



Agenda

February 28, 2017 - 5:30pm
Room 210, Walter Light Hall

The Society of Graduate and Professional Students recognizes the traditional and ancestral territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nations on whose lands we gather on today.



Presentations

- A. Presentation from Centre for Teaching and Learning, Queen's University**
Sue Fostaty Young & Launa Gauthier



Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes

- A. Adoption of the Agenda** **MOTION 02/23/17:1**
BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the February 28, 2017 Council Meeting.

Motioner: Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services)

Seconder: Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative)

Motion carries.
- B. Adoption of the Council Minutes (September Council)** **MOTION 02/23/17:2**
[SEE ATTACHED MINUTES]
BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Minutes for the September 20th, 2016 Council Meeting.

Motioner: Adam Ali (Graduate Student Trustee)
Seconder: Emma Thompson (Kinesiology Department Representative – Arts)

Anastasiya Boika (VP Campaigns & Community Affairs): There was at one point it says to insert the names of the winners of awards presented by Kyle. Perhaps that is something we should add. Reaching out to Kyle regarding award winners.

Motion carries.
- C. Adoption of the Council Minutes (January Council)** **MOTION 02/23/17:3**
[SEE ATTACHED MINUTES]
BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Minutes for the January 17th, 2017 Council Meeting.

Motioner: Adam Ali (Graduate Student Trustee)



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Seconder: Lauren Brick (Graduate Education Representative – MEd)

Motion carries.

D. Adoption of the Council Minutes (February Special Council) MOTION 02/23/17:4

[SEE ATTACHED MINUTES]

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Minutes for the February 2nd, 2017 Special Council Meeting.

Motioner: Ciara Bracken-Roche (Graduate Student Senator)

Seconder: Korey Pasch (Political Studies Representative)

Motion carries.

E. Adoption of the General Meeting Minutes (Winter General Meeting) MOTION 02/23/17:5

[SEE ATTACHED MINUTES]

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Minutes for the February 15th, 2017 Winter General Meeting.

Motioner: Ciara Bracken-Roche (Graduate Student Senator)

Seconder: Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services)

Motion carries.



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A. Time to Completion Discussion – Adam Ali – Graduate Student Trustee

Adam Ali (Graduate Student Trustee): February 2nd, SGS sent out an email about the Dissertation boot-camp and a friendly reminder about support for time to completion. This rubbed several upper-year colleagues the wrong way. In March 2013, a policy change was approved in SGS – several graduate students advocated against this. Previous policy: PhD you could complete in 7 years, Masters in 4 years. In December 2013, if you go beyond 4 years as PhD, you must receive department 1 year approval and SGS approval for the 1 year after that. I have two things and then I want a tangible next step moving forward. Currently on the SGS website, it doesn't state... the email that was sent in 2013, what was stated is that if students were in PhDs before 2013, you would be grandfathered into the old policy. But on the website, it doesn't state this. That's an issue that has come up. Another point of clarification I'm curious about is that there is no hard cap for time to completion and no information given about what happens if you don't complete your degree within the time period or don't get an extension. I want to get a sense of the temperature across departments and suggestions for moving forward.

Sebastian Gorlewski (VP Graduate): Thanks for bringing this up. I have a meeting with Marta and Brenda (Dean of SGS), and I can definitely bring that to their attention, especially with the Terms of Reference being unclear. If there are any other graduate students who are unclear.

[Anonymous]: I'm a year 5 and I'm okay, and I'm happy with my funding situation with my scholarship, but this year my TAs were almost revoked. I know other graduate students with PhDs had their office space taken away to finish up their writing – a crucial time. I think that email was sent with the best of intentions as an upper year PhD; but knowing what the conditions are if you go beyond 4, 5, 6 years need to be more clear. If you could bring that over Sebastian, that would be great.

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): I can confirm that they are grandfathering in that policy and that's something that I was the Graduate Student Senator. People who were students in 2013 are now no longer students, which is why it may not be on the website. If you go beyond your years or don't get an extension, you may be required to withdrawal.



