



**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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 5:30PM

**McLaughlin Room, JDUC**

**1. Presentations**

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**Max:** welcomes Council to the December meeting. He notes that the attendance sheet is being passed around; at 5:40, calls the meeting to order.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

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**MOTION**

**12/09/14:1**

Moved: James MacLeod (Board of Trustees)

Seconded: Julian Chesterman (Biomedical Engineering)

BIRT the agenda for December 9th, 2014 Council meeting be adopted.

The motion is introduced by Max, moved by James, and seconded by Julian. No amendments are made, and the motion carries unanimously.

**MOTION**

**12/09/14:2**

Moved: Eric Rapos (senator@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Thompson Hamilton (vpp@sgps.ca)

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

The motion is introduced by Max, moved by Eric, and seconded by Thompson. No amendments are made, and the motion carries unanimously.

**MOTION**

**12/09/14:3**

Moved: Eric Rapos (senator@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Julian Chesterman (Biomedical Engineering)

BIRT the minutes for Fall General Meeting be accepted.

The motion is introduced by Max, moved by Eric, and seconded by Julian. No amendments are made, and the motion carries unanimously.

### **3. Executive and Speaker Reports**

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- 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**

**11/25/14:4**

Moved: Eric Rapos (senator@sgps.ca)

Seconded: James MacLeod (Board of Trustees)

BIRT the Executive and Speaker Reports be accepted.

**Kevin:** talks about the Board of Trustees meeting that occurred in the last week. He notes a few major developments, including the engagement of the university's investment review process. This, given the petition of 200 people, asked for a review of the university's investments in "companies involved directly in the production of fossil fuels." Because of this, the Principal is commissioning a special advisory committee to look into this. It will recommend that no action be taken, an active shareholder engagement strategy, or that the investments should be changed. The other large development is the approval of the improvement of the stadium on west campus. This project is fully funded, and gained its funds from various sources including: an alumnus (\$10 million), the Richardson Foundation (\$5 million), other donations (~3 million), the university (\$3 million). This does not include the pavilion. The consultation period for this project will be from January until mid November of 2015. Construction will then begin, and will be finished by September of 2016. The final detail designs have not yet been created, although the university has committed to a detailed consultation plan to include both students and members of the community. He notes that he will follow up with administration to find out what the timeline will be, and the ways in which all students can participate. The issues surrounding the athletics fee that were raised were also discussed. There are questions as to whether or not the university should charging for tickets for regular season football games; as it stands, the athletics fee currently gives students full access, a point supported both by Kevin and the AMS. He briefly discusses his speech at the Board of Trustees with regards to developing proper protocol to address harassment. He acknowledges a Toronto Star article in which the lack of protocol for sexual assault was highlighted for Queen's University. He notes the irony in the Faculty Collective Agreement requires a protocol for student harassment of faculty, but not for faculty harassment of students. The AMS is noted to have finished a proposal regarding the financing for washroom renovations in the JDUC, which will be looked

at. The final point he discusses is the replacement of the SGPS logo, as the AMS will be putting the logo onto the WalkHome kiosk, and revisiting it now makes sense. A couple of interested students have given designs, but a contest will be held to be fair to the rest of the membership (or even a non-member given a good enough design). The idea would be to take the top three designs and to bring them to Council.

**Dinah:** reminds Council that the SGPS Student Advisory Program will have its office hours closed as of Friday afternoon until January 5<sup>th</sup>. The advisors are still available by email, as needed.

**Thompson:** nothing to add to report.

**Lorne:** thanks everyone on council who helped out with the Holiday Assistance Program.

**Patrick:** sent his regrets.

**Andria:** thanks everyone for donating food for the Holiday Assistance Program. She notes that recipients will be receiving their items either tomorrow or Thursday, and points out that neither Queen's as an institution nor the Dean nor the Provost nor the Principal donated anything despite being approached.

**Max:** notes that all of the reports have been circulated, and then asks if there are any questions.

**Eric:** asks Kevin if the timeline would allow for it to go to referendum next term.

**Kevin:** asks if he means an image-based referendum.

**Eric:** notes that it's done through Moodle, and therefore should be possible.

**Kevin:** says that it could be done, but that depends on whether it will be moved up, and what policy exists based on image referenda. Notes that it would be fun to have Council debate over the logo, but that it certainly can go to referendum if that is seen as the desired option.

**Chris:** (from mechanical engineering) asks if anyone claimed the free coffee?

**Lorne:** says that no one has yet.

**Chris:** says that his favourite food is hamburgers.

**Kevin:** asks Lorne to explain to the rest of Council what is going on.

**Lorne:** notes that he has been leaving Easter eggs in his reports, in which if you can figure out a phrase, he'll send you free coffee. Congratulations.

**Rudy:** (from civil engineering) has questions regarding the second divestment option, involving the shareholder engagement.

**Kevin:** explains that Council members are like shareholders in which they can attend meetings and vote, almost as though they had "shares" in the SGPS. A shareholder in a company could vote their shares in a shareholder meeting in much the same way. However, the reality is that management will send out a proxy solicitation, in which management would be able to vote for or against propositions. Similarly, if shareholders are upset with certain directors, they may vote them down, or for certain resolutions. Generally, the university is not actively engaged with their votes, and so either do not proxy their shares nor attend the meetings, or are made proxy to management. Being an active shareholder would change this. The idea would be that if we chose an active shareholder engagement policy, it could mean actively voting on things and putting forward resolutions; presumably, a company would act in the interests in the majority of their shareholders.

**Thompson:** notes that Kevin should have written his corporate law exam that morning.

**Yongfei:** (from education)s: notes the complaints of noise and lighting issues in the evenings by the residential area near Richardson Stadium. He asks if the SGPS has any role to play in promoting the peaceful use of the stadium.

**Kevin:** acknowledges that this was an issue that became fairly prominent over the summer, and in particular regarding the newer fields built north of Richardson Stadium. Technically, we have been operating without any exemption from the noise bylaws of the city (ex. no amplified noise any time of day etc.). We received an exemption over the summer that lasts about a year. If revoked, however, this would severely impact our ability to have sporting events in Richardson Stadium. This issue was brought to the attention of the Trustees by both Kevin and James, in that the consultation process ensure the design of the stadium is meaningful, and that community members feel like their voices are being heard and incorporated into the designs.

**Erinn:** (from the ESS Council) asks when it would be appropriate for her to bring up something from ESS Council in the meeting.

**Kevin:** suggests during the Departmental Issues/ Question Period would be a good time.

**Max:** promises to note when we reach that point in the agenda. Seeing no other questions, Max asks for a mover (Eric), a seconder (James), and hold a vote.

Motion carries unanimously.

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

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- a. Graduate Student Senator – Eric Rapos (report attached)
- b. Graduate Student Trustee – James MacLeod (report attached)
- c. Commission Reports
  - i. Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
  - ii. Equity Commissioner – Kuukuwa Andam (report attached)
  - iii. International Students’ Affairs Commissioner – Jhordan Layne (report attached)
  - iv. Social Commissioner – Ciara Bracken-Roche (no report)
  - v. Equity Coordinator – Erica Baker (report attached)
  - vi. Sustainability Coordinator – Megan MacCallum (no report)
- d. Committee Reports
- e. Other Reports
  - i. Rector – Mike Young (no report)
  - ii. Chief Returning Officer – Peter Charboneau (no report)
  - iii. Departmental Reports

#### **MOTION**

**12/09/14:5**

Moved: Julian Chesterman (Biomedical Engineering)

Seconded: Lorne Beswick (vpcca@sgps.ca)

BIRT the Senator, Trustee, Commission, Committee and Other Reports be accepted.

**Eric:** nothing to add to the report.

**James:** motions to move in camera. Dinah seconds this.

**Max:** explains what it means to go “in camera.” It means that everything said is confidential and cannot be discussed outside of the camera, and no minutes will be taken.

The motion carries unanimously.

During camera, we discussed Richard Stadium.

The motion to move out of camera carries unanimously.

**Sean:** nothing to add to the report.

**Kuukuwa:** had a meeting with the Sexual Assault Prevention Program, and wants to mention some things that came up that she would like feedback from Council on. She discusses some of the common issues that come up including survivors having to go to many different sources for accommodation. She also notes a lack of education regarding the procedures to follow regarding sexual assaults. Council members are asked to contact their constituents and note if there are any particular issues that come up that should be included in the recommendations.

**Jhordan:** wants to reiterate some aspects of his report. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, QUIC will be hosting a Holiday Networking Tea. He invites anyone still in Kingston at that time to participate and to interact with the international students that will still be here. They are still looking for interested members to be a part of the International Student Affairs Committee. Jhordan can be contacted at international@sgps.ca. Ahmed can be contacted at isc@sgps.ca.

**Ciara:** reminds Council that all of the events for the 2014 term are finished. The last mixer was on Thursday, in which there was a huge turnout. Wednesday evening sports will resume the second week of January. A speed-meeting event is in the process of being planned, along with a hockey game, curling etc. She encourages people to use the Facebook group.

**Rudy:** notes that the committee has been broken up into two groups: hard science projects and social science projects. On the social science side, the focus is on the creation of a panel (one member from each political party; 4 MP’s) to come and have discussions related to sustainability and Canada’s role regarding reducing carbon emissions. This would happen sometime in February or March. On the more engineering side, they are bringing forward proposals on storm water management along with a biodiesel generation project in collaboration with the Sustainability Office.

**Max:** asks if there are any Departmental Reports.

**Erinn:** explains that one of the teacher candidates went to the ARC to get tickets for the Homecoming football game, and one of the staff subsequently mentioned that they were “tired of the B.Ed. students getting tickets and not using them.” They further expressed that they wanted to ban them from buying fall tickets at all next year. She requests the SGPS’s support in preventing this from happening for several reasons. It is noted that the staff at the ARC have no real way of knowing who does and does not attend. This year, due to practicums, B.Ed. students were allowed to buy their tickets early, which was perceived as unfair to the rest of the Queen’s student population. The ESS Council is hoping the SGPS can influence when tickets are sold next year to decrease the appearance of preferential treatment.

**Max:** asks if there are any questions concerning the reports.

**James:** suggests sending that to Leslie Dal Cin and to see what sort of official response they receive.

**Kevin:** says that he will be meeting with Leslie in January on athletic fees as they apply to Education, adding that he could bring it up then. The fact that B.Ed. students will be starting on campus four months early is noted with regards to their ability to access the ARC. He notes that B.Ed. students should be entitled to get tickets to football games on campus, and that these should be made available when they are physically in Kingston.

**Max:** seeing no other comments or questions, he requests a mover to accept the reports (Julian), a seconder (Lorne), and holds a vote.

The motion carries with one abstention by Eric Rapos.

## **5. Question Period/ Departmental Issues**

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No further minutes to record.

## **6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

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No further minutes to record.

## **7. Main Motions**

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### **MOTION**

**12/09/14:6**

Moved: Kevin Wiener (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Thompson Hamilton (vpp@sgps.ca)

BIRT SGPS Council endorse in principle changes to P.9.1 and P.4.1 (see appendices)

**Max:** asks Kevin to read the motion.

**Kevin:** reads the motion, and then goes on to describe what the motion entails. This motion is an endorsement in principle because it was not in by the ten-day deadline to get officially brought as a policy change. The Chief Returning Officer has the ability to recommend an early election, which, if it is going to happen, is important to have Council vote on it. This vote will not actually change the policy, but will rather express in a non-binding manner Council's position, which could be taken into account by the CRO. In more general terms, Council elections have historically been held in late March, presenting two issues. On the elector side, elections are held when the ESS members (roughly one-fifth of the membership) are on practicum; this has led to concerns regarding the appropriateness of holding campaigns during a time in which a large portion of the electorate is unable to participate. On the transitional side, these timelines have typically been very tight, with one month of transition before taking office. While a months pay may make sense for this transition, the timeline seems less feasible.

The proposal would maintain the same amount of transition pay, but stretched out over a two-month period. This would potentially also help to deal with course-based graduate and law exams that occur in April.

**Max:** asks for a seconder for the motion (Eric). Asks if there are any further discussions to be had concerning the motion.

**Eric:** expresses that he is not seconding the motion, but rather had a question.

**Thompson:** seconds the motion. Says that Kevin summarized it nicely and to take questions.

**Eric:** is not opposed but is looking to give a bit more background on this. Notes that the timing of the elections was moved two years ago due to concerns of the campaign period being during reading week.

**Kevin:** point of information: practicum starts at the beginning of reading week.

**Max:** notes that a point of information should be a question.

**Kevin:** asks if he was aware that practicum starts reading week, and therefore the whole campaign would have to be done before reading week.

**Eric:** says he was not; says he still thinks it's a good idea because it helps to ensure everybody can vote.

**Julian:** asks if there is currently transition pay.

**Kevin:** with regards to timing, the previous elections occurred during practicum and this change would resolve this. He notes that campaigns are also always two weeks long. With regards to transition, members are currently paid. If a member of the executive is re-elected to the same role, they do not get transition pay. Feedback is needed with regards to a member being re-elected into a different role and what they would be paid. Some remuneration is noted to be reasonable as compensation for the extra work undertaken during that time.

**Thompson:** notes that the Education program is changing, and that an Education student could potentially end up in an executive position. Therefore, having the opportunity to be exposed to the campaign period seems appropriate.

**Kevin:** with regards to changes in the program, he spoke to Peter Chin earlier. During the three year transition period, the dates should be roughly the same. However, once the full transition has been reached, everyone will be on a three-term program, and the dates of practicum may be different.

**Erinn:** notes that the dates will remain the same.

**Kevin:** notes that Education has different dates for March break to coordinate with high school March break. Therefore, elections next year would have to take place by the 14<sup>th</sup> of February.

**Max:** seeing no further questions, we proceed to a vote.

Motion carried with one abstention (James MacLeod).

## **8. Other Business**

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- a. DISCUSSION – Council Composition – Eric Rapos
- b. DISCUSSION – Queen's Sexual Assault Policy/Protocol – Kevin Weiner (see appendices)

**Max:** notes that it is Eric's birthday.

**Kevin:** motions to sing Happy Birthday to Eric during a one-minute recess. Thompson seconds.

**Max:** holds a vote on the motion, which carries unanimously. After it is sung, the meeting is called back to order. He notes that the first item for discussion concerns Council composition, and comes from a motion that was referred to a sub-committee of this Council at the October meeting. This will be an interim report with the goal of soliciting feedback.

**Eric:** notes that this is a motion to set the membership of Council. A large number of people here may not actually be allowed to be here. They attempted to look at how Council was defined with regards to the constituent body, and he will: present some of the discussions that were had, one of the solutions that was raised, and notes that he hopes to collect feedback. The composition of Council is currently based on definitions that may not define the changing times of the university- it is currently "each department of the School of Graduate Studies, the School of Religion, the Faculty of Law, and the Faculty of Education" (see slide COMMITTEE GOALS). They looked to create a new definition. Ultimately, the committee decided that there was no one solution that would work to fix the question of constituent bodies without using a "Band-Aid" fix. The word department excludes students in interdisciplinary programs. Whatever policy change comes forward needs to be revised annually to make sure the SGPS best represents the student body. One possible new definition was "pathway to a degree," (see slide POSSIBLE NEW DEFINITION). This would lead to having significantly more representatives, exemplifying the difficulty in finding a good balance. The committee looked at what other graduate societies do, in the hopes of understanding alternative models (see slides WHAT DO OTHER GRADUATE SOCIETIES DO). The common theme that is noted amongst these councils is that they are all along departmental lines. This would mean 63-85 proposed SGPS members, where we currently stand at 72 voting members (excluding a number of representatives). The solution that the committee that was decided to be worth presenting for feedback. Essentially the use of grouping together Councillors from related departments into Graduate Councils could be extrapolated to creating a new "quasi-faculty-society type body as an intermediate level of representation," (see slides A POSSIBLE SOLUTION). These quasi-faculty-societies would then have people elected to SGPS council; therefore all science departments would have representatives that would meet more informally, and then would have (a) representative(s) attend SPGS Council. The proposed societies are outlined in slide QUASI-FACULTY-SOCIETIES. Eric notes that membership would be based on departmental lines in these societies. These groups are all noted to exist in some form, and that the new material would be "structure and mandate," (see slide QUASI-FACULTY-SOCIETIES). If these groups are fully functioning, we might be allowed to elect all of these students. Instead of SGPS members being elected from the Constituent Body, they would instead be elected from the Member Councils (see slides ELECTION TO SGPS COUNCIL). One proposal he came up with would be to use the percentage of the total constituent population as opposed to a raw threshold, to be more balanced in representation (see slides ELECTION TO SGPS COUNCIL and ELECTION TO SGPS COUNCIL-CURRENT DATA). The end result would be 42 elected councillors, which could change (see slide THE BIG PICTURE). In some senses, this would be a reduction in work for some students. Therefore, the outline of Council composition under this motion is outlined on the slide entitle COUNCIL COMPOSITION. He note that the proposal includes traditionally advisory roles,



including his own, would no longer be able to vote. The final questions regarding the number of representatives for the constituent body, as well as the definition of the constituent body would still have to be addressed. Secondly, he notes that the intermediary level adds more concentrated discussion, but also an extra election. How SGPS members would be elected is also in question (see slide EFFECTS OF MIDDLE LEVEL). He again notes that these groups are already being used as seen in the LSS, ESS, and the EGSS (see slide COUNCILS/COMMITTEES QUASI-FACULTY-SOCIETIES). As proposed, Council will be smaller; he asks if this is desirable (see slide COUNCIL LEVEL CHANGES). He outlines what a typical month could look like if this is implemented (see slide A TYPICAL MONTH) and what a year could look like (see slide YEARLY CYCLE). In order to get to this point, the committee suggests the usage of a trial period, in concordance with built-in mechanisms to ensure that this option is viable. The proposed outline for this trial period can be seen on the slide entitled TIMELINE OF APPROVAL, and is expanded to include the results of the motion being voted on (see slide WHAT HAPPENS IF MOTIONS PASS/FAIL). If it fails, the definition will revert to what it exists as now. The specifics of the motion are outlined on the slides entitled THE MOTION and THE MOTION (CONTINUED).

**Max:** thanks Eric for his presentations, and asks if there are comments or questions to be discussed.

**Jared:** notes that he has multiple questions. He notes that he sees the same essential problem in determining who the members of the middle level will be. He also notes that the middle level seems flawed as it disconnects the proximity that the department-based Councillors have with their departments' concerns.

**Eric:** notes that anyone may attend SGPS meetings, and that they are in fact not limited to Councillors.

**James:** notes that the ability to speak at SGPS meetings is at the discretion of the chair.

**Jenn:** thanks Eric for his presentation, and echoes the concerns held by Jared. There are concerns too with offloading the issue of the definition of the constituent body onto these Councils. She also notes that as newly founded committees, these Councils would have a lot of responsibility, and she has concerns about the extra levels watering down the messages presented to the constituents. She likes the idea of reviewing the membership on an annual basis, and wants to know if this is included in the motion.

**Eric:** notes that this would be in the policy.

**Kevin:** notes that he has expressed a level of wariness to Eric before with regards to this. There will fundamentally be a tension in dealing with graduate student societies, as you can have small constituent bodies and very large constituent bodies. There are concerns with the balance of voting power versus having a voice at the top level. He is unsure if whether things voted on in the SGPS are contentious enough to be concerned about voting disparity. He also is not concerned with the size of Council, and given the lack of engagement, is unsure that restricting the size of Council would be a good idea. He is concerned with changing the mandates so quickly, as well as the separation of levels. There are also concerns with each committee having to meet twice a month. As much of SGPS Council is discussion, it seems redundant to have extra meetings to discuss issues with individual departments, and then again to the constituent body.

