



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the President  
December 2012

Hello Council! Not much has happened for me since our General Meeting, so this report will be briefer than usual.

### **Campus Master Plan and Library and Archives Master Plan**

On Friday, November 30th, about eleven SGPS members, including some of you, met with CS&P Architects, the consultants for the Library and Archives Master Plan (LAMP). Thank you to all who attended. We had users of all of the libraries at Queen's and discussed the concerns with the Lederman Law library (which we will be discussing again at this meeting) as well as talking about the state of library equipment, the merits of digitization, and graduate student exclusive space. The meeting encouraged me to think big about what we can achieve for SGPS members. I will continue to sit on the LAMP steering group and have regular access to the consultants, so please continue to offer feedback.

The LAMP process is also part of the Campus Master Plan process, which will look at campus space over the next twenty years. Tony Gkotsis, the SGPS Board of Trustees rep, sits on the steering group for the Campus Master Plan. Tony, Anne-Marie (SGPS Executive Assistant) and I met with the consultants for that project (Urban Strategies Inc.) on Monday. We discussed, again, graduate and professional student exclusive spaces, as well as grad student office needs, after-hours access to buildings, athletics needs, accessibility and sustainability, and housing needs.

Both meetings were very positive and I look forward to seeing what will come of the Plans. Please send any feedback our way. You can also refer to the Campus Master Plan website here: <http://queensu.ca/cmp/>. The LAMP website should be up soon.

### **"Curiosity Driven": the SGPS radio show!**

I mentioned this briefly at the General Meeting and it has been in the newsletter, but the SGPS is partnering with CFRC volunteers to create a documentary series on graduate and professional student research and other experiences. We do a lot of unique research and contribute greatly to the community as teachers and lawyers-in-training. Yet, these accomplishments often passed unnoticed even among fellow postgraduate students, let alone the rest of the Queen's community. A show such as this would also increase our profile in the greater Kingston community. I hope that SGPS members will enjoy it as a different way to share research: a sort of alternative to the conference scene.

I encourage all interested parties to submit a call for proposals and apply to become a subject for one of the documentaries. The deadline is December 17th: <http://www.sgps.ca/events/downloads/curiosity-driven.pdf>

### **Student Life Centre**

You will have noticed that a new Tim Horton's has opened, or at least will open soon, in the JDUC, in what used to be the post office. That is University space (as opposed to AMS and SGPS space) so it was their decision to make, though they presented the idea to SLC Council in the summer. All profits from it

and other Tim Horton's go to the University, so I encourage you to keep that in mind when choosing your food options on campus. Common Ground Express remains open in the upper JDUC. Also, the Tuck Shop, Signatures, the grocer, and Drug Smart all contribute to the SLC budget, which the SGPS pays into as well. If you have any idea for services in the Student Life Centre, please let me know. There is a tentative hope to bring back a postal service in some form or other, but that is just informally discussed so far.

You will also have noticed that the JDUC is getting re-tiled. The new tiles are better quality and are based on the ones used in the Queen's Centre. They will hopefully bring consistency not only to the floor of the JDUC, but also serve as at least a subtle aesthetic clue that the space is linked to the Queen's Centre as one Student Life Centre. The JDUC lockers will also be replaced. The total cost of the new tiles is around \$190,000 from the SLC capital expenditures budget, of which the SGPS pays only a small amount, probably less than 10%. (Actually, it has borrowed from next year's capital budget, as well). The new lockers will cost around \$7000. I challenged the need for the new lockers, but I admit that they will probably look better with the new tiles. Any AMS or SGPS member is allowed to rent a locker. Please see the SLC website for more details: <http://www.studentlifecentre.ca/lockers.html>. (By the way, the new website ran way under budget). Future projects for the SLC involve buying more tables: tables like the ones we use for our Council meetings (there was a distinct shortage last meeting!) and something other than cafeteria tables for the lower ceiling in the JDUC.

A final note: the Management and Operations Agreement that governs the management of the SLC is up for renewal. We hope to use this opportunity to smooth out some of the problems that have come up with the SLC (which is still a very young system).

That's all. As always, thank you for the time that you give to Council!

Cha Gheill,

Matthew Scribner

President  
[president@sgps.ca](mailto:president@sgps.ca)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report from the VP Graduate  
December 2012

Dear SGPS Council Members and Members-At-Large,

### **SGS-SGPS Meetings**

The SGS is open to further consultation with graduate students on the issue of time to completion, and I believe that further departmental discussions, through brown-bag lunches and other forums, would be beneficial. If you would like help in organizing a conversation with your colleagues about this issue, please e-mail [vpg@sgps.ca](mailto:vpg@sgps.ca). I would like to coordinate all sessions by the end of January 2013.

