



Hello Council,

I hope this report finds you well, and that you have weathered the storm that is November on campus. As usual, I've broken up my activities into SGPS-specific and University-level in my report for ease of reading. There are also a few things I wanted to put on everyone's radar before the December break.

SGPS Specific

Elections!

There are two elections coming up early next term, and I hope some of you will hear the call and put your name in to run. The first election will be that for the position of Rector. The Rector is the highest student position in the University, and sits for 3 years (though 2 year terms are typical). The current rector, Mike Young, will be ending his term with the 2015/2016 academic year. For historical reasons, the Rector election is run in tandem with the AMS election, and so will take place in January. SGPS members are eligible to run for Rector, and I strongly encourage anyone interested to learn more. The Rector's website is at <http://www.queensu.ca/rector/>, and I would be willing to chat with anyone who wants to learn a bit more. I've already met with a few undergraduates who are interested in running, and I hope to see at least one graduate or professional student on the ticket.

The second election coming up is the SGPS election for the 2016/2017 year! The election for SGPS Executive, as well as a few other offices, will take place in early February, and it's never too early to start thinking about getting involved. If you're even remotely considering running for any of the positions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the person currently in the position to learn more. More details will be coming in January.

Alumni Relations

There were two significant events in November related to SGPS Alumni relations. First up - Our VP Finance and I met with an alumni donor to receive a donation earmarked for dental bursaries. This alumnus had benefited from the bursary program while a student, and wanted to give back to community. The donor has chosen to remain anonymous, but we are very grateful for the support that will allow us to help even more members.

Principal Woolf expressed an interest in learning more about the ongoing discussions I've been having with the Queen's community about introducing a graduate student focus on our annual Homecoming events. This is an exciting development, as having the support of the Principal will greatly assist in realizing our ideas. This was also an area that University Council advised us to focus on following our November meeting. I will keep Council posted on any further developments.

Corporate

My major involvements in corporate activities this month were in supporting VPP Asfar and VPF Huber in their roles, but there are two specific meetings that I would like to bring to your attention. VPF Huber and I, along with our staff, met with StudentVIP, the provider for our health and dental plan. We discussed the performance of our plan over the last year, and some options for modifications to the plan and reporting that we hope will allow for greater transparency in the service delivery. If you have any concerns about the current plan, please contact either of us to help us understand how we should focus any future modifications. We also met with our account manager at the bank to discuss cash flow management strategy and investments. The SGPS has traditionally had a very inefficient use of its cash reserve, and we hope to have a better cash management framework in place before we leave office.

University Level

Severe Allergies Review Committee

I have been part of ongoing work with the Severe Allergies Review Committee. The committee held an open consultation with students in November and has had numerous consultations with community stakeholders (parents, doctors, campus security, etc.). The (lack of) availability of a variety of “allergy friendly” food service providers on campus is one identified area of particular concern for SGPS members, since our membership does not use the cafeterias or occupy the residences in a significant way. If any of you are aware of other specific issues that may be facing graduate students in the area of allergy or anaphylaxis on campus, please let me know.

Provost Hiring

I participated in first-round interviews for the new Provost. The specifics of the interview process are confidential, but I believe that we will have made a decision by January.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas about anything going on in the SGPS, please contact me. Otherwise, I hope the exam period treats you well and that you are able to take a bit of a break at the end of the semester.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Cochrane
President, SGPS
president@sgps.ca



Dear Council,

It is astonishing to me that its already the end of classes for the fall term. For those of you that have exams, study hard and good luck! Remember to eat well, take breaks and just find some time to relax during this stressful period. I am so glad I will never have to write another university exam again. Just an entire PhD thesis.

Student Advisor Program

The Student Advisor Program currently has 11 active cases in total. During the month of November an incident highlighted the Program's need for greater safety protocols. Until we can implement these protocols, which centre around the safety of the Advisors, walk in hours will be closed. The Advisors are still taking clients and can be reached at advisors@sgps.ca The program will be closing for winter break on Wednesday December 16th and email will not be check until the office reopens on January 4th.

