



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

AGENDA

Society of Graduate and Professional Students' Council

Local 27 of the Canadian Federation of Students

Tuesday February 11th, 2014 6:30PM

McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentations

2. Adoption of the Agenda & Minutes

MOTION

01/14/14:1

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Eric Rapos

BIRT the agenda for February 11th, 2014 Council meeting be adopted.

Motion Carried

MOTION

01/14/14:2

Moved: Julian Chesterman

Seconded: Victoria Hoskin

BIRT the minutes for the January 14th, 2013 Council meeting be accepted.

Motion Carried

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

- a. President – Iain Reeve (report attached)
 Congratulations to Mike Young who will be Queen's new Rector.
- b. VP Graduate – Becky Pero (report attached)
- c. VP Professional – Cody Yorke (report attached)
- d. VP Campaigns & Community Affairs – Meagan Crane (report attached)
- e. VP Finance & Services – Jillian Burford-Grinnell (no report)

- f. Executive Assistant – Vacant (no report)
- g. Speaker – James MacLeod (report attached)

MOTION

01/14/14:3

Moved: Julian Chesterman

Seconded: Megan Crane

BIRT the Executive and Speaker Reports be accepted.

Motion Carried

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

- a. Graduate Student Senator – Hamid Falahati (report attached)
- b. Graduate Student Trustee – James MacLeod (report attached)
I will have a full Trustee report after the March Board meeting.
- 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)
 - iv. International Students’ Affairs Commissioner: Tian Lu (report attached)
- e. Other Reports
 - i. Rector – Nick Francis (no report)
The Tri-Color Award winners have been selected and they will be announced this week.
 - ii. Chief Returning Officer – Laura Levick (report attached)
 - iii. Equity Coordinator – Colleen Webber (report attached)
 - iv. Departmental Reports

MOTION

01/14/14:4

Moved: Cody Yorke (vpp@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Thomas Vaughan

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

Motion Carried

5. Question Period/Departmental Issues

There are issues with how RA or TA pay gets paid. Currently, they are getting paid on the 28th or the last of the month, but tuition fees are paid on the 24th.

Iain: This was also an issue last year. We already put forward our recommendations to the SGS
Julian: Issue in most departments. Specifically on T4 enrolment plans.

Eric Rapos: The students involved in the RA drive have been harassing students - showing up in locked labs, putting up posters against building regulations, and calling people on home numbers.

Iain: I haven't had any official complaints. However, I will inform them that complains have now been raised.

Julian: We have had to completely lock down the biology labs as a result of this.

6. Business Arising From the Minutes

7. Main Motions

MOTION (first reading)

02/11/14:5

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Megan

Whereas, the existing structures for debate and deliberation in SGPS Council have limited the ability of many Councillors to engage actively in meetings,

Whereas, efforts must be made to engage in different styles of deliberation in order to ensure the most active, equitable, and thoughtful discussion possible, and

Whereas, all SGPS activities would be improved by more active engagement from Councillors,

BIRT, SGPS Council amend bylaw B.16 as outlined in the appendix (B.16 Meetings of Council).

BIFRT, SGPS Council approve the creation of policy P.5.2.6 as outlined in the appendix (B.16 Meetings of Council).

Iain: This is the first reading, it has to be approved at AGM. Bylaw changes are more permanent. We are just noting the creation of a deliberating session.

Eric Rapos: I recommend that we table this until the fall, and do a trial with a motion. As of now, we have only tested the deliberating sessions for information collecting.

Cody: The amended bylaw is vague; it just allows them to use the deliberation motion.

Iain: It is better to adopt the policy. It can be changed or adapted as issues or new ideas if they are raised.

Motion**02/11/14: M-1**

Moved: Eric Rapos

Second: Julian Chesterman

BIRT SGPS Council table Motion 02/11/14:5

Motion Carried

MOTION**02/11/14:6**Moved: Becky Pero (vpg@sgps.ca)Seconded: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Preamble:

Approximately two years ago the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), in conjunction with the SGPS and the Graduate Studies Executive Council, developed some guidelines, including minimum standards for students and supervisors, around the completion of annual progress reports. A year later, annual progress reports became mandatory for all PhD students at Queen's and their supervisors to complete.

The SGS' guidelines can be found here:

<http://www.queensu.ca/sgs/sites/webpublish.queensu.ca.sgswww/files/files/faculty%20-%20supervision/SGS-Tips-Annual-reports-May2012.pdf>

During this time, the SGPS, through the Academic Affairs Standing Committee and Council, set policy (P.15, pg. 101; see SGPS Progress Report Policy in appendix) to outline what members will support and oppose to regarding the use of progress reports in Departments and by the SGS.

In light of the time to completion policies, and the work of the Time to Completion Task Force, it would be valuable to assess whether students find, or perceive, this process to be meaningful or not, and for what reasons.

Departments and the SGS rely heavily on use of progress reports, and they are significant to the extension process. The purpose of this discussion is to better understand the value of the progress report process from the student perspective. This information will contribute to the ongoing time to completion discussions.

