



Minutes

October 13th, 2015 - 5:30pm

McLaughlin Room, John Deutsch University Centre



Presentations

A. Queen's Graduate Outfitters

Eric: Is anyone from this group present. Seeing no one we will move on, and if there is time if they show up, they can present then.

B. Council Orientation – Eric Rapos

Eric: SGPS Council is the guiding body for the SGPS – it approves things like budgets, policies, and directs the Executive on how to run the Society. The way council is composed of is it is made up of a number of the elected executive of the SGPS as well as the hired personnel of the SGPS and any senators who are members of the SGPS. The largest bulk of the SGPS Council is made of departmental representation in the form of one representative from each department that has under 100 members and it goes up from there. There is representation proportionately from the departments. We're here to make sure that there is representation from the departments, but as well as talking about how you can best serve your department. That's the general line of what SGPS is.

Key points

- All info is summarized in the minutes
- Agenda deadline
 - If you are interested in having something discussed at SGPS Council, having a motion on the council, or submitting a report? That does need to be submitted seven days before the meeting. Seven days is enough time to make sure that gets processed and sent out so people can adequately prepare. You are required to submit 10 days in advance for any general meetings.
 - Responsibilities of members of council
 - You are selected by your department to attend these meetings and represent them
 - You are required to attend all meetings of council. There are monthly meetings of council plus two general meetings throughout the year. As a council member, you are expected to attend these unless you have a reasonable reason to not be there.
 - If you do miss three meetings with exclusion of practicum or placements (things that your programmer does mandate); your seat will be vacated. That's something we are keeping track of. That's to make sure department receives adequate representations.



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- You are required to read the agendas ahead of time and prepare. Serious discussions are had at this body and some that don't require much discussions.
- You are required to come with questions prepared so we can have valuable discussions on the floor.
- SGPS Councils are required to apply for and serve on committees
 - The SGPS does have a number of standing committees. They are all available on the website.
 - You, as a councilor, on your own, are required to seek membership on a committee. Throughout the year, I may or may not be checking in to see if everyone is on a committee. That is something you are required to do.
- Within our by-laws and policies, there's a statement that says: Total commitment per month for the SGPS Council position is 5-6 hours. That includes your time in this meeting, time reading up, committee work as well as anything that happens outside these meetings. There are some months where that will actually occur, depending on which committee you serve on. Some committees are more active than others and that's given by the estimate by the by-law policy.
- As a departmental councilor, you are expected to submit one written report per year. That's from October to next September – that's one report that's happening in your department. So let the SGPS know what's happening in your department. Let SGPS what's going on. That's one of those reports submitted seven days in advance. There's a lot you can expect from this body as well. SGPS Council is meant to be a resource for you. If you do have questions about: Is this something should be happening in my department? Or can you help me with this, or can someone explain this to my department? This is the appropriate body for that and we'll be talking about this agenda - this is the place to do that. There are some responsibilities, but this body is also responsible to you.
- It's your job. We send out the agendas to you a minimum of four days ahead of time. That's your opportunity to forward it to your department and let them know what's going on. You should be getting feedback from your department about how they want you to be voting on those matters and then voicing those concerns here. So you do hold that vote, but you are there to represent their opinions as well as your own. You are responsible to let them know what's going on in those meetings. For example: If there was something on the agenda that was amended and changed, then that might be a good idea to let them know what ended up happening.
- That's the big thing and you are also responsible in conducting yourself in a reasonable manner. I have no reason to foresee any issues in this body. Some other student associations can get heated because of reasons. Think before you speak. Make sure you are saying things in the best interest of the society because that's what we are here for.



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- You may be asking yourself “why am I here and what can I do as a counselor”? You may want to make positive change or have an impact on the society – you are here to participate in that representative process. You are also able to make motions. SGPS Council is the directing body of the executive. If there is policy that needs updating, then this is the place to do that. If you have questions, then there’s an SGPS by-law policy and standing committee. If you do want to get into the nitty-gritty of policy, then you can do that here. Don’t feel you’re just here to be rubber stamping on any of these motions. I encourage you to get involved and make some changes you want to see made. We’re here to better the society. So you can make those motions. You’re also able to amend motions. If something comes up and you think it’s just not implemented the right way, you have the opportunity to implement it the right way. On the right hand side you can see what I can do with motion, debating a motion and amending a motion. It must not alter the original spirit of the motion. It cannot change what the mover has attended because it is against our rules. Are there any questions about those type of things?

Jared: Where is the by-law policies, the requirements that councilors need to be on the committee?

Eric: So that is in one of the new changes that need to be incorporated online. There is a new version that is going to be posted. The executive is working on compiling all of that. This came up in 2013 when Ian Reeves was president – it was the duties of the councilor that they had to submit it on that time. It is the job of the speaker that the by-laws have been updated and I have been pounding on the executive that they are updated and they were indeed made. You can see the updated text with Mark.

Marina: Are the minutes for the meeting be posted online?

Eric: Yes, the minutes of every meeting are posted online. As part of the agenda for the next meeting, they are a few weeks later. They are generally prepared sooner - if you do miss a meeting, then we are here to accommodate.

Eric: The next thing talks about the three points you can use during meetings. These meetings can be procedural at times or they might get confused or lost. These points are there to help you do what you need to do in this meeting.

1. **Point of Information:** The first one is point of information. This is factual information. If you are lost and don’t know what’s going on, then that’s when you have the chance to ask for additional information. It might be “Oh when the last time was this was discussed on council or what the exact amount of fee spent on this is?” It’s something you need to know to form your opinion. If someone said something that is a factual error, then it can be used to correct that factual error. Example: The sky is purple. If someone says something that is a factual error, you can use point of information to correct them. It shall not interrupt a current speaker. Wait until that person is



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speaking and you will be recognized to speak. It should not be meant to jump in and interrupt, we are trying to keep things polite.

