



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, December 13th, 2011, 5:30pm

McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentations

2. Adoption of the Agenda & Minutes

MOTION

12/13/11:1

Moved: Cody Yorke (vpp@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Anne-Marie Grondin (vpcca@sgps.ca)

BIRT the agenda for the December 13th, 2011 Council Meeting be adopted.

Motion carries

MOTION

12/13/11:2

Moved: Cody Yorke (vpp@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Anne-Marie Grondin (vpcca@sgps.ca)

BIRT the minutes for the November 8th, 2011 Council Meeting be accepted.

Motion carries

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

- a. President – Jillian Burford-Grinnell (report attached)
- b. VP Graduate – Irene Karagiorgakis (report attached)
 - Irene: highlighting meeting with Andrew Ness re: PAPP. Information to come to be distributed to departments.
- c. VP Professional – Cody Yorke (report attached)

- HR Committee is reviewing the report system for Council. There will be a survey coming thru email – how can we improve the system?
- d. VP Campaigns & Community Affairs – Anne-Marie Grondin (report attached)
 - Update re: Drop Fees Campaign. Have met with several groups and have received 3 formal pledges for the campaign. This campaign isn't specific to Queen's University, it is more focused towards the government, including advocating for increased government spending for post-secondary education.
 - Jillian: Is there an ending date for the campaign?
 - Anne-Marie: Ongoing
- e. VP Finance & Services – Andrea Phillipson (report attached)
 - Andrea: Want to expand on the notion that some students are on PAPP but are not paying equal tuition fee payment throughout the year (specifically International Students). They receive a tuition award to offset the international fees (\$5000). In September 1/3 of this is credited to their account, and tuition fee payments are adjusted to account for this. Distribution to Councillors to come with more information (via Eric).
 - Victoria: Is there any rationale as to why the \$5000 is not credited up front?
 - Andrea: The message is that next year they will be doing this.
 - Julian: Are these tuition awards treated differently from QGA?
 - Andrea: QGA goes directly to students' bank accounts, rather than Queen's account. So this is "real" money rather than an account credit.
- f. Speaker – Eric Rapos (report attached)
 - Eric: Busy month for the Bylaws and Policies. There will be quite a lot coming thru in January for the AGM deadline. I am also working with the AMS to draft bylaws for the SLC.

MOTION

12/13/11:3

Moved: Anne-Marie Grondin (vpcca@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Andrea Phillipson (vpfs@sgps.ca)

BIRT the Executive and Speaker Reports be accepted.

Motion carries

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

- a. Graduate Student Senator – Daniel Moore (report attached)

- Daniel: Busy month working on the Academic Plan. Graduate Studies needs to be taken more seriously in the future renditions of the plan. Currently every year a small task force will be created to review the plan. They will be looking at it with specific concerns in mind such as virtualization etc. Re: QFA enrolment suspension - Dean of Faculty of Arts and Science has cancelled enrolment for next year. The reason being, the faculty were worried about being able to run the program with the retirement of one of their professors. They were unsure as to whether they would be given funds to hire an additional professor. This was brought up at Senate but the motion was tabled. This also came up at the Faculty Board where a petition to reverse the decision was passed. Hopefully this will make a case for allowing further enrolment, we will know more in January. Also: SCAD is considering adding a new “dropped” status on transcripts, allowing you to drop a course anytime, but you will get a permanent notation on your transcript, and no refund (after set dates).
 - Torn (for Nikoo): Concerns re: employers.
- b. Graduate Student Trustee – Benjamin Grant (no report)
- The Board of Trustees met ~ 2 weeks ago with little actionable items passed. Residence fees were increased by an average of 4.5%. A grocery store and pharmacy lease were approved for the Queen’s Center. There are unlikely to be any increases in government spending for post-secondary education.
 - Andrea: Were there questions in the room thinking that specialization (HECO) would be a good thing?
 - Ben: Mixed responses.
 - Daniel: We previously spoke with Principal Woolf about “specialization” and he was hesitant at the time. Did he speak to this?
 - Ben: No, he didn’t make any comments that I recall.
- c. Committee Reports
- d. Commissioner Reports
- i. Social Commissioner – Abdullah Abunafeesa (report attached)
 - Slow month, we have only had 2 events given holidays/exams.
 - ii. Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
 - iii. Equity Commissioner: Elizabeth Amirault (report attached)
 - iv. International Students’ Affairs Commissioner: Becky Pero (report attached)
 - Becky: QUFA Voices article is now available online (qufa.ca). SPGS is also in the process of purchasing ice skates for members and their families to use. Hopefully in the new year we will have a selection that can be signed out at the main office.
 - Anne-Marie: Can you talk about where the idea came from?
 - Becky: Was previously available through some other services, but have become unavailable.
- e. Other Reports
- i. Equity Coordinator – Aliya Kassam (combined with Equity Commissioner)

