



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

**MINUTES**

Society of Graduate and Professional Students' General Meeting  
*Local 27 of the Canadian Federation of Students*

**Tuesday March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 5:30PM**

**Biosciences Complex 1103**

**1. Approval of the Agenda**

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Kevin: Before we begin, we will pass around financial statements for those who want to review.

**MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA**

**03/24/15:1A**

Moved: Becky

Seconded: Dinah

BIRT Council add an Advisor report under Section 6 of the Agenda.

Motion carried.

**MOTION**

**03/24/15:1**

Moved: Tabitha

Seconded: Julian

BIRT the agenda for March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 General Meeting be adopted.

Motion carried.

**2. Executive 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

**MOTION**

**03/24/15:2**

Moved: Eric

Seconded: James

BIRT the Executive Reports be accepted.  
Motion carried.

### **3. Financial Report**

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#### a. Financial Report – Patrick Gajos

Patrick: Report has three parts with budget, auditor’s report, and my opinion of the year. We have spent 61% of the budget so far and we are on budget for another surplus year. Few areas of concern are committees, insurance expenditures, grants and bursaries, and sports fund. At the end of 2013 we had cash surplus that should be growing further this year. We are not exposed to any significant risk, but I think it would be worthwhile to start investing extra funds in low-risk investments to expand budget without expanding student fees.

Kevin: The auditor seemed to misinterpret some of our financial information initially, but that has been sorted out. Recommend to next executive that this relationship needs to be figured out because it should not have taken so long to figure this out, otherwise we should consider finding someone else to do this in the future for us. Most of our funds are created on an ad hoc basis, but I would like to have them connected in the future to our corresponding accessibility, student advisor, etc. fees so that the fees and funds are connected in a more logical manner.

Mike: Does surplus affect non-profit status?

Kevin: I don’t think so, but I don’t want us to be running surpluses many years. We will look into investing our surplus funds.

#### **MOTION**

**03/24/15:3**

Moved: Thompson  
Seconded: Eric

BIRT the Financial Report be accepted.  
Motion carried.

### **4. SGPS and University Committee Reports**

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#### a. N/A

### **5. Senator’s Report**

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#### a. Graduate Student Senator – Eric Rapos

## **MOTION**

**03/24/15:4**

Moved: Kevin

Seconded: Tabitha

BIRT the Senator's Report be accepted.

Motion carried.

## **6. Other Reports**

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- a. Graduate Student Trustee – James MacLeod (report attached)
- b. Officers of Council
  - i. Speaker – Max Ma (report attached)
  - ii. Chief Returning Officer – Peter Charboneau
- c. Commissioners and Coordinators
  - i. Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
  - ii. Social Commissioner – Ciara Bracken-Roche
  - iii. Equity Commissioner – Erika Baker (report attached)
  - iv. International Students' Affairs Commissioner – Jhordan Layne
  - v. Sustainability Coordinator – Megan MacCallum
- d. Rector – Mike Young
- e. Student Advisor – Becky

Mike: Student leadership summit was done recently and if anyone has any feedback, please let me know.

Becky: Advisors are working on a new program about meetings between students and supervisors called SSMRK. The SSMRK Wordpress website has additional information. Student advisors are working through program review and the Executive recently initiated some changes and we feel we need to provide more feedback before these changes can be made by the Executive, in particular around confidentiality issues and the artificial timeline within which the changes are being rushed in.

Kevin: Executive last week approved three changes, in principle, to the student advisor program (filing system, confidentiality agreement, and executive member in administrative role). I am happy to discuss these but right now the advisor program has no consistent filing system. After discussing with advisors, we thought a formal filing system was more appropriate to ensure we maintain University privacy policies and appropriate transfer of files from year to year. Due to our confidentiality scope right now, each advisor is the only person who can help their student, they can't raise any information with other advisors or anyone else, not even a supervisor. From a structural perspective, we think the Executive Assistant in the administrative position and all fellow student advisors should be able to see all files so that confidential information remains within the student advisor program, but non-confidential issues can be provided to Executive. The only way to enact this is to have a confidentiality agreement that students who

come for advising will agree to, which is standard across many other types of client advising situations. The Executive Assistant would also have to sign a strict confidentiality agreement. We want this enacted before the new Executive assumes office and we will be proceeding with the changes.

Tabitha: What about current clients? What happens to confidentiality with them?

Kevin: Not all decisions have been made yet and we have not figured that out at this time. We have just made the three proposed changes in principle and still need to discuss details with the advisors to figure out details.

**MOTION**

**03/24/15:5**

Moved: Thompson  
Seconded: Peter

BIRT all Other Reports be accepted.  
Motion carried.

**7. Main Motions**

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**MOTION TO OMNIBUS**

**03/24/15:6A**

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

BIRT Council consider motions 03/24/15:6 through 03/24/15:13 in omnibus.  
Motion carried.

