

Dear Council:

As I write this, I'm four days into my term, so there isn't a huge amount to update you on. As some of you may be aware, I'm working in Windsor until August 8th so I won't be able to attend May's Council meeting. If any of you have any questions about the contents of my report, please send me an email at president@sgps.ca and I'll make sure to get you a quick response. Before I get into what I've been up to for the four days since I started my term, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Iain Reeve for all the work he's put in as SGPS President over the past year. Iain managed to achieve some big wins for SGPS members (such as moving tuition start dates from May to September) and made significant progress on a number of other fronts. I hope I can live up to his example.

Provincial Election

A general election for the province of Ontario has been called for June 12th. Obviously the outcome of the election will have very important ramifications on post-secondary education policy in the province. My understanding is that the CFS will be working to get policies important to SGPS members some traction during the campaign. On a more local level, our VP Campaigns and Community Affairs Lorne Beswick will be spearheading our election outreach efforts in Kingston and the Islands. Because the campaign and election are happening over the summer term, the AMS is likely to be much less active than they would be for a fall or winter campaign, so a lot more will be falling on our shoulders. Lorne has also been chosen by the SGPS Executive to sit as our representative on the CFS-Ontario Exec, so I'm sure he'll have more to share with you about the election at the meeting.

Municipal Voter Registration

One of my campaign platform points was to try and set up an online voter registration portal for the 2014 Municipal Election. While students can register to vote on election day, it tends to be more convenient for them if they're registered ahead of time, so that they'll have a voter card sent to them and can vote by declaration if they bring improper ID to the polls. This year, early registration will be especially important because the City will be introducing online advance voting (which may help to drive student turnout).

Earlier in April I wrote up a short policy brief outlining the benefits and possible methods for online voter registration, and I've been using it as a framework for talks with Principal Woolf and Allison Williams (the AMS President). The AMS is very much on-board with the idea, and the Principal seemed quite receptive. Since then, Allison and I have been working with Sheilagh Dunn, the university's Director of Public and Government Affairs, and we're optimistic about having online registration set up for this summer. Right now we're just working on getting go-ahead from Student Affairs, the Registrar, the University Counsel, and then ensuring that the data we hand over will be accepted by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation. If any of you want more details about how the proposed system will work, I'm happy to send you a copy of the brief I wrote.

Board of Trustees

On May 2-3, I attended a meeting of the Queen's Board of Trustees, where I had the chance to update the Board on some of concerns I had about the enrolment increase and ancillary fees in the Faculty of Education. The University Senate has approved an undergraduate enrollment increase of 1600 students over four years in the Faculty of Arts and Science as well as smaller increases in other faculties. There have been strong concerns from many student leaders that funding for the university's shared services will be insufficient to keep pace with this increase. As an example, HCDS is already very strained. An additional 1600 undergrads will mean less HCDS time and resources available for graduate and professional students. At the meeting, the Principal acknowledged the concerns students have had about shared services funding, but it is an issue that will require follow-up when the shared services budget for 15-16 gets put together in the fall.

I also relayed some concerns I had received from an ESS member about course-based fees levied on 5th-year Education students. It is not at all clear to me that these fees are in compliance with the province's Ancillary Fee Protocol, and I expressed to the Board my hope that the administration's efforts on this front will lead to better oversight over these types of fees. After the Friday meeting I had a very fruitful conversation with Bob Burge, one of the staff trustees and the Education Registrar, about this issue as well as other issues affecting education students.

Academic Harassment

At a meeting with the Principal in April, I had the chance to discuss my desire to put in place a formal policy and procedure for instances of academic harassment that do not have a nexus with Human Rights Code grounds. The Principal agreed that this is an ongoing national issue and that more can be done to prevent academic harassment at the university. I have yet to discuss this issue with the Dean of Graduate Studies, but I do believe it should be possible to have significant progress towards a formal policy either at GSEC or (ideally) the Senate. I will continue to pursue this throughout the academic year.

Fee Collection for External Groups and Faculty/Departmental Societies

I've had some conversations with our Executive Director Sean Richards and VP Finance and Services Patrick Gajos about the time it takes us between when we receive fees from the registrar to when those fees are remitted to campus groups. Many of these groups have a much smaller cash cushion than the SGPS does, so prompt remittance of fees is very important for them to manage their cash flow. One possibility we're exploring for this upcoming year is remitting the fall fee payment before we perform internal reconciliation of the Registrar's numbers, rather than after. Because only part of the fees are remitted in the fall, if we discover any errors in the Registrar's figures then we can just correct them by adjusting the winter payment. At this point this is just a preliminary discussion and we should be able to update you on what the Executive has decided for the August Council meeting.