- ii. International Students' Affairs Coordinator: Holly McIndoe (combined with International Students' Affairs Commissioner Report)
 - iii. Sustainability Coordinator – Samantha Tavenor (report attached)
 - iv. Athletics Coordinator – Meaghan Frauts (report attached)
 - v. Logistics Coordinator – Chris Groten (no report)
 - vi. Planning Coordinator – Cassandra Kuyvenhoven (no report)
 - vii. Rector – Nick Francis (no report)
 - viii. Chief Returning Officer – Mikhail Kellawan (no report)
 - ix. Departmental Reports
- Kaleigh: On behalf of gender studies we would like to thank the SGPS for their financial support of our most recent event.

MOTION

12/13/11:4

Moved: Anne-Marie Grondin (vpcca@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Andrea Phillipson (vpfs@sgps.ca)

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

Motion carries

5. Question Period/Departmental Issues

- Anne-Marie: I was wondering if anyone from the Strategic Planning Committee can give us a report about a survey from last year...
- Ben: I am Chair and will have an answer for next meeting.
- Melissa: (to Daniel) so you can currently drop for exceptional circumstances at any point, so why discuss it?
- Daniel: To standardize the process.
- Eric: I do believe it is all part of the standardization process.
- Andrea: What changes now is that the appeal possibility has gone. You would not be able to appeal having a DR show up.
- Cody: I also worry about not having a process to drop a course because it seems like this becomes more of a lack of support for students – you won't see all the support venues available that might be able to help you through the course if you just walk away from it.
- Anne-Marie: Differentiation/Specialization advice (as mentioned earlier) comes from the government, assessing the quality of education in Ontario. The irony is that these people are legal and financial experts, not pedagogical experts. Differentiation may be a means to help with the financial situation. It could mean having only research-focused institutions, or speciality centers. The Principal does not think it would be easy to separate teaching from research, but he is on board with the idea of separating the fields to become better at fewer things at any one institution. The concern we have here relates to accessibility, especially financial accessibility having only one institution for example, at the other side of the country. This committee also produces research reports, some of which are questionable.

- Andrea: Comment about Daniel’s report. I note that you thank Mark Jones in your report and I wanted to echo this. Maybe we can formally recognize the hard work that he is doing in a letter of thanks? He is a great advocate.
- Eric: As we don’t have notice a motion wouldn’t be appropriate just yet, but a motion in January would be OK.

6. Business Arising From the Minutes

7. Main Motions

MOTION

12/13/11:5

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

Seconded: Andrea Phillipson (vpfs@sgps.ca)

WHEREAS the Bylaw and Policy Revisions Standing Committee has determined the need for stronger policy for Human Resources,

WHEREAS Policy Section P.2 Personnel is largely related these issues,

BIRT SGPS Council tasks the Human Resources Committee to evaluate existing policy and to work with the SGPS Bylaw and Policy Revisions Standing Committee to rewrite Policy Section P.2 Personnel to be a section on Human Resources.

Eric: We are lacking in HR policy, so this is more so to formally state that changes to HR will become more of a focus for us.

Cody: We don’t have solid “HR Policies”, just patchwork for certain circumstances. It is important to have a full framework.

Motion carries

MOTION

12/13/11:6

Moved: Irene Karagiorgakis (vpj@sgps.ca)

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

WHEREAS the Bylaw and Policy Revisions Standing Committee has noticed no terms of reference currently exist for the Academic Affairs Standing Committee,

BIRT SGPS Council tasks the Academic Affairs Standing Committee to formulate terms of reference for their committee, to be added to the SGPS Policy section on Committees.

Irene: If this motion passes then the Academic Affairs Standing Committee will be tasked to develop their terms of reference.

Motion carries

MOTION

12/13/11:7

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

Seconded: Andrea Phillipson (vpfs@sgps.ca)

WHEREAS the Bylaw and Policy Revisions Standing Committee has noticed no terms of reference currently exist for the Sustainability Standing Committee,

BIRT SGPS Council tasks the Sustainability Standing Committee to formulate terms of reference for their committee, to be added to the SGPS Policy section on Committees.

Eric: Same situation as above.