### **Post-Residency Fees**

Post-Residency Fees are “reduced tuition fees paid by graduate students upon completion of course work, during the independent research and thesis writing stages of their degrees” (<http://graduatestudents.ca/section/22> 2010). The Canadian Federation of Students, of which the SGPS is Local 27, has developed a campaign around this topic because high/increasing tuition fees can make it difficult for people to enter and to complete, either on time or at all, their graduate degrees. Campaign materials (posters and petitions) are available and I would encourage you to take these to your departments. E-mail [vpg@sgps.ca](mailto:vpg@sgps.ca) with any questions.

### **Student Advisor Program**

The Student Advisors will host two **Understanding the Student-Supervisor Relationship workshops** next year:

Date: Monday, January 14

Time: 5:30-7:00pm

Location: Ed Churchill Hall of Friendship, inside QUIC, 2nd floor of the JDUC.

Date: Monday, January 21

Time: 5:30-7:00pm

Location: John Orr Rm 344, 3rd floor of the JDUC.

Please tell your friends and e-mail the Advisors at [advisors@sgps.ca](mailto:advisors@sgps.ca) if you would like to participate in any way.

### **Academic Affairs Standing Committee Meeting (AASC)**

Following the release of a memo by the SGS in November regarding T4A status the AASC developed a table, to better define the two categories (T4/T4A), because they felt that students required additional information to make a decision regarding which status best matched their research activities. This information will be posted, in some form, on the Human Resources website. It should be noted that a change to T4A status is not mandatory and you should work with your supervisor to determine which status you fall under. In the event that it is unclear whether the research activities are related to one's own research or is indeed employment, the student will be assigned to T4 status.

**FREE Queen's**

If you would like to get involved in this year's FREE Queen's event (as either a volunteer instructor or as a member of the Steering Committee) please contact the FREE Queen's Coordinator, Shadi at [freequeens@sgps.ca](mailto:freequeens@sgps.ca).

Respectfully,

Becky Pero

VP Graduate  
vpg@spps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the VP Campaigns & Community Affairs  
December 2012

Dear SGPS Members,

Before I get to the main business, let me plug the December 6th Vigil on the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, which our indispensable Executive Assistant Anne-Marie Grondin has been working very hard on for some time now. The Vigil will be held in Wallace Hall on Thursday, Dec 6th, 2012 at 6:00 pm. Hopefully you get this report before then!

The main event of note since my last report was the recently completed CFS National General Meeting (NGM), held from Tues Nov 27th to Fri Nov 30th. The SGPS brought four motions to the NGM, including

- a motion condemning cuts to the Attendance Grants for Scholarly Associations SSHRC program (2012/11:N02)
- a motion calling for more gender-diverse identification options for CFS services (2012/11:N03)
- a motion proposing a new food sovereignty policy (2012/11:N04)
- a motion condemning the planned changes to the name and mandate of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (2012/11:N05)

All motions were well received, passing the closing plenary without opposition, although there were some small modifications in some cases (language against food service monopolies was softened somewhat in N04, as some locals claimed to have a good relationship with their food service providers; in N05, a call for a protest at the Museum of Civilization during the NGM was called off for logistical reasons). The motions in their original form remain available on the SGPS website; the motions in the form that passed closing plenary will be made available as soon as the CFS provides minutes for the NGM.

Speaking of minutes ... one of the locals brought a motion that would require the CFS to post its minutes online as soon as they're completed, together with an audit summary. This was just one of several motions, largely coming from Windsor, U of T grads, and Dawson (a CEGEP in Montreal, and the only remaining CFS local in Quebec) that sought to reform the CFS by e.g. live-streaming the opening and closing plenary sessions, changing the bylaws around defederation (which are currently quite strict), and ending the lawsuits against locals (largely in Quebec) who are currently locked in two-way legal disputes with the CFS over their membership status. Most of these motions failed quite spectacularly, encountering significant resistance from the CFS leadership. Nevertheless there was a lively debate over these issues, including during the elections for national chair, deputy chair, and treasurer positions (during which I was shocked to find that the numerical results of the elections are confidential!) Delegates returned home with a lot to think about. For another view on all of this, see this recent article in U of T's *Varsity*:

<http://thevarsity.ca/2012/12/03/quebec-driven-reforms-voted-down-at-cfs-national-meeting/>

In large part due to these debates, closing plenary finished with approximately half of the campaigns-related motions un-passed: these will be brought to the next NGM, in May.