BIRT SGPS Council enter into Deliberative discussion on the following topic in accordance with procedures outlined at the December 2013 Council meeting:

"What do you find useful/not useful about the annual progress report process?"

Motion Carried

Summary:

- There is a huge range in how progress reports are used in different departments. In some they are not used at all. However, in some departments, if a student who is on academic probation gets a bad process report, they can get kicked out of the program. Some people like it as they can check in with their supervisor. The biggest issue is that there is no mechanism for students to comment on issues with their supervisor.
- It is unclear on who the readership is. Who is giving feedback and signing off on reports? The definitions used in the reports are vague and can be specific to research programs. Is there an appeal process if the student doesn't agree with the report?
- This is a lot of power to put into the hands of supervisors, especially if there isn't a good relationship. There is no student input on how they feel their progress is going. It is used by the SGS regarding extensions.

(Note: Individual group notes attached to appendix)

MOTION

02/11/14:7

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Thomas Vaughan

BIRT SGPS Council exit Deliberative Session.

Motion Carried

MOTION (first reading)

02/11/14:8

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Eric Rapos

BIRT SGPS Council approve the creation of B.5.2 Duties of Councillors as seen in the appendix.

MOTION

02/11/14:8 M-

1

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Megan Crane (vpcca@sgps.ca)

BIRT SGPS Council amend the motion to read "Duties of Councillors shall be defined in P.5.2"

BIFRT SGPS Council approve P.5.2 as seen in the appendix

Motion to amend Carried

Eric: There is no definition for councillor.

MOTION

02/11/14:8 M-2

Moved: Eric Rapos

Seconded: Thomas Vaughan

BIRT SGPS Council approve the creation of B.3.m which shall read “Councillor shall mean any voting member of Council who is selected by a constituent body”.

Motion to amend Carried

MOTION

02/11/14:8 M-3

Moved: Eric Rapos

Seconded: Iain Reeve

BIRT SPGS Council approve the creation of f. which shall read as follows: “Councillors who are president of a departmental society are not subject to clauses c, d, or e.”

Motion to amend Carried

MOTION

02/11/14:8 M-4

Moved: Iain Reeve

Seconded: Eric Rapos

BIRT SGPS Council change reference from “elected” to “selected” in P.5.2.c

Motion to amend carried

MOTION

02/11/14:8 M-5

Moved: Cody Yorke

Seconded: Julian Chesterman

BIRT SGPS Council remove reference to successive in clause d.

BIFRT SGPS Council amend clause d. to read “a third meeting” as opposed to “the following meeting”

BIFRT SGPS Council amend clause d. to read “and the councillor misses another meeting, the councillor shall be required to vacate their seat”

BIFRT SGPS Council amend clause d. to change reference from “election” practices to “selection” practices.

Motion to amend Carried

MOTION (first reading)

02/11/14:8

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Eric Rapos

Motion carried as amended

MOTION

02/11/14:9

Moved: Eric Rapos

Seconded: Julian Chesterman

Whereas the extended nomination period has been found to detract from a full campaign period; and

Whereas publicity of SGPS Elections and Referenda are an important advertising medium for the SGPS;

BIRT SGPS Council approve the changes to Policy Section P.9 as seen in the Appendices.

Eric: These changes will move the deadline for nominations before the start of the campaign period. This allow for a full 2-week campaign period, allowing for more discussion. The previous issue was that there were some people campaigning, while others weren't. This change will move the nomination period forward.

MOTION

02/11/14:9 M-1

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Megan Crane (vpcca@sgps.ca)

BIRT SGPS Council add "and during the 2 day voting period" to P.9.8.b.

BIFRT SGPS Council add to P.9.8.b "all campaign material must be removed by the end of the election"

Eric: We need to ensure that the posters are removed from campus, for example we could implement a penalty?

Julian: There is normally a rule that you can't campaign within a certain area of voting.

Question: Are the votes that close?

Iain: It is possible some votes will be close.

Cody: More campaigning will increase awareness about SGPS.

Motion to amend carried

MOTION

02/11/14:9

Moved: Eric Rapos

Seconded: Julian Chesterman

Motion carried as amended

MOTION

02/11/14:10

Moved: Laura Levick (cro@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Eric Rapos

Whereas SGPS Bylaws and Policies state “The Chief Returning Officer shall recommend a date for SGPS elections and referenda to Council, by bringing forth a motion to approve the recommended date. This motion shall be brought to the February Council Meeting”;

BIRT SGPS Council approve March 26 and 27, 2014 as the dates for the 2014 SGPS Election and Referendum;

BIFRT the following timeline be recognized as conforming to the newly approved SGPS Bylaws and Policies:

- February 24: Nomination forms made available at the SGPS Office and Online
- March 5 - 4pm: Nomination period comes to a close
- March 11: Campaign Period Begins
- March 18 - 5:30pm: Candidates Debate at the SGPS General Meeting
- March 25: Campaigning Ends at Midnight
- March 26 and March 27: Online Voting

Laura: This is in regards to the new timeline we discussed earlier. We just need to select election dates.

Julian: The education people will not be here, they are on placements

Iain: there will be online statements and online voting. They can also get in touch with the candidates online.

Motion Carried

MOTION

02/11/14:11

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Sarah Barnes

Whereas, the SGPS electoral policies could better promote more significant levels of participation, promotion, and debate,

BIRT the SGPS amend the electoral policies as follows:

That policy P.9.4.e (7) be changed to read as follows:

A statement of the candidate's position on issues of relevance to the position for which they have been nominated. This statement will be posted on the SGPS website at the end of the nomination period. This statement may be altered once during the election campaign. The Chief Returning Officer will set a deadline for submission of any alterations to the statement of candidates's position. Any submissions received after this deadline will not be posted to the SGPS website. If the Chief Returning Officer does not officially set a date, the submission deadline for an updated statement must be received 3 days prior to the first day of voting.

That a policy P.9.4.e (8) be added and read as follows:

A photo to be placed on the website and accompany the statement of issues.

That policy P.9.8.f be changed to read as follows:

The maximum amount that can be spent on campaign activities by any candidate or by the referendum committees on one side of a referendum question is \$100. All funds spent by candidates will be reimbursed to the candidate by the SGPS at the conclusion of the campaign. No reimbursement will be given to referendum committees.

That policy P.9.8.e be changed to read as follows:

No SGPS resources shall be expended or used for the purpose of supporting or opposing any candidate or referendum question. Notwithstanding this policy, the Chief Returning Officer may expend resources allocated for election and referendum purposes to distribute messages from candidates and referendum committees only so long as all candidates and referendum committees are provided the same opportunity. All candidates are required to submit any campaign material to the SGPS Chief Returning Officer for approval before use. Any posters, pamphlets or other paper campaign material must be printed at the SGPS (assuming the SGPS has the capabilities to print such materials). Printing at the SGPS Office ensures all candidates have access to equal-cost printing. Furthermore, the SGPS Office will submit posters to the Student Life Centre Office so as to be posted around the Student Life Centre.

Iain: To give more flexibility in terms in changing opinion and statements. It also encourages people to spend the 100\$.

Eric: Typographical error, P.9.8.a, should read P.9.8.f (corrected in minutes).

Motion Carried

MOTION

02/11/14:12

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Eric Rapos

Whereas, the SGPS has a democratic duty to consult its membership on significant fee increases, and

Whereas, other member fees require a referendum to seek significant increases,

BIRT policy P.1.2.5(b) be amended to read as follows:

b. Increases - Class "C" Fees:

- 1 - Class "C" fees may be increased by the VP Finance & Services by a maximum of 5% per year without the need for referendum. Increases in this manner must be reported to SGPS Council prior to and following the meeting of the Queen's Board of Trustees where student activity fees are approved.
- 2 - Class "C" fees may be increased by SGPS Council for increase values between 5.01% and 10% per year without the need for referendum.
 - (i) - Should SGPS Council decline an increase in this manner, the fee may be submitted to a referendum to request an increase.
- 3 - Class "C" fees may be submitted to a referendum to request an increase of any amount.

Iain: We have the ability to increase fees by up to 50% without a referendum. The members have a right to say whether they want fee increases.

Eric: What are class C fees

Sean: Class C fees are fees for sustainment of SGPS.

Julian: Why 5% - where do the numbers come from.

Iain: Allows a small amount of flexibility.

MOTION

02/11/14:12 M-1

Moved: Eric Rapos

Seconded: Julian Chesterman

BIRT SGPS Council amend P.1.2.5.b(2) to read: "...SGPS Council for increase values greater than 5% and a maximum of 10% per year without the need for referendum."

Motion to amend Carried

MOTION

02/11/14:12

Moved: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Eric Rapos

Motion carried as amended

8. Other Business

Cody Yorke: Discussion surrounding jurisdiction of the SGPS Non-Academic Discipline System (see Judicial Policy Excerpt in appendix).

Victoria: Queens Animal Defense Club

- They receive funds through the SGPS. I have concerns about their activities and the impact on the membership, particularly those who conduct animal research, in addition to the university as a whole.

Iain: We would be concerned if they do anything beyond expressing their opinions.

9. Notice of Motions & Announcements

- Reports and Motions for the next SGPS Council Meeting are due on Tuesday, March 4th, 2014 by 4:00 pm.
- The next SGPS Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11th, 2014.
- The SGPS Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18th, 2014.

10. Adjournment

MOTION

02/11/14:13

Moved: Meagan Crane (vpcca@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Iain Reeve (president@sgps.ca)

BIRT the SGPS Council Meeting be adjourned.

Motion Carried

02/11/14

JAM

CFS-27

Attached:

January Minutes

January Deliberative Notes Group(s) 1-4

January Attendance
B.16 Meetings of Council
B.5.2 Duties of Councillors
Policy P9
Judicial Policy Excerpt
Post Change Calendar (Elections)
SGPS' Progress Report Policy