Student Life Centre Management & Operations Agreement

We have been having ongoing discussions with the AMS about changes they want to make to the M&O Agreement. Some of these proposed changes are very much not in the SGPS's interests, but there are also some valid concerns on the AMS side. Over the summer Patrick and I will be working to ideally come to a compromise that addresses the AMS concerns without giving up our status within the agreement. We should be able to provide a clearer picture on this issue at August Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Wiener', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Wiener
President

president@sgps.ca

Dear SGPS Council Members and Members-at-Large,

Student Advisor Program

Advisors will hold summer office hours (JDUC Room 203) on:

Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Work Study

On May 14th and 15th, the SGPS will begin interviewing candidates for a new Work-Study position we have created to help promote the Student Advisor Program. This Work-Study student will assist in building content for the Student Advisor Program webpage, creating FAQs, developing standardized info packets to distribute to departments, and organizing promotion of the Program leading up to Orientation Week 2014.

Transition

I have been shadowing Becky Pero, our outgoing VP Graduate, almost daily since the election. I've attended almost all of the committees that I will sit on during my term, and have been studying policy initiatives and recommendations for most of the month. I also met with the Student Advisors to discuss the program, their recommendations, and the various ways I will support their work. I've also attended all of the SGPS Executive meetings as well as the transition weekend run by the outgoing executive whereby we learned about government structure, finance and services, ongoing issues, our relationship to the CFS, etc. It's been a lot to take in but I feel well prepared. I am very excited to begin working alongside Kevin, Thompson, Patrick, and Lorne and look forward to a great term of office alongside them.

Time to Completion Task Force

The T2C Task Force is putting the final touches on its draft report based on this group's ongoing work. Emphasis continues to be on student-supervisor relationships, funding, program structure, and also TA/TF work as factors related to times to completion. Recommendations of the T2C Task Force will be discussed at the next GSEC meeting on 8 May.

Graduate Student Life Advisory Group (GSLAG)

GSLAG met on 23 April. Primary focus of the meeting was on the new PIF Versatile Graduate Modules, a topic also discussed at Grad Studies Forum on 8 April. Eighteen graduate professional skills modules will be made live to grad students through one portal in September. The intent of the modules is to help grad students prepare to move into the workforce and "diverse career pathways." There are modules on mental health, entrepreneurship, research & communication. The modules are still in testing and decisions are forthcoming about their potential use in graduate courses, blended learning or independent usage. For more information, access the SGS slide deck on the initiative:

[Graduate\(Professional\)\(Skills\)\(Online\)\(Modules4 - Queen's University](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Becky Pero for all her time and effort this past month preparing me for my new role as your VP Graduate. I really do have some big shoes to fill!

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Jansen
Vice President Graduate
vpg@sgps.ca

Dear SGPS Council Members,

I wanted to use this report in part to introduce myself and in part to outline some of my broader goals for the year. In September we will be going over a more comprehensive year plan.

I just finished (marks pending of course...) my first year of law, and prior to that completed a psychology degree here at Queen's. I chose to come back to this school to study law because of the community spirit that continues to define Queen's. I am invested and involved in the future of this institution, and in the students that continue to come here for education.

The terms of the previous VPP's were cut short due to resignations, and this has meant the position has been somewhat disjointed in terms of long-term goals and planning. I will continue to carry out the HR scope of the portfolio, but I also hope to define my term by laying the foundation for stronger relationships between the professional students at Queen's.

There are many large structural changes happening within the professional degrees at Queen's: Education degrees are becoming a two-year program and will see a significant reduction in admissions. The Law School has already approved a plan to increase enrollment significantly in what has historically remained a small program. All professional students face the realities of securing articling, teaching spots, or fieldwork placements. Some small steps I plan to take in terms of keeping informed about the issues facing the different professional students at Queen's include regularly attending LSS, ESS and Rehab Therapy Student Society Meetings.

There is also much that can be done in terms of laying groundwork for more connected professional students at Queen's. I will be spending some time this summer looking into what the different professional degrees would like to see in terms of an SGPS orientation event, and perhaps the feasibility of an annual professional student social event.

As the Campus Master Plan becomes a reality, it will become increasingly important to ensure that our students who live and study on West Campus are advocated for. In line with this, I hope to explore the availability of SGPS resources on West Campus, including the potential for office hours, health and dental claims services, and any other suggestions that members bring forward.

I hope to get to know many of you – I think you will find I keep a very open door and I love to learn more about the various challenges (and successes!) that the different student bodies face on campus. Never hesitate to email or stop by for a chat.

