

Dear Council:

There were no updates at our special late January meeting, so here's some of the major stuff that's happened in the last month.

Student Life Space Plan Survey

The Student Life Space Plan Survey is now live at <http://queensu.fluidsurveys.com/surveys/sj/life-space-survey/> and any student who fills it out will be entered into a draw to win a free iPad, a \$100 campus bookstore gift certificate, or one of many Tim Horton's gift cards. Please promote widely within your departments. Graduate and professional students use different spaces than undergrads and we often use the same spaces differently. It's important that this survey have strong graduate and professional participation so the new Student Life Space Plan addresses our needs (and not just the needs of AMS members).

Harassment Policy Update

As I briefly mentioned at the Special Council meeting, the Principal has asked the Human Rights Director to head up a working group on the issue of 'non-Code harassment' to look at how it manifests at Queen's and make recommendations on possible policy changes and new resources. This has been the main academic issue I've been pushing with the administration over my term, so I'm glad to see that we've moved past the phase of convincing the admin that something needs to be done to the phase where we actually map out solutions.

May Fees

I've been having discussions with Student Affairs and the Registrar's Office on how the student fee situation will work for students starting their programs in May. Currently students starting in January are charged a pro-rated fee slate but students starting in May are charged no fees (which means they also receive no access to Bus-It or Athletics). With the Education program changing to start in May for Consecutive Education students, we're going to see a large increase in the number of students starting in May, so I've been discussing the possibility of a May fees for Bus-It and Athletics, and Student Affairs and I are currently discussing whether other fees should be charged in May as well. It's my hope to keep the May fee slate as minimal as possible; students start and end their programs at lots of different times, and the September fee slate is generally pretty good at getting fee charges that roughly correspond to program length. I don't think the extended Education term warrants the charging of additional third-party fees, except for those that were either cut in half to reflect the amount of time spent on practicum (like the internal SGPS fees) or where fees basically buy a service for a specific amount of time (Bus-It and Athletics). The conversation is ongoing and I will keep all of you posted as it develops.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Wiener
President

president@sgps.ca

Student Advisor Program

The SGPS has four fully trained Student Advisors available to assist any graduate and professional student with advocacy and support services that they might require. These services are free, confidential, and accessible. Have an issue? Reach out directly: advisors@sgps.ca (Advisors check emails Monday to Friday, but not on weekends).

Their office hours (JDUC 203) for the Winter 2015 Term are:

- Mondays 10:00 am- 12:00 noon
- Wednesdays 10:00 am- 12:00 noon AND 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm
- Thursdays 3:00 am - 5:00 pm

Visit the website! <http://www.sgps.ca/services/advisors.html>

Dear Members of Council and SGPS Members at Large,

I am happy to report that the first draft of the Student Advisor Program Annual Review is complete. I am aiming to release the final draft to stakeholders including SGPS member mid-February. At the moment, it is pending review by our Student Advisors and the School of Graduate Studies, a review that remains in the spirit of our Memorandum of Agreement. I can say that the Review talks about the kinds of cases Advisors deal with, the offices to which they have made referrals, and offers some recommendations to strengthen the Program itself and the relationships the Program has with helping offices including the SGS, HCDS, HRO, and QUIC. Preliminary feedback indicates that the draft is an important stepping-stone for the Program's overall goal-setting this year. A few i's to dot and t's to cross and it will be ready for publication once the oversight is complete.

I am also delighted to report that the Human Rights Office (HRO) has reached out to me and I am lending them support and assistance in the forthcoming launch of the *Understanding Each Other: Perceptions of Accent and Authority Among Classroom Instructors at Queen's University Survey*. Planning, Ethics Review, logistics, and design have been ongoing for quite some time, and I am pleased to lend support to the HRO in this launching this survey, while raising awareness among SGPS members about the survey and its importance. Keep an eye out for invitations to participate! Your opinion counts!

I have also been talking to Student Advisors about creating a series of useful workshops for graduate students seeking to get the most that they can out of the student-grad supervisor relationship. These 'by grad students-for grad students' workshops we envision are intended to be hands-off from the School of Graduate Studies but still complementary to some of the Expanding Horizons modules SGS offers (and that are also useful to grad students: <http://www.queensu.ca/exph/workshop-series/schedule>). We're hoping our workshops can provide grad students with tools and strategies to confidently approach their thesis supervisors with concerns and issues regarding their research and writing, open discussion about mutual expectations throughout the student's program of study, and otherwise find proactive ways to create positive working relationships that lead to achievement of student goals. Student Advisors, of course, are always there for all SGPS members when and if relationships with supervisors are less than adequate. I'm hoping to run at least one workshop this term and initiate one for each term thereafter. If you have ideas for workshop themes, please reach out; we'd be delighted to hear your ideas.

We are also drafting a publication from the graduate student perspective on the importance of a positive and functional working relationship with supervisors, an article we hope to publish and also use to

promote the Student Advisor Program and its value members of the Queen's community but also to other graduate student associations and Schools of Graduate Studies elsewhere. Student Advisor Term Reports, conversations with other GSAs, and interviews with a number of administrators at other universities, in addition to the accumulation of survey data and resources regarding student-supervisor relationships at other schools are helping to inform the content of the publication, which is still very much at 'brainstorming' stage.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Becky Pero, one of our intrepid Student Advisors, for the time she took to conduct a great interview with the Queen's Gazette. Please do have a read!
<http://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/support-and-advocacy-sgps-students>

Graduate Academic Caucus met on 20 January 2015 to discuss items of GSEC concern including Major Modifications to the PhD Economics Program and the Master's in Urban and Regional Planning. We also discussed upcoming changes to the policy regarding the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) training for graduate students, training that will no longer be mandatory for graduate students, but still as we understand, mandatory and paid training for PSAC 901 members (the TA/TF and Post-Doc Union). Touch base with the 'local' for more information, info@psac901.org.

The Student Health and Safety Committee is also meeting the first week of February, a committee that will include SGPS, AMS, and PSAC 901 reps and students interested or involved in campus health and safety on many levels. I've been in conversation with AMS reps for several months and earlier invited the AMS to the Unity Council Health and Safety Committee that I chair to initiate dialogue with our undergraduate colleagues. The first meeting of SHSC will be a great way for a few student organizations to identify mutual areas of concern including awareness campaigns about health and safety hazards, available services, and means for closer undergrad-SGPS-TA/TF cooperation toward developing hazard prevention measures.

Finally, I'd like to extend hearty congratulations to our President, Kevin Wiener and our Senator, Eric Rapos, on their admission to the Tricolour Society. The honour is well-deserved. I think we can also thank our SGPS Council Member, Michael Carter (Geography), for the extensive time and dedication he volunteered to represent the SGPS in the adjudication of this great Award.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dinah Jansen
Vice President Graduate
vpg@sgps.ca

Dear SGPS Council Members,

I will keep this report short as I have a number of somewhat dry motions tonight.

We are currently in the process of hiring an equity coordinator after the resignation of our commissioner last month.

I have also been drafting a number of changes to our bylaws and policies – these will be rolling through council this meeting, at the march meeting, and at the GM. These changes are based on my assessment and application of our Human Resources policy over the last year and feedback from a number of stakeholders. I have also consulted with our Bylaw and Policy Standing Committee.

We held our second professional student event with great success. Turnout was approx. 160 people from the 5 programs we included this year. It was an unreal night. Our committee will be meeting post-election to plan transition and permanence for the committee.

SONAD met this month but very little was discussed (as has been the pattern this year).

I have also been working with the student advisors a little bit to assist with firming up file transitions etc.

Stay tuned for our new logo selection, and make sure to come to the debates for our election.

Ps.. I can't believe that it is already mid February.

Best Regards,

Thompson Hamilton
Vice-President Professional
vpp@sgps.ca

Hey Council,

Bit of a down-tempo month as we head into elections, but here's what's been keeping me busy.

Campaigns

Around the start of the new year it came to my attention that a not insignificant number of our membership were struggling to cover both tuition and rent, due to a hiccup on the end of the University Registrar. I've been meeting with our VP Graduate and her Research Assistant and engaging in conversations with people knowledgeable with the financial structures of the University in order to discern how we'd like to approach this issue; I am of course mindful that the University is rolling out a new fees structure (a change they troublingly made without consulting us), and am including this into my longer range plans for the year.

