



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Representatives
February Council Meeting 2017

[No reports submitted]



Dear Council,

I apologize for not having submitted a full report in January. I try to cover the points that I made during my oral report to the Council during the January meeting, as well as the updates since then in this report.

Principal's Implementation Committee on Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion (PICRDI) In the January meeting of Senate Governance and Nomination Committee I was updated that Dr. Laeeque Daneshmend, a faculty member in the Robert M. Buchan Department of Mining Engineering and cross-appointed to the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering; Nilani Loganathan, a staff member in the Business Career Centre; and Hana Chaudhury, a third-year Commerce student; have been elected by the Senate to this implementation committee. Members of senior administration are appointed as non-voting members to ensure a smooth implementation process.

An update to this is that I am invited to attend a meeting with this committee to share the SGPS perspective on the equity and diversity issues with them. I will be grateful if you can share your thoughts with me about this through email, and ask the members of your constituency to do so as well.

Meeting VP Finance and Administration I had a productive meeting with her and she introduced me to a member of her team with expertise on human resources. We consulted on the structure of the SGPS, the role of the executive and the staff. An update to this that I am going to arrange a meeting with an HR expert from Queen's to consult about the structure of governance at the SGPS and the role of the Executives, after the election period is over, and invite the new President as well.

We also talked about some of the difficulties I've faced around my research projects, and my goals for incorporating equity related issues into QUCAPs and COU's degree level expectations.

Meeting the Provost and the Principal We talked about internationalization, the opportunities to increase enrolment of international students from the US.

I also asked about the possibility of introducing new degree level expectations into Council of Ontario Universities about issues related to equity and inclusivity. The provost mentioned that he could take my suggestion to the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance. Also he is looking into the possibility of establishing a committee for review of all programs curricula with regard to issues of equity and inclusivity. I asked whether he had considered incorporating some relevant educational expectations into QUCAPs, and he took note of it for further consideration.

An update to this is that in a consultation meeting that I had with the ad hoc committee to review the academic plan, they mentioned that they have received this suggestion and they think of it as a good idea.

Student Affairs Student fee exemptions protocol is now reviewed and updated. Student Leadership Awards are going to be awarded on March 8th. A Master of Urban and Regional Planning student is receiving the award for her work on SURP's social committee, during NEWTS Week, for WUSC and various other campus organizations.

Graduate Student Enrolment Task Force The applications rate for doctoral students are declining from domestic students and this seems to be a trend across the country. There might be an opportunity for us in there to push to for higher stipends or lower tuition fees for domestic doctoral students because of this as a strategy for increasing the rates. The task force is looking into ways the make the application process easier for prospective students, for example by waiving the requirement for the students to find a supervisor prior to application to the program.

Senate Committee on Academic Development New programs were discussed in Education and Business. While discussing the program on education, I used the opportunity to talk about how issues around equity and inclusivity should be reflected in the curriculum of the programs especially like education. A program in Physical Education has been closed, a certificate program in Employment Relations has gone through modifications in delivery format, and a new professorship position is created in Corporate Law and finance at the Faculty of Law.

Follow up with Pre-Budget Consultation with the Local MP In November, I attended a consultation session where the federal MP of Kingston and the islands, Mr. Gerretsen, and François-Philippe Champagne, MP and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance had an open discussion of the issues around innovation, economic growth, and reducing extreme economic inequalities. I had a follow up meeting with Mr. Gerretsen in January to further talk about these issues.

Non-code Harassment Policy for the SGS Good news is that the issue I had raised in my November's report about the obligation for reporting the harassment by Queen's officer vs. the confidentiality of the student is now resolved. We discussed a few more details about the extent of responsibility of the student in the process and confidentiality. The final protocol is sent to the Office of the Principal for review.

Board of trustees I attended the board's meeting in December and used that opportunity to share an open letter that one of our members had written about the tensions on campus around issues of racism and discussion of it, and had asked me to help her to have it heard by the senior administration. I recently submitted my report for the March meeting on the progress that we have made during our term at the SGPS and the challenges that we have faced. If you are willing to bring any specific issue to the attention of the Board, I will be grateful if you kindly write me an email.

SGPS Equity Standing Committee Tahseen is now chairing the committee, but I still do my best to attend as many sessions as I can, hoping to learn from the perspectives of the members, so I make sure their ideas are reflected in my work of advocacy.

Senate Research Advisory Committee I was involved in the review of one of the Research Centers affiliated with Queen's. The committee reviewed annual reports from all these centers. We had a meeting with the ad hoc committee on review of the academic plan.

The Provost's Implementation Team on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence The team met and received some reports on some educational programs for the students. Age groups, sex-based programs, and issues of intersectionality were discussed. The possibility for collaborating with expert PIs from Queen's or other universities in order to report the outcomes and impacts of these training programs in a systematic format was raised.

Senate Governance and Nominations Committee The most important issue discussed here was the issues of leave or removal of Senators. Currently, the only things that can disqualify an elected Senator are convictions under Canadian Criminal Code and having been issued with a notice of prohibition restricting their access to Queen's campus. It has been discussed that the Senators might be needed to be held to a higher standard which might require additional conditions being added to

this list. If you wish to give me your input on what else must appear on that list, please write me an email.

Joint Board-Senate Retreat The theme for this year is centered around diversity and equity, and this topic will be discussed with a focus on three main areas: Research and innovation, student experience, and internationalization.

Thank you.

Saba Farbodkia
President, SGPS



Please find my updates below:

Student Mental Health:

- The SGPS mental health review is in its final stage of revision and will be released during the week of council. Please promote this to your fellow departments and colleagues. It will provide us an objective measure of student wellness needs.

Regards,

Sebastian Gorlewski (vp.graduate@sgps.ca)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Professional
February Council Meeting 2017

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Finance & Services
February Council Meeting 2017

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the VP Campaigns & Community Affairs
February Council Meeting 2017

Dear Council,

I hope everyone had a good reading week and is ready to take on the latter half of winter semester with some new found energy.

As our general meeting was only a few weeks ago, I have nothing to report. That said, I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the newly elected executive on their successful bids. I look forward to working with my successor on his transition process.

On a project related note, I would like to encourage those who are still interested in participating in Orientation Week planning to contact me directly. Also, please keep in mind that the workshop series is ongoing and that every Wednesday, 6-8 pm, there is an SGPS run workshop. For a full schedule, and locations, please refer to our website. If you have any ideas for workshops that you would like the SGPS to run, or ones that you would like to co-run, please feel free to contact me via email at vp.community@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,

Anastasiya Boika
VP Campaigns & Community Affairs



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Council Speaker
February Council Meeting 2017

Oral report to be presented at Council.



Hello Council,

I hope you had a good Reading Week. There are no updates from Senate since our last meeting (the February GM). However, in this report I have included notes from the Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC) that took place in mid-February.

Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC)

Highlights from the February 2017 meeting (as prepared by Kristin Cliff).

Dean's report:

- The draft protocol to address non-code based harassment by faculty and staff against graduate students has been submitted to the Provost.
- The lists of the Canada Graduate Scholarship-Master's (CGS-M) applicants have been circulated to programs so they can actively recruit these academically strong domestic candidates. Winners of the Academic Excellence Awards will be informed shortly and encouraged to complete applications to graduate studies.
- The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) hosted two webinars targeting CGS-M applicants. The webinar recording will be posted on the SGS website.
- On Feb 8th the SGS hosted the *Create an Impact* reception recognizing the 250+ Tri-Council award winners from Queen's. It was a wonderful and well attended event.
- Beginning in March, the SGS will distribute monthly graduate application status reports.
- Preparations for the upcoming Strategic Mandate Agreement Negotiations with the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) are underway. A meeting with Bonnie Patterson from MAESD has been scheduled.

Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees and SGPS:

- Faculty of Arts and Science: Arts Council discussed enrolment and application data, the planned application upgrades, and the revisions to the comprehensive/qualifying examination policy.
- Faculty of Arts and Science: Science Council discussed course revisions and the additions. The proposed policy revision (comprehensive/qualifying examinations) was well received as an umbrella policy that allows Departments some flexibility in the time lines.
- The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science Graduate Council considered remote examinations (Master's), and student enrolment, noting relative stability in domestic number over the past 5 years.
- The Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Council discussed the proposed policy revision (comprehensive/qualifying examinations) and compared practices across programs. The student representative reported that many of the students are pleased with the designated time line.
- Graduate Studies and Research Committee in Education also discussed the proposed policy revision which met with some uneasiness as it will require a concerted effort to ensure the timeline can be met. The committee also discussed the limited funding for international Master's students and how best to communicate this to prospective applicants. Advice to visit specific departmental websites was provided.
- The Society for Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) reported on the recent elections, with all

positions uncontested; only the VP Graduate position is held by a graduate student. Discussion about the event sanctioning process is underway.

- The Faculty of Law Graduate Committee did not have a representative present.
- The Graduate Committee for Business did not meet.

GSEC approved:

1. Proposed Master of Philosophy in English Language and Literature with minor amendments
2. Proposed major modification Smith School of Business Executive MBA Tsinghua program
3. The revised *SGS regulation Comprehensive/Qualifying Examination Requirement*
4. Omnibus Report
5. The January 2017 Fellowship Committee Report was accepted.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any comments, concerns, or questions at senator@sgps.ca.

Respectfully submitted,
Ciara Bracken-Roche
Graduate Student Senator



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Trustee
February Council Meeting 2017

The Board of Trustee's meets next Friday, March 3 and Saturday March 4. The open meeting agenda can be accessed at the Governance Portal (<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/portal/>) when it becomes available.

The Board expects to hear an update on the progress of the Principle's implementation committee on racism, diversity, and inclusion.

There will be a full report on the meeting provided at March Council. Please e-mail me at trustee@sgps.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Adam



Dear Council,

February was a difficult month for the Athletics Commission as I was unable to find any members for the SGPS executive and commissioners that were able to facilitate the two events I had planned. I was still out of province on placement for the month of February and therefore was unable to facilitate the events myself. Both events unfortunately were cancelled for this reason. I will be back in Kingston in March and have many exciting events planned.

Wheelchair Basketball

On March 11th from 5-6pm in the ARC Upper East Gym we will be hosting a free, drop-in wheelchair basketball event. We will be playing games of 3-on-3. All experience levels are encouraged to attend. Rules will be explained prior to play. This is an excellent opportunity to get active while trying a unique sport! Online waivers must be filled out prior to play.

Meditation Workshop

On March 15th from 5:30-6:30pm we are hosting a free meditation workshop at the ARC in studio 4. This workshop will focus on the benefits of meditation, take students through a guided meditation, and give them tips for at home meditation sessions. Registration is available on the SGPS website. Space is limited.

Rock Climbing

On March 23rd at 7pm we will be hosting a rock climbing event at The Boiler Room for SGPS members. The cost is \$10 and must be paid prior to attending. An online waiver must also be filled out. The price includes gear rental, lessons on how to belay and safely climb, and time to spend climbing with other students. All levels are welcome to try this exciting sport that gives a great full body workout.

Other upcoming events

Below are tentative dates for other March and April events.

March 25th → drop-in basketball at the ARC, 6pm

March 29th → group run + social

April 5th → ultimate Frisbee

April 12th → group run + social

April 20th → Nature Walk at Lemoine Point

April 26th --> ultimate frisbee

I am happy to take any suggestions or comments about future and past SGPS athletics events as well as general questions or comments about athletics and physical activity for graduate students. I can be reached at athletics@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Ruitter

Athletics Commissioner, SGPS



Simple Snacks to Fuel Your Fitness

**HIGH IN PROTEIN,
CARBOHYDRATES,
AND HEALTHY FATS**

- 1) **Roasted chickpeas** – toss canned chickpeas with olive oil and spices of choice, bake at 450 degrees F for 30-40 minutes
- 2) **Energy Balls** – mix 1 cup dry oats, ½ cup peanut butter, 1/3 cup honey, ½ cup ground flax, ½ cup chocolate chips– roll into balls and cool in fridge or freezer
- 3) **Sweet potato toast** – cut sweet potato lengthwise and toast in toaster for 5 minutes, put on a spread such as hummus, guacamole, or a fried egg
- 4) **Frozen chocolate bananas** – slice banana and dip in melted chocolate, place on a baking sheet and freeze

Brought to you by SGPS Athletics Commission, athletics@sgps.ca



Dear Members of the SGPS,

I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and/or eventful Reading Week! I have little to report since the Winter General Meeting but am happy to provide some refreshers on my ongoing initiatives.