Best Regards,

Thompson Hamilton
Vice-President Professional
vpp@sgps.ca

Hi Council,

I'd like to thank our membership again for electing me and allowing me to serve as your VP Campaigns and Community Affairs for the 2014/15 year. For the most part, my time has been spent working closely with the outgoing executive as part of a transitional process that we've all been involved in; essentially, this included establishing contacts, introducing ourselves to the membership of our respective portfolios, and learning the ropes, as it were. While all of the former executive and administrative staff have been invaluable during this process I'd like to extend an extra warm thanks to outgoing VP Campaigns and Community Affairs Meagan Crane for spending the time with me that she did, and wish her and her new arrival all the best in the coming months. Although I'm barely a week into my term, I'm pleased to announce that I've already made some progress on a few of the items that I'd campaigned on.

Mental Health and Wellness at Queen's

As many of you may recall from my campaigning, mental health and wellbeing are issues that are very important to me. I'm pleased to announce that I recently sat upon the Student Affairs Mental Health Working Group and engaged in some very promising discussions with its membership at large. While I don't have anything concrete to report upon at this early stage, I'm nevertheless mindful of my role of advocating for graduate and professional students and will be in contact with key members over the coming weeks as more information is made available to me.

CFS Ontario Executive

I plan to be meeting with the rest of the Ontario executive of the CFS during the weekend of the 9th to 11th of May. The preliminary meeting during a training session with two provincial representatives went marvelously, and all of us were eager to discuss and debate the campaigns that we'd be interested in getting off the ground. This is also a wonderful opportunity not only for networking but also for collaborating on research with other universities within Ontario; this will be invaluable for the evidence-based research that I firmly believe serves as the foundation for all of our ongoing campaigns.

Ontario Provincial Election

We once again find ourselves heading to the polls as a general election has been slated for the second week of June. Although a summer election is not ideal for students, I know that sizeable number of graduate and professional students remain in Kingston during this time making it a perfect opportunity to advance my campaign interests. I hope to be in contact and working with the Returning Officer for Kingston and the Islands, in meeting with the candidates and perhaps even staging a public event or debate, where each of them will be able to discuss their parties' approach to mental health, student debt, post-residency fees, and issues important to students more generally, in front of interested graduate and professional students. I likewise hope to bring a better understanding of the campaigns, gained from the provincial meeting this upcoming weekend, to the fore when speaking with the candidates and planning our official outreach.

Dear Council,

I am very excited to be starting my term as the new VP Finance & Services, and I look forward to a great year working together with all of you. This summer I will be working in Toronto and I will not be able to attend most summer session council meetings with a few exceptions. That being said, I will make myself available through email at vpfs@sgps.ca. If you have any questions or concerns please get in touch and I will respond as quickly as possible at all times.

I also would like to thank the previous executive for their hard work and major achievements this past year. The SGPS is an even stronger organization now because of their dedication and I know this year's team will work tirelessly to continue that. The previous VPFS, Jillian, has been an invaluable asset to this organization and I hope to live up to what she has done for the SGPS.

With a successful transition month behind us, the team and I are very enthusiastic about getting started.

Budget 2015

Over the summer months I will be focussing on creating a budget that is both fiscally responsible and puts SGPS members at the forefront. We will continue to budget a surplus, and address key priorities as brought forward by the executive, committees, and other representatives.

Our robust grant and bursary program has helped many members this past year, and we intend on continuing funding these initiatives. We are approaching our 2013/2014 budget line figures for all our grants and bursaries which signals the success of the program, and the possibility of expansion moving forward.

Over the next several weeks I will be actively having conversations with the executive, representatives, and members at large to clearly define our fiscal priorities before presenting the budget at August's council meeting. Any and all input is most welcome.

Health and Dental Insurance Plan

On September 1, 2014 our insurance carrier will switch over from Greenshield Canada to RWAM. The switch comes with a number of favorable changes which affects all members who do not opt-out of the plan. We are putting together a summary sheet to highlight these changes which will be distributed come September to help avoid confusion. The full details are available through the benefits package booklet which can be obtained from the SGPS office or by emailing me. The new plan largely affects prescription medication coverage. Generally, coverage is increased across the board with one exception being brand-name medication purchased at a non-approved pharmacy where coverage drops from the current 80% to 60%.

While we see this new plan as a big step forward, this year we will continue to investigate our health and dental plan options in order to even further expand member benefits.