**MOTION**

**03/24/15:6**

Moved & seconded: The Executive ([president@sgps.ca](mailto:president@sgps.ca))

BIRT B.15 be amended. (See appendix)

[Bylaw amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, 2/3 majority to pass]  
Motion carried in omnibus.

**MOTION**

**03/24/15:7**

Moved & seconded: The Executive & Erica Baker ([equity@sgps.ca](mailto:equity@sgps.ca))

BIRT "Equity Commission" be renamed as "Equity & Diversity Commission" and "Equity Issues Standing Committee" as "Equity & Diversity Issues Standing Committee".

[Bylaw & policy amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, 2/3 majority to pass]  
Motion carried in omnibus.

**MOTION**

03/24/15:8

Moved & seconded: The Executive ([vpp@sgps.ca](mailto:vpp@sgps.ca))

BIRT all references to “Appointees of Council” be replaced with "Commissioners and Coordinators".

[Bylaw & policy amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, 2/3 majority to pass]  
Motion carried in omnibus.

**MOTION**

03/24/15:9

Moved & seconded: The Executive ([vpp@sgps.ca](mailto:vpp@sgps.ca))

BIRT B.9, B.13 and B.14 be amended. (See appendix)

[Bylaw amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, 2/3 majority to pass]  
Motion carried in omnibus.

**MOTION**

03/24/15:10

Moved & seconded: The Executive ([vpp@sgps.ca](mailto:vpp@sgps.ca))

BIRT P.2.2 and P.3.2 be amended. (See appendix)

[Policy amendment, simple majority to pass]  
Motion carried in omnibus.

**MOTION**

03/24/15:11

Moved & seconded: The Executive & Julian Chesterman ([4jpc@queensu.ca](mailto:4jpc@queensu.ca))

BIRT the motion on council composition be adopted. (See appendix)

[Bylaw amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, 2/3 majority to pass]  
Motion carried in omnibus.

**MOTION**

03/24/15:12

Moved & seconded: The Executive & Julian Chesterman ([4jpc@queensu.ca](mailto:4jpc@queensu.ca))

BIRT all references to specific policy subsections be replaced with “Policy”.

[Bylaw amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, 2/3 majority to pass]  
Motion carried in omnibus.

**MOTION**

03/24/15:13

Moved & seconded: The Executive & Julian Chesterman ([4jpc@queensu.ca](mailto:4jpc@queensu.ca))

BIRT the position of “Deputy Returning Officer” be abolished. (See appendix)

[Bylaw & policy amendment, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, 2/3 majority to pass]  
Motion carried in omnibus.

Kevin: The next motion relates to our last general meeting where we decided to suggest a divestment strategy for the University’s fossil fuel investments. University in response can divest, use shareholder engagement strategies, or do nothing. Advisory committee for the university has been made to consider our divestment request and they may determine that divestment would make a poorly diversified portfolio, in which case, this new motion would provide our suggested guidance for how to proceed using shareholder engagement strategies rather than doing nothing.

**MOTION**

**03/24/15:14**

Moved & seconded: Kevin Wiener, Thompson Hamilton, Lorne Beswick & Dinah Jansen  
([president@sgps.ca](mailto:president@sgps.ca))

BIRT the motion on fossil fuel investment be adopted. (See appendix)

[Regular motion, simple majority to pass]  
Motion carried.

Lorne: For this next motion, we are all aware of the ongoing labour disruptions going on at UofT and want to know if it would be okay to write a letter of solidarity to the union.

Eric: Would this not be more appropriate coming from our TA unions?

Lorne: They already have, but we thought we could do it as well.

Mike: Since there are current labour discussions going on at Queen’s, we should consider if this might have any blowback for students at Queen’s.

Kevin: The reason this is on our agenda is because CUPE 3902 emailed us and asked us if we could send a letter of solidarity. I don’t think there would be any blowback for students here, but CUPE did ask us for it so we thought we would bring it to this meeting for consideration.

**MOTION**

**03/24/15:15**

Moved & seconded: The Executive ([vpcca@sgps.ca](mailto:vpcca@sgps.ca))

BIRT the SGPS endorse the Canadian Union of Public Employees 3902 Unit 1 (U of T Graduate Teaching Assistants) strike demands by having the Executive sign a letter of support and send it to the University of Toronto’s Provost Regehr.

[Regular motion, simple majority to pass]  
Motion carried.

## **8. New Business**

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a. N/A

## **9. Adjournment**

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### **MOTION**

**03/24/15:16**

Moved: Eric

Seconded: Chris

BIRT the SGPS General Meeting be adjourned.

Motion carried at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Max Z. Ma, Speaker

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Jonathan Samosh, Deputy Speaker