Following up on a request from the Student Advisors, I had a meeting with the Department of Student Affairs regarding options for students in crisis and a well-defined response plan from Student Wellness Services to be in a position. Details of this plan will continue to be worked on along with the Program Administrator and the Student Advisors.

Fall Graduate Forum

I was invited by the School of Graduate Studies to attend their 2015 Fall Graduate Forum, where Dr. Mahadeo Sukhai spoke to Graduate assistants and Coordinators about accommodations and strategies for graduate students with disabilities. Dr. Sukhai is the Senior Advisor for the National Education Association of Disabled Students (NEADS), who's mandate is to support full access to education and employment for post-secondary students and graduates with disabilities across Canada. His talk was very insightful and prompted many questions from attendees about how they can best serve graduate students in their departments. If anyone is looking for more information on Dr. Sukhai's talk or NEADS please contact me.

Educational Technology Award

Queen's Information Technology Services invited me to participate on the adjudication panel for the inaugural Education Technology Award. This award recognizes staff and faculty for innovative uses of technology to enhance teaching. After some careful deliberation, winners were chosen and will be announced shortly. If you know of anyone who effectively uses technology to enhance the student learning experience, be sure to nominate them for this award next year!

Committees

The Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC) met for the third time this year and discussions were focused on program modifications as well as Sessional Dates for the 2016-2017 academic year. There has been a review in place to consider a Fall term break, which at this point looks like an extended Thanksgiving break. Discussions are still ongoing and will go through Senate before being implemented.

The Graduate Student Life Advisory Group met for the second time and discussion centered on what to do with the award funds received by the SGS from CAGS for their Habitat website. Plans for Queen's 175th Anniversary were also discussed through a Graduate-focused lens.

If you have any questions or comments about an issue, please feel free to send me an email at vpg@sgps.ca. Make sure to participate in the SGPS social media contest to win a pair of tickets to see the best hockey team ever, the Toronto Maple Leafs! Just post a short story about how the SGPS has helped you and be sure to use the hashtag #mysgps. Good luck and keep smiling!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark Kellenberger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a red flourish at the end.

Mark Kellenberger
Vice President Graduate
vpg@sgps.ca



Dear SGPS Council Members,

Thank you to those of you who attended the SGPS General Meeting in November. Your questions and feedback were deeply appreciated, and I believe that we also made a positive contribution to the discussion on Non-Academic Misconduct with Principal Woolf. If you have any questions about NAM or the review process going forward I strongly encourage you to get in touch with the SGPS Executive, or the review committee.

The month of November has been a fairly busy one at the SGPS as the Human Resources restructuring has continued. I am happy to report that we received many excellent applications for our four commissioner positions, and had a highly qualified pool of candidates to choose from. Further, the individuals we interviewed demonstrated tremendous professionalism, motivation, and skill. Making the final decision for each commission was incredibly challenging, but I believe that the four individuals we have selected to be commissioners for the coming year show incredible promise. I have no doubt that under their guidance the commissions will do some fantastic work to enrich the lives of our members.

Going forward I hope to call the Human Resources Standing Committee in the New Year to help me with completing the HR restructuring project. Specifically I hope to re-examine our performance review process, discipline system, and termination policies. If you know anyone with an interest in human resources, employment law, or policy work please direct them to email me at vpp@sgps.ca . I plan to call the committee in January of 2016, and a list of interested candidates will be invaluable to this process.

Until then, I would like to thank all of you for a very exciting 2015. The last few months with the SGPS have simultaneously been some of the most challenging and rewarding of my student career. I am particularly grateful to all of you who regularly attend council, who represent their students interests, and who help the society do all the great work that it does. Robert's Rules of Order and our monthly debates over policy and politics may not be very glamorous, but it is the backbone of our society and guides the practical work that we do to enrich students' lives and experiences here at Queen's. I hope you all take a well-deserved break over the winter holiday, and I look forward to seeing you all again in the new year.

As always, if you have any questions I would love hear from you!

Cha Gheill,

Mark Asfar

Vice-President Professional

vpp@sgps.ca



Dear Council,

November has been a very hectic month as a result of the many internal changes that have been happening at the SGPS. I have learned more about the organization and how we operate in the past month than the rest of my term. However, I am positive, given how much time and effort the Executive is currently putting into the SGPS, we will be a much more transparent and functional organization going forward.

