

Dear Council:

Here are updates since the last meeting.

Commissioner Year Plans

Our Commissioners are currently working on their year plans through the new staff-management structure that we've put in place to oversee the commissions. Draft year plans will go to the Exec for feedback, and when finalized will be reported to Council (or to the General Meeting if they're done by then). The Commissioners and Coordinators have been heavily engaged in a number of activities across campus, and their year plans are likely to continue their strong work this far.

Non-Code Harassment Working Group

The working group is now up and running, and my successor, Chris Cochrane, is sitting as the current designate of the Executive and will take over in his own right as President at the beginning of May. Two meetings have already been scheduled for March, and it looks like the group will be moving pretty quickly towards analysis and recommendations before the fall.

Staff Contract Renegotiation

Thompson, Patrick, Sean and I have been working to review staff contracts and remuneration, clean up and standardize the language, and set compensation at a competitive level to reduce staff turnover. This has taken up a lot of time, and our total budget line on staff compensation is likely to increase, but we will also be moving some of the responsibilities that have normally been performed (at times inconsistently) by students working part-time to staff portfolios. We think this will allow for a consistently high level of service delivery. It's simply not feasible to have an AMS-style model of students directly supervising students when everybody's working ten or less hours a week. Expanding the responsibilities performed by staff, with staff supervised by the Executive Director and the ED supervised by the Executive will help things to run a lot more smoothly. We are also working to expand our summer hours so that the SGPS office will be open five days a week all year round.

Thesis Embargo

There is a proposal at GSEC to remove the right of a graduate student to embargo the publication of their thesis on QShare for a period of time, and instead require approval of a supervisor or one of the associate deans. While the SGS has some valid concerns around students being able to arbitrarily embargo theses that have been funded from public research dollars with the expectation of publication, the current wording of the draft policy is problematic in a number of ways, and appears to leave a large degree of discretion to the Associate Dean to disallow the embargo even if a student has a valid reason (such as securing a patent). Dinah, Eric and I will continue to liaise with the SGS to see if we can get some clearer rules around when an embargo request can be refused despite a valid reason for the request.

Education Fees

I've recently received detailed breakdowns of all the course fees in the BEd program for the 14-15 year. I hope to touch base with the ESS to see which fees are improper under the MTCU guidelines, and for fees ESS members want that are non-academic but require student approval, to make sure there's a proper referendum or ESS general meeting to bring the fees into compliance. In regards to summer fees for next year, I'm still discussing whether there should be a summer HCDS fee for students starting in May, and what additional services might be provided in exchange for such a fee.

PSAC 901 Health/Bursary Funding

I'm currently finalizing negotiations with PSAC 901 to renew their generous contribution to our health plan and two of our bursaries for both this year and (subject to PSAC AGM approval) the 2015-16 year. Both parties have come to an agreement on what we want in the contract, so I just have to put the changes into our draft and get approval from both Executives on the final wording.

Cold Beverages Fund

The Cold Beverages Exclusivity Fund Committee has agreed to replace the grants process it used to run with a lump-sum transfer to the two student governments for us to use in enriching student life. The \$70,000 is being divided proportionately by membership, with \$15,000 a year going to the SGPS starting this year. This should be more than enough to ensure the stability of our grants program and ESA, and we'll be exploring the possibility of expanding the eligibility criteria and/or funding cap of our grants and clubs funding for future years using this revenue stream.

Transition

Last but not least, the new Executives have been elected and transition has begun as of March 1st. Congratulations again to Chris, Christina, Mark and Mark (next year may be confusing from a name perspective) and of course to Lorne on his second term. The new Exec will have already done two of their briefing modules by the time Council rolls around on the structure of the SGPS, SGPS Council, and university governance. I'll also be having a number of meetings with Chris to get the ball rolling on his transition, and probably do a one-on-one with each of the other three incoming Execs.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Council. We're going to have a very full agenda, so if you have any questions about my report you may want to just shoot me an email so we can move along to main motions faster at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kevin Wiener', written over a horizontal line.

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 2:00 am - 4:00 pm

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

Dear Members of Council and SGPS Members at Large,

Elections and referendum season is done and Reading Week has passed. I spent Reading Week in Dissertation Boot Camp, which I checked in with members about using social media. I've also been adding the final touches to my transition manuals to assist in the training of your new VPG-Elect, Mr. Mark Kellenberger! Transition will be thorough and is now underway!