**James:** asks who facilitates the election of graduate students to SGPS Council.

**Eric:** notes that this point is not finalized, and in fact has quite a bit of flexibility. He notes that the SGPS has the resources to oversee this.

**Michael:** thanks Eric for his presentation, and notes that he supports efforts to increase representation. He feels that it is a bit soon to use these newly formed entities as a way of increasing representation, and thinks it is unclear if that can achieve this of their own merit. Although it sounds good in theory, he is unsure that they will be any better for representation than the current system is.

**Nakkiran:** (from Chemistry) thanks Eric for his presentation. Notes that this would actually decrease the number of Councillors.

**Eric:** notes that there is no direct line to the departments. The largest attendance that they've had from Councillors over the years is approximately 45, which would mean a reduction of at most 3 votes. He notes that it is not the number of departments losing their vote, but rather at the faculty level, so the seats will go to Faculty Councils instead of departments.

**Max:** asks if it is all clear.

**Sarah:** notes a couple of issues. She believes that the connection to the departments is important, and that it is definitely worthwhile to reshape the bylaw. She notes that the German department has seats despite no longer existing. There are worries about skewing voting to the larger votes to the point of contention. She thinks that the mediating bodies are a little young to be doing this.

**Eric:** notes that this model reduces the power of the larger bodies, and does not increase it.

**Sarah:** says that this would decrease the ability to send people to SGPS Council to represent departments.

**Jared:** says he forgot to thank Eric for his presentation, and apologizes for this. He notes that he had good feelings about the proportional representation at the start, but is now coming to doubt that. It is acknowledged that there will be more seats on Council to those departments with more positions, which would reflect the better financial circumstances of some departments. He is bothered that proportional representation translates to financial power.

**Korey:** thanks Eric for his presentation. He notes that there was a lot of information that was presented, but is unsure if he understood what it would mean in terms of representation at the departmental level. There is a concern that a department might not have a direct voice on SGPS Council.

**Eric:** explains that each department has a seat on a graduate level council. This proposal would have each group send some number of representatives to SGPS Council.

**Korey:** clarifies that it would be possible to meet at lower level councils, and to have a representative that would go to Council.

**Eric:** agrees.

**Korey:** says that he finds that slightly problematic. He is worried about the balance of Council, especially in increasing representation. He is unsure that this model accomplishes that.

**Eric:** clarifies again that this model would not increase representation.

**Rudy:** notes that the presentation was very thorough, and explains that engineering does things slightly differently. He says that the civil engineering students elected him to the SGPS. Asks if they have ever thought of breaking down representation in order to capture the presence of these self-organizing and self-identifying groups, with the idea of choosing who can get a seat based on self-organized social groups.

**Eric:** notes that this proposal does in fact allow for that. Essentially, any group that could justify a seat, or even the removal of a seat, can do so.

**Thompson:** he thinks that Eric did a good job of summarizing what the committee worked on, and that he is very alive to the concerns that these groups are new. He wants to know that they work before they are built off of them. The way the committee tried to address this was through the trial period.

**Julian:** motions to extend the meeting time by half an hour. This is seconded by Michael, and the motion carries without objections or abstentions. He then notes that he understands why the committee approached this the way that they did. One thing he likes about the middle-level bodies is the means for a better connection between graduate representatives, and the possibility for discussing shared issues. He notes a loss of immediacy, but that you can also still show up.

**Eric:** as additional information, he notes that there is a possibility of changing the proxy rules for the SGPS Council. He notes that they do not need to actually set the Councillors, although there is a possibility of a problem policy-wise should all ten representatives need to go to SGPS Council.

**Kevin:** thinks that the ultimate issues is that we do not have departments, but rather 4 faculties. Therefore they might have to recognize that there are no departments and to have representation by program and an increase in the size of Council. In the short term, there needs to be program representation, and in the long term, perhaps setting up quasi-faculty-societies makes sense. This is a different way to rebalance Council, but he notes that it would be aggressive to do on a one-year basis. He agrees that these issues need to be fixed, but that the timeline is too rushed.

**Eric:** asks if he means a grad student society.

**Kevin:** says no, that he is suggesting 4 or 5 graduate student societies.

**Max:** asks if there are any further comments to be provided. Thanks everyone for their feedback, and lets Eric close.

**Eric:** committee will take the feedback, noting that this seems to be of little interest. If anyone would like to contact him, he can be reached at senator@sgps.ca. He notes the concerns with the mid-level, but reiterates that this already exists, and would reduce commitments for most people. The goal was not to increase representation, and to increase flexibility. He believes it's problematic that so few voting members attend meetings. Theoretically those who do not attend meetings should lose their seats.

**James:** clarifies that Councillors do not lose their seats if they miss a meeting with a valid reason.

**Eric:** asks how many notices of regrets the speaker received.

**Max:** less than 50.

**Kevin:** notes that Kuukuwa mentioned in her report that they are working to come up with recommendations to develop a protocol to explain to students how to deal with sexual assault, along with Senate or Board policy changes that would govern the way they are dealt with. They are attempting to provide the opportunity for Council to provide feedback for Kuukuwa, especially with regards to accommodations. The policies from Guelph and Lakehead are included in the appendices.

**Kuukuwa:** notes that the group has had a meeting with the Principal, and at this moment are waiting to come up with recommendations to form the basis for another committee to make it

policy. There will be an official consultation of many groups including the SGPS. She notes that a policy that students are uneducated about is not a solution, and is looking for ways to have education campaigns. She wants to make sure that all grad students are considered, including international students and TA's.

**Dinah:** wonders how TA's will be taught to handle these situations, and what they should do if they themselves are assaulted. She asks if PSAC 901 actually represented on this particular committee.

**Kuukuwa:** believes that it is very important to look at the issue of TA's, and to set up policies to protect them as well; she notes that she will take that into close consideration. She knows that certain groups on campus feel they should have been a part of the committee, and that they are working with the chair of the committee to resolve this. They are also working to increase awareness.

**Jared:** asks if the sexual assault working group is discussing preventative measures, and to decrease this trend over time.

**Kuukuwa:** notes that there is a specific section of accommodations that is looking specifically at preventative measures, particularly in training people on campus about rape culture prevention actively and proactively.

**James:** with regards to preventative measures, there are also considerations for safety, as seen with the blue lights.

**Kevin:** notes that it is important when drafting a policy to put in place protection of the survivor that may engage the aggressor in the forms of complaints, or on an actual finding of misconduct. At the same time, there are issues of procedural fairness. The question is whether certain accommodations have been allowed for, even when a case has not yet been let out. At the lowest level, this could look like not being in the same classes, and at the other end, having an internal restraining order. There are currently no procedures in place to allow these rulings to be made. Therefore, the question of how much accommodation can be provided based solely on a complaint must be addressed.

## **9. Notice of Motions & Announcements**

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a. NOTICE – changes to B.15 for January Council meeting (see appendices)

NOTICE – changes to P.9.1 and P.4.1 for January Council meeting (see appendices)

**Max:** the changes to the bylaws and policies respectively is posed to be voted down at the January Council meeting.

**Kevin:** explains that we endorse one; the other has to do with bylaw and policy changes, and that the dates required for that is not in sync with the date for agendas being published.

**Max:** notes that one concerns the change in policy discussed earlier regarding the elections. The second one has to do with the bylaw regarding publications. Both of these will be voted on in January, and are being given notice now.

## 10. Adjournment

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### MOTION

12/09/14:7

Moved: Thompson Hamilton (vpp@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Mark Ramsay (Sociology)

BIRT the SGPS Council Meeting be adjourned.

Motion carries unanimously at 7:52.

Respectfully submitted,

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Max Z. Ma, Speaker

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MacKenzie Bulkowski-Rose, Minute Taker

## December Meeting Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Eric Rapos	Senate	Present
Fallon Bowman	Classics	Present
Ciara Bracken-Roche	Social Commissioner	Present
Michael Carter	Geography	Present
Rudy Schueder	Civil Engineering	Present
Yongfei Chu	Education	Present
Jessica Rich	Education	Present
Sarah Budd	Art History	Present
Erin Eisen	ESS	Present
Jenn Wigglesworth	SKHS	Present
Alexander Cushing	Mining	Present
Jared Houston	Philosophy	Present
Chris Cochrane	Mechanical Engineering	Present
Korey Pasch	Political Studies	Present
Peter Gilbert	Chemical Engineering	Present
Julian Chesterman	Biomedical Engineering	Present
James MacLeod	Trustee	Present
Piriya YogaNathan	Pathology	Present
Jackie Leonard	Pathology	Present
Kyle Stepa	French	Present
Nakkiran Arulmozhi	Chemistry	Present
Jhordan Layne	English	Present
Kuukuwa Andam	Law	Present
Dinah Jansen	History	Present
Thompson Hamilton	VPP	Present
Kevin Wiener	President	Present
Lorne Beswick	VPCCA	Present
Andria Mahon	Executive Assistant	Present
Sean Richards	Executive Director	Present
Mark Ramsay	Sociology	Present
Chukwuka Achu	Law	Present
Mike Young	Rector	Regrets
Paul Warchuk	Law	Regrets
Tabitha Renaud	History	Regrets
Patrick Gajos	VPFS	Regrets
Erica Baker	Equity Coordinator	Regrets
Talitha Cadler	MPA	Regrets
All Other Council Members	All Other Council Members	Absent

# SGPS COUNCIL COMPOSITION

A Feedback Driven Presentation

# PRESENTATION GOALS

- Remind Council of the Goals of the Committee
- Present the discussions had by the Committee
- Present a possible solution
- Collect feedback on a number of questions that came up during our meetings



# COMMITTEE GOALS

- Composition of Council is based on definitions that do not necessarily fit the changing times of the university
  - Based solely on constituent bodies, which is defined as:
    - *"each department of the School of Graduate Studies, the School of Religion, the Faculty of Law, and the Faculty of Education."*
    - Certainly out of date (School of Religion is no longer separate entity), and possibly misguided (some programs span departmental bounds and some departments offer multiple differing programs)
- The Committee also decided it was worth while to review the overall composition of Council to determine if the current or similar methods work best for the goals of Council.

# WHAT DID WE DISCUSS

- New Definitions of “Constituent Bodies”
- What do other Graduate Societies do?
- An alternative Composition Model

# NEW DEFINITIONS OF CONSTITUENT BODIES

- The subgroup of the committee tasked with this determined that there was no one solution that would help with all of the intricacies that exist within SGPS membership.
  - Continuing with departmental lines is certainly problematic, especially given budget cuts and the pressure for more interdisciplinary programs
  - The subgroup was unable to come up with a single definition of constituent bodies that wasn't seen as a 'band-aid' fix that is simply a definition with a number of exceptions
  - It was deemed necessary that any new or modified definitions that come from this exercise need to be reexamined on an annual basis to reflect the changing nature of the SGPS membership

# POSSIBLE NEW DEFINITION

- “Pathway to a degree”
  - Includes departments with multiple degrees
  - Includes degrees that different methods of completion
    - Course bases Masters vs. Thesis Masters
    - Different comprehensive types
- Would mean a lot more representatives, allowing many more groups to be directly represented

# WHAT DO OTHER GRADUATE SOCIETIES DO?

- A number of variants exist:
  - Departmental lines, < 25 students – 1 rep, ≥ 25 students – 2 reps (Carleton – 60 members)
  - Departmental lines, “up to two representatives” (Guelph – 66 members)
  - Departmental lines, 1 per department, plus additional for larger programs (York – 85 members)
  - Proportional representation from Academic Councils (sub councils) which are drawn on departmental lines, very similar to our current model (U Saskatchewan – 73 members)
    - Currently considering switching to 1 rep per department model
  - Departmental lines, 1 per department, plus additional for larger (1 standard deviation higher than average) (UBC - ~50 members)

# WHAT DO OTHER GRADUATE SOCIETIES DO?

- A number of variants exist:
  - Departmental lines, 1 per department (UVIC – unknown size)
  - Departmental lines, 1 per department, plus at large councilors (Waterloo - ~60 members)
  - Departmental lines, 1 per department, faculty or extra-departmental unit, plus 10 Councilors-at-Large (Alberta U – 85 members)

# A POSSIBLE SOLUTION

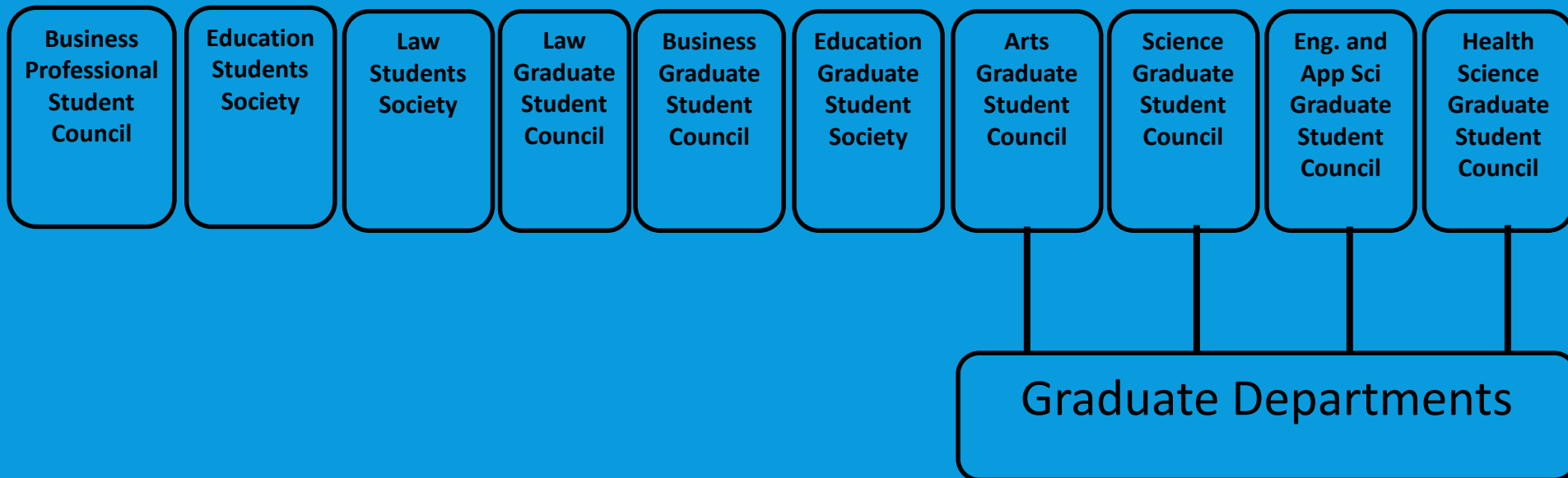
- With the recent switch to democratically elected representatives to 3 of 4 Graduate Councils in the departmentalized faculties, the SGPS has made a move to grouping together Councilors from related departments, in order to elect these Grad Council representatives
- Based on this new development and the practices associated with it, it could be possible to make further use of these groupings, as a quasi-faculty-society type body, as a intermediate level of representation

# A POSSIBLE SOLUTION

- With this middle level of governance, the definition of constituent bodies would allow for some more flexibility, as it would be at the lower level where the granularity occurs, and at the level of SGPS Council, Councilors would be elected from these quasi-faculty-societies.
- It would allow for smaller, closer related, groups to meet and discuss issues in a less formal, more welcoming setting.
  - It is often the opinion that the Council setting can stifle discussion.
- Instances where a department spans the boundary of two Grad Councils (both MA and MSc for example) would be able to participate in both quasi-faculty-societies.



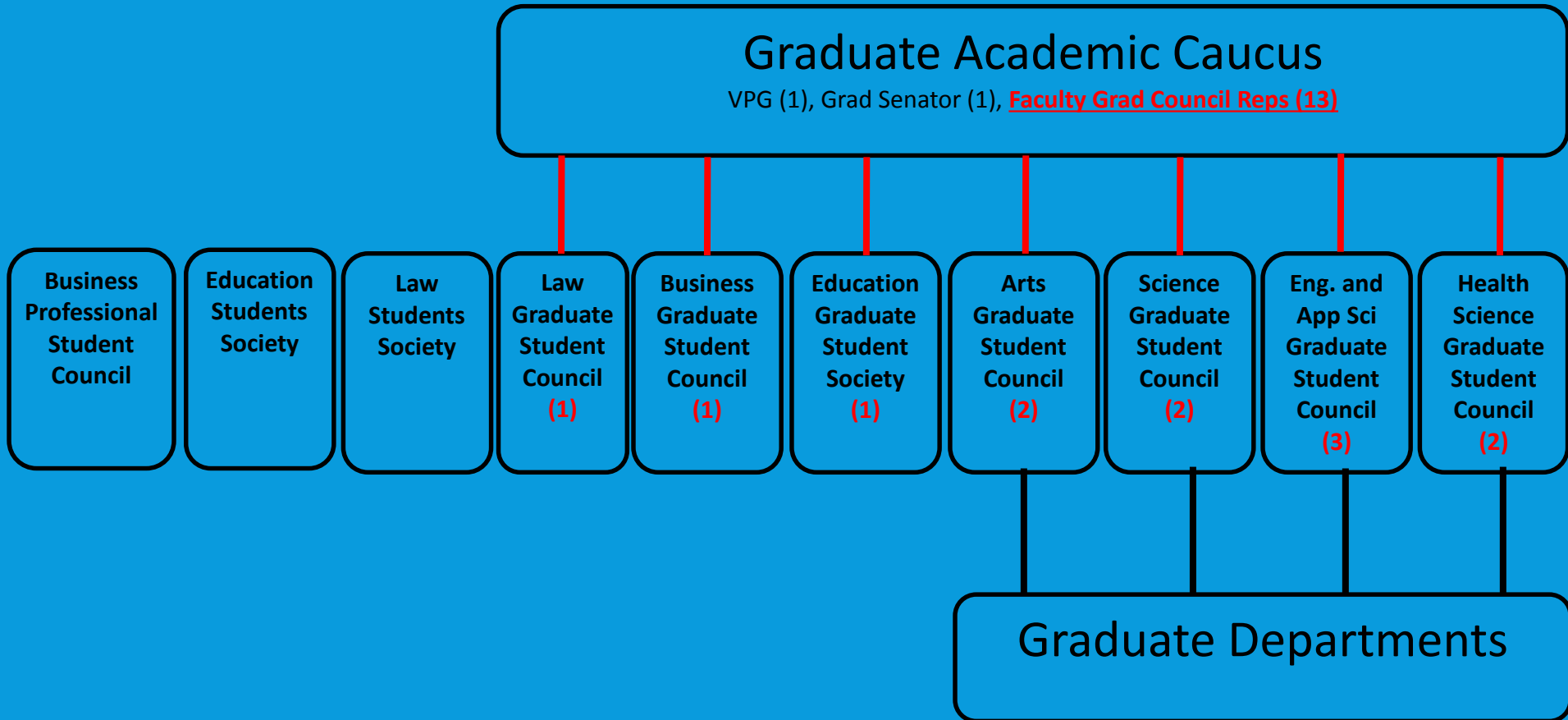
# QUASI-FACULTY-SOCIETIES



# QUASI-FACULTY-SOCIETIES

- Membership in these Societies would be based on departmental lines, as Council membership is now, including scale for graduate departments of large size.
  - But would also contain a provision that allows graduate departments that can justify additional reps (for reasons such as interdisciplinary programs, etc.) to send more representatives, subject to approval by the VPG
- All of these groups exist now in some form, we would not be creating anything new, just providing structure and mandate.

# ACADEMIC REPS AND GAC



# ACADEMIC REPS AND GAC

- This process was implemented this year, and sees the Councilors belonging to these groups communicating regarding the issues brought forth at Graduate Councils.
- The number of reps is set by the individual Grad Council/Committee, and where applicable, SGPS facilitates elections.
  - This would not change in new model, but would provide footing to support SGPS oversight in councils/committees where we don't currently have it.

# ELECTION TO SGPS COUNCIL

## SGPS Council

Executive (5), Commissioners (4), Ex-Officio(6), Elected Members

Business  
Professional  
Student  
Council

Education  
Students  
Society

Law  
Students  
Society

Law  
Graduate  
Student  
Council

Business  
Graduate  
Student  
Council

Education  
Graduate  
Student  
Society

Arts  
Graduate  
Student  
Council

Science  
Graduate  
Student  
Council

Eng. and  
App Sci  
Graduate  
Student  
Council

Health  
Science  
Graduate  
Student  
Council

Graduate Departments

# ELECTION TO SGPS COUNCIL

- Instead of from Constituent Body, from Member Council:
  - Professional:
    - Business Professional Student Council
    - Education Students Society
    - Law Students Society
  - Graduate:
    - Law Graduate Student Council
    - Business Graduate Student Council
    - Education Graduate Student Society
    - Arts Graduate Student Council
    - Science Graduate Student Council
    - Engineering and Applied Science Graduate Student Council
    - Health Science Graduate Student Council

# ELECTION TO SGPS COUNCIL

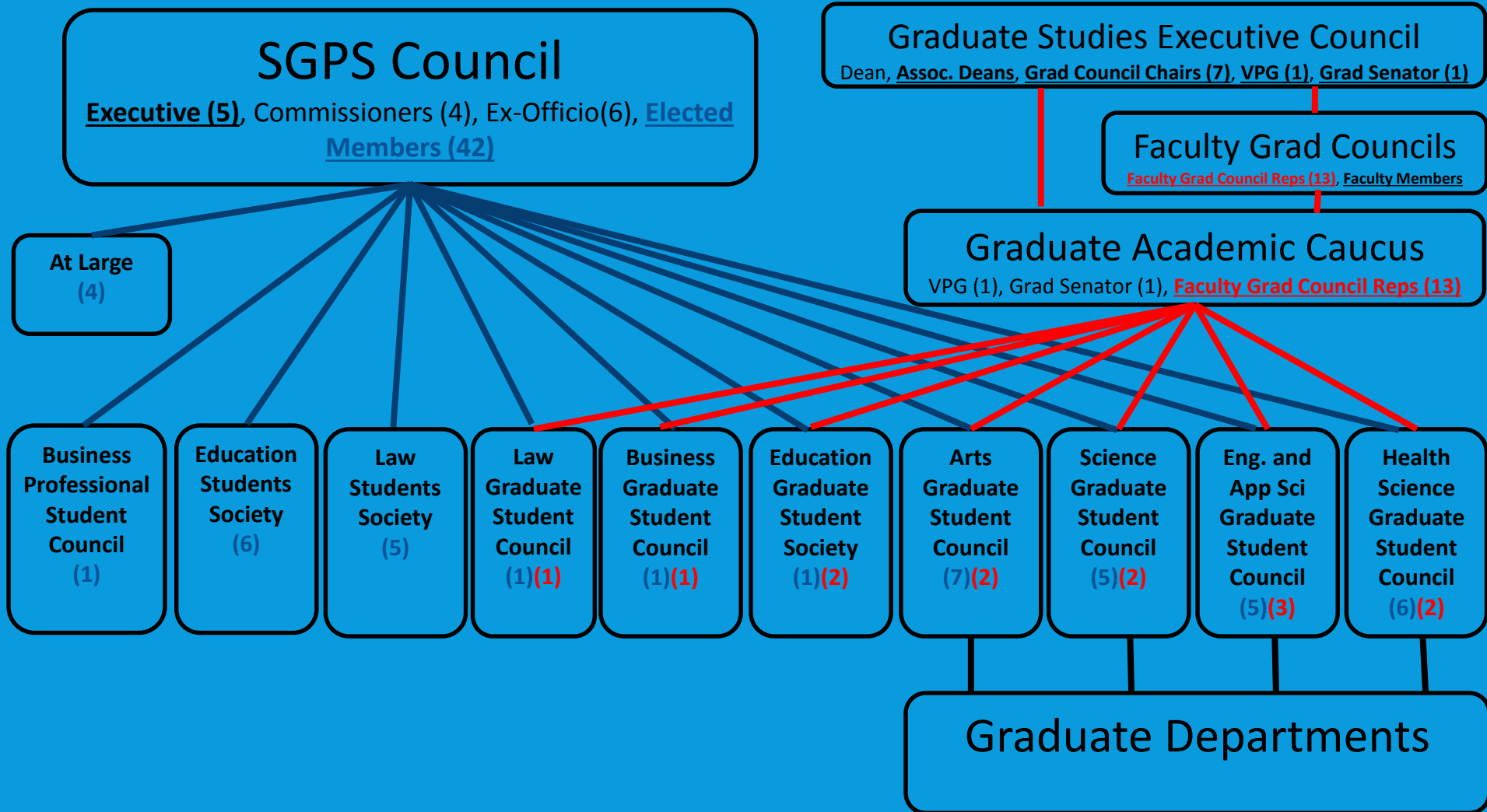
- Instead of raw number thresholds, percentage of total population is used:
  - 0 – 4.99% - 1 representative
  - 5 – 7.49% - 2 representatives
  - 7.5 – 9.99% - 3 representatives
  - 10-12.49% - 4 representatives
  - 12.5-14.99% - 5 representatives
  - 15-17.49% - 6 representatives
  - 17.5-19.99% - 7 representatives
  - 20% + - 8 representatives

# ELECTION TO SGPS COUNCIL (CURRENT DATA)

Society/Council	Current Population	% of Total	Seats on Council
Arts Graduate Student Council (AGSC)	814	18.4	7
Science Graduate Student Council (SGSC)	664	15.0	5
Engineering and Applied Sciences Graduate Student Council (EASGSC)	604	13.6	5
Health Sciences Graduate Student Council (HSGSC)	685	15.5	6
Law Graduate Student Council (LGSC)	31	0.7	1
Business Graduate Student Council (BGSC)	146	3.3	1
Education Graduate Student Society (EGSS)	111	2.5	1
Business Professional Student Council (BPSC)	100	2.3	1
Law Students Society (LSS)	561	12.7	5
Education Students Society (ESS)	711	16.1	6
	4427		



# THE BIG PICTURE



# COUNCIL COMPOSITION

Voting Members of Council		Non-Voting Members of Council	
<b>Elected Councilors</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>4</b>
Arts Graduate Student Council (AGSC)	7	Communications Commissioner	1
Science Graduate Student Council (SGSC)	5	Social Commissioner	1
Engineering and Applied Sciences Graduate Student Council (EASGSC)	5	Equity Commissioner	1
Health Sciences Graduate Student Council (HSGSC)	6	International Students Affairs Commissioner	1
Law Graduate Student Council (LGSC)	1		
Business Graduate Student Council (BGSC)	1	<b>Officers of Council</b>	<b>2</b>
Education Graduate Student Society (EGSS)	1	Speaker of Council	1
Business Professional Student Council (BPSC)	1	Chief Returning Officer	1
Law Students Society (LSS)	5		
Education Students Society (ESS)	6	<b>Governance Representation</b>	<b>2</b>
At-Large	4	SGPS Trustee	1
		One SGPS Senator	1
<b>Executive</b>	<b>5</b>		
President	1	<b>Ex-Officio</b>	<b>2</b>
Vice President Graduate	1	Executive Assistant	1
Vice President Professional	1	Executive Director	1
Vice President Finance and Services	1		
Vice President Campaigns and Community Affairs	1		
<b>Total Voting Members of Council</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>Total Non-Voting Members of Council</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Voting Members of Council</b>			<b>57</b>

# WHAT WOULD THIS ALL MEAN?

A look at the effects of a system like this, and some of the details left to be discussed

# SELECTION OF REPS TO QUASI-FACULTY-SOCIETIES

- Strictly 1 per constituent body
  - Still need to decide what constituent body is
    - Department?
    - Degree Path?
    - Program?
- Similar number based scale?
- Open up for departments/groups to decide, subject to approval by VPG?

# EFFECTS OF MIDDLE LEVEL

- Smaller, more concentrated groups for specific discussions
- Extra level required for election to council
  - Depends on method of election to Council
    - By General Meeting of Grad Councils?
    - By Grad Council Election?
    - By At-Large Election of Membership?
- Reduced workload for those not sitting on SGPS Council
  - Since they will be meeting with Grad Councils already, this removes additional meeting
- Need to publish SGPS Agenda earlier to allow time for Grad Councils/Committees to meet and discuss

# COUNCILS/COMMITTEES (QUASI-FACULTY-SOCIETIES)

- These groups are already being utilized by SGPS to elect Academic Reps
  - This model would simply provide more mandate and structure to these groups
- Already exist in more functional roles in some cases (LSS, ESS, EGSS)

# COUNCIL LEVEL CHANGES

- Council will be smaller
  - Is this something that is desirable by Council?
    - Stay the same? Increase?
- Also note: proposal to change the voting status of trustee and senator (moving to only one senator on Council) as these roles are traditionally used to provide information
  - This is entirely separate, but was included in the overall proposal

# IMPLEMENTATION



# A TYPICAL MONTH

- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month – SGPS Council Agenda Set (excluding reports)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the Month – Reports due to Speaker for Distribution
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday until 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday – Grad Councils Meet to Discuss Agenda, as well as Faculty Grad Councils (Academic Reps)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month – SGPS Council Meetings
- Remainder of Month – Grad Councils discuss outcomes, potential motions for next meeting, etc.
- Last Friday of the Month – Non-Report Agenda items due to Speaker to Compile

# YEARLY CYCLE

- May 1<sup>st</sup> – New Executive and Speaker Take Office
- May – Final Council Meeting before Summer
- August – First Council Meeting after Summer Break
- September – Final Council Session for Retiring Councilors
  - Notice Sent to Departments for New Reps to Oct Grad Councils
- October – First Meeting of New Grad Councils
  - Election of New Councilors
  - First Meeting of new SGPS Council
- November – March
  - Council as Usual

# GETTING THERE

The Committee suggests a trial, and built in mechanisms to ensure that this option is viable

# TIMELINE OF APPROVAL

- December 2014
  - Present ideas to council to gauge interest and get feedback
  - Policy drafted based on feedback
- January 2015
  - First Reading of Changes (see motion for further details)
- August 2015
  - Reaffirmation of First Reading by Council
    - Based on feedback/evaluation of Graduate Council functions relating to Graduate Academic Caucus
- September 2015
  - Trial of New Process Begins
- November 2015
  - Second Reading at Fall General Meeting

# WHAT HAPPENS IF MOTIONS PASS/FAIL

- January Council
  - Pass: Implementation proceeds
  - Fail: All further steps ignored
- August Council
  - Pass: Implementation proceeds, trial implementation to begin
  - Fail: All further steps ignored, first reading overturned
- November General Meeting
  - Pass: Bylaws and Policies officially instated
  - Fail: Trial ceases immediately, and Council composition reverts to current definitions

# THE MOTION

- Whereas the changing nature of SGPS Membership has called into question the definitions surrounding the composition of SGPS Council; and
- Whereas an ad-hoc committee was tasked with examining alternatives to present to council;
- BIRT SGPS Council approve the first reading of Bylaw and Policy Changes, pertaining to the composition of SGPS Council, as seen in the appendices.
- BIFRT the Policy changes not take effect until Bylaw changes have been made official.
- BIRFT the required second reading of these Bylaw changes take place at the November 2015 General Meeting.

# THE MOTION (CONTINUED)

- BIFRT SGPS Council must review these changes, and reaffirm them by a 2/3 majority vote at the August 2015 Council Meeting, with the purpose of reviewing the functions of the Graduate Student Councils/Committees.
- BIFRT if the reaffirmation motion passes at the August 2015 Council, a trial of the processes described in this motion shall be implemented beginning in September.
- BIFRT if the second reading does not pass, the trial will cease immediately, and Council Composition will return to the state prior to the motion's first reading.

YES, THAT WAS A LOT

But now I am done.



# DISCUSSION POINTS

- Overall Goal
  - Redefine Constituent Body?
  - Pursue Presented Alternative?
  - Alternative Suggestions?
- Presented Alternative
  - Who attends Graduate Student Councils/Committees?
    - Set caps and definitions vs. Let Students decide
  - How to elect SGPS Councilors?
    - From Council/Committee Reps (internal or GM) vs At-Large election
  - Senator/Trustee Changes
- Any other comments, questions, concerns, etc.?