2. **Point of Order:** If something is going out of the rules of order. SGPS Council generally follows Roberts's Rules of Order – and supplemented by SGPS by-laws and policies. If something is suspected, then you can raise the Point of Order and this is something that may interrupt the current speaker. This could possibly make the meeting go in a direction it should not be going.
3. **Point of Personal Privilege:** If someone said something you are personally offended by or something that could make your participation in the meeting more comfortable – If you wanted us to open the windows in the room and I would say sorry there are no windows in this room. In general, that's something you could ask. We can make the participation in the meeting more comfortable.

Eric: Who's who with executive? I am the Speaker of SGPS Council. I'm responsible for chairing these meetings, guiding through the agendas, making sure things progress as expected, and enforcing the SGPS by-laws and policy. To my right I have my Deputy Speaker: They take minutes and fill in to take on the role of the speaker. We also have our Chief Returning Officer Travis who is our other Officer of Council. He's responsible for the elections. The three of us make up the appointees of council. We serve mainly the council and not necessarily the whole society itself.

We have the five Executives –they have the task of being directors of the society. They each have specific portfolios as defined in the by-laws and policies. We're not going through that in detail. And today during the meetings and I'm going to ask that you briefly explain some of the duties that you fill in the SGPS.



Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes

A. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 10/13/15:1

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@SGPS.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@SGPS.ca)

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the October 13, 2015 Council Meeting.

Eric: Every month there's an agenda that is circulated and there's a number of sections that are available there for you. I'm going to explain what they are and what they are not. Sometimes, these sections can be used otherwise. Presentations: these are things that are strictly informational for SGPS Council. This



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may be outside groups that wish to come and speak. There's often an opportunity for question and answer. The second section is the Adoption of the Agenda in Minutes. These are the formal processes of the meeting, making sure we have an agenda to follow, and then approving the minutes of the previous meeting. Then, there's a number of sections on reports. First is the executive and speaker reports. Then, there is the senator, trustee, commissioner, committee, and other reports. These are the sections of the agenda where the reports are submitted a week in advance. Then these people will have an opportunity to add anything to these reports, and ask questions of those reports. There's a section there for departmental reports. This month there are three departmental reports submitted. There will be an opportunity for other members of council to ask you those questions.

Section 5 – This is the question period and departmental issues section. If there's something you're not sure of in your department and you have a question asked, then that's something you would submit. Again, that's seven days in advance so that goes on the agenda and people have time to think about it. Business arising from the minutes – these are things that have come up in previous meetings that still need to be dealt with. If a motion was postponed or if there was something that was a result of a committee formed at a previous meeting and a report was delivered, that could end up in a portion of the meeting.

Section 6 – Business Arising from the Minutes. This is just things that have come up in previous meetings that still need to be dealt with. So if a motion has been postponed or something was a result of a committee that was formed in a previous meeting – then that section can show up in the minutes.

Section 7 – Main Motions - There's section seven which is the main chunk of the meeting, which is the main motions. This is where all of the actions happen in the meeting. So if you do have motions for council, this is where they will end up.

Section 8 – Other Business – These are things that don't generally fall into a motion, but might be a discussion topic that was proposed by the executive or something else that needs to be dealt with. So, that's something that could end up there. That's not something you have to worry too much about on the departmental level.

Last two section – Notice of Motion and Announcements. Notice of motion is something where you're providing notice of a motion that will be happening at a later meeting. There are no motions in the SGPS that require notice of motion, but that is something that is given prior notice if necessary. There's a section on announcements. This is generally me putting in when agenda items are due for the next meeting. If you do have an announcement that you would like made, you can submit those seven days in advance and they can be put there.

Last section: The Adjournment where we end our meeting.



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So, that's really all I wanted to go through. I wanted to make sure everyone is familiar with some of the things we're going to be doing at these meetings, talking about what you can and cannot do. Just making sure everybody is a little more familiar.

Are there any questions on the second half of what I presented, anything that I triggered from the first half, or anything at all about SGPS Council? I'd be happy to take those questions now. Seeing none.

I will quickly take this opportunity to jump back and see if our representative of the Queens Graduate Outfitters has shown up. No, so we'll move on to the Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes. This is now the formal portion of our meeting. This is motion 10-13-15:1, moved by Chris Cochrane and seconded by Mark Asfar.

Eric: Be resolved that SGPS Council adopted the agenda for the October 13th, 2015 council meeting. Before we proceed, there was a motion that was included on the agenda regarding a referendum question about the athletics recreation fee. Upon further investigation, I was originally informed that this fee was originally scheduled to go to referendum in the 2015-2016 year. So what this basically means is they were required to move to the referendum – if the question was removal of the fee – if that was answered majority yes, the fee would stop existing immediately. If it was answered no, then that fee would continue to exist. Due to SGPS bylaws and policies on referendum, that fee was not allowed to go to renewal in the spring because we are not allowed to have a referendum question on the same topic twice in one year. Therefore, the question as worded would be subverting democracy. The fee would never be allowed to continue. So, I was in consultation with the mover of this motion and there was a replacement motion submitted. So, we do have that here. The gist of what this motion is we're placing the action clause at the end of this motion with the following clause:

BIRT SGPS Council approve a special referendum to be held on November 4-5, 2015 for the campaign period beginning October 23, 2015 at 12 a.m. and ending November 3, 2015 at 11:59 p.m. in accordance with P91C guidelines on the lengths of campaign periods and voting days. Be it further resolved that SGPS Council approved in accordance with P124E the following question for the special referendum.

Should the SGPS renew the Athletics and Recreation Class B mandatory fee indexed to inflation of \$165.76, this fee last went to referendum in 2009-2010. So what this means is as the fee was originally scheduled to go to referendum in the Spring, it was agreed that the intent of this motion is to have this go and see if the membership wanted this fee to continue at an earlier date. So this is essentially triggering an early renewal process for this fee. So, the question is going as of now on the agenda to ask a renewal question for this fee; that is appropriate and does not rule out of order. This is just being changed in the agenda to what you see there now. We will have discussion on this at that time.

With that being said, are there any other changes to the agenda as circulated?



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Chris: Could we add item to Other Business?

Eric: Depends, we didn't receive seven days so it requires 2/3 approval and proper justification.

Chris: Okay. I just want to have a quick discussion of something called the Graduate Leadership Summit.

Eric: Motion to amend agenda. We have a motion to amend the agenda. Is there a second to this motion? As mentioned because this did not receive that seven days approval, it does require 2/3 of voting members present to add that to the agenda. So, is there any questions on adding a discussion on the Graduate Leadership Summit?

All in favor of adding the Graduate Leadership Summit to the agenda. Opposed?

So that stands added. Are there any other changes to the agenda as circulated and amended? Seeing none. Motion 10-13-15:1 moved by Chris seconded by Mark, BIRT SGPS Council adopt the agenda October 13, 2015 council meeting.

All in favor? All opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carries.

B. Adoption of the Minutes [SEE ATTACHED MINUTES]

MOTION 10/13/15:2

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@SGPS.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@SGPS.ca)

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Minutes for the September 15, 2015 Council Meeting.

Eric: I received a number of corrections by email that were largely grammatical and corrective in nature as well as one that was slightly more. There was the reminder that the budget was not included. So I contacted Christina and she sent me a copy of the budget. So that will be included in the minutes of the September meeting. That said, are there any other changes to the minutes that were not prior communicated to me? Seeing none. All in favor? All opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carries.



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Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Chris Cochrane (report attached)

Chris: I sent in a report so hopefully everyone had a chance to read that. I just have one thing that I want to add to that because I didn't have this information until a couple of days ago. At the last council meeting one of the councilors asked me whether or not we would be showing a PhD Movie 2 on campus? I've been in contact with the PhD Movie 2 people. We're good to go pending scheduling on our side. So, I'm thinking of doing that on November 28th, but nothing is set in stone yet. So, if you want to see that movie and November 28th doesn't work for you, please let me know what would be a more convenient time for you.

Eric: Can you please explain what your role as a president is?

Chris: I'm the President and Chair of the Executive Committee. I do a lot of meetings with upper level administration on campus. If you or some of your department is having an issue that you don't know necessarily where to take it, then you can talk to me and I can help you.

- b. VP Graduate – Mark Kellenberger (report attached)

I have nothing to add to my report.

Mark K: I'm the VP Graduate. I represent all graduate students on campus. We're the SGPS and we represent professional and graduate students on the graduate side. I do a lot of work with the School of Graduate Studies. I also manage the Student Advisor Program, which is very important.

- c. VP Professional – Mark Asfar (report attached)

Mark A: I'm the VP Professional and I sit on Queens Journal Board – and updates on my report. Thank you for attending the Professional Makeover Class, lots of success. We had lots suited up. I got to see them, we were very lucky to see very attractive and professional body of students. I have something to add from the Graduate Club. As of last week, they will be going with the series fix – it's a historic part of building, it's an ongoing process. It's going down for a couple of weeks –and in spring, it will be in a couple of meetings to make our graduate space renewed.

- d. VP Finance & Services – Christina Huber (report attached)

Christina: Nothing to add. I do a lot of finance related stuff such as creating the budget. I deal everyday with bursaries and grants as well as getting them approved. I also deal with health and dental plans and all other services and clubs.



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- e. VP Campaigns & Community Affairs – Lorne Beswick (report attached)

Lorne: Nothing to add to my report. My portfolio is concerned both with representing the SGPS to organization as well as involving myself with activities with students across the wider campus. Some of my interests are better access to health and wellness, stronger and healthier communities, and better support for student therapies.

B. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Eric Rapos (report attached)

Eric: I got a new gavel. It's pretty cool, it makes sounds. I wanted to get a gavel when I was a Speaker four years ago and now it happened. That being said, prior to this meeting – there were elections held for the six representative positions for Faculty of Graduate Studies. There were two arts, two sciences and two health science spots available. With the great turnout of seven people, we filled three of those spots. We filled the arts Master's, arts PhD, and the science PhD positions. So that being said, if you are a master's student in a science discipline or any type of student in a health science discipline and are interested in sitting on your Faculty Graduate Council, please contact me at the end of this meeting. Hopefully we can fill those spots. These are very important positions. If you do have any questions about those, ask me them when the questions do come up.

Approval

MOTION 10/13/15:3

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@SGPS.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@SGPS.ca)

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Eric: This is the chance for you to ask questions of the executives or myself on any of those reports. Are there any questions?

Laith: What are the commitments of the positions that you just mentioned?

Eric: The Faculty of Graduate Council are comprised of the graduate coordinators of the departments. For example: from sciences, all of the science departments have one representative. Then, there are those two students- one Masters and one PhD. They meet prior to the Graduate Studies Executive Council to deal with things like course changes, and program changes in that particular council. Those meetings generally take between an hour and two hours once a month. Then, there's a second hour to two hours of all of the students who sit on these committees. In addition to your commitments as a counselor, it is two to four extra hours a month. Closer to that two hour mark.



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Eric: Any other questions to myself or any other executives? Seeing none. Motion 10-13-15:3, BIRTSGPS Council approved the executive and speaker reports.

All in favor?

All opposed? Abstentions. Motion carries.



Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports

A. Senator Report – Graduate Student Senator – Eric Rapos (report attached)

Eric: Nothing to add.

B. Trustee Report – Graduate Student Trustee – James MacLeod (report attached)

James: With regards to fossil fuels and investments, we are wrapping up to investment commitments. There is more lengthy and written report and I don't see any major issues there. You don't see much construction. Healthy investment reports see for healthy and life systems first.

C. Commissioner Reports

- a. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Erica Baker (report attached)

Eric: Not here.

D.

- a. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Jhordan Layne (no report)

None.

- b. Social Commissioner – Ciara Bracken-Roche (report attached)

Ciara: Nothing new to add. Social committee - please read it. We also send emails to graduate secretaries, but as I'm sure you all know the best thing is word of mouth. So please read report and tell your friends, we'd love to host you all.

E. Committee Reports

None submitted.

F. Other Reports

- a. University Rector – Mike Young (report attached)



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Mike: I'm an undergraduate student. I'm responsible to sit here to represent graduate and undergraduate professional students at Queen's. Please help me out and let me know what's going on and I'll assist you if there is anything of high level that may be outside of SGPS. A little bit of background, I exist in this position to enhance and support student life. Hopefully I'll be a resource to you, I am also relying on you being a resource to me. I was an undergraduate student it will be difficult to keep track of everything with SGPS. If there is anything that is going on not in your position or any personal issues, my office also serves rule, any academic or personal support appeals. My door is open, please take advantage of that. I'm in my fifth year as an undergraduate but I am at the same level as a grad student. I will be a professional student next year so I do have your best interest in SGPS. I look forward to it.

Eric: I forgot to mention - I'm circulating attendance. It'll be passed around. Please sign next to your name. If there are any errors or mistakes, make note of them on that sheet, but also come see me afterwards because that should be up to date. I did correct it as of 4:30 this afternoon.

b. Chief Returning Officer – Travis Skippon (report attached)

Travis: Nothing to add to report – I am chief returning officer – I hold the executive elections and the executive elections is happening in February. You won't be hearing much from me until next term.

c. Student Advisor Program Administrator – Andria Mahon (no report)

Hi I'm Andrea, I'm the Executive Assistant to the SGPS. I'm permanent staff member – my role – I put off fires and make sure the place is nice. I put contacts with who they need. If you want to be in a committee or want to participate in SGPS, you can do that. I can put you in touch with one of our student advisors – they are fellow graduate professional students that are highly trained in dealing with academic and personal issues. The program is fantastic and completely confidential. We do good work. If you have any problems, please get in touch with us.

d. Departmental Reports

i. Biomedical Engineering – Fiona Serack on behalf of Julian Chesterman (report attached)

Fiona: Nothing to add.

Eric: Julian is an outgoing council who is also transitioning. He has been here for four years and has a trouble letting go – so letting him hang out for a bit.

ii. Philosophy – Jared Houston (report attached)

Jared: Nothing to add.

iii. Political Studies – Korey Pasch (report attached)



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Korey: None.

G. Approval

MOTION 10/13/15:4

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@SGPS.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@SGPS.ca)

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

Eric: Are there any questions for myself, James, Kira, Travis, Andrea, the biomedical engineering group, Jerry or Korey? Are there any questions to any of those reports?

Marina: If graduate students are looking for career advice, where would we advise them?

Eric: Career services – Somebody could direct you with that.

Andria: You could contact me or contact Chris.

Chris: I have information.

Andria: If you are looking for career advice, you could contact myself. I could put you in contact with someone at Career Services. There are resources I could hook you up with online. If you want to reach me, my executive assistant email address is ea@SGPS.ca

Chris: I do have an addition – just to say it and it is salient. The School of Graduate Studies is actually running a Career Week for graduate and post-doctoral fellows, October 19th and 23rd. So, they have a number of career oriented events running during that week. If you search for SGPS Career Week on Google, it would be the first result.

Eric: There were emails sent out to most graduate students this afternoon. So, they would be rolling out if you haven't received one yet, you should receive it shortly.

Any other questions for any of those reports? Seeing none. Motion 10/13/15:4 moved by Chris seconded by Mark, BIRT SGPS Council approved the Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee, & Other reports.

All in favor? All opposed? Abstentions?

Motion carries.



Question Period & Departmental Issues



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A. No Questions or Departmental Issues Received



Business Arising from the Minutes

A. No Business Arising from the Minutes



Main Motions

Speaker Eric Rapos steps down from the Chair. Deputy Speaker Alan Awez Mohammad takes over chairing the meeting for the following motion.

A. Senator Term Dates

MOTION 10/13/15:5

Moved: Eric Rapos (senator@SGPS.ca)

Seconded: Chris Cochrane

Whereas the majority of Senators in the University begin their terms as of September 1st and

Whereas there are some committees of Senate that function during the summer, carrying over from the previous year; and

Whereas the Graduate Student Senator two-year term currently runs from May 1st until April 30th;

BIRT the standard two-year term for the Graduate Student Senator be changed to run from September 1st until August 30th;

BIFRT the current Graduate Student Senator's term be extended until August 30th, 2016.

Alan: Motivator? Eric.

Eric: Most of the student senators start in September term along with all faculty senators and staff senators. This has been something that no specific date has been set in our bylaws and policies. It's just been in line with our executive for the most part. That being said, there are a number of committees that function. I'm currently on one where my term on that committee extends to next August, but my term as senator ends in April. So, this is just in general to move us in line with one of the other practice



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of the university, which is fairly common. This is something that was done a couple of years ago with our executive starting in May 1st along with a number of the other executives. Just trying to help the SGPS play nice with the rest of the university.

The second part is that it is an extension of my term for an additional four months. I am fully aware of how crazy that sounds, wanting to be a senator for longer. It's something that I like to do. Just to bring everything in line, the election for the position will still take place in February along with the other elections. I would start at September, just like any other elections. It's not an uncommon practice. Our Graduate Trustee doesn't start May 1st as well. They would start later in the Summer. It brings us in practice of what should be happening. Any questions or discussions?

Chris: In our by-laws, it says the university secretariat since the term of office. Student senators is the term length. Is that an issue you need to discuss with the secretariat? Any other discussions?

Julian (granted speaking rights by Deputy Speaker): It is not currently mentioned in this motion, but should there be a pro-rating of the honorarium of the senator?

Eric: I'll do it for free. The fee was paid on completion of the full year. So, even that four extra months is not eligible. Doesn't need to be included.

Ian: I was just going to say as senator that has started on May 1st, it can be awkward, it can be better to give it on then.

Any other questions? At this point we're going to carry the motion. All in favor? All opposed? Any abstentions?

Motion carries.

Deputy Speaker Alan Awez Mohammad steps down from the Chair. Speaker Eric Rapos returns to chairing the meeting.

B. CFS Delegate

MOTION 10/13/15:6

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@SGPS.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar

Whereas the SGPS is a member local of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS); and
Whereas the CFS will be holding its 34th Annual National General Meeting from Sunday
November 22 to Wednesday November 25; and



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Whereas the SGPS Executive is unable to select from among itself a representative for this meeting due to scheduling conflicts;

BIRT SGPS Council designate [insert name here] to represent the SGPS at the 34th Annual National General Meeting of the CFS, November 22 – November 25, 2015.

Chris: Can I transfer my speaking rights to Mark A.

Eric: He's the seconder so he does get second chance.

Mark A: We attend CFS conferences and meetings, one in June, one in August. This is part of what we do as members of CFS is to vote on new policy and issues of interest to graduate students. Of particular interest is the Graduate Student Caucus. There are individuals that came forward and presented that amazing research and function on our forth. Normally I would be attending, but the CFS meeting would be scheduled at the same time as other obligations. We have other things going on and representatives attend these meetings and would like to open it to council to attend and go themselves. The conferences are very packed, from 8am to 9pm. There is free food, and company and lots of people from around the province and out of province and learn about constituents and certainly eye opening to me from Queen's and other universities.

Eric: Any further discussions? And/or nominations?

Andria: If you do choose to attend, I book the national conference itself. The 22nd to the 25th is for the national conference itself. Two days on at the beginning – in all honestly you are looking at 20th and 26th. The 21st will probably be the provincial delegate. This is a massive time commitment. If concerns about accessibility, food allergies, and who you'll be rooming with, then we can handle all of that.

Fallon: Is a report required to be written after attending? And where is it?

Andrija: It's in Ottawa Gatineau.

Eric: Are there any other questions and/or nominations?

Mark: To answer the question fully - we wouldn't ask for formal report just some information in a report.

James: Could we send Kevin Meanor?

Andrea: We did last year. It was hilarious.

Eric: He is no longer a member.



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Eric: Are there any other questions and/or nominations? Can't leave the room until somebody does it. Are there any other questions and/or nominations?

Chris: I nominate Fallon.

Mark A: Second.

Fallon: I unfortunately have to decline.

Eric: We open the floor to nominations.

Mark: I nominate Travis.

Seconded by James.

Eric: Travis do you accept?

Travis: I do not.

Eric: Mike Young can ask a question but can't nominate.

Mike Young: Could someone nominate Chris Cochrane?

Eric: He cannot go.

Eric: If we do not have to nominate, it does fall on the executive.

Chris: Nominate James McCloud.

Mark K – second.

Laith: What happens if someone is chosen but can't go?

Eric: We go through this process again in November council.

Mark A: I've repeatedly shown up – they ask why I am the only person who shows up. I tell them we are graduate students, we have obligations. If we are unable to send anyone, I'm sure we can send them a reminder that we had this discussion on several occasion. That said those of you who are worried about not doing work outside of lab, you can do work there. There are workshops but you also have time to work. There is a hotel and we do cover additional expenses. Food and cab expenses are included in that. We try to make it a percolating meeting. It is not 9am-9pm. You can get something done.

James: I would motion we table until the next meeting until we have more people.

Eric: A motion to table or postpone?



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James: Motion to postpone to November.

Chris – second.

Eric: Motion is to postpone consideration, which means this motion will remain unchanged and will appear in business arising from the minutes for the November council meeting. Is there any discussion on postponing this motion?

Question (asker unknown): I have a question: Can we open to other members?

Eric: Currently motion doesn't restrict it to be but I would defer that to the executive.

Mark A: I would prefer to have an elected member to represent the student leadership. I'd be hesitant to be sending a member, but if someone was willing to come forward, it would be by a case by case motion. It may be that is not absolutely necessary for us to go. We may get a note saying it's up to the council executive to send someone. If you get a move and no one could make it, but yeah I'd be cautious about individuals attending.

Marina: Am I allowed to ask a question?

Eric: If it pertains it to postponing, we're only allowed to discuss postponing at this point.

Marina: I have a question – does this conference have a website?

Eric: Unfortunately, I can't allow that as a question. We're only allowed to discuss postponing at this time. Is there any discussion on postponing the motion? Seeing none.

Motion postponed until November council.

C. Referendum Question: Removal of Athletics Fee

MOTION 10/13/15:7

Moved: Eric Fedosejevs (9etf@queensu.ca)

Seconded: Ian Moore

Whereas the Athletics and Recreation Complex (ARC) was to have been phase one of the three-phase Queen's Centre complex; and

Whereas phases two and three of the Queen's Centre complex were to have contained an indoor hockey rink, an indoor track, and additional student life space; and

Whereas phases two and three of the Queen's Centre complex were never completed; and



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Whereas the failure to complete phases two and three of the Queen's Centre complex has led to a lack of indoor fitness space; and

Whereas full-time on-campus student enrolment has increased 23% since the ARC opened in 2009; and

Whereas ARC usage has increased substantially since its opening, with a 10% increase in usage from Fall 2014 to Fall 2015 alone; and

Whereas there has been no significant increase in available exercise equipment at the ARC since its opening; and

Whereas as of September 2015, access to the "Lifting Zone" has been restricted to varsity athletes for much of the day; and

Whereas there is often a lack of available cardio and strength-training equipment at the ARC; and

Whereas intramural leagues are often filled early on the first day of registration; and

Whereas intramurals are often scheduled at times inconvenient for graduate students, such as past midnight; and

Whereas Queen's rents out gym space during peak usage times to off-campus organizations such as the Kingston Sport and Social Club (KSSC) and Ryatt, a Kingston-area volleyball league; and

Whereas many graduate students participate in off-campus fitness activities; and

Whereas the SGPS has an agreement for discounted gym memberships with Good Life;

BIRT SGPS Council approve the following question for special referendum:

"Should the SGPS eliminate the mandatory Athletics and Recreation fee?"

BIFRT SGPS Council approve a special referendum, to be held on November 4 & 5, 2015, with a campaign period beginning October 23, 2015 at 12:00AM and ending November 3,



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2015 at 11:59PM, in accordance with the P.9.1.c guidelines on the length of campaign periods and voting days.

Eric Rapos: BTFR the SGPS Council approved in accordance with P.1.2.4.e the following question for special referendum. Should the SGPS renew the Athletics and Recreation Class B mandatory fee that indexed to inflation of \$165.76. This fee last went to referendum in 2009-2010. Now I turn to the mover to moderate the motion. You have five minutes.

Eric Fedosejevs: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I speak for the motion and I have prepared a statement.

I have been a student at Queen's since the Fall of 2009, when the ARC was first opened, and have seen first-hand the progressive decline in the quality of fitness services offered to students in exchange for mandatory Athletics fees. Whereas, when it first opened, the ARC provided adequate access to fitness, student numbers have since increased substantially, as has per student gym usage. Indeed, the current number of full-time on-campus students is 23% higher than when the ARC first opened and, over the past year alone, ARC usage has increased by 10% according to the Director of Business Development and Operations at the ARC.

Athletics and Recreation policies, such as 1) the recent restriction on access to the "Lifting Zone" to varsity athletes for much of the day; 2) the decision to spend approximately half of its budget on varsity sports, in which very few graduate and professional students participate; 3) insufficient investment in new fitness equipment; and 4) the rental of gym space during peak usage hours to off-campus organizations such as the Kingston Sport and Social Club and Ryatt, a Kingston-area volleyball league – these policies have combined to create a situation where it is often difficult to reasonably access cardio and strength training equipment, particularly at the times most convenient to graduate students, such as before and after work.

For those who wish to participate in intramural sports, capacity in most leagues does not meet demand, and games are most often played late at night, sometimes until 12:30 am, which is particularly inconvenient for SGPS members who must work and study during regular hours. Indeed, when I was Sports Coordinator for the Biology Department, inconvenient hours were the main reason that many students chose not to participate in intramural sports. Our department instead often fielded teams with the Kingston Sport and Social Club, which in spite of team registration fees of between 500 and 1500 dollars, provided overall better value than participating in Queen's intramurals. I am aware that other groups of graduate, law and medical students have also previously formed KSSC teams.

The shortage of equipment and space at the ARC is not unexpected, as the ARC was never designed to accommodate both fitness facilities and student life space for this number of students. Indeed, the ARC



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was meant to have been phase one of the three phase Queen's Centre complex, with phases two and three containing an indoor track, hockey rink, and the student life space that is currently located in the ARC. The current Athletics fee was originally implemented by the SGPS under the understanding that phases 2 and 3 of the Queen's Centre would be constructed, and the understanding that they might include space dedicated to graduate students. Indeed, I quote Principal Woolf from his presentation to the SGPS council on February 9th, 2010 about the proposed Athletics and Recreation fee:

"I know, just as well as everyone...there is not enough room for graduate students. We are interested in pursuing a graduate centre or college space in the coming campaign."

As council knows, phases 2 and 3 of the Queen's centre were never constructed, and to my knowledge, after the fee was passed, there has been no further discussion of a graduate centre or college space on the part of the University administration.

Altogether, this paints a picture of a mandatory fee having been implemented under a false bill of sale, and which no longer provides a commensurate and reasonable level of service to the students who are forced to pay it. Many graduate and professional students therefore choose to go elsewhere to meet their fitness needs, including by taking advantage of the discounted membership agreement that the SGPS has with Good Life.

I therefore propose that SGPS council force the Athletics and Recreation fee to early renewal by special referendum. I am making this proposal for two reasons:

- First, because this is an issue of sufficient financial importance to the SGPS membership that it deserves to have its own debate, rather than be buried in the middle of an election ballot that will, regrettably, not be viewed by the vast majority of the SGPS membership
- Second, to send a message to the University administration that the current status quo is unacceptable and that regardless of the referendum's outcome, graduate and professional student issues, and particularly the provision of reasonable Athletics and Recreation services, should be taken seriously

Thank you for your time.

Eric Rapos: Would it be possible to send that to me so it can be included in the minutes. That being said, it has been brought forward. Just to provide some clarification if there may have been confusion.

Motion that is on the floor now is to call a special referendum which is within our bylaws and policies.

Council has the authority to call a special referendum. In addition, it is to add this question which is

worded in accordance with our bylaws and policies for a renewal fee. This does take care of any

concerns that have come up. So that is what we're discussing now. If you would like to speak to his



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motion, I already have a speaker's list, but raise your card and wait until I acknowledge you. I'll add you to the list. First I have Mark A.