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Valerie Freemantle (Geography Department Representative): This has been a topic within Geography quite a bit, but even Profs think that imposing a time restriction is in their best interest and comparing averages between departments to complete degrees isn't fair to students and isn't useful. Any more information to graduate students in their 5th year and beyond, but also students who are coming up and would like more time would be great to have that information. If there's a way to talk to them about why the policy is in the place – is it funding or some other reason as to why imposing a timeline is important? Clarifying why the policy is in place is important.

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): The comments that [Anonymous] made about funding; Queen's only guarantees 2 years of Masters and 4 years of PhD funding, whereas departments can provide additional funding for years beyond. This was a provincial mandate for time to completion, with the intent for departments to change their program restructuring to reduce work to finish in four years. This has happened in several departments (ex. Computing), but there are some places where there is field work where this won't be possible. I know there's a lot of issues, and the U15 as looked into the Nationally; what we are doing in PhD programs now needs to change – to do courses, comprehensive exams, research, thesis and get out was do hundreds of years ago – the government has mandated 4 years, Queen's mandated it, and now departments is to implement it; this is just the history of this policy, not that I necessarily agree with it.

Lauren Brick (Graduate Education Representative – MEd): Is it the same for part-time and full-time studies?

Adam Ali (Graduate Student Trustee): Good question... I'm not sure.

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): No matter

Dylan Sora (Biology Department Representative): The Biology department, the program is all research based, not course based – with an average of 5 years. If you're going to be competitive in terms of publications, funding, getting a job after, getting into a post-doc; the requirement basically came down to the onus being on the student and their supervisor setting out guidelines and mind you in a research based situation, there's always room for research to fail. The average time is over that 4 year deadline, closer to 5 years, and I don't



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[Anonymous]: It is downloaded onto the departments to figure out how to get people out of the department, which is resulting in unfair allocation of resources. 3rd year MAs will get full TAs, but last year PhDs will have resources taken away. I don't think having structured sets of rules for departments to allocate funding resources is a good idea, but this is

Emma Thompson (Kinesiology Department Representative – Arts): I don't think our department has really discussed this issue. This is a bit frightening.

Valerie Freemantle (Geography Department Representative): A question in our department is what happens when you go from Masters into PhD; in my department, your PhD also has courses attached to that. Will that add additional time to your PhD? And we don't think the language is clear on this?

Lauren Brick (Graduate Education Representative – MEd): A lot of the onus falls onto the Faculty, and in my personal sense I don't think the Faculty can handle this responsibility. It's constantly "what are we going to do next", and things get pushed back from the departments end, and getting everyone on the right page – letting supervisors know about expectations. TAs are allocated based on fundings and it has to go around to everyone.

Alexander Rey (Civil Engineering): As much as there are issues with the mandate, it seems that it is a provincial mandate. It's best to just make the implementation easier.

Sebastian Gorlewski (VP Graduate): A lot of these questions are phrased in the graduate student handbook, but I will bring this up to the SGS and will report back to the next Council.

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): I guess the one thing to point out is that the extension is department approved, so we can see how some programs need to go longer. That's where field work can now be brought in. I was involved in these discussions in 2012, and it's not changing. It's up to SGPS and students to shape these programs to make it more effective; if your department has not started this, start that conversation with your department – be part of this change, have some fun with it; it's something that's going to happen, but this is a National discussion about how the PhD program is changing.

Adam Ali (Graduate Student Trustee): There's lots of external social forces at play involving professionalization of the University that are manifesting in increased precariousness of the



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program. I think this is a really important discussion; I'm interested to see what Brenda says at Sebastian's meeting; I think a committee could work on this over the summer. One of the biggest issues is the student-supervisor relationship, it's up to them how much or how little they want to raise. They are the gate-keepers to research, teaching, who you will work with in future – having these discussions is key. We are in a precarious position as graduate students; we need to have a further conversation after that meeting.

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): One more thing to add, you brought up the student and employee – I think this is why we see Masters students in their third year; outside of our research, we can only ever work 10 hours/week; that's why you see these Masters. It's not equitable, but that is where a lot of those decisions come from – you can only TA at one given time.

B. Canadian Federation of Students Discussion – Mark Asfar – Member at large

BIRT SGPS Council move to committee as a whole.

Motioner: Adam Ali (Graduate Student Trustee)

Seconder: Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services)

Motion carries.