There were also several emergency motions of note, all of which I believe passed unanimously, including:

- a motion from the National Aboriginal Caucus condemning treaty-violating language in Bill C-45, the federal government's (other) omnibus budget bill
- a motion denouncing the Supreme Court of Quebec's 'contempt of court' verdict against Gabrielle Nadeau-Dubois for his actions during the student strike
- a motion condemning the police violence that accompanied a protest against a speaker hosted by a 'men's rights awareness' group at U of T, and the subsequent Internet intimidation of key activists involved in the protest
- a motion condemning the federal government's unequivocal support of Israel against Palestine (which I modified at the last minute to include a public statement of support and congratulations for UN recognition of Palestinian statehood)

The final emergency motion made history: the CFS has never before taken a stance on the Israel/Palestine issue.

In the end, it was a bit of a mixed bag: some really great things came out of it, but also, in my opinion, some really troubling aspects of the CFS were brought to the fore. Many people have criticized the CFS for its perceived bureaucratic hierarchy and seemingly deliberately opaque structure. The elections policy is rather symbolic of this to me: while it seems a small thing, have you ever in your life heard of an election in which the numbers are not immediately made public? I can't think of any reasonable justification for this, nor (upon following up with some of the CFS staff) was any justification given.

This has made me think that the CFS is more in need of reform than I had at first thought. If anyone reading this agrees, and has ideas for specific reforms that could be brought to the Ontario General Meeting in January (or prepared for the next NGM in May), please let me know at [vpcca@sgps.ca](mailto:vpcca@sgps.ca)

Also, if you'd like to come, let me know! We only sent two delegates to the last three GMs (myself and Matt Scribner in May, myself and Anne-Marie Grondin to the OGM in August and the last NGM). Two is not enough and we would love to send more.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Shultz

VP Campaigns & Community Affairs  
[vpcca@sgps.ca](mailto:vpcca@sgps.ca)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Executive Assistant  
December 2012

Oh, Council. I've written you so many reports in the last short while that I'm not sure what more to tell you. I'll start off by wishing you a happy, and hopefully healthy, end of term.

You may have noticed something afoot with the emergency blue lights on campus. Hoping to re-personify the blue lights (on which I reported at the last regular Council meeting), the Blue Lights Campaign committee decorated fourteen of them with white ribbons, to commemorate the lives of the 14 women in Engineering who were murdered at Ecole Polytechnique on December 6, 1989. Blue lights and other mechanisms of crime prevention through environmental design were actively sought out in the University sector in the aftermath of the Polytechnique massacre. The provincial grant created to support women's safety (the same one used to pay for the lights' implementation and repair) was also a product of the government's reflection on the need to make campuses safer. The launch of the campaign was also coordinated to promoting the December 6<sup>th</sup> vigil, set to be held this Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm, in Wallace Hall. The selected blue lights were also equipped with posters depicting statistics related either to violence on campus or to blue light incidents, as well as a QR code that linked to the event and campaign website (<http://www.wedontstopkingston.com>). For their creativity and their help, I would like to thank Campus Security and all our partners.

The campaign debuted on the same day as the blue lights issue went to Queen's Senate. Perhaps not surprisingly (sad statement to make, indeed), Queen's administration leaned on the AMS President to suggest that the blue lights issue was singularly a "student issue" requiring a "student response". While students have done quite a lot, and have devoted significant resources to this, however, the problem persists (87+ malicious activations since September 2012). As such, we hope that continued attention to the issue will help us to galvanize sufficient support to eventually get the message out that Queen's does not tolerate malicious activations of the blue lights – and, at the very least, that we don't tolerate the sale of the blue light jacket bar. To this end, we have come up with a media strategy that, so far, has proven fairly effective. For one, I was featured in a student documentary on the issue. We hope to continue collaborating with the documentary producers to get the word out further. I was also interviewed by a journalist at the Kingston Whig Standard. Further to that, Pam Cross, Lawyer, Legal Director of METRAC, and co-organizer of the Blue Lights campaign, was approached for an interview by JC Kenney of CBC Radio. Additionally, the organizing committee published an op-ed in Kingston This Week. Furthermore, we secured a Proclamation by City Council, and have organized a delegation to Council on the evening of December 4<sup>th</sup>. Of course, the blue lights issue will also feature in this year's December 6<sup>th</sup> vigil (which you can follow on Twitter #Dec6Kingston). We hope you can join the SGPS, the AMS, Student Affairs, local City Councilors, politicians, and other community leaders on December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm, beginning in Wallace Hall. You can also pledge your commitment to ending gender-based violence by writing appending your pledge to a Hope & Action tree. One tree is located at the Kingston Public Library, the other, in front of the AMS office in the JDUC.

Blue lights aside, I attended the CFS National General Meeting last week (November 27 to 30). My co-delegate Matt Shultz will undoubtedly provide you with the details of that in his report. I also accompanied Matt Scribner to a meeting of the Campus Master Planners. Again, Matt can fill you in – but I'll report on my observation that the Planners and Architects were receptive to hearing the need for more graduate and professional student living and studying/teaching space.

Finally, we interviewed some incredibly qualified applicants for the Equity Coordinator's position, and will be making our hiring decision public shortly. Our search for Work/Study Outreach Coordinator continues, though we have interviewed a few people.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Grondin

Executive Assistant  
ea@sgps.ca





Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Speaker  
December 2012

Dear Council,

As many of you are aware, the Fall General Meeting went off without a hitch, which I am very pleased about! The structure of the meeting was slightly different to that of the traditional Council meeting, but we are back to the usual format now!

As promised, I am reporting (albeit earlier than planned) on the case before the Judicial Committee. Owing to the fact that Campus Security withdrew their complaint, as of November 29, 2012 the case has been closed. We have no further cases at this time.

I hope that you all enjoy the upcoming holidays, and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

James MacLeod

Speaker  
speaker@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Social Commissioner  
December 2012

It's difficult to get into the Winter spirit with all of this rain, but we're trying here at the Social Team HQ! We're planning a skating afternoon mid-December (Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:00pm-4:30pm). We'd love to say you and your families come skate or slide or slip around with us.

The SGPS has men's, women's and children's skates in various sizes and they are available to rent FREE of charge. The skates are due back the next business day before 4:30 pm. Please be prepared to leave some form of identification at the SGPS office. Your ID will be returned to you upon the return of the skates.

Email [social@sgps.ca](mailto:social@sgps.ca) if you have any questions!

If we don't get a chance to see each other before the holiday, have a festive December and we'll see you back in January!

Best,  
Cassandra Kuyvenhoven

SGPS Social Commissioner  
[social@sgps.ca](mailto:social@sgps.ca)

Not as much as usual to report as we had 2 meetings (regular Council and a General Meeting) in November.

#### SGPS Computer Network

- I have been working on a significant update to the calendar server. My intention is to patch the server with the updated calendar software during the winter holiday office closure so it will have minimal impact on office operations.
- I have also been working on updates to the mail server, which will be patched at the same time as the calendar update.
- Looking into the possibility of a hardware upgrade for our mail/wiki server. The volume of data that routes through the server is large and the hardware can sometimes have issues keeping up with demand. Pricing and upgrade cycle possibilities will be discussed with the Exec and brought to Council as more information is available.

#### SGPS Website

- Updated the travel (health) section of the website to reflect updates in the policy, a new travel brochure and a new travel policy number.

#### Communications

- Created the call for Curiosity Driven, which can be found at:
  - <http://www.sgps.ca/events/downloads/curiosity-driven.pdf>
- Worked with Becky (VPG) to bring a motion to Council to update Student Advisor policy.
- I am working to improve transitional documents for staff.
- Anne-Marie and I have begun work on a comprehensive update to our job posting documents. This work will continue over the next couple of months.
- I am compiling a list of all past motions (directive based non policy changing) so the Exec can reference Council directives that are not reflected in our B&Ps. This task is very near to completion.
- I am working with our Equity Commissioner on some new forms and protocols to help a subsection of our membership. We are in the final stages and the final form will be prepared and released in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Richards - [info@sgps.ca](mailto:info@sgps.ca)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the International Team  
December 2012

Dear SGPS Council Members,

We seem to be doing much the same thing this past month as the one before – that is, we’re working on the Accent Discrimination Campaign and assembling membership for the International Affairs Standing Committee.

In the past month, we’ve been focusing on the fact that the survey needs not only to be persuasive but appear to be persuasive in order to effect policy change within the SGS, say. Sara Pavan, one of the Student Advisors with a particular interest in international students, is now involved with this project also.

The International Affairs Committee has been assembled, (at last!) and will be meeting early next year.

Finally, I’d like to draw your attention to this information from the Information and Services Technology Student Advisory Committee. Kris, the rep on this committee, has attended the three meetings held this semester. Discussion mainly focused on making SOLUS, Moodle, and Queen's email services more effective and user-friendly. Library Services would like to remind students of the availability of Open Journal Systems at Queen's University which allows for free publishing and management of online journals (<http://library.queensu.ca/ojs/index.php/index>). Stauffer Library will be installing a free book scanner and is also looking into improving self-check out, printing, charging station, and microfilm facilities. They welcome feedback on what students need to get their work done.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns about the above, or if you have any ideas that you would like to share pertaining to international students at Queen’s.

With best wishes,

The SGPS International Team

Holly McIndoe

International Student Affairs Commissioner  
[international@sgps.ca](mailto:international@sgps.ca)

Kris Singh

International Student Affairs Coordinator  
[isc@sgps.ca](mailto:isc@sgps.ca)

Hello Everyone!

This month started out with the second of two meet-and-greet Equity Standing Committee meetings. The members of the committee are all wonderful and I am hopeful that we will be a productive group. The focus will be the supervisor-supervisee report regarding recommendations to be presented to the Executive about ways in which the supervisor-supervisee issues at Queen's can be dealt with. This initiative is likely to take off in the New Year. Also, there will be a call out for more committee members as the more hands, the better! In relation to this I also met with one of the student advisors to discuss the issue. As this goal progresses the student advisors will be an invaluable wealth of knowledge as they are on the front lines of the student difficulties.

This month also saw the finalization of the Human Rights survey sent to all SGPS staff. This survey is optional but is meant to gather information regarding the hiring of designated groups by the SGPS. A report will be provided to the SGPS in three years time, to let us know if we are on the right track regarding the hiring of designated groups.

As the SGPS Equity Commissioner, I had the pleasure of being on the Staff Appreciation committee, which was responsible for determining who would win the Queen's staff appreciation award. This was a lovely experience. Queen's is very blessed to have some of the hard working and devoted staff that we have!

This month also saw the second of the Education Working Group meetings regarding the AODA legislation that was meant to be in place by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. This is going to be a very active committee as it is responsible for designing and implementing accessibility training for all staff members at Queen's. The committee I am sitting on is only one of four of the committees focused on this work. It is going to be a big job, but an important one!

I attended the Geography department's meeting regarding completion times. I have also been in contact with Matt Shultz and Becky Pero that our various committee reports could be amalgamated in order to produce a more powerful report to present to the SGS. I am hoping to meet with them at the start of the New Year.

The last week of November also saw the graduate student meeting with the library architects to discuss the development of the library systems at Queen's over the next 20 years. Likewise, the last week of November I met with Jean from the Human Rights Office, who runs the Positive Space Program, and we arranged that the SGPS will be involved in processing the cheque for the Positive Space Award this year, since the previous group who handled this task, OPIRG, has more or less disbanded.

And that's about it!

Robin Westland  
Equity Commissioner  
equity@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Chief Returning Officer  
December 2012

Greetings Council,

Sorry for the lack of written reports for the past couple of meetings, not too much has been going on with my portfolio.

### **Elections and Referenda**

In regards to elections, the big news here is that the new bylaws and policies have been passed and are now in effect, meaning the election dates will be later this year than in the past. Official dates are not set until the February Council Meeting, but as a heads up for interested parties, the dates that will be brought forth will be March 26 & 27, 2013.

I encourage anyone who is interested to contact me (or let anyone you know who may be interested to do the same) for more details, or contact any of the current executive in regards to their positions. Lots of advertising will be happening soon, and things will be getting underway sooner than you think.

The Winter Referendum will be taking place within the same time lines, so if you are a group looking to establish a new student fee, or looking for an increase, or you are just looking to hold a referendum to obtain the support of the SGPS for some issue, this is your chance. Please get in touch for more details. Also, student fees that are up for renewal will be part of the referendum as well, and will be contacted shortly (if not already) with more information on what is required of them.

### **SLC Council**

SLC Council met on November 26 to continue discussions about the retiling of the JDUC. Council previously approved a proposal to retile main area of the JDUC to increase the visual appeal of the building, bringing it in line with other Student Life Center Buildings (namely the Queen's Center). The quotes came in under cost of the original approved amount, and because of this we were able to increase the amount of space that is being retiled, and stay within the original budgeted amount, meaning that areas linking the main areas will also be able to be tiled.

Tiling will be taking place over the holiday and University closure periods, so as to avoid as much disturbance as possible, however, there may be times when areas of the JDUC will be inaccessible; keep an eye on the SLC webpage for updates on progress.

Additionally, there was a proposal to replace the lockers located in the JDUC, as many of them (10-15) have been damage so badly they cannot be used. Since they need to be removed to retile those areas anyway, the idea was brought forth to replace them with new lockers, out of the 2012-2013

Operations Budget Capital Renewal and Repair line of the SLC Budget. SLC Council conducted an email vote on this after the meeting such that additional details could be made available; in the end Council approved this expenditure and will be replacing the lockers in the JDUC.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos

Chief Returning Officer  
cro@sgps.ca