Mark A: I'll be speaking against this motion. I understand people were frustrated with the monitions of the ARC and lifting zones and conditions and how those schedules have been designed whether this was intentional or not. I'm standing against this motion and it is happening in the New Year anyways. I have problems with specific acts with the dates given. First and foremost, it's undemocratic to rush this motion. It will likely prevent the proper discourse and they are pushing real democratic values by rushing into referendum. What's the point of democracy when making decisions based on false information? The issue is maybe it sends a message this special has had incredible low rates. And it is set in the month where all education students are on practicum. Two thirds of professional students will not be present. You are not getting students out in voting. Quite frankly a huge problem because we won't get students and facts for A&R fee - we would go to referendum in the New Year anyway. We have all paid our athletic fees – leave it to the New Year when all students are here - when everyone is here.

Mark K: I'm reiterating Mark A's points. I don't see any point moving this up. I have paid athletic fee. I have a real problem with the going forward. It would just suck SGPS resources. I would not like to go through that again. SGPS is better served going forward. I don't see a point in moving forwards.

Travis: Between both of them they hit most of the point. If we have special referendum that would not garner more participation. Having the referendum and election at the same time would be our best bet to get a better turnout, basically "piggy backing" the referendum with the election.

Cate: Info on how referendum can occur then that's the question. Rehab placement starts in last week of October – we are probably one of the larger faculties - we have about 300 members for us something like an online vote would work best, like in the regular election.

Eric Rapos: Referendum would be an online vote as well.

Jared: Whether the vote was online or in question.

Rebecca: If on its own, then we need to make election more available to people. I think everything else, I am speaking against the motion. We need to do more to make more of our election stand up rather than moving forward.

Julian (Speaking rights given by James): wording and speaking of this motion between athletic fee and Student Center related fees. The Queen's Center from Principal Wolfe implementation of students' fee –



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those are not necessarily the same as athletic fees. Those are interchangeable on what fees directly pay for these fees. I get the sense that is why there is question on this. If we change this now, regardless of the outcome further referendum would be needed – this would connect further on the fee.

Eric F: If this fee question were asked, in its current state and it was successfully renewed, it would still be on the schedule. The point at which a referendum occurs is stated that it should occur always during the executive elections so that the time frame is in academic years. So, it would need to be renewed again in three academic years. It would come to council and three years after that it would go to another referendum. There's no effect in terms of the scheduling of further referendums.

Eric Rapos: So, that is the end of my speaking list.

Laith: Few questions - address the two – first thing is was a timeline specified for Phase Two and Three. What's the effect of the vote on the ARC or SGPS members? What is the fee cover? What the SGPS would not be able to do because of the removal of the fee? The third question. What's the cost of Good Life and how close are they to campus? And I wanted to know how they would take effect. And whether it would be possible to make them optional. Lastly, what is A&R?

Eric Rapos: In terms of take effect, this would be effective the next academic year, starting September 2016. There is entirely the option to create this as an optional fee. Currently the question is dealing with the mandatory fee. The SGPS does have the concept of optional student fees as well. There would be a process to go through for that. And A&R stands for Athletics and Recreations. There were three questions regarding the timeline, the effect of the fee, and the cost of Good Life?

Mark K: The monthly cost is \$35 per month for SGPS Council. Our membership fee is \$13.

Mark A: One of them was about the Student Center Phase Two and Three. I can't speak to the time line. We're never going to Phase Two and Three. If they want, they can know about the history of that. What we're missing out on is an indoor track and indoor rink. Athletic fees was basically mostly allocated in Phase One. I'm also unsure of stuff in motion of some stuff moving in what wasn't attended for. That was plan from day one. I just wanted to add on comparative. Annual for SGPS \$165 for 12 months that's \$13.83 per month. The AMS Student fee is \$275.99 for 8 months, or \$34.50 per month. The Good Life member ship is for twelve months and works out to \$34.13. Competitive fee. Why have that fee that low? Pretty interesting who allowed. But I seriously doubt that we get that bulk as entirely together or AMS fee or outsider fee. They would like to keep us as a whole as a membership. They would like to see us completely on that.



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Andria: In effect of that fee. If we were to go to referendum, student entering members would not have access to the ARC. That's one of the problems of this motion. That we're making decisions for people who wouldn't be here. We would have to go to referendum next year or the year after. We would have to decide whether or not we want the fee to come back. Once again we're not sure how we got the price but it's a really, really good price. This could have an effect on ANR moving forward. We are essentially removing over \$700,000 from their pocket. The other question that anyone answered that we have was how far is Good Life from campus is? There are currently two Good Life – one near Food Basics and the other one is near the mall. The downtown may be twenty-four hours. The SGPS offers the practicum or are doing field work. The Good Life is quite expensive to the ARC membership. That said, I don't think it expected to be the sole option for our members. I don't think we could go lower with good life.

Eric F: Firstly, a statement made that may not have been from Queen's. Two points we are not making the decisions but asking for students to make the decisions. In the referendum we are making for that student to have that option. Many of them are not using the gym. For availability of other facilities there are facilities in Artillery Park which is less expensive than the ARC. The new gym on Princess is now open, and I guess what I would say is that I am asking for students is for the opportunities to be given for students. Also, there was question when Phase Two and Three would be completed. I ask the students be given the opportunity. It is online so whether they are at Queen's or not.

Marina: How many graduate students are there?

Eric R: The SGPS membership is approximately 4,100 give or take.

Marina: If you approach a gym in Kingston and told them the ARC no longer has 4000 members and you would like a competitive price, they may be able to give us a deal.

Mike: Just two things. First and foremost. Regardless, it's been loud and clear that from me and the current status of athletic are not satisfactory, it's commendable that it is being brought up. It is a concern and there was one other thing to consider and one question from referendum if moved up. It should be discussed, there might be other players and they might think it's not fair.

Mark A (Speaking rights from Christina): Clearly there is a lot of care about this, physical to mental well-being, to overall well-being. I strongly agree. I agree for vote, but not vote for right now. I think it's fairly problematic. I know that some of the best campaigning are happening from students. And the voting take time - whether law students in Toronto vote, I would be flabbergasted. Not to mention teachers and I think it's an unfair burden to be expected and vote online. And I do think its an SGPS issue. We ask



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A&R these numbers and students do care about these issues broadly. We had about 5,500 graduate students about two years ago. We got a lot of members who are using this membership. Leave it for the New Year when we will still have this democratic discussion. But do it in a month when no practicum, when people have better democratic process. That's all I'm asking for.

Eric R: We have reached half an hour for this debate. Is there a motion to extend discussion?

Eric R: Seeing none, we move to a vote on the motion.

Motion does not carry.

Brings us to the end of Main Motions. Brings us to Other business.

We did add a discussion on Graduate Leadership Summit.



Other Business

A. Graduate leadership summit.

Chris: This is an initiative that is going together in tandem with the School of Graduate Studies and the SGPS. Essentially, this is going to be super controversial to say. The PhD questions the relevance of the PhD and its current structure. Students in PhD understand this. The university understands this. But we don't really have any way forward. The purpose of the First or inaugural SGS SGPS graduate leadership summit, essentially is just to start the interdisciplinary discussion about the structure of the PHD to see if anything needs to be changed to make it more relevant to current market forces and interests in the modern economy when most of these structures went into place. Hopefully you received through your departmental assistance. What I am looking for today is if there are any councilors that are willing to participate in those discussions. If I could have 10 people, I would love it. This kind of summit is happening this Saturday. You don't have to be a PhD student or PhD candidate to participate. Masters students are welcome because you do have that research interest and you are a part of the research field as well. Either speak up now or please come after the meeting.

Eric R: Since this is raised as a discussion topic. We do open the floor to discussion now.

Lorne: Is it this Saturday?

Chris: Yes.



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Eric R: Are there any other questions, comments or discussions on the Graduate Leadership Summit?

Travis: This summit is going to be the structure about discussions at Queen's?

Chris: Essentially yes. Are there any things we need to change about the structure of it? Is writing 600 page document that useful? 10% of PhD holder's actually end up in academic specific positions. Is that very academic process of writing actually relevant? Could we change the way we do things to make it more relevant? To add to this, the Deans from the School of Graduate Studies and Associate Deans from four of the faculties will be attending. The administration is taking this very seriously.

Laith: Two question. What time? And two what are the next steps after the discussions?

Chris: It's roughly 9:30am-3:30pm. So it's like a day and lunch is provided. The next steps essentially depends on what we come up with. The Dean of Graduate Studies, we had a discussion about when we want our changes for. This is a very short term change that she wants.

Eric R: Any other discussions?

Faleh: Do we have to attend for the whole time?

Chris: Essentially. Unfortunately yes.

Eric R: Any other questions? Seeing none.



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Notices of Motion & Announcements

A. Notices of Motion

- a. No Notices of Motion Received

B. Announcements

- a. The next SGPS Council Meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 10, 2015 at 5:30pm** in the McLaughlin Room. Motions and Reports are due to the Speaker **no later than 4pm on Tuesday, November 3, 2015**.
- b. The SGPS Fall General Meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 5:30pm** in Wallace Hall in the JDUC. Motions and Reports are due to the Speaker **no later than 4pm on Saturday, November 7, 2015**. I do encourage you to get people from your departments out to the general meeting. That is where there are in depth reports about what has gone on since the last general meeting as well as any bylaw changes if there were any. Which I do not believe there are any that will be going to this general meeting, unless something comes up at the November council meeting. So, bylaw changes are current as the second reading at these meetings as well as any policies on stipends that do happen at these meetings as well. That being said, are there any other announcements?

Mark A: Vote in the elections. Follow us on twitter.



Adjournment

A. Adjournment

Motion 10/13/15:8

Moved: Chris Cochrane (president@SGPS.ca)

Seconded: Mark Asfar (vpp@SGPS.ca)

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

All in favor?

All opposed? Abstentions? Meeting adjourned.



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Attendance

Present Members (SGPS Non-Voting Members):

- Andria Burke
- Ciara Bracken-Roche
- Mathieu Crupi
- Eric Rapos
- Alan Awez Mohammad
- Travis Skippon
- Mike Young

Present Members (SGPS Voting Members):

- Chris Cochrane
- Mark Kellenberger
- Mark Asfar
- Christina Huber
- Lorne Beswick
- James MacLeod
- Eric Rapos
- Ian Moore
- Cate Preston

Present Members (Non-Departmental Voting Members):

- None

Present Members (Faculty of Arts & Science Departmental Voting Members):

- Rachael Hencher sends her regrets
- Eric Fedosejevs
- Fallon Bowman
- Laith Juwaidah
- Tatevik Vika Nersisyan
- Nemoy Lewis



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- Marina Joury
- Anastasiya Boika
- Robert Bently sends his regrets
- Jared Houston
- Faleh Aftal
- Korey Pasch
- Sara Furlano
- Dominic Kucharski
- Julia Sjaarda

Present Members (Faculty of Health Sciences Departmental Voting Members):

- Tess Montminy
- Piriya Yoganathan

Present Members (Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science Departmental Voting Members):

- Fiona Serack
- Kenneth Mak

Present Members (School of Business Departmental Voting Members):

- Jonathan Samosh sends his regrets
- James Barsby
- George Chalhoub sends his regrets

Present Members (Faculty of Education Departmental Voting Members):

- None

Present Members (Faculty of Law Departmental Voting Members):

- Megan Berlin
- Cecilia Yang
- Carly Watt
- Rebecca Torrance