Graduate Academic Caucus met and we discussed a proposed revision to the SGS policy on restricting one's dissertation from QSPACE, which was discussed as well at GSEC. General discussion at GAC involved concern about protecting students' rights to control access to their intellectual property. I followed up with the Deans at our regular SGS-SGPS meeting before GSEC and they confirmed issues have emerged when students have embargoed their theses without consulting their supervisor and the new policy will require supervisors to confirm agreement that the student can restrict access to their thesis. The Deans also confirmed that in situations where there is disagreement between a student and a supervisor, one of the Associate Deans would make a decision to resolve any dispute. The new policy will be discussed again at the next GSEC to reflect other considerations brought to the table including my inquiry about how the policy will apply to students with dual supervision as well as other concerns about the need to clarify explicitly grounds for student embargo or supervisor refusal.

GAC also discussed issues related to the General Research Ethics Board (GREB) particularly concerns that the sometimes-lengthy time it takes to go through the process and get final approval. Of course, in some cases, students are unable to begin the fundamental aspects of their projects without this approval, slowing down time to completion, and perhaps reducing the time one has to undertake the investigation, evaluate the data, and produce results. GAC would like to learn more from students about their experiences with research ethics boards across the faculties, including GREB, the Health Sciences REB, or perhaps the University Animal Care Committee. In the meantime, I'll be checking in with the GREB Ethics Coordinator to find out more on why some grad students face lengthy adjudication times. Are there common omissions or errors made in the process that students might benefit from knowing about ahead of time? Are there hold ups between the Unit REBS and GREB that are slowing things down? Are students sufficiently prepared by their supervisors and departments for the application process? I'd welcome other ideas and certainly feedback, please do reach out!

I also attended the Canadian Federation of Students National Graduate Caucus in Ottawa. Elections

for the Chair, Deputy Chair, and Treasurer took place, as well as an Executive Report accounting for activities over the last year with heavy focus on CAGS which I attended in St. John's, NFLD last fall. There were a number of workshop sessions including a visit from CAUT representatives asking delegates to help rally support for the the Get Science Right campaign (<http://getscienceright.ca>) as well as a contingent from Rethink Childcare (<http://rethinkchildcare.ca>) seeking support for their universal childcare initiative. As well, delegates also discussed issues of childcare and the dearth of child-friendly study and nursing spaces on campuses and initiatives different locals have taken to making their campuses more accessible to graduate students with children. As well, NGC voted to adopt an ongoing Bottles not Cans campaign. All in all, it was an interesting conference that was essentially geared toward focusing on how to ensure grad student issues can become election issues. I have some literature I collected from the event to share; if any SGPS member is interested, I'm happy to furnish copies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dinah Jansen
Vice President Graduate
vpg@sgps.ca

Dear SGPS Council Members,

Big congratulations to the incoming Executive team. I am looking forward to transitioning Mark Asfar into his role as your new VPP. I would be willing to bet that he will be teaching me things by the end of the transition period.

I have kept this report short in part because a lot of what I have been working on is on the agenda in the form of motions, and in part because I took a week off during reading week. You will be happy to hear that I broke my personal land speed record on my father's new snowmobile, clocking in at 163km/h.

These bylaw and policy changes have been cleaned up since last council, and as discussed, is part of an effort to clean up our policy. The end goal for this will be to separate our current policy document into a number of different policy manuals, each with a subject area to cover. These changes also reflect our push to give more day-to-day supervision to our permanent staff, rather than having individual members of the Executive supervise our commissioners/coordinators etc.

My plan for transition is to bring Mark to any of the regular meetings I attend, introduce him to our professional student social committee, and get him up to speed on our bylaw and policy revisions so he can hopefully continue this work into the summer.

Grad Club Board met, and our AGM for Grad Club will be coming up in the next few weeks (I will get you the date at Council). Journal Board and SONAD will be meeting in March.

Looking forward to picking our new logo tonight!!

Best Regards,

Thompson Hamilton
Vice-President Professional
vpp@sgps.ca

Hi Council,

Between the elections and reading week, it's been a little slower than usual. Still, I think I've managed to cover a lot of ground.

Campaigns

My talks with the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Arig al Shaibah around graduate student stress have been ongoing and it is my hope that once secured, the data provided by the work of the Graduate Student Life Advisory Group will better inform future campaigns that I hope to undertake.

Community Affairs

In light of certain events in popular culture, I've been working with the SHRC to bring forth a little PSA for the wider community, dealing with consent, safety, and playing safely in adult matters.

Day Care, On and Off Campus.

A few more closed Queen's Day Care meetings; as I've been saying since last summer, once I hear something you'll be the first to know. I did have to send regrets to one QDC meeting as I was away in Toronto on important business.

It struck me that the longer this problem continues the more help a not insignificant number of our membership need. Keeping this in mind, I managed to meet with a representative of one of the non-profit daycares in the city, and thought that making a repository for the benefit of our membership might be a worthwhile endeavor. During our meeting we discussed the possibility of interviews, or even an open house styled event, where parents and guardians of children could become better acquainted with the facilities on a guided tour.

Community Housing Board

Attended a Community Housing Board meeting and passed along some last minute vacancies in An Clachan to Sean for the newsletter; also, the AMS has developed a tool that will allow everyone to collate housing data alongside google maps, so that potential students can see the overall geographic costs of Kingston before making a decision. I think this'll really help those new to Queen's.

Health & Wellness Steering Committee

Anyhow, went to a Provost's Advisory Committee on Mental Health and brought up a concern about the new procedure for graduate student withdrawal, both voluntary and involuntary. There's a little more going on here but it still concerns me that, once again, a student leaving their courses and teaching via involuntary temporary withdrawal might find themselves in hot water insofar as their employment goes. Roxy Denniston-Stewart explained the process to me and we're going to be meeting up in the near future to continue discussions, as well as following up with the SGS.

Mental Health Working Group

Unfortunately, I had to send my regrets as I was away in Toronto on business.

Student Wellness, Health, and Safety Working Group

As the group is actively seeking to dissolve itself by divesting its concerns to other, better positioned committees and workgroups, not much was covered. Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Affairs Ann Tierney had the results from an internal survey with a rather large number of interesting statistics, figures, and details regarding the overall student community; this is doubly delicious as it also includes Queen's numbers against other similar sized universities. She said she'd give me the slides once things were wrapped up in March, so I definitely want to follow up with this.

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Working Group

As part of my commitment to a healthier and safer campus I've become involved in the serious and sobering work of this working group. Considering that this Friday (before council meets), that Premier Kathleen Wynne is going to be announcing *Ontario's Plan to Stop Sexual Violence and Harassment*, this group, it is my hope that this will be the encouragement that our campus needs to amend its policies and to shore up weaknesses. Working alongside Erica and our allies in the SHRC and the AMS it is my hope that we can ultimately craft a policy that isn't simply "best practices," but one that takes into consideration our unique experiences and positions as students.

[I don't know if you've done so, but if not could you please take this response survey that the Working group has released? It will help better inform the final draft that we're all working toward. Also, I've made things easier for you by using Internet Sorcery to make this entire paragraph a link!](#)

Also, if you could set aside some time tomorrow to attend, I'd greatly appreciate it. The Queen's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Working Group is holding open meetings on Wednesday March 4th in the Levana Room, Lower Level of Ban Righ Hall, 10 Bader Lane. Meetings will be from 12:00PM - 1:00 PM and 6:30PM - 7:30PM. Please consider attending the upcoming meetings or getting the word out to your fellow students via social media.

And finally, if a member of council who is not currently part of our executive, staff, or support staff were to tell me what their favourite pokemon is (any generation), they'll win a prize.

Dear SGPS Council Members,

The past month has been fairly quiet. After having the budgetary changes approved at our last Council all of our bursary programs are back in full effect. I believe that the adjusted amounts should bring us to the end of the year without the need for further amendments - this all depends on usage which has been rather unpredictable so we will may still need to deal with any issues as they come up.

The Sports Fund bursaries have been processed for the Winter 2015 term. Our new policy allows the Finance and Services Committee to consider applications side by side and if budgetary concerns arise, the Committee is in a better position to decide which applications should receive funding. I have received positive feedback for this processing model. As such, at the General Meeting in a couple of weeks I will be proposing similar processing changes for the Grants Program. This year the Grants Program has been heavily used and I think this model will let us best allocate funding for our member's various events and initiatives.

Congratulations to the recently elected 2015/2016 executive! We have begun transition, and will continue to do so until we change office on May 1. I will be working closely with the incoming VPFS (Christina) to discuss her priorities, orientate her to the inner working of the SGPS, and hopefully provide her with a comprehensive transition so she can hit the ground running.

Sincerely,

Patrick Gajos
VP Finance and Services
vpfs@sgps.ca

Happy Transition everyone! I hope you all are enjoying this stupid Smarch weather.

SGPS Transition

I would like to congratulate our incoming Executive for 2015-16. We are very happy and excited to have you on board!

By the time this report reaches Council, transition will be well underway. We are hoping that a two month transition period will allow for a more enjoyable, less overwhelming experience for all involved. Outside of the usual one-on-one transitions between Exec members and their successors, we are also doing four classes for the incoming exec in order to bring everyone up to speed on things like health and dental, Queen's governance, and AODA policy. I would like to thank our Executive Director Sean Richards, outgoing President Kevin Wiener, and Graduate Student Senator Eric Rapos for their invaluable assistance during this process.

Accessibility Fund Bursary

We are teaming up with Queen's Disability Service Office to offer a bursary from the SGPS Accessibility Fund that is dedicated to assisting our members who are registered with Queen's Disability Services Office. If you are registered with Queen's Disability Service Office, are unable to receive the OSAP Bursary for Students with Disabilities and require equipment and/or services related to your disability please speak to your DSO Advisor about applying for our bursary. All applications must come from Queen's Disability Services Office and be endorsed by a DSO Advisor.

SGPS Awards

Award season might be over in Hollywood but at the SGPS it is only just beginning! Nominations are now open for the TA/TF Excellence Award, the Student Contribution Award, the Administration/Staff Appreciation Award, the Volunteer Award, and the Graduate Support Award. Nomination forms are available at <http://www.sgps.ca/events/awards.html> and can be submitted via email to me at ea@sgps.ca or in the SGPS Main Office (JDUC 021). Nominations close Monday, March 23, 2015 at 4:00 pm and we hope to release the results during the week of April 6th. Take the time to nominate an outstanding SGPS member today!

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.

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
March 2015

Dear Council,

Since our last Council meeting:

- The Bylaw and Policy Committee has met to discuss some of the proposed changes to the bylaw and policy.
- There is currently no case pending before the Judicial Board.

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 – February 26, 2015

- The new Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation was approved by the Quality Council and will commence as planned in September 2015.
- The site visit for the Graduate Diploma, Master's and PhD programs in Aging and Health was held Feb 12th and 13th; the report submitted was very positive.
- A discussion was held surrounding the process for restriction of theses at Queen's.
 - Currently students are able to make this decision entirely on their own, and the administration is proposing some oversight/approval by supervisors to ensure that the decision is made for appropriate reasons. Student may be seeking patents on IP, and this should be allowed – however there are some instances where restriction is not appropriate.
 - The discussion was at the high level and the proposal needs to be fleshed out before coming to a vote.
 - Specifically there are concerns surrounding wording of terms, such as “valid reason” that end up being ambiguous.
 - I will continue to update you all when developments arise, but in the meantime if you have thoughts on reasons why a thesis may need to be restricted from publication, please let me know so I can add these to the discussion.

Senate Meeting – February 24, 2015

- Meeting agenda can be found here:
<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&id=676>
- Senate approved the creation of a joint Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Arts and Bachelor of Education Program (BFA/BEd) beginning Sept 2016.
 - [https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/54890/SCAD%20-%20Concurrent%20BFA%20\(Visual%20Art%20and%20Education\).pdf?handle=B0EB1806BC9B4385A60CD4ECC092B738](https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/54890/SCAD%20-%20Concurrent%20BFA%20(Visual%20Art%20and%20Education).pdf?handle=B0EB1806BC9B4385A60CD4ECC092B738)
- Senate approved a new “4+1” program in the Department of Geography and Planning, where students can enroll in the Master of Planning (MPL) during their undergrad, taking courses in order to finish the MPL in one year following their 4 year undergrad.
 - <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/54900/SCAD%20-%20Major%20Modification%20in%20Master%20of%20Urban%20and%20Regional%20Planning.pdf?handle=218939DB68FD4885B69605DAFCA892CD>
- Senate approved the establishment of an Arts and Science Internship Program.
 - <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/54914/SCAD%20-%20QUIP,%20Arts%20and%20Science.pdf?handle=68E1D24B793947539AE507DD0C6A111D>
- Allison Williams and I, along with Lynda Colgan (Chair of Senate Governance and Nominating Committee) presented an initial proposal on the composition of Senate, very similar to the process conducted at AMS Assembly last fall and what was attempted at SGPS Council. We were looking for feedback in order to bring a notice of motion to next month's Senate Meeting.
 - <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/55062/GNC%20-%20Senate%20Composition%20Report.pdf?handle=189314F6A3B6411E9A5E17CBC807F394>