Motion carries

MOTION

12/13/11:8

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

Seconded: Andrea Phillipson (vpfs@sgps.ca)

WHEREAS the Bylaw and Policy Revisions Standing Committee has determined that there are many different interpretations of, and standard definitions for equity,

WHEREAS there is a need for consistency and clarity within the SGPS Bylaws and Policies,

BIRT SGPS Council tasks the Equity Issues Standing Committee to conduct a study on the most appropriate definition for the SGPS, and to work with the Bylaw and Policy Revisions Standing Committee to draft policy pertaining to the definition of Equity.

Anne-Marie: My understanding was that we were working with Queen's definition of this.

Eric: There is ambiguity in the policy. If we develop this then we can reference it in further policy.

Anne-Marie: Can we use similar language to that of Queen's?

MOTION

12/13/11:8 M1

Moved: Anne-Marie Grondin (vpcca@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Jillian Burford-Grinnell (president@sgps.ca)

BIRT SGPS Council tasks the Equity Issues Standing Committee to explicitly define 'equity' in SGPS B&P in accordance with the definition used by the Queen's Equity Office.

Elizabeth: This will change some of the definitions that we have come up with in our committee.

Torn: Narrowing the definition could be problematic.

Anne-Marie: To resolve this we could just remove “explicitly”, without changing the spirit of the motion.

Cody: This would be up to the Equity Committee to resolve.

Motion carries

MOTION

12/13/11:8

Motion carries as amended

MOTION

12/13/11:9

Moved: Anne-Marie Grondin (vpcca@sgps.ca)
Seconded: Jillian Burford-Grinnell (president@sgps.ca)

WHEREAS Queen’s recently and unilaterally suspended new admissions and upper-year transfers to the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) program for the 2012-13 academic year based on an assessment of the faculty resources available to support the program; and

WHEREAS this decision sets a precedent for future closures, freezes, and amalgamations of undergraduate and graduate programs at Queen’s; and

WHEREAS, under the “Purpose and Functions of Senate,” the central function of Queen’s Senate is to “determine all matters of an academic character that affect the University as a whole”; and

WHEREAS Senate is also authorized to “approve university-level policies relating to the academic mission and academic services including but not limited to policies related to admissions”; and

WHEREAS a petition is currently being circulated by campus community members asking that “the BFA admissions-freeze and all such contemplated freezes, closures, and amalgamations be henceforth submitted to the proper authority of Queen’s Senate for approval,” that “all such policy decisions (...) be based not only on financial or ‘resources’ criteria but on long-range

academic considerations,” and that the broader Queen’s community be consulted in the process; and

WHEREAS a motion was passed at a recent annual general meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students tasking the CFS Executive to write a letter to Queen’s Administration asking that the aforementioned decision-making process be respected; therefore

BIRT Council endorse a letter to Queen’s Senate requesting that admission freezes, closures, and amalgamations henceforth be considered by Senate and be given academic as well as financial consideration.

BIFRT individual Councilors be encouraged to sign the petition to this same effect <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/noclosurewithoutprocess/>.

Anne-Marie: As Daniel already mentioned the University has been looking at cost cutting measures for the Bachelor of Fine arts to ensure the sustainability of the program. Last year enrollment increased by 50% unexpectedly. Based on staffing shortages and the cost to the University to maintain the program the Faculty of Arts and Science unilaterally announced suspension of admission. A consultative process would have been more appropriate. This decision was not made by the Board of Trustees. This motion is to highlight that the process by which the program was cut undermines the authority of Senate. It also opposes a precedent that this decision by the Faculty of Arts and Science may set. It is also opposed to setting a precedent that financial considerations outweigh all others.

Melissa: I don’t know anything about this college of Arts and Design. What is the point of including this?

Anne-Marie: It has been reported consistently in the media and compared to Queen’s.

Melissa: Given we are a broader institution I’m not sure that they fit well in the letter.

Daniel: I noticed that at the end of the motion it asks that admission freezes etc. henceforth be considered by Senate. I think we should just ask that this is directed towards Senate rather than telling them how these decisions should be made. I would add “Henceforth be brought to Senate before implementation”. The Dean should have some say in this process, but it is his responsibility to bring it to Senate.

Cody: I want to echo that this is not just about Fine Arts programs. It is important to protest this decision making process, on record so we are not setting a precedent.

Jillian: Although it is not in the motion I would strongly urge you all to look at the petition and consider signing it, and to convey this to your department.

Ben: The Dean of Arts and Science is facing extreme constraints – all Departments have been told to balance their budgets by next year. Dean MacLean would not have done this unless he felt that he had no choice.

Motion carries

MOTION

12/13/11:10

Moved: Anne-Marie Grondin (vpcca@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Andrea Phillipson (vpfs@sgps.ca)

WHEREAS Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is a crucial national institution which acquires and preserves documents relevant to Canada's cultural and historical heritage; and

WHEREAS LAC has a mandate to collect, preserve and make public a unified national collection; and

WHEREAS the services and resources of LAC are used by a large and diverse group including the general public, librarians, historians, professional writers, students, genealogists, Aboriginal communities, as well as researchers and scholars from virtually every discipline; and

WHEREAS current management at LAC has implemented changes that are having far-reaching implications including reduced public access, decentralization of the national collection, elimination of specialist positions, and reduced acquisitions; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Association of University Teachers has launched a campaign to 'Save Library and Archives Canada' (www.savelibraryarchives.ca) which calls for clarification of the LAC mandate, adequate funding, restoration of acquisitions and public services, and the cessation of defragmentation of the national collection;

BIRT Council endorse the campaign to Save Library and Archives Canada.

BIFRT Council send a letter to Heritage Minister Mr. James Moore and to the Librarian & Archivist of Canada Dr. Daniel Caron through the campaign website (transcript of the online letter in Appendix 1).

Anne-Marie: Some context – in 2009 the Federal Government appointed the Head of the LAC who was the first who was an economist. His first strategy to save money has been to re-structure things through a "modernization" process involving digitization. It also involves a moratorium on all new acquisitions, which was lifted in 2010 but the acquisition rate is still significantly lower than before the moratorium. A lot of cultural heritage which came up for acquisition has been lost. (Contrary to their mission statement of collecting a record of everything relating to our heritage). This was able to be passed because the mandate was restructured by this new appointee. For the academic community, our collection has largely been decentralized, and public access has been reduced as specialist positions have been eliminated through the digitization process. In addition, researchers have to exert greater effort not only to find the information, but also to pay more to travel to other locations, and in some cases perhaps pay private collectors for access. Our letter addresses many of these concerns.

Irene: Can we add how many members the SGPS represents?

Anne-Marie: Yes

Eric: This does need to be an amendment.

MOTION

12/13/11:10 M1

BIRT SGPS Council amend the signature line to include the number of students represented.

Motion carries

MOTION

12/13/11:10

Motion carries as amended

MOTION

12/13/11:11

Moved: Andrea Phillipson (vpfs@sgps.ca)

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

WHEREAS the Finance and Services Committee has reviewed the Dental Bursary Policy and recommends the following:

- the dental bursary program should be extended to include services that exceed the maximum coverage limit of the SGPS Dental Plan (currently at \$750)
- the dental bursary program should explicitly exclude emergency dental procedures that are covered at 100% by the Health and Dental Plan

BIRT SGPS Policy P.1.4 be repealed in its entirety and be replaced as seen Appendix 2. (Changes Tracked in Appendix 3)

Andrea: This is a policy change that last year's Finance and Services Committee recommended. If we were to extend the dental bursary the premiums would significantly increase. Having extra funds available for extremely expensive procedures may be a better solution. However, last year the committee noticed that individuals were approaching with requests for funds that exceeded the Green Shield coverage amount. This policy change simplifies this process.

Matthew: Does this tap into PSAC funds?

Andrea: That is all still up in the air – how best to have these funds work for TA/TFs.

Julian: Will this impact the bursary usage rate?

Andrea: I doubt it. A few more may come through but people are not likely to abuse their ability to go to the dentist.

Motion carries

8. Other Business

9. Notice of Motions & Announcements

- a. Reports and Motions for the next regular SGPS Council Meeting are due on Tuesday January 3rd, 2012.
 - b. The next regular SGPS Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 10th, 2012
- Jillian: A reminder that there will be a social after the meeting.
Sean: This Friday is the last day that the office is open to members. If you need an ISIC card before the break, Friday is the last day to get it.
Jillian: Sean is expecting a daughter, so I would like to extend congratulations.

10. Adjournment

MOTION

12/13/11:12

Moved: Andrea Phillipson (vpfs@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Daniel Moore (senator@sgps.ca)

BIRT the SGPS Council Meeting be adjourned.