Services

Our regular services will continue uninterrupted throughout the summer term. Any potential changes will come into effect with the start of the Fall semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Gajos
VP Finance & Services
vpfs@sgps.ca

Dear SGPS Council Members,

My name is Andria Mahon and I am proud to formally introduce myself to Council as the new Executive Assistant for the SGPS. As a former Queen's graduate student (I graduated with my Masters in Gender Studies in November 2013), I am extremely grateful to be able to aid the organization that helped me so much during my time as a student. I started in my position on April 1st and I already have a lot of information to report!

Committees, Committees, Committees

Since starting as the Executive Assistant I have taken up the mantel of organizing our internal committees as well as ensuring our presence on committees external to the SGPS. I believe I have made great strides in this area but I do humbly request Council's assistance.

If you currently sit on any committees external to the SGPS (including departmental councils) please shoot me an email at ea@sgps.ca to let me know.

It is my goal to ensure that the SGPS and the voices of our members are consistently represented across Queen's. Please be sure to check future editions of the SGPS newsletter for postings regarding committee vacancies.

With that in mind, we currently have several vacancies on internal SGPS committees. If you are remaining an SPGS member through the 2014-2015 academic year and are interested on serving on any of our internal committees ([many of which are outlined here](#)), please feel free to get in touch with me as well.

Sustainability Coordinator Hiring

I am happy report that Megan MacCallum will be serving as our new Sustainability Coordinator! Megan worked on the Sustainability Committee this past year and we look forward to the Committee's work under her tenure.

I would also like thank former Coordinator, Gulaid Egeh for his fantastic service to the SGPS. We will miss him and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Summer Work Study Positions

Although the application period will have closed by the time this report reaches Council, we are hiring two Work Study students for the summer. One student will be assistant the VPG with promoting the Student Advisor program and another student will be assisting the President in examining issues surrounding Municipal Landlord Licensing.

We are looking forward to the products of these positions and to hiring more Work Study students during the 2014-15 academic year!

Transition

We completed our transition weekend for the new executive at the end of April. The incoming executive is comprised of sensational people, all of whom posses a strong desire for service. I look forward to working with them in the coming year.

Best Regards,

Andria Mahon
Executive Assistant
ea@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Speaker
May 2014

Dear Council,

In the past couple of weeks, I have met with James, the outgoing Speaker, and Sean, the Executive Director, as part of my transition. They were both very helpful.

As I am working in Vancouver this summer, regretfully I will not be able to chair the Council meetings in May and August. However, I am still handling all the administrative tasks in the background. If you have any questions, please do email me.

In our August meeting, we will ratify the Council meeting dates for the 14/15 academic year. For the past years, we have been meeting at 6:30PM on every second Tuesday of the month between September and May, and then again August. Please advise if this date & time substantially conflicts with your program/society-wide class or meeting schedules.

Kind regards,

Max Ma
B.A. (Hons.), J.D. Candidate 2015
Speaker (speaker@sgps.ca)

Greetings Council,

It is my pleasure to submit my first report of my term as Graduate Student Senator. While this report is due on my sixth day in office, I still have some things to bring you up to speed on, based on meetings that have occurred during my transition into the role.

GSEC Meeting – April 17, 2014

Meeting Highlights can be found here: http://www.sgps.ca/wiki/pages/88b964t6B/GSEC_April_2014_Highlights.html

The big points of discussion at this meeting were the revisions to the outcomes of the oral thesis examination, in which the proposal looks at allowing for failure based on the examination itself, rather than just the written document. SGPS representatives voiced the concern that it must be ensured that if there are issues with the document prior to the examination, the student be made aware of them, such that they do not attend the examination without the possibility of passing (basically, once in the room, the examiners are there to evaluate your presentation and question response skills, and should not fail you at this point based on the document). This concern was addressed stating that there already exists a policy to this effect, and the new proposed policy aims at clarifying this.

The next big area of discussion was over the proposed Senate policy on program closure, which included Graduate Fields. The Dean discussed proposing an amendment to the policy to exclude field from the closure policy, and ultimately GSEC agreed this would be worthwhile.

The next GSEC Meeting will take place on May 8th, so I will be able to provide an update in person at Council.

Senate Meeting – April 29, 2014

The agenda for this senate meeting can be found here:

<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=475>

There were a number of reform changes to Senate policies to bring committee names in line with recent changes. Another designation change that directly affects students is the designation of students as committee members. Previously, student committee membership was designated by either “graduate student” or “undergraduate student”, however this led to a number of situations which are not desirable, especially for SGPS members. For example if the SGPS President is a Law Student (as is currently the case), they would be considered an undergraduate student, thus reducing the representation of SGPS members on Senate committees. Thus, a change was approved to have student designation on committees be “SGