levick (report attached)
 - iii. Departmental Reports

MOTION

Moved: Cody Yorke (vpp@sgps.ca)

04/08/14:5

Seconded: Julian Chesterman

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

Julian: CRO: anything to take down any remaining posters?

Laura: if you see any please inform me.

Motion Carried

5. Question Period/Departmental Issues

6. Business Arising From the Minutes

7. Main Motions

MOTION

04/08/14:6

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: James Brown

Whereas, the SGPS President currently sits on two ad hoc hiring/renewal committees that require consistent membership,

Whereas, the SGPS membership needs to be represented on such committees, and Whereas, there is previous precedent for exiting SGPS Executive members finishing work on such committees,

BIRT, SGPS Council grant Iain Reeve permission to represent the SGPS on the Advisory Committee on the Vice President of Advancement and the Teaching and Learning Hiring Committee until these committees have concluded their work.

Iain: these are hiring committees to renew fundraising. He is running to keep space in the appointment. He had health issues and was delayed.

Motion Carried

MOTION

04/08/14:7

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Tabitha Renaud

Whereas, concerns have been expressed about the degree to which the current composition of the SGPS and the nature of its executive, commissioner, coordinator, and staff positions are optimal to serve the SGPS membership,

Whereas, it is essential for a representative society such as the SGPS to regularly assess itself to ensure it is doing an optimal job of serving and representing its membership,

Whereas, the relative small size of the SGPS makes optimizing positions and structures even more imperative,

Whereas, such a review of SGPS structures and positions has not been undertaken since 2009-2010, and

Whereas, such a review requires intimate understanding of the SGPS, but could include a conflict of interest for current members of the staff of executive,

BIRT, SGPS Council task outgoing President Iain Reeve with producing a report on the effectiveness of the current SGPS' composition and executive and staff positions, BIFRT, that this report include recommendations about how to best structure the SGPS and its positions,

BIFRT, that this report include at least two distinct composition options — where one of which could be the status quo — along with detailed strengths and weaknesses of each approach,

BIFRT, that this report must be completed by July 31st, 2014, and

BIFRT, that the SGPS executive must bring the report to Council for discussion by September Council, 2014, with view to allow ample time for discussion, and to allow any bylaw changes to be made at the 2015 Annual General Meeting.

Iain: Again, some concerns were raised throughout the year. I had thought to do this at the start of the term. I still have a high level of expertise, I am offering my time, to bring forward a variety of paths and recommendations and then to give it the SGPS to act or not act on as they see fit. It is a review exercise.

Tabitha: specific In terms of concerns.

Iain: we have a huge membership and a small executive work force. It is a small number of resources to serve a large membership. I want to look to see what other options there are out there. Are we making best use of the resources? Are there sections of the university that are not represented or over-represented?

Tabitha: is this coming out of the working group to improve SGPS?

Iain: In hiring the new executive assistant this was brought up.

Jillian: Concerns: if this would be done by a committee, I would like more details on how this is going to proceed, what questions are going to be asked...

Iain: This type of reviews is not usually done by a committee but, by an individual (expert). This review is then reviewed by a committee and the committee is the body that makes the decisions.

Jillian: I want more clarification, what metrics are being used?

Cody: Asking Iain to bring a methods review proposal by the next council meeting.

MOTION

04/08/14:7 M-1

Moved: Jillian Burford Grinnell (vpfs@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Meagan Crane (vpcca@sgps.ca)

BIRT Council table the motion until May to give Iain time to report back with a research plan.

Iain: I am concerned about waiting until next month, I have limited time to work on this.

Thomas: is there anything stopping you from doing the report?

Councilor: Why not let Iain do the report and if we don't like it, we can hire someone to redo it?

Motion to amend not Carried

MOTION

04/08/14:7

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Tabitha Renaud

Motion Carried.

MOTION

04/08/14:8

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Eric Rapos

Whereas, the Student Senate Caucus (SSC) is an invaluable forum for meeting, sharing information, and developing shared priorities between graduate, professional, and undergraduate student senators and other interested parties, Whereas, formalized cooperation between all students in Senate — the principal academic decision making body of Queen's University — is an essential tool in achieving student needs,

Whereas, the SGPS President and Graduate Senator have consulted with the AMS President and the current SSC Chair in the crafting of this policy, and

Whereas, The AMS has agreed to pass an identical policy in AMS Assembly,

BIRT SGPS Council create a policy P.8.3 "Student Senate Caucus," as seen in the Appendix, and

BIFRT, SGPS Council create policy P.2.4.b (8) that reads as follows: "participating in Student Senate Caucus as per the terms in policy P.8.3."

Eric: Elected to chair of this body. This is an ad hoc committee. There are 15 elected senators. Goal is to meet before senate and work together on the collective agreement of students. We worked on this all of this year and it was just passed at student senate cocas. This will add legitimacy to this body, and add visibility to the senators, for example the enrolment planning.

MOTION

04/08/14:8 M-1

Moved: Eric Rapos

Seconded: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

BIRT that SGPS Council amend p.2.4.b (8) to read, "SGPS Council create policy P.2.4.b (6) to read as follows"

Motion Carried

MOTION

04/08/14: + 30

minutes

Moved: Julian Chesterman

Seconded: Eric Rapos

Motion to extend meeting 30 minutes

Motion Carried

MOTION

04/08/14:9

Moved: Laura Levick (cro@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Hamid Falahati

BIRT SGPS Council elect <insert name here> as the SGPS Chief Returning Officer (CRO) for the 2014/2015 term.

Laura: Duties: ESS election, Executive election for SGPS, (rector election this year).

MOTION

04/08/14: T

Moved: Eric Rapos

Seconded: Thomas Vaughan

BIRT SGPS Council table motion 04/08/14:10 until the August Council meeting

Motion Carried

MOTION

04/08/14:10

Moved: Laura Levick (cro@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Thomas Vaughan

Whereas voter turnout in the 2014 SGPS Election and Referendum was greater than 10% of the SGPS membership; and

Whereas results can be found at: <http://www.sgps.ca/jobs/election.html>

BIRT the results of the 2014 SGPS Election and Referendum be ratified.

Motion Carried

MOTION

04/08/14:11

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Cody Yoke (vpp@sgps.ca)

BIRT SGPS Council elect <insert name here> as the SGPS Speaker for the 2014-2015 term.

MOTION

04/08/14:11

M-1

Moved Jillian Burford-Grinnell (vpfs@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Cody Yorke (vpp@sgps.ca)

BIST council change <insert name here> to "Max Ma"

Motion to amend Carried

MOTION

04/08/14:12

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Cody Yoke (vpp@sgps.ca)

Motion Carried

MOTION

04/08/14:13

Moved: Jillian Burford Grinnell (vpfs@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Jillian: Math graduate student society, they have done the fundraiser in the past. It is a great initiative.

GMS: we want to make available second hand text books. We would buy for 95\$ and in fall sell for 125 (for a 200\$ book). In the past we have made ~1500\$. We are asking SGPS if there is support available.

Jillian: agreeable for us to hold the textbooks until the fall, as collateral.

Robert: should we put a deadline on when we are getting the line back?

Iain: it is already in the motion, it says fall.

Motion Carried

8. Other Business

Discussion Item: Implications and framework surrounding SGPS logo use (Becky Pero).

Iain: Presence of SGPS logo on clubs, events...We have a policy for it, we will give this to the bylaws committee and have them report back on this.

MOTION

04/08/14:14

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Jillian Burford-Grinnell (vpfs@sgps.ca)

BIST Council gives this topic to the bylaws committee to review and report back to Council.

Motion Carried

2. Mens rights awareness group meeting are going on. This is an antifeminist meeting/presentation. People's reactions? Questions about the group?

Iain: Several students have had threats. A student was attacked. A statement was released by us, the AMS, and the principle, to stand up against intimidation and violence.

Alison: This is not the first men's right awareness group. Title of presentation: what does feminism have to do with anything. There is a safe space for people to go to for support.

Jillian: If they were to apply to SGPS, they wouldn't qualify for funding. They are currently a ratified club by the AMS.

MOTION

04/08/14: +30

minutes

Moved: Thomas Vaughan

Seconded: Julian Chesterman

Motion to extend meeting 30 minutes

Motion Carried

Iain: plus side that there are no attempts to get funding from SGPS. We need to focus on, is future support for people who are targeted.

9. Notice of Motions & Announcements

- a. Reports and Motions for the next SGPS Council Meeting are due on Tuesday, May 6th, 2014 by 4:00 pm.
- b. The next SGPS Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 13th, 2014.

10. Adjournment

MOTION

04/08/14:15

Moved: Julian

Seconded: Iain

BIRT the SGPS Council Meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

04/08/14

JAM

CFS-27

Attached:

March Council Minutes

March General Meeting Minutes

March Council Attendance

April Reports

Information Item: Letter of Support (Committee of the Whole Changes)

Student Senate Caucus Policy