Graduate Student Food Security Survey

I am currently in the process of getting ethics approval for a Food Security Survey designed for Graduate and Professional Students, in response to the issue getting flagged down at the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Conference. I have also committed to supporting Meal Exchange Canada in extending their survey to Queen's University, as their initial *Hungry for Knowledge Report* covered five campuses: Brock, Ryerson, University of Calgary, Dalhousie, and Lakehead. I will keep everyone updated on developments with that projected as I work with the AMS Food Bank.

Positive Space Award

I am happy to announce that the Positive Space Awards are back this year! The Positive Space Award exists to recognize students who provide exceptional service to the Queen's Community in the area of sexual and gender diversity, rewarded to one or more students each year. Any member of the Queen's community may nominate a student for this award, and students may nominate themselves. Nominations are now open and the deadline to nominate is **Friday, March 3rd 2017**. For more information please check out <http://queensu.ca/positivespace/positive-space-award/>. If you have any questions please email Mike Young at mike.young@queensu.ca. Get the word about and support that someone who deserves recognition for their work!

Upcoming event in March:

On March 24th, the SGPS Equity Commission is hosting a photo exhibition on implicit biases and an anti-oppression artistic expression night. This will be an educational initiative to force students to confront their internalized biases and prejudices, and give marginalized student voices the opportunity to share their experiences in a safe and accountable space. I am extremely excited to announce that Ikenna Onyegbula a.k.a OpenSecret has agreed to perform as our headlining spoken word artist at the event – former World Poetry Slam Champion and member of the nationally acclaimed four member spoken word troupe, The Recipe. Please keep your eyes peeled for updates on this event as budgeting is approved, as I look to all of your support for spreading the word about this huge initiative!

In solidarity,

Tahseen Chowdhury

Equity & Diversity Commissioner



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the International Student's Affairs Commissioner
February Council Meeting 2017

Dear SGPS Members and Council,
There have been no major developments since the General Meeting a few weeks ago.

International Student Affairs Committee Mission Document

This is complete and the International Student Affairs' Committee would like the Council to review and pass this document as SGPS policy. This would make the document the guiding policy document for the Committee. I am open to questions about this document.

Web Content

I am still working on content for the SGPS website that is geared towards international students. I will be sure to update the Council with information as I do more work. That will be the main project I will work on towards the end of my term.

March 15th- SGPS Spring Movie Screening- JDUC 352

SGPS Spring Screening- Come join the SGPS for a movie night with some free pizza and popcorn in JDUC 352! The movie will be chosen by SGPS members based on a Facebook poll on the SGPS Facebook Group. Poll will open 2 weeks before screening and close 1 week before the screening. Please let your departments know about the screening and the free food!

Office Hours

My office hours are Wednesdays from 1pm- 2pm in JDUC 205. If any international students in your department face any issues they need to talk about or need advocacy for, please direct them my way. As always, I welcome any suggestions or comments, my email address is international@sgps.ca

Best wishes,
Chiedza Pasipanodya
International Student Affairs Commissioner



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Social Commissioner
February Council Meeting 2017

February was a planning month for social as we continue to organize for next month's semi-formal. I am pleased to say that the semi-formal will occur on March 31. The event will very likely take place at the Renaissance Event Venue, a classy locale conveniently located just steps away from other high-class establishments such as Stages and Smoke's Poutinerie. Keep your eyes peeled for more updates on the event in the coming weeks as we begin marketing it. Part of the plan for marketing the event will be to encourage you, individual council member reading this report, to spread the news about the event happening throughout your faculty. We're very much looking forward to your support.

In non-semi related news, social has two events that are coming up. First, come play some board games with us on Tuesday February 28 (i.e. today if you're reading this right before the meeting) at 8pm at the Grad Club. We're also hosting a pool night (the game, not the body of water) on Sunday March 5 at 8pm at the Grizzly Grill. In both cases, there will of course be free food.



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the University Rector
February Council Meeting 2017

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Chief Returning Officer
February Council Meeting 2017

Oral report to be provided.