Mark Asfar (Member-At-Large): For those of you who don't know me, I'm a 3rd year Law student, 7 years at Queen's, worked as VPP and attended CFS as their liaison, attended numerous conferences. Some of you will see the posts I raised on the Facebook group about the CFS. I wanted to raise this again in this Council and to add more context.

What is the CFS? The CFS is a national lobbying group – local 23; one student union among dozens upon dozens to this union. We pay approximately \$16/student or approximately \$60,000 to this organization. It's worth noting that this fee is not up for debate – it is simply always there. IF you ever wanted to leave the CFS, it is challenging. I think we need to re-evaluate how we deal with the CFS, not that I'm advocating for leaving the CFS necessarily. Two-fold work: national and provincial lobby organization on a wide-range of topics. Originally, it was meant to advocate for decreased tuition and raise student voice in Universities; now they are advocating for other social and human rights issues. In some regions, they are very successful and in others they are not as successful. They also provide services – a national printing service, locally sourced “swag”, health and dental. The ISIC card comes from the CFS. However, there is very little that we do with the CFS now – we



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have more cost effective, locally-sourced services. My concerns are two-fold: the CFS has had a history of issues – attending these meetings, who runs the CFS, what schools attend – they only allow 1 member to attend; it increases our costs to attend more people to attend. It's also more difficult for us to attend – it was a 5-6 day event; any graduate student with research or jobs or TAing basically cannot attend these. We've raised this multiple times, and we never got an answer for how to solve this. We're not very present. That's one broad issue and one I raised in Council. The second set of concerns that is more pressing has had some issues regarding its operations – in 2014, though it has only become talked about now – that there is a secret bank account containing 500K, with no explanation of the funding source (from the fees from our Universities), with a supposed report coming forward in June 2017. This organization has sued Universities to attempt to leave. Some schools have wanted to leave, others have created a lobbying group to meet demands. I think this is important for us to discuss at the venue.

Valerie Freemantle (Geography Department Representative): What is the relationship that the AMS has with the CFS?

Mark Asfar (Member-At-Large): The AMS is a member of OUSA and not the CFS and that is their lobbying group.

Adam Ali (Graduate Student Trustee): There are mostly just questions – do we know the number of graduate student bodies part of the CFS?

Anastasiya Boika (VP Campaigns & Community Affairs): I have an approximate – I think 25 or 26; I just went to the National Graduate Caucus and there were 16 Universities representative. As a percentage, overall, I do not know.

Adam Ali (Graduate Student Trustee): Do we know who is in the provincial lobbying group? Do we know who is on the national lobby group?

Emma Thompson (Kinesiology Department Representative – Arts): As a graduate student body, what do we get out of being involved? Or do we want to be involved with them? Do we want to join this other lobbying group?

Lauren Brick (Graduate Education Representative – MEd): Points are valid; I'm taking what you're saying at face-value. What are some positives that we're getting out of this \$16; and you feel very strongly about this. What are those.



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Mark Asfar (Member-At-Large): Adam – the group currently consists of 10 Universities: Carleton, Regina, OCAD, UBC-O, Laurention, Cape Breton, UofT, Laurention-Barrie. Emma & Lauren – having been to the conferences, it's a difficult conversation because we are able to help with policy conversation at these conferences; it's also a great place to network and develop conversation and information and best practices about mature students, students who are young parents...etc. We became a model for other students to use from our parenting room. But the Graduate Caucus only meets 1/year; other conferences are more focused on undergraduate issues and large policy affects.

Dylan Sora (Biology Department Representative): I was involved with the CFS, contentious relationship. Why do other issues get more prominence at these conferences as opposed to issues for graduate students or Queen's students? Is it because there are more undergraduate students being sent?

Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services): To talk to Adam's question about the Union; we represent 20% of the Unions involved in graduate in terms of those involved. More graduate unions are smaller than undergraduate. How the agenda is decided, there's a policy/motion submission process that requires us to get numerous Universities signatures to put forward. The Graduate Caucus is a gold-mine; but getting a policy on an agenda – I was at the CFS conference in November/December and there were a bunch of internal bylaw changes and Federal motions.

Chris Cochrane (Member-At-Large): You may or may not know me; I'm a former SGPS Executive member. I attended the Ontario CFS meeting with Mark last year. Just because Lauren did mention this earlier; you do get great networking with other graduate unions; lots of opportunity for collaborations, best practices, sending information about how to make initiatives happen – that's a good thing! Whether the SGPS should be more involved; historically the SGPS has been more involved in sending its members – but one of the reason this has declined is that it is difficult to attend a five-day conference; it's challenging on Executive members; as there is a lot of other stuff for these people to be doing. You've exhausted time for these people to focus on on-campus issues. It's also very expensive to be spending \$16/student. If you're sending 5 people on a 5-day conference, you're looking at another \$5k/conference – the cost of that builds up. You're paying for hotel, travel... by attending more people to attend, you're raising the costs more. Dylan asked about why we don't have more force at these meetings – other Universities are allowed to bring paid staff as representatives, besides being the CFS (students); so they get "vote multiplier" because they are rich; whereas other unions, like graduate unions, don't send as many people – like our staff who are heavily burdened.



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Mark Asfar (Member-At-Large): I'm going to share a story – I think it's an organization I want to work; this is going to be a great opportunity. I still believe the CFS can be changed. Culture I faced was a very CFS first, unions elected second. We discussed creating a more accessible CFS meeting – creating a feasibility report on an online platform to participate into the meeting online to reduce environmental sustainability (everyone gets a 100page binder – they print everything), create an online archival system. I was strongly argued against by three members – one of which was a staff member – but that's not who the CFS has done it, and some strange argument about the paper union. They voted down this opportunity to create a long-term online platform. That's kind of a weird policy; we're better for students – they should be harder to leave. I'm trying to be forthcoming and honest – these are opinions, but this is some of the concerns I have and to be aware of, there's a culture around it that's hard to deal with.

Anastasiya Boika (VP Campaigns & Community Affairs): Just in terms of attendance and expectations. I attended one CFS conference, Saba attended one in August, and Stuart attended one in November/December. There was also one in January, and I attended this past one. That's 15 days of conference – they are very very involved. The National Graduate Council was interesting – you get to hear from numerous student organizations and develop solidarity between student unions, which is similar between all institutions. But I echo the sentiment about the time commitment.

Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services): It's very cost prohibited; every delegate fee paid gets to vote on motions and policy changes where every school gets a vote. The first delegate is "free", but when you add travel, lodging, food...etc., costs greatly increase. If we find that some conferences have very little relevance, sending more people does not have added value going from 8am-12am. On the last day, we had to extend the meeting by 9 hours, it was extended due to a fire alarm until Tuesday at 3am, for a Wednesday-Monday meeting.

Emma Thompson (Kinesiology Department – Arts): We have a 500K bank account that has come to light and they are not accessible. What are your recommendations for what to do moving forward?

Ciara Bracken-Roche (Graduate Student Senator): First of all, Mark, I was just wondering that is this upon reflection? I don't remember hearing of this bank account from when you were an Executive? Have you chatted with the current Executive? Has an assessment been done about the balance in our relationship with the CFS?



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Mark Asfar (Member-At-Large): In so far as the secret bank account, nobody told me about this 2014 account until now. The secret account was discovered, but nobody has reported on until 2017. When you're involved in student governance it's crazy; the issues I faced in my year were with the CFS. But there was nothing to be done at the time. Now that there are greater concerns about finances and this lobby group, that we may have an opportunity to raise concerns. As a member at large, I would expect the SGPS to look for more accountability from the CFS, those are things I like and I think it would be cool to express concerns or make efforts to fix it, but I just wanted a conversation. Everyone seems to be giving alarmed questions, but I think

Alexander Rey (Civil Engineering): Did the CFS take a position on time to completion? They would be poised to make a comment.

Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services): They did not. Last GM we condemned marijuana use, we talked about election reform. It's a lot of solidarity motions.

Member-At-Large: I was wondering if we knew how other Unions or other graduate Unions felt about the CFS, more about the detail of what reforms are trying to or are trying to continue?

Chris Cochrane (Member-At-Large): I wanted to address what Alex said, but to reiterate with this that graduate students are not as heard. Provincial level policy – if we're only 20% of the membership, 80% doesn't care about this. A lot of the issues I'm hearing with time to completion are institution related; local implementation issues.

Mark Asfar (Member-At-Large): A series of schools have tried to leave since 2010. Some successfully, but five have entered into law suits (ex. McGill Graduate). This lobbying group for internal change is a new thing.

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): I guess that we mentioned at looking at other options like OUSA – which is an Ontario, Undergraduate group. But there's also CASA – a smaller lobbying group, but graduate student unions make up a larger group of this (ex. Waterloo) – it's definitely good to look at alternatively to the CFS; it's working on that growth and a lot of people are looking to jump ship. The CFS does not like to see its membership go.



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Anastasiya Boika (VP Campaigns & Community Affairs): I just wanted to comment on time to completion. At the NGC, we said a lot of positive things about the NGC, but we had a lot of working groups – it had to do with mental health and I brought up time to completion as a major issue for students anxiety. While it seemed to be a universal problem, it wasn't addressed again. I thought that would be a useful tidbit. As for how schools feel about the CFS at both the NGC and the conference I attended in November, generally it seems to be very positively received, especially at smaller unions who really need that support are very positive about the CFS, likewise with schools with lobbying efforts and campaigns against their University.

Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services): Maybe to give some context from the meeting I was at, there is a group internal to the CFS that do have an appetite for reform. They brought forward changes to bylaw and policy, but I don't believe a single one passed – like setting new levels for certification/decertification. While there is this group that wants to see this improve internally, but there is a legacy portion of the CFS that wants things to stay the same and they are very entrenched in the way things have been done.

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): A lot fo what I've talked about is factual. I'm going to give my opinion for the first time we just talked about a union in which you can buy votes – why are we part of this. Groups with money

Travis Skippon (Member-At-Large): That's exactly the issue I was going to bring up... you get a vote for money you put forward? I'm going to guess that we're among one of the poorest – so our voting block is even smaller than that block?

Ciara Bracken-Roche (Graduate Student Senator): I wonder if at this point we have talked about this important information, if we can have an offline conversation and can bring forward a motion and do our own investigations.

Mark Asfar (Member-At-Large): We cannot physically buy a vote, but the school gets a vote as a member, but if there are separate subcommittees, we need separate people to attend these meetings to vote – it's a strategic and financial issue. Thank you all for having this conversation. I will be graduating in the coming months; I just wanted to share this information; I'd love to be part of any discussions that come forward - Ciara and Adam; it take a lot of input from students.



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Dylan Sora (Biology Department Representative): If we are going with the nuclear option – if we were to leave the CFS, what would that entail to legally leave?

Mark Asfar (Member-At-Large): The CFS has strict policies with a referendum. It needs to be triggered by members and not Executives. You want someone with an expert and potentially legal support.

Chris Cochrane (Member-At-Large): The referendum has to be run physically and there's a strict quorum and given that the SGPS just ran an electronic 6% vote. The ability to run an in-person referendum

Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services): By in person he means physical paper ballots in a physical ballot box.



Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Saba Farbodkia (report attached)
- b. VP Graduate – Sebastian Gorlewski (report attached)
Sebastian Gorlewski (VP Graduate): Just wanted to correct that the mental health survey is going to be released just after the health and dental survey to give it as much advertisement as possible. March 3rd or the Monday after.

Student Advisor Program is hiring next week – great way to develop peer to peer skills and get involved in the SGPS.

Next week, we are hosting bystander intervention workshop – March 8th and I would encourage you to attend.

- c. VP Professional – Kishan Lakhani (no report submitted)
Read by Sebastian Gorlewski (VP Graduate).

“Hello everyone,

Firstly, I want to congratulate the incoming Executive on a successful campaign period and the confidence that the membership showed in their abilities to lead the



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SGPS going forward. I am excited to see all that you will do for the membership and look forward to this transition period. More specifically, I want to congratulate the incoming Vice-President Professional, Russell Durward.

I unfortunately could not be present at today's meeting as I have class during this time on Tuesdays. However, I have a few updates I would like to provide.

Careers week is next week, with professional headshots by StudioQ being done in Room 237 from 10am – 3pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of next week! Let your constituents know of their chance to get headshots for LinkedIn profiles, online profiles, or even just a great photo to have of yourself. Resume workshops will also be held from 10:30-12:30 on Monday and Tuesday, and 12-2 on Wednesday and Thursday! So resumes can be taken to Room 237 where you can get help on formatting and structure. Please let your constituents know, advertising will begin tomorrow on social media and the website.

Next, my HR portfolio for this year is almost finished. I have a couple of final steps to make, along with a full internal record being made for the incoming SGPS VPP, Russell Durward, to allow for continuity and consistency.

Finally, the Bylaw and Policy Committee Meeting is being held this Monday, and so discussion about the changes that were proposed last meeting regarding an oversight committee will be discussed. I have made record of the comments and concerns, but if you have any other comments or concerns that you want heard at the meeting, please e-mail me at vp.professional@sgps.ca and I'll be happy to address them.

Kind Regards,

Kishan Lakhani"

- d. VP Finance & Services – Stuart Clark (no report submitted)
- e. VP Campaigns & Community Affairs – Anastasiya Boika (report attached)
Anastasiya Boika (VP Campaigns & Community Affairs): Orientation roundtable is happening next week – if you're still like to be part of that, please let me know. Second thing – there is no workshop this week; we weren't able to plan anything substantial at this time. There will be more workshops held in March and April.



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B. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Jennifer Williams (oral report)

Jennifer Williams (Speaker): Still looking for a Deputy Speaker; please let us know if you or anyone you know would like to put their name forward – we could use the support.

C. Approval

MOTION 02/23/17:6

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Motioner: Adam Ali (Graduate Student Trustee)

Seconder: Ciara Bracken-Roche (Graduate Student Senator)

Motion carries.

Questions:

Ciara Bracken-Roche (Graduate Student Senator): – is there information on the SGPS website on Career Week; if not on the website where?

Anastasiya Boika (VP Campaigns & Community Affairs): We have a condensed newsletter – we're trying to do it this time. We'll have another in March.



Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports

- A. **Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Ciara Bracken-Roche (report attached)
Ciara Bracken-Roche (Graduate Student Senator): Implementation committee meeting. Implementationrdi@queensu.ca if you want to make further comments.

Discussion about the fall break. Many students unhappy with the recommendation made by students; hoping for Thursday/Friday off in week 7. Was approved by senate, so that's that – they're going to see if that's feasible.

- B. **Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – Adam Ali (report attached)
Board of Trustees meet on Friday; Board/Senate retreat this weekend.

- C. **Commissioner Reports**

- a. Athletics Commissioner – Lindsay Ruitter (report attached)



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- b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Tahseen Chowdhury (report attached)
- c. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Chiedza Pasipanodya (report attached)
- d. Social Commissioner – Yann Grand-Clement (report attached)

D. Committee Reports

E. Other Reports

- a. University Rector – Cam Yung (oral report)
- b. Chief Returning Officer – Annie MacGregor (oral report)

Dear Council,

I hope everyone had a great reading week! Sorry I cannot be at tonight's meeting.

I would like to start by congratulate our new executives who all were successful in their bids.

Our new Executive consists of:

- Adam Grotsky as President
- Stephy McKnight as VP Graduate
- Russel Durward as VP Professional
- Tyler Morrison as VP of Campaigns and Community Affairs
- Lauren Peacock as VP Finance
- Alexandru Sonoc as Graduate Student Senaor

The vast majority of the referendum fees passed as well, with only 2 organizations losing their bid.

The voter turnout for this year's election and referendum was extremely low, with only 6.18% of SGPS members casting their vote. This year, we asked SGPS members to disclose their faculty as well as their department. The majority of the votes, 47.26%, came from students within the faculty of Law, followed by the Faculty of Arts and Science, with 34.88%. The latter is surprising as the majority of SGPS members are in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

We also asked members to disclose which department they were a part of (results below):

15 people chose not to disclose (or did not specify a department clearly)

2 votes from Department of Computer Sciences



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8 votes from Department of Political Studies

105 votes from the Faculty of Law

7 votes from the Department of Cultural Studies

20 votes from the Department of Geography and Planning

4 votes from the Department of Biomedical and Molecular Sciences

14 votes from the Department of Engineering

3 votes from the Department of Public Health

7 votes from the Department of History

9 votes from the Department of Sociology

3 votes from the Department of Industrial Relations

18 votes from the Department of Kinesiology and Health Studies

5 votes from the Department of Art History and Art Conservation

4 Votes from the Faculty of Education

1 vote each from the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine, Philosophy, Geology, English, Mathematics, School of Rehabilitation, Global Development, and Chemistry

From this, it is clear that there was no voter turnout from many departments.

The reason for this extremely low turnout is still undetermined – it could be due to the fact that all positions were uncontested and therefore there was very little campaigning and as a result, very little awareness that the elections and referendum were happening. Campaigning may therefore be essential for voter turn-out.

Sincerely,

Anne Macgregor, CRO

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): Because there was a delay in opening – voting didn't open at midnight. People like to stay up until midnight to vote. Uncontested elections are not great; apathy is great with SGPS elections.



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Ciara Bracken-Roche (Graduate Student Senator): Is there a minimum percentage that we need to accept? And what were the fees that failed?

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): We can have a petition against the results in that period if lower than 10%. Walkhome fee and Clubs Office.

F. Approval

MOTION 02/23/17:7

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports.

Motioner: Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative)

Seconder: Emma Thompson (Kinesiology Department Representative – Arts)

Motion carries.



Question Period & Departmental Issues

A. Sociology Department – Kristopher Jones

Kris Jones (Sociology Department Representative): We've been having discussions in our department about class evaluations, similar to what undergraduate students do that. Does anyone else do that at this level.

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): Yes, it's actually very easy. USAT evaluations are available to graduate courses.

Kris Jones (Sociology Department Representative): Who do they talk to? The best place would be to ask the Undergraduate program assistant who coordinates USAT. The instructor can just raise a request. Results will always go back to the instructor only if it is above a certain threshold, but the



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Lauren Brick (Graduate Education Representative – MEd): Yep, that’s it; graduate level doesn’t offer a lot of courses – overall program evaluation. We’re also a teaching faculty so it’s important to us.

Dylan Sora (Biology Department Representative): Biology; we did it independently; we administered our own to have a graduate teaching award given by a Biology graduate Council

Emma Thompson (Kinesiology Department Representative – Arts): So Kinesiology and Health Studies currently does not have evaluations but there has been a lot of discussion about how to implement these; but we get push back from our department. But how do we hold Faculty members accountable.

Eric Rapos (Computing Department Representative): It’s further to that. USAT is never public unless you’re talking tenure public review. It’s purely for the instructor. I did my own surveys additional to USATs when teaching, and those results can be made public. The onus is on the instructor, but students do have a lot more power than they think it’s just getting the right voices at the right time.

Emma Thompson (Kinesiology Department Representative – Arts): Do you want to tell us how it works out? It would be interesting to hear for our department how it goes.

Lauren Brick (Graduate Education Representative – MEd): I assume you have a Dean of Graduate Studies – or a Chair/Faculty? Any issues we have about Professors, we go to our Dean and any suggestions we have – if you don’t go the USAT way – if it’s student related, or issues you feel you need to bring out, you should go to your Chair. Because of my education, I feel it is something I need to bring up.

[Anonymous]: I mean, we have a tiny department, so to go to a Chair is a little awkward, so our strategy was to approach Council, and this Friday at our departmental meeting, we want to bring this forward. Having USATs able to do this is great. We’re going to propose having this, so we go as a collective to the department.



Agenda

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Business Arising from the Minutes



Main Motions

A. Approval of Executive & Referendum Results

Motion 02/23/17:8

BIRT that the 2017 SGPS Executive elections and referendum, located at www.sgps.ca, be approved.

Motioner: Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services)

Seconder: Anastasiya Boika (VP Campaigns & Community Affairs):

Motion carries.



Other Business



Notices of Motion & Announcements

- A. The next Council meeting will be March 14th at 5:30 PM (location Robert Sutherland Hall).
Motions for the March Council meeting are due by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, March 7th.



Adjournment

A. Adjournment

Motion 02/23/17:9

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

Motioner: Lauren Brick (Graduate Education Representative – MEd)

Seconder: Ciara Bracken-Roche (Graduate Student Senator)

Motion carries.