Bursaries and Grants

With all of the changes that have been happening, my bursary and grants online application system has been put on hold. I plan to resurrect the implementation of this system starting in January. We will now be looking for an external company to assist us with developing this system.

Bursaries and Grants have been chugging along nicely this term. We gave out \$2600 in Emergency Student Aid, \$650 for the International Bursary, \$148.50 for the Dental Bursary. In terms of Grants we gave out \$1600, \$155.05 for Club Funding and \$150 for the Sports Fund. The groups we provided grants to this month include the Gender Studies Graduate Symposium, QIAA WMUNI Snowden Lecture and Rosa Bruno-Jofre Symposium in Education.

We also received a donation of \$4,500 to our Dental Bursary from an anonymous alumnus. The alumni's wife used the bursary when she was a student at Queen's and they are both very grateful that the bursary is available to students. We are very grateful that he has decided to help out SGPS members who need assistance with their dental expenses.

Health and Dental Plan

I had a meeting with Student VIP to discuss how our health and dental plan will be administered going forward. Nancy, who is currently in charge of our front desk operations will be taking charge of our health and dental plan.

I am also happy to say that Student VIP will be playing more of a role in the administration of the plan. They are currently looking into the marketing of our plan to grad students since we have had some issues with grad students figuring out which plan they are on. Going forward, Student VIP will be contacting administration at Queens and the AMS to ensure that all web materials state that there are two plans.

Accountant

Our audit has started for both the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 fiscal years. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances our accounts were not prepared for the audit. As a result, we have brought in an accountant from KPMG to work with our permanent staff to get the accounts ready for the audit to be completed. This will be at an extra charge to the organization, however it is a necessary cost to ensuring that our audits are completed in a timely and accurate fashion. KPMG is still confident that they will have the audits done for the end of January.

Finance Director Hiring

We have been working closely with Queen's to start the hiring process of a Finance Director. We have created a job posting and they will be assisting us with advertising this posting. The posting will be posted in mid-December and will be open until the beginning of January. At which time, we will be reviewing applications and setting up interviews. We expect to have our new Finance Director hired for the first week of March.

Activity Fees

With the changes in our internal structure, we are behind in disbursing our activity fees. We will be dispersing 80% of the fees due to each organization by the end of the term. Below is a list of the activity fees that will be disbursed to each group of which 80% will be dispersed in the next couple of weeks and 20% will be dispersed in March.

Group	Total Fee to be Disbursed to Group
Queen's Journal	\$13,596.44
AMS Walkhome	\$75,322.86
Queen's Oxfam	\$3,340.79
Bus-it	\$257,490.15
Education Grad Student Society	\$2,493.33
Education Society Fee	\$4,893.44
Grad Computing Society	\$1,151.12
Law Society Fee	\$42,139.53
Public Health Science Student Association	\$1,090.54
Rehab Therapy Society Fee	\$7,568.52
Urban & Regional Plan Society	\$1,509.98
Campus Observation	\$1,942.35
SGPS Society Fee	\$327,602.02
University Centre	\$101,920.02
CFS	\$62,401.86
Queen's Legal Aid	\$19,423.47
Sexual Assault Crisis Centre	\$4,855.91
SGPS Accessibility	\$10,920.07
SGPS Student Advisors	\$27,295.98
Telephone Aid Line Kingston	\$2,913.56
Aboriginal Student Centre	\$2,666.50
Ban Right Foundation	\$8,008.32
Centre for Teaching and Learning	\$3,523.02
Dawn House Women's Shelter	\$2,933.43
Grad Club	\$53,232.19
HIV Aids Regional Services	\$2,702.72
International Affairs Association	\$2,562.74
KCAP	\$6,737.23
Kingston Youth Shelter	\$2,768.54
Levana Gender Advocacy Centre	\$2,086.22
Loving Spoonful	\$5192.05
OPRIG	\$11,609.37
Positive Space Program	\$875.75
QISS Bursary Program	\$1907.67
Queen's Daycare	\$2,662.59
Queen's Food Centre	\$3,444.48
Reelout	\$4,454.62

Sexual Health Resource Centre	\$\$2,458.53
SGPS Sports Fund	\$5,254.70
SGPS Sustainability	\$4,040.87
Student Refugee Support	\$8,852.79
Union Gallery	\$7,532.58
Yellow Bike Action Group	\$1,554.12

Since this is our last council meeting before the holidays, I wish you all a Happy Holidays. For those of you writing exams, good luck! I look forward to seeing all of you back in the New Year.

Best Regards,



Christina Huber
Vice President Finance and Services
vpfs@sgps.ca



Dear Council,

Although it hasn't been long, I'll try not to report on anything that was covered at my Winter GM executive report.

Holiday Assistance Program

I've been working with our executive assistant Andria to get our Holiday Assistance Program (HAP) up and running again. The SGPS has reached out to many of the top-tiered administrators, deans, and heads of department of this university in order to offer them the opportunity to contribute to HAP and I am pleased to say that some in fact have. As always, I'd like to thank Andria and the rest of our office staff for making this year of HAP such a success.

SGPS Parenting Room

The structural issues within the JDUC have been remedied and I am further happy to announce that the SGPS Parenting Room has been fully assembled - we're only waiting on the SLC to finalize the key system. The next phase of this initiative is to embark upon a campaign to better publicize this facility, ensuring that all of our members will be aware of this and other efforts that the SGPS has made for student-parents and families.

Graduate Departmental Societies

As I'd said before, one of my goals for this to be a year where we might be able to help encourage and foster the growth of faculty graduate societies. The benefits of such an arrangement are many, as these may serve as collectives whereby grad students might find support, friendship, and assistance with the issues and topics unique to their own department; and secondly, such societies are often warmly supported by faculty, and at times are invited to the table during departmental meetings, giving grads a much-needed voice on important matters.

I've had been in contact with a few prospective groups and am currently in the process of helping them become official societies, so if you or your department is interested please let me know.

Trans* Accessibility Bursary / Out-of-City Healthcare Bursary

SIC Alex and I are taking our initial feedback and reworking our earlier draft to be more encompassing and inclusive in its scope and purpose. We further applaud the direction that the province is taking on recognizing the needs of the Trans* community with substantial commitments to funding and infrastructure. Finally, we hope to meet with AMS VP External Sarah Letersky in the new year, and to also enter into a relationship with them for the purposes of funding this bursary.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, or would simply like to get involved within this effort, please feel free to contact me.



Hello Council,

I hope everyone has had a great term, and that things are winding down for the upcoming break. Not too much to report on the Council side of things, but here we go!

Non-Academic Misconduct

Thank you everyone who came out to the GM a couple weeks ago to take part in the consultation process for the review of NAM at Queen's. For those that couldn't make it, or if you came up with some more feedback, I encourage you to send your feedback to acnam@queensu.ca – it is a really important process and your feedback is appreciated.

Elections Team

You will notice that there is a motion to add the Speaker position to the Elections Team of the SGPS on the Agenda. I just wanted to provide a little background – last year there was a policy change which removed the position of Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) from the SGPS, as the position had rarely been filled in recent years due to the move to online elections. However, in instances where the workload was increased (particularly surrounding our involvement in Rector Elections) the position of DRO was filled by the Speaker, as indicated by the Vacancy of Office policy of the SGPS. However, in the haste of removing the DRO position, this possibility was lost – hence the motion to add the Speaker to the Elections Team to help out as needed – and to serve in a policy interpretation and enforcement role, which the Speaker is well suited to.

I have already begun talks with Travis (the CRO) and the AMS Elections Team about gearing up for the upcoming Rector Election – so keep your eyes out for that, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact either of us.

Council Cleanup

As I discussed previously, I was undertaking a cleanup of the Council List this year by enforcing the missed meeting rules in our policy to remove Council members who have missed 3 meetings in a session of Council. This process has been completed and a number of names, after being given due notice of ability to provide extenuating circumstances, were removed from the list. I then proceeded to contact the graduate coordinators for these departments to fill the vacant seats, and am in the process of doing so. Hopefully soon, we will have a fuller, more active, Council.

Graduate Council Representatives

Back in October, we attempted to elect 6 Council members to Faculty Graduate Council Representative positions and were only able to find 3 of them through the regular means – thus we are bringing this motion to Council in an attempt to fill the three remaining vacancies. If you are interested, please let me know and I can tell you more.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos
Council Speaker
speaker@sgps.ca



Hello Council,

I hope everyone has had a great term, and that things are winding down for the upcoming break. Not too much to report on the Senate side of things, but here we go!

GSEC – November 19, 2015

Dean's report:

- A record 874 graduate students received their diplomas and degrees at Fall 2015 convocation ceremonies.
- Dr. Mahadeo Sukhai's presentations from the Fall Graduate Forum and two other sessions held on November 12 can be found on the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) website (accommodations section under the SGS Habitat Navigating Academe tab and the Staff and Faculty tab). Presentations focused on students, supervisors & essential requirements of graduate degrees, accessibility, and disclosure & accommodation in graduate studies.
- At the annual meeting of the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) in Calgary in October 2015, sessions focused on the theme: "Rethinking the PhD". S. den Otter accepted the ETS-CAGS Award for Excellence and Innovation in enhancing the graduate student experience for the SGS-Habitat website, on Queen's behalf. The presidents of each of the federal tri-councils (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) spoke at the meeting.
- Further development of the Executive Doctorate in Business Administration (EDBA) is on hold for now (pre-approval granted by GSEC in 2014)
- The final report from the Queen's Graduate Leadership Summit held in October 2015 that addressed issues related to the structure of the PhD and preparing students for success in an evolving global labour market has been circulated to GSEC members. The report will be discussed at graduate council/ committee meetings and the SGPS council. The SGS proposed a retreat for graduate coordinators and others, in lieu of a spring 2015 Graduate Forum to continue discussions about PhD structure and requirements. To help inform these discussions, the SGS will undertake a full scan of the comprehensive, candidacy, field exams conducted at Queen's.

Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees:

The proposed revised regulation (Visitors at Thesis Examination) was discussed at most Council/ Committee meetings. At the Arts Graduate Council, members discussed the new budget model and the perception that graduate programs are disadvantaged; more information will be sought. Science Graduate Council reviewed two program proposals, which were forwarded to GSEC for approval (items b and c, listed below). At the Science, Engineering and Applied Science, and Health Sciences Graduate Councils, Dr. R. Huegler presented results of the 2015 applicant survey. The Law Graduate Committee has established the SSHRC adjudication committee for this year's doctoral competition, and the Graduate Committee for Business discussed admission processes for international applicants.

GSEC approved:

- A. Preapproval of Proposed Graduate Diploma and Master's in Clinical Laboratory Science
- B. Proposed Major Modification, Dual degree M.Sc. Chemistry (Queen's University and University of Stuttgart)
- C. Proposed New Program Master of Earth and Energy Resources Leadership
- D. School of Graduate Studies 2016-2017 Sessional Dates
- E. Omnibus Report November 2015
- F. Report of the Fellowship Committee

Senate – December 1, 2013

Agenda: <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=862>

Senate approved a number of new program approvals/changes:

- Creation of an Online Bachelor of Science Honours (BSchH) in Health Sciences (ePreHealth)
- Creation of a combined BSchH/MSc (Biology)
- Creation of a combined BSchH/MSc (Biomedical and Molecular Sciences)
- Major modifications to the Master of Public Health program
 - Addition of an accelerated program
- Creation of an industrial internship field in the Master of Engineering (Mechanical and Materials Engineering)
- The name change of the collaborative program designation "Specialization in Political Thought" to "Specialization in Political and Legal Thought"
- Creation of the Certificate in Academic Writing

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to ask me.

Respectfully submitted,
Eric Rapos
Graduate Student Senator
senator@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Trustee
December 2015

No Report.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Athletics Commissioner
December 2015

No Report.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity & Diversity Commissioner
December 2015

No Report.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the International Student's Affairs Commissioner
December 2015

No Report.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Social Commissioner
December 2015

No Report.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the University Rector
December 2015

No Report.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Chief Returning Officer
December 2015

No Report.