Motion carries

12/13/11

EJR

CFS-27

Attached:

November Council Meeting Minutes

Attendance November Council Meeting

December Reports

Appendices to Motions

ATTENDANCE – DECEMBER 2011

Name		Represents	
Dana	Wesley	Aboriginal Rep	
Marvin	Ferrer	Anatomy & Cell Biology	
Daniela	Vogel	Art Conservation	
Johanna	Plant	Art History	
Chantal	Valkenborg	Art History	
Namit	Sharma	Biochemistry	
Celia	Symons	Biology	
Derek	Gray	Biology	
Julian	Chesterman	Biomedical Engineering	X
Vacant	Vacant	Biostatistics	
Ben	Grant	Board of Trustees Rep	X
Eric	Peterson	Chemical Engineering	X
Matthew	Schuster	Chemistry	
Jack	Wallace	Civil Engineering	
Vacant	Vacant	Classics	
David	Wallace	Community Health and Epidemiology	X

Katie	Killorn	Community Health and Epidemiology	X
Haroon	Malik	Computing Science	
Melissa	Trezise	Computing Science	X
Jaspreet	Bal	Cultural Studies	X
Patrick	Alexander	Economics	
Allison	Chapman	Education - Graduate - President	X
Queenie	Wong	Education - Graduate M.Ed	
Miao	Li	Education - Graduate PhD	X
Chris	Fiorentino	Electrical and Computer Engineering	
Patricia	Oprea	English	X
Matthew	Scribner	English	X
Biomkesh	Talukder	Environmental Studies	
Kristy	Chown	ESS	
Vanessa	Powell Cavell	ESS	
Steven	Meece	ESS	
Tyler	Kenopic	ESS President	
Soraya	Vitorino	ESS/SGPS Liason	
Sarah	Jacoba	French	
Judicael	Zounmevo	GECE President	
Kaleigh	Alkenbrack	Gender Studies	X
Gentry	Hanks	Geography	X
Sarah	Allux	Geography	
Ryan	Dhillon	Geology	
Corina	Fonyodi-Szarka	German	
Hayley	Morgan	Global Development	
Daniel	Moore	Graduate Senator	
Doug	Nesbitt	History	
Carolyn	Lee	Industrial Relations	
Matthew	Cathmoir	Industrial Relations	
Holly	McIndoe	International Rep	
Sima	Zakani	International Rep	
Gifferd	Ko	Kinesiology and Health Studies	
Stefanie	Kullick	Languages, Literatures & Cultures	
Janet	Yang	Law	
Vacant	Vacant	Law	
David	Faour	Law	
Jie	Tang	Law - Graduate	
Mathew	Mezciems	Law - LSS President	
Logan	Crowell	Law Senator	
Vacant	Vacant	Management	
Saeed	Akhavan Astaneh	Math and Stats	
Vacant	Vacant	Mature Student Rep	
Jerome	James	Mechanical and Material Engineering	
Sarah	Martz	Microbiology	X
Spencer	Reeves	Mining Engineering	
Brandon	Chambers	Mining Engineering	
Raynold	Alorse	MPA	

Ethan	Zhao	Neuroscience	X
Stacey	Karp	Nursing	
Lisa	Hughes	Part Time Rep	
Victoria	Hoskin	Pathology	X
Dulcie	Lai	Pathology	X
Yohan	D'Souza	Pharmacology	X
Nikoo	Najand	Philosophy	
Nathalie	Ouellette	Physics	
Andrea	Mimee	Physiology	
Alexander	Steffan	Political Studies	
Brock	Criger	Psychology	
Megan	Jaquith	Public Health	
Nick	Francis	Rector	
Janice	Phe	Rehab Sciences (Professional)	
Ian	Gilchrist	Rehab Sciences (Research)	
Vacant	Vacant	Rehabilitation Therapy	
Caleigh	Lyn-Piluso	Religious Studies	
Gillian	Bankas	Sociology	X
Vacant	Vacant	Theology	
Darin	MacKinnon	Theology Senator	
Tony	Gkotsis	Urban and Regional Planning	
Sean	Richards	Executive Director	X
Jillian	Burford-Grinnell	President	X
Andrea	Phillipson	VP Finance	X
Anne-Marie	Grondin	VP Campaigns & Community Affairs	X
Irene	Karagiorgakis	VP Graduate	X
Cody	Yorke	VP Professional	X
Abdullah	Abunafeesa	Social Commissioner	X
Meaghan	Frauts	Athletics Coordinator	
Chris	Groten	Logistics Coordinator	X
Cassandra	Kuyvenhoven	Planning Coordinator	X
Elizabeth	Amirault	Equity Commissioner	X
Aliya	Kassam	Equity Coordinator	
Becky	Pero	International Students' Affairs Commissioner	X
Holly	McIndoe	International Students' Affairs Coordinator	
Samantha	Travenor	Sustainability Coordinator	X
Eric	Rapos	Speaker	X
James	MacLeod	Deputy Speaker	X
Mikhail	Kellawan	Chief Returning Officer	
Other Attendees			
Lauren	McNicol	Student Advisor	