- There were several concerns raised from the Faculty of Health Sciences regarding their reduction in seats – we have heard these concerns and will be addressing them before moving forward.
- Any feedback from SGPS Council would be appreciated.
- A motion was brought forth from SGPS President Kevin Wiener regarding the disposition of Human Rights Office cases.
 - <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/55054/Motion%20-%20HRO%20Cases.pdf?handle=BC4DDAF98E1D46FD955638620D3E2758>
- The Division of Student Affairs' Annual Report was presented.
 - <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/54884/DSA%20Annual%20Report%202014.pdf?handle=06A4D1CDBC8C474984AE5CCE3E934F5A>

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

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos
Graduate Student Senator
senator@sgps.ca

SGPS Computer Network

- Our email server failed this past month. Luckily I had the necessary replacement hardware on site so the fix was fast and no email was lost. The server itself is getting quite old so I am now in the process of figuring out what we need in terms of replacement hardware and software and how the update process will work.
- I believe I have sorted out all the SSL certificate issues.
- All phones in the SGPS office have been moved and are now functioning properly (these changes are a result of the office renovation).
- We had a temporary issue with our office security system which required a change in telephone lines (the panel still worked but information was not being transmitted to Queen's security). This has been sorted out and the alarm panel is now working properly again.
- I am in the process of tweaking the hard-wired network infrastructure at our office to ensure that our main servers have a safe place with the necessary bandwidth for our needs. Our main servers remain in a secure storage room in the meantime.

SGPS Website

- I have rewritten the entire newsletter page on our website. Not a huge deal but it is now much easier to read and much easier to update. <http://www.sgps.ca/events/newsletter.html>
- The footer of our website has been updated for the following 2 reasons:
 - We no longer accept faxes so I have removed reference to our fax number
 - To comply with AODA, a message has been added "All communications from the SGPS are available in alternate formats upon request."

Communications

- Andria and I have been working on fillable pdf forms for a number of purposes including bursary applications, award nomination and more. It is more difficult than we hoped to get a universally working fillable pdf solution (for mobile devices, computers, different operating systems). It seems at this point that the best way to move forward is to have the forms translated to HTML and use our servers. This is a project that we will tackle over the course of the summer.
- The process has begun for the 2015-2016 version of the SGPS Handbook/Agenda. If you have any suggestions or comments, please send them to me.
- I have started the process of soliciting advertising for the 2015-2016 agenda as well as the orientation guide.
- I am working on a communication and information strategy for SGPS Elections and Referenda. The goal is to have a set of documents that outline key information for the CRO, campaign groups, candidates and the general membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Richards - info@sgps.ca

Dear members of the SGPS,

I hope you had a great reading week. Please find below some important updates from the Equity Commission:

Equity Commission Meetings – All Are Welcome

The Equity Commission is continuing to meet throughout the semester. **Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 11th at 5:00pm in JDUC 235.** All are welcome to join. To RSVP, please contact Andria Mahon at ea@sgps.ca.

Equity Commission Meet & Greet

On the day of the submission of this report (March 3rd, 2015), The Equity Commission is hosting a meet & greet for equity-related campus partners to come and network with the commission. The event is being held at the Grad Club. Invited campus partners will be able to get to know the Equity Commission better, and vice versa, which will allow us to have strong relationships and support across all campus initiatives in the future.

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Working Group

The [Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Working Group](#) is currently seeking feedback from the campus community. This is a working group that I sit on as the SGPS Equity Commissioner and have been actively involved with since January. I strongly encourage the membership to seek out opportunities that fit their schedules and needs through the working group's website (hyperlinked above) to provide their input to the working group on new policies and measures to be implemented at Queen's regarding sexual assault.

Equity Coordinator

Over reading week, Mathieu Curpi (Equity Coordinator) attended the Ontario Council on Student Affairs (OCSA) day-long meeting on the issue of sexual violence at universities. The meeting was held at York University. This meeting is very timely, especially in regards to the ongoing work of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Working Group on Queen's campus. Please find a message from Mat about the meeting, below:

I attended the OCSA Conference "Taking Action: Sexual Violence on Campus" at York University. I was accompanied by Ann Tierney (Vice-Provost and Dean of Student Affairs), Arig al Shaibah (Assistant Dean of Student Affairs), and Emily Wong (AMS Social Issues Commissioner).

- *Dr. Rachel Griffin (Assistant Professor in the Department of Speech Communication at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale) was an excellent keynote speaker. I think it would be beneficial for the AMS/SGPS to invite her as a speaker for Orientation Week every year.*
- *Queen's University is currently improving current Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention strategies (eg. Human Rights Office Liaison, Policies, Support Systems/Compassion for Survivors, Transparency to Students, Online Resources/Apps, Bystander Programs/Institutionally-Trained Peer Advocates, Peer Support Line, Self-Defense Courses, Poster Campaigns, Education). Town Halls meetings are set to take place this week.*

In his first month as Equity Coordinator, Mat has been very active as you can see. He has also attended Positive Space training through the Positive Space Steering Committee. As well, Mat has brought forward a proposal to change our name to the "Equity and Diversity Commission" which will be brought to council this month.

Equity Commission Researchers

The Equity Commission has hired two researchers to look into the feasibility of expanding the reach of the Commission. They are beginning their terms this month. More information to come from their collective work later this spring and summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Baker

Equity Commissioner

equity@sgps.ca

SGPS International Winter Bowl 2015

On March 1st, 2015 the international student affairs committee held a social event to remind international SGPS members of the connection between the institution of the SGPS and their experience as students. The event was a success. The Winter Bowl was enjoyed and well-received by the students who attended. The total cost of the event came to \$190 with the commission and the students splitting the cost. The total cost to ISAC was only \$90. In between turns of bowling I managed to discuss with certain students how they felt about the international student affairs commission involvement in their experience and many of the students felt that ISAC should promote more social events like this one, particularly in the summer, when the population in Kingston—and sense of community is diminished. Shadi Khan, a member of the Cultural Engagement group, expressed that social events for international membership seemed limited to CEG and suggested a greater cooperation between SGPS ISAC and CEG.

Supervisory Relationship with VP Graduate and Student Advisors

The VP graduate, the Student Advisors and I have been discussing opening up workshops for SGPS members, international and domestic, concerning the supervisory relationship. We intend to detail for the membership communication strategies and outlines to help them get the best out of one of the most vital relationships to their academic and professional lives. Some of the topics we have discussed include: setting expectations for the supervisory relationship, encouraging confidence when discussing the details of funding in RAs with the supervisor and being aware of the rights and supports which are available to students. We hope that these workshops will offer students constructive methods of engaging with their supervisors, and help prevent the breakdown of supervisory relationships observed by the student advisors.

Resume and Cover Letter Workshop

ISAC has been in discussion with Career Services about running a resume and cover letter workshop geared towards international students. The workshop is made to ensure that international students have the tools to communicate their work, volunteer, and otherwise professional experiences, to a Canadian job market. ISAC will work to help promote this workshop, which will take place on March 18th.



Dear Council:

The Committee has reviewed the proposed changes to hiring and evaluation of commissioners and coordinators that was referred to the Committee at February Council.

In order to harmonize the bringing into force of both the bylaw and the policy changes, the Committee is reporting the bylaw changes as a main motion for first reading at this Council meeting. The proposed policy changes are being submitted to Council for information, and will be reported to the March General Meeting for approval.

Proposed changes arising from both motions may be found in the Appendix. The bylaw changes will be discussed as a main motion. Any questions or feedback about the policy changes should be provided during Senator, Trustee, Commission, Committee & Other Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

The Bylaw & Policy Revisions Standing Committee