I've also spoken briefly with the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Arig in hopes of gleaning some of the quantitative data from surveys that she'd interested in running via the Graduate Student Life Advisory Group. I've likewise briefly discussed with Associate Dean Sandra den Otter the school's ongoing role in stress management amongst graduate students, and hope that these conversations and information will provide me with a wealth of information for campaigns that I plan on undertaking in the coming months.

Community Affairs

The day that I was to attend Queen's Day Care board as well as a SGPS Nomination Period Promotional Event my wife had to undergo a last-minute MRI, and I had to send my regrets to both.

Otherwise the Queen's Day Care board meeting from prior weeks went well, remains closed-closed, and you will know the exact moment that it is not. Too, I was interviewed by the *Queen's Journal* about the status of childcare in the city and around campus. I hope that this interview will better frame the issue and remind our communities of the dire need for this important yet often overlooked necessity.

I was struck by the idea that it might be beneficial for the partners and spouses of our membership if they had a mixer or social specifically for their benefit. Graduate and professional school can be an intensely isolating time, but often lost in the mix are those partners, and families who uproot their lives and move across the country to support us in our studies. I hope to discuss this further, especially around O-Week when a lot of new students are coming into Queen's, with our Social Commissioner Ciara.

I met with representatives from the Environmental Exposure Unit from Kingston General Hospital who said they'd keep me in the loop whenever they needed participants and volunteers for an upcoming project. I'll have more information at a later point in time, but otherwise I feel that this could be a great benefit for our membership.

And finally, Kingston's Chief Returning Officer Kevin asked me to get the word out on this survey of people's experiences voting in the 2014 municipal election. It shouldn't take more than five minutes to complete and will help the city in future elections.

Health & Wellness Steering Committee

I think this meeting went quite well. I brought up (again) that there's no actual accommodation framework with the DSO insofar as Teaching Fellows are concerned. The head of HCDS Mike Condra was aware of this (and slightly annoyed that I kept bringing this up) and explained that things are being "looked into." When I explained in detail how poorly it would look upon the school should not only a graduate student's life be ruined but also that their 60+ undergrads would be hung out to dry, Ann Tierney and Roxie Denniston-Stewart seemed a lot more concerned. I'm in the process of arranging some further meetings with this in order to speed this desperately needed health and wellness amendment along.

Student Wellness, Health & Safety Working Group

I went to the location as discussed, sat alone and checked my phone for ten minutes and then left. I was emailed later that afternoon, well after the meeting had concluded, and informed that the time and location had changed. Neat!

Canadian Federation of Students

The CFS had some questions about Queen's sexual assault policy and Andria helped us answer.

SGPS Elections!

By the time you all get a hold of this report, elections will be well underway. I hope that you will all urge your friends and contemporaries to participate and vote for the folks they feel will best represent their interests on and around campus. And of course, if this just so happens to be me, all the better, no?

Dear SGPS Council Members,

The past several weeks have been very exciting at the SGPS.

I am very pleased to report that at the special meeting in February all the fee questions proposed were approved for referendum as submitted. This means that all of these questions will be going to the general membership during the election voting period later this month. For more details, please see the minutes and agenda from the special meeting which are posted on sgps.ca/council/documents.

The election is well underway and there is a great wealth of skills and experience which makes this election very competitive. I believe that whoever wins their respective races, will add much value to the SGPS. I wish all the candidates the best of luck at the debate. For questions on the election, feel free to contact the SGPS Chief Returning Officer.

On the bursary front, our electronic system is almost complete. We are currently finishing up with processing capabilities of the system and I hope this will be done within the coming days. At that point, I am very confident our processing times will go down even further, and communication with applicants will be much more seamless.

At the Fall GM, some changes were passed in regards to the way sports bursary applications are processed. As we are in the midst of processing this cycle's batch of application I do not have a conclusive report, but I do see a lot of promise. I will supplement this report at the meeting at which point the process will be complete.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Gajos
Society of Graduate and Professional Students
VP Finance and Services
vpfs@sgps.ca

Happy February Everyone!

I apologize for failing to submit a report last month. I was bereft of technology for most of January and it was a truly harrowing experience.

Hiring

Hopefully, by the time Council meets, we will have just hired a new Equity Coordinator to replace the wondrous Erica Baker who is now the Equity Commissioner. We are working very hard to have an Equity Coordinator in place as soon as possible so that they may take part in the Ontario Council on Student Affairs (OCSA) / the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) conference on Gender Based Violence on University Campuses during Reading Week.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Policy

Our awesome AODA policy writer, Sarah Budd, has successfully crafted a wonderful set of policies that will bring the SGPS up to AODA standards. This policy will be presented to Council next month along with a new joint initiative that we are working with Queen's Disability Service Office on. Stay tuned!

Elections Canada

Elections Canada has reached out to me, hoping that SGPS members would like to apply to the position of "Youth Community Relations Officer." This position would last for four weeks once the election period is called. The expected election date is October 19th 2015 (subject to change), therefore the successful candidate would be working at least 50 hours total from approximately September 21st 2015 to October 19th 2015. Previous hires have gone on to work for Elections Canada once they graduate so it may prove to be an invaluable experience. For more information, or to apply, please contact me.

Volunteer Opportunities

As always our SGPS committees need YOU! Committees provide a great way to socialize while building marketable skills. Time commitments and requirements vary based on committee, so please feel free to check out the list on our website and contact me to get involved!

There are also countless committee volunteer opportunities that are external to the SGPS. Whether you are interested in art installations or academic policy, we can certainly find an external committee for you! Please reach out to me if you are interested in serving on an external committee or if you are currently serving on one.

SGPS Elections / Transition

The Elections being moved up have put transition planning on the front burner. Current HR modules are being updated for the incoming Exec as I want to provide the most informative and least stressful experience possible.

I will all the candidates the best of luck and I hope to work with you very soon.

As always, if you have questions regarding graduate/professional student life or any questions about getting involved with/employment at the SGPS please email me.

Respectfully submitted,

Andria Mahon
Executive Assistant
ea@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Speaker
February 2015

Dear Council,

Since our last Council meeting:

- The Bylaw and Policy Committee has met to discuss proposed changes to the Bylaw and Policy. These changes will be discussed and voted on at this Council meeting.
- The Judicial Board has resolved one case. There is currently no case pending.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Ma

Speaker
speaker@sgps.ca

Hello Council,

I hope the new term is off to a great start for you all.

GSEC Meeting – January 22, 2015

- The 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) will be taking place again this year on campus in March during the week of March 9th! If you are interested, be sure to check it out!
- Thesis Bootcamp registration for Reading Week Course is available now
 - Spaces filling quickly!
- Major Changes in Economics were approved:
 - Removal of requirement that PhD students with Masters from outside of Queen's require 2 additional courses
 - The introduction of a 2nd Year Paper, to replace course papers in 2nd year courses, and designed to act as a research proposal and comprehensive exam for the PhD Program.
- Combined 4+1 Program was approved for the Masters of Planning in the newly formed Department of Geography and Planning
 - Students will be able to take courses from the School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP) in their upper years of an undergraduate degree, then apply as normal to the MPL program, completing it in less time, due to the use of courses towards both a Bachelor's degree and the MPL.
- The first cohort for the Professional Masters in Education has begun; there are 5 students enrolled. Applications for July and September are underway.
- As usual, the omnibus and fellowship reports were presented and approved.

Senate Meeting – January 27, 2015

- The Principal presented the Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching to Dr. Catherine Donnelly, from the School of Rehabilitation Therapy.
- Senate dates for next year were approved, for those interested they can be found here:
 - https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/52127/SASAC%20Proposed%20Senate%20Dates%202015_2016.pdf?handle=FBD8C7DDC5744BFB8F73934376ECEBD9
- A new Unit in the Faculty of Arts and Science was formed. The Department of Geography and Planning (GPPL) was formed out of a merger of the Department of Geography and the School of Urban and Regional Planning.
- The two changes from GSEC in my last report were approved at Senate:
 - Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation
 - Strategy Field (PhD Management Program, School of Business)
- A report on the recognition of female faculty research was presented by the Senate Education Equity Committee. The report can be found here:
 - <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/52149/SEEC%20Referral%20Female%20Faculty%20Research%20Recognition.pdf?handle=264EC566901B4BB699943609C69A9165>
- The Queen's University Annual Report was included in the Senate Package:
 - <http://www.queensu.ca/annualreport2014/>

Council Composition Working Group

- I received three feedback emails in total:
 - 1 was stating support for the proposal as is.
 - 2 expressed concern with the proposal:
 - Disconnect of departments from SGPS Council
 - Loss of Voting Power
 - There is support for the ad-hoc application to the VPG for seats on Council for non-departmental groups (to be done as the ONLY change made)
 - Support for “degree path” option as well.
 - Discussion of automatic vs. applies for seats?
 - A number of implementation concerns
 - Extra hoop required for election to Council
 - Both emails expressing concern admit that they do not have any solutions to offer, but feel that the proposed solution is concerning.
- At this point, I am not sure how to proceed.
 - The committee was tasked with determining Council composition, which led to the larger discussion of restructuring.
 - The only suggestion was met with mixed reception.
 - We are left with a number of ideas, but no concrete path.
 - I suggest the working group reconvene to further discuss options, and implementation plan.
- In the meantime, I suggest continuing with status-quo until a plan of action can be implemented.

And that’s all I have for you wonderful councilors!

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos
Graduate Student Senator
senator@sgps.ca

Hello Council,

The Capital Assets and Finance Committee will be meeting on March 6th, 2015. The Board will be meeting on March 6th and 7th, 2015. I will be able to provide an update to Council once these meetings have taken place.

Respectfully submitted,

James MacLeod

Graduate Trustee
trustee@sgps.ca

SGPS Computer Network and SGPS Office

- The new printer is almost entirely integrated with our office. All functionality that existed with the old printer is currently working on the new printer. There are a few additional features that I will integrate in the coming weeks. The printer is working very well and has a considerable speed boost! Recap from my last report:
 - The new printer has about a 50% dpi improvement over our previous printer
 - The new printer uses organic inks that are grown just outside of Toronto, Ontario!
 - Our per copy impression price has gone down slightly for black ink and more substantially for colour
- The servers remain in locked storage. I expect to have the time to move them to my office in February.
- The SSL certificate for sgps.ca expired in very early February. I have installed a new SSL certificate that will not expire until February 2017. There are a few remaining glitches with the new certificate that I expect to have corrected shortly (a few clients are still trying to use the expired certificate to authenticate).
- Much time was spent validating nomination packages and preparing the website for the 2015 SGPS Election and Referendum. We have a lot of useful information about the election including candidate information and fee referendum questions. Please share widely:

<http://www.sgps.ca/jobs/election.html>

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Richards - info@sgps.ca

Dear members of the SGPS,

It is with great pleasure that I submit to you this report as the newly appointed Equity Commissioner. As of the January council meeting, I have been instated as the new Equity Commissioner and I have since hit the ground running. Previously, I held the position of Equity Coordinator on the Commission up until accepting this new role.

Equity Commission Meetings – All Are Welcome

Last month, the Equity Commission held it's first monthly meeting of the academic year. **Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 11th at 5:00pm in JDUC 235.** All are welcome to join. To RSVP, please contact Andria Mahon at ea@sgps.ca.

The Commission is planning a mix and mingle event for SGPS members who are interested in and/or are working on equity-related issues. Please stay tuned for more information on this event to come soon.

SGPS Elections Event

The Equity Commission hosted an event at the Grad Club last month to promote the nomination period for the SGPS elections. Fourteen people attended, which provided for a fruitful discussion between current executive members and potential candidates. Thank you to everyone who came.

Campus Committees

During the past month I have been the most actively involved with the [Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Working Group](#). The working group is about to begin a consultation process with the campus community. Please expect to hear more about that during February. Otherwise, I have been involved with the Positive Space Steering Committee as we look to complete many different projects before the end of the semester.

Equity Coordinator

This past month there was a call for candidates for the position of Equity Coordinator. This month, the SGPS will be hiring a new Coordinator and I will be pleased to introduce them to you at a future council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Baker
Equity Coordinator
equityco@sgps.ca

QUIC International Graduate Student Orientations

QUIC held the International graduate student orientation on Tuesday, January 13th. Ahmed and I were in attendance there to welcome incoming graduate students alongside representatives from the Cultural Engagement Group, Student Advisor Program, and the SGS. The orientation activities began with a general welcome and series of exercises which gave hypothetical problems for the international students to work in groups to resolve. After giving their responses, the representatives of the SGS, Student Advisor Program (SAP), the Cultural Engagement Group (CEG), and the International Student Affairs Commission would introduce themselves, explain the services they offer, and describe what they might do to help alleviate the problem. The orientation also briefly addressed issues of academic dishonesty in each scenario. Ahmed and I explained our role as representatives of the international students to the SGPS Council, invited the new students to join our Facebook group (SGPS- International Student Affairs), and remained after the activities to socialize with the new members of the SGPS.

Student Advisor Program

The QUIC International Graduate Student Orientation also became an impromptu meeting of like minds on the experience of international graduate and professional students. We spoke with Arunima Khanna of the CEG and Becky Pero of SAP. I have since met, and been in frequent contact with Becky and we have discussed working together to bring back a workshop that we found would be quite helpful towards international and domestic graduate students alike—The Supervisory Relationship Workshop. This initiative would help graduate students effectively communicate with their supervisor and maintain one of the most important relationships of their career. It is especially important that we reach international graduate students with this workshop, as Canadian academic culture is often different from the academic culture that they are familiar with. Moreover, to succeed in the Canadian academic environment international students must be able to navigate the Canadian institution with at least as much ease and comfort as domestic students.

International Student Affairs Committee (ISAC)

Our inaugural committee meeting took place January 8th, 2015. There, Ahmed, and I met our Committee members, generally got to know each other, and discussed some of our potential focuses for the term. Our primary objective for February is the planning of a Social Event by which we can both break the isolation of international students from the SGPS, foster connection between international students, and remind them of the SGPS's intention to ensure that international students are getting the best out of their life at Queen's. We are tentatively setting the date for the last weekend of February.

Dear SGPS Council Members,

The Social Team has kicked off the New Year with a busy start! Our weekly sports hours started on Wednesday 21 January. As previously mentioned, sports hours run every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30pm all term in the ARC Upper West Gym and will rotate through different pick-up sports. Our team will post an event in the SGPS Facebook group each week so you can see what sport we will be playing in a given week. It's a friendly, non-competitive environment that welcomes people of all abilities and skill levels and it's a nice chance to meet your fellow graduate students.

We have seen record turnout at our first few events of this winter term despite the cold and snow! We filled the ground floor of the Grad Club for a night of Rockin' Disco Bingo and our tickets for the Frontenacs hockey game sold out within 3 days!

We are hosting Speed Meeting at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre on Thursday 5 February. We will host our annual mid-winter mixer on Thursday 26 February at Boston Pizza; we have curling scheduled for Saturday 7 March as well. As always we will host more events like movie nights, trivia, and of course our regular Wednesday night sports throughout the rest of March and April.

As with the sports night, all of the social events are posted in the SGPS Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2310661892/>), and those events requiring tickets will be on the SGPS website (<http://www.sgps.ca/events/social.html>) where you can pay via PayPal or you can pay in person in the SGPS office.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Social Team for advice on your own event planning on campus or if you have any ideas or special requests for events that we can host for the SGPS community!

Respectfully submitted,

Ciara Bracken-Roche

Social Commissioner

social@sgps.ca

Rector's Report to SGPS Council
Mike Young
February 3rd, 2015
rector@queensu.ca



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

Hi all,

Firstly, I'd like to take this time to congratulate all those who will be receiving Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Awards this year, including the following SGPS constituents:

- Ian Moore | Law '16
- Kevin Wiener | Law '15
- Eric Rapos | PhD '16

A full list of recipients can be found on the Rector Facebook page. I'd also like to extend my ecstatic congratulations to all those who were nominated – each and every nominee truly embodied the Queen's spirit and being nominated for this award is a prize in itself. Thanks also to Michael Carter from Geography for serving expertly, with thoughtful and conscientious contributions, as a part of our selection committee. I can't wait until next year's awards already!

Now that the selection process for the awards has come and gone, I can begin focusing on things like developing a terms of reference for the Rector's Office, putting together the Tricolour Award Reception, and creating terms of reference for the new mental health award that I hope to have firmed up by the year's end.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon – hope this report finds you well.

Princeps Servusque Es,