



**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, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 5:30PM**

**McLaughlin Room, JDUC**

**1. Presentations**

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a. Principle Woolf

Max: Principle Woolf sends regards, could not make this meeting.

b. "Mitacs" – Niraj Kumar

Niraj: Mitacs brings opportunities for grad students. Don't ask anything in return, just help students masters, PhD, postdoc, so that they can get experience before they graduate. Hoping that council members will speak to their respective departments about using Mitacs opportunities. Mitacs funds innovative projects with some kind of partner, where partner puts in some amount of money and Mitacs matches the amount and the supervisor is asked to input funds. Minimum is \$7,500 from Mitacs, 7,500 from industry partner, and 10,000 from supervisor. The "Accelerate" program is \$15,000 to 2 million dollars for 4 months to 2 years. These are cross-disciplinary opportunities. This helps businesses and supervisors, but mostly it helps students to gain experience. The "Elevate" program is for postdocs. Also have international programs. Federal and provincial government helps fund Mitacs.

c. Elections Candidate Speeches

Mark: Running for VP Graduate. Platform is about bringing graduate student community together. Been at Queen's for 8 years. Want framework for departmental handbooks. Want to bring people together at department level and within the SGPS, as well as focus on students who are only here for a short time but should still be integrated. Want to continue developing the Student Advisor Program. Also want to help students with milestones to ensure they meet goals and timelines in their grad programs. Finally, want to bridge grad students and the wider Kingston community.

Mark: Running for VP Professional. Have prior student government experience. Three platform points. Continue great tradition of socials in the SGPS. Continue professional development

outside of the classroom. Finally, focus on the education program that is switching to a consecutive two-year program.

Dinah: Running again for VP Graduate. Council record can be seen in my blog and council reports. I have experience working with the student advisor program and implementing recommendations from students. I will be launching new workshops that have been developed with the student advisor program. Will continue working on departmental handbook issues as well. Finally, trying to have minimum standards for graduate supervision adopted as opposed to just having optional recommendations.

Lorne: Running again for VP Campaigns and Community Affairs. Council reports show all of the various work I have been involved in. Got AMS to change policy for SGPS volunteers. Met with candidates during municipal and provincial elections. Also active on Queen's daycare board and hope to work with SGPS staff to turn some unused office space for parents to spend time with their children.

Chris: Running for President. Feel free to ask me questions.

Dave: Question for Mark (running for VPG). Have you spoken to student advisors to see what they would want to do with you if you succeed?

Mark: I do want their feedback and I can read their reports, but I have not yet met with them.

Ben: Have any of you done any surveys to speak with students directly while developing your campaigns?

Mark (VPG): Have spoken with students within my department.

Dinah: I have not done direct poll, but throughout the year I hear of issues that come up and I try to put them up on social media to see how people respond.

Mark (VPP): Yes I have met with education, rehab society, and law students and my campaign is based on these meetings.

Lorne: Yes I have spoken with students informally. May get involved on social media now too.

Chris: My platform is based on discussions with people in different departments.

## **2. Adoption of the Agenda & Minutes**

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### **MOTION**

**02/10/15:1**

Moved: Dinah (vpg@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Eric

BIRT the agenda for February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Council meeting be adopted.

**Secondary motion:** Kevin move to add discussion topic on summer fee slate under Other Business as part 8c. James seconds.

Secondary motion carried, with Martin abstaining.

Main motion carried, with Martin abstaining.

**MOTION**

**02/10/15:2**

Moved: Julian (julian.chesterman@chee.queensu.ca)

Seconded: Kevin

BIRT the minutes for January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Council meeting be accepted.

Motion carried.

**MOTION**

**02/10/15:3**

Moved: Michael

Seconded: Julian

BIRT the minutes for January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Special Council meeting be accepted.

Motion carried.

**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)

Kevin: The student life survey is important because we are developing new student life space. By getting broad spectrum of people who use different buildings, we can get valuable information about the way grad students use student life space so we can see about incorporating their needs into our plan. Link to the survey is in my report. Please circulate around your department. It only takes 5 minutes. Since SGPS members start and end on campus at different times, I oppose the addition of some new mandatory fees because that will mainly affect education students who are away on practicum for some time during the year and other students who start and end at different times and should not pay while they are away.

Dinah: Next week is thesis boot camp.

Thompson: We had our last professional student social and turnout was about 160 so I am happy with the turnout and will work with my successor to ensure it continues next year.

Andria: Hired new equity coordinator who will come to council next month.

James: What is the equity coordinator's name?

Andria: Mathieu Crupi.

## **MOTION**

**02/10/15:4**

Moved: Julian (julian.chesterman@chee.queensu.ca)

Seconded: Lorne

BIRT the Executive and Speaker Reports be accepted.

Motion carried.

## **4. Senator, Trustee, 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 – Erica Baker (report attached)
  - iii. International Students' Affairs Commissioner – Jhordan Layne (report attached)
  - iv. Social Commissioner – Ciara Bracken-Roche (report attached)
  - v. Sustainability Coordinator – Megan MacCallum
- d. Committee Reports
- e. Other Reports
  - i. Rector – Mike Young (report attached)
  - ii. Chief Returning Officer – Peter Charboneau
  - iii. Student Advisors
  - iv. Departmental Reports

Sean: Encourage everyone to vote. Starts at 9AM tomorrow and goes until Thursday at 4PM.

Peter: Election is ready to go. Debate was low attendance yesterday so I think in the future we need to focus on more incentives to get people to see it like filming or live streaming debates.

Dave (student advisor): Nobody has been turned away from the program. We help people daily. We each have about 25-30 clients per year. We have received numerous testimonials from students saying that we have helped with mental health. We see disproportionate number of students from applied science / engineering departments for our services.

Chris: Applied science is the area of demographic concern, but is there a specific department?

Dave: Engineering departments, in particular electrical, seem to be the main issue, but I cannot really say for sure at this time.

**MOTION**

**02/10/15:5**

Moved: Thompson (vpp@sgps.ca)  
Seconded: Julian

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

**MOTION**

**02/10/15:6**

Moved: Kevin (president@sgps.ca)  
Seconded: Julian

Motion to amend agenda as follows: add the following as the first of our main motions: BIRT Mathieu Crupi be appointed as equity coordinator for the remainder of the 2014-2015 term.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Question Period/Departmental Issues**

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None.

**6. Business Arising From the Minutes**

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None.

**7. Main Motions**

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**MOTION**

**02/10/15:7**

Moved: Thompson (vpp@sgps.ca)  
Seconded: James

BIRT Mathieu Crupi be appointed as equity coordinator for the remainder of the 2014-2015 term.

Mathieu: Very excited for this position.

Erica: I am excited for Mathieu to join us, he is already active in the equity commission. Very engaged and we are lucky to have him with us.

Motion carried.

**MOTION**

**02/10/15:8**

Moved: Patrick Gajos (vpfs@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Kevin Wiener

BIRT that Schedule 7 (Grants and Bursaries) of the 2014-2015 Budget be amended to read:

Emergency Student Fund:	<del>15,000.00</del>	<u>16,225.00</u>
Grants Program:	<del>8,000.00</del>	<u>15,000.00</u>
Dental Bursary:	<del>25,000.00</del>	<u>16,775.00</u>

[Simple majority to pass]

Patrick: We have hit budget for grants program and coming close to emergency student fund. Changes I am proposing are to provide more funding to the emergency student fund and grants program from the dental bursary because it is being underused right now. That should take us through to the end of the year.

Julian: Doesn't some of the money for this come from PSAC? That can't be reallocated right?

Patrick: Yes but we won't be touching those funds.

Kevin: I am pushing for cold beverage fund to not be reduced but rather reallocated to funds that currently exist, so SGPS may be able to get some funds from the small projects fund to go into these funds in the future.

Rudy: Why are the funds coming close to thresholds this year compared to previous years?

Patrick: Normally the dental bursary is completely used, so I do not know why it is underused this year, but it does permit us to reallocate this year. So based on the year we may shift funds in different ways.

Kevin: For emergency student aid we are looking to change policy so that we don't hit a threshold like this in the future.

Motion carried.

**MOTION**

**02/10/15:9**

Moved: Thompson Hamilton (vpp@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Julian

BIRT Council approves the replacement of the term Appointee of Council with the term “Commissioners and Coordinators” where it appears in the Bylaws of the SGPS.

BIRT Council approve the changes to B.9.

BIRT Council approves the changes to B.13

BIRT Council approves the changes to B.14.

[First reading, 2/3 majority to pass] [Please see appendix]

Thompson: Personnel and human resources by-law and policy. I will discuss by-law changes and then we won't actually vote on changing the policy this time until we can vote on by-laws at the same time as policy next time. So the next motion is no longer a motion to be voted on. For B.9 we have commissioners and coordinators on yearly employment contracts, which are considered appointees of council. By-law and policy should reflect the fact that this is just an employment relationship as opposed to appointees of council, though council still has ratifying power and commissioners and coordinators still give reports to council. I propose getting rid of appointees of council terminology and use commissioners and coordinators instead. Also changes for lawyers to be involved in certain substantial issues helps protect SGPS. For B.13, officers of council can remain in by-law, but selection procedures for commissioners, coordinators, and staff can be moved to policy. For B.14, changing sections to reflect employment relationship issues.

Julian: Disconnect between by-law and what is posted on website. Coordinator reporting to council needs to be removed. There are also some duplications.

Thompson: Do not believe officers of council need employment contracts because they are not paid, they get honorarium.

Kevin: My recommendation is to not move amendments now, just discuss thoughts on the by-law as a whole and then we can move to refer this and policy changes to committee.

Julian: I agree. Under impeachment rules, we also may wish to remove reference to commissioners when this is considered.

**Secondary motion:** Eric moves that the council move to the committee of the whole to discuss these by-law and policy amendments. Julian seconds.

Eric: This way we can discuss general recommendations now and then can go to committee after considering all of these general recommendations together today.  
Secondary motion carried.

Council briefly discusses proposed amendments.

**MOTION**

**02/10/15:10**

Moved: Julian (julian.chesterman@chee.queensu.ca)

Seconded: Eric

BIRT council extend the current council meeting for an extra 30 minutes.

Motion defeated.

**MOTION**

**02/10/15:11**

Moved: Kevin (president@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Dinah

BIRT council extend the current council meeting for an extra 29 minutes.

Kevin: This will allow us time to refer this to committee.

Thompson: If you give us this extra time, I will just wrap up my points now and we can refer this to committee.

Motion carried, with Korey and Ben opposing.

**BACK TO PREVIOUS MOTION**

**02/10/15:9**

**Motion to refer:** Kevin moves that the council cease the committee of the whole and instead refer this issue to the bylaw and policy committee. Korey seconds.

Motion to refer carried.

Max: Email Andria if you would like to join this committee.

**MOTION**

**02/10/15:12**

Moved: Thompson Hamilton (vpp@sgps.ca)

Seconded: Eric

BIRT Council approves the replacement of the term Appointee of Council with the term "Commissioners and Coordinators" where it appears in the Policies of the SGPS.

BIRT Council approves the changes to P.2

BIRT Council approves the changes to P.3

[Simple majority to pass] [Please see appendix]



**Motion to refer:** Kevin moves that the council refer the motion to the bylaw and policy committee rather than consider it now. Eric seconds.  
Motion to refer carried.

## **8. Other Business**

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- a. **DISCUSSION** – Council Composition Feedback – Jared Houston, Robert Bentley, Jennifer Wigglesworth, Eric Rapos [Please see appendix]

Kevin: My preference is that we not start having committees have a lot of different functions but rather just focus on academic proposals from departments. May require having a list of recognized associations so that we know what is and is not affiliated with departments. May be best way of dealing with departmental representation.

Chris: I like the recommendation of faculty societies because it allows us to have direct link to know who is representing students as opposed to now when we may have councillors who do not attend meetings and departments may not be properly represented.

Korey: Political studies graduate association students feel that there is no compelling reason for these changes. Worried about loss of direct representative link at SGPS council.

Peter: Worried that grouping engineering into one group is not a good idea because engineering is a diverse group and needs different representation.

Eric: I am aware of these concerns, though I created a proposal and nobody has proposed anything else although I asked for feedback many times in the past.

Jared: I believe there have been alternate proposals and I am happy to work with council to continue considering these.

- b. **DISCUSSION** – SGPS members' Health and Safety – Dinah Jansen

Dinah: After several meetings over the fall, student health and safety committee has started discussing different health and safety issues for students. Talking about issues, raising awareness of them, and raising awareness of resources to address them. Hoping to launch general survey to see what members are concerned about.

Chris: From my experience, administration has a frightening attitude with respect to safety. In many cases the directions of this committee are very important for student health and safety.

Erica: Interim policy in place regarding sexual harassment. This should be part of the committee to consider.

Rudy: In the civil engineering building there was roof tarring completed and dust covered the rooms and nothing was done to help ventilation, constant smell of tar, for about two months.

Julian: There are a lot of old buildings on campus that require maintenance and this does create issues for health and safety.

c. **DISCUSSION** – Summer fee slate – Kevin

Kevin: This is mostly directed towards education students. I want feedback about bus, athletics, and HCDS fee because student affairs want them included still for students who start at different times throughout the year. Choice I have is to push against HCDS fee or look into implementing summer fee but then make services more accessible for the education students.

Eric: Have we considered the idea of term fees? So we could divide fees into three terms and that way those who are here for those months pay the appropriate amount.

Kevin: Student affairs would not necessarily be averse to that but it is a big change for the way fees are structured. It is logistically complicated and I am not sure it is much better. I would prefer to focus on how fees are paid now and just avoid members paying more.

Julian: Term fees would also be complicated for health and dental fund.

Ben: Term fees are good because grad students who go on internships could benefit from that as well.

Christina: Can talk more later but at this point I am very appreciative of Kevin's support on this.

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

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None.

## **10. Adjournment**

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Max: It is 7:59 PM and this meeting is now adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Max Z. Ma, Speaker

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Jonathan Samosh, Deputy Speaker

## February Meeting Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Dinah Jansen	VPG	Present
Lorne Beswick	VPCCA	Present
Andria Mahon	EA	Present
Erica Baker	SKHS	Present
Mike Young	Rector	Present
Michael Carter	Geography	Present
Martin Fehse	Business	Present
Peter Charbonneau	CRO	Present
Kristin Ostler	Rehab	Present
Robert Powell	English	Present
Adam Drysdale	English	Present
Sarah Budd	Art History	Present
Megan Rueckwald	Planning	Present
Dave Northeast	Physics	Present
Paul Warchuk	Law	Present
Robert Bentley	SKHS	Present
Jenn Wigglesworth	SKHS	Present
Kyle Stepa	French	Present
Mark Ramsay	Sociology	Present
Christina Hoffman	Education	Present
Peter Gilbert	Chemical Engineering	Present
Rudy Schueder	Civil Engineering	Present
Korey Pasch	Political Studies	Present
Julian Chesterman	Biomedical Engineering	Present
Eric Rapos	Senate	Present
Piriya Yoganathan	Pathology	Present
James MacLeod	Board of Trustees	Present
Danielle Porplycia	Biology	Present
Ben Cecchetto	Computing Science	Present
Erin Eisen	ESS	Present
Michael Grossman	Psychology	Present
Jared Houston	Philosophy	Present
Chris Cochrane	Mechanical Engineering	Present
Jhordan Layne	English	Present
Ian Moore	Law	Present
Patrick Gajos	VPFS	Present
Thompson Hamilton	VPP	Present
Kevin Wiener	President	Present
Sean Richards	Executive Director	Present

Megan MacCallum	Sustainability Coordinator	Regrets
Jessica Rich	Education	Regrets
Sean Coughlin	Law	Regrets
Rebecca Torrance	Law	Regrets
Fallon Bowman	Classics	Regrets
Yongfei Wu	Education	Regrets
Lorraine Godden	Education	Regrets
All Other Council Members	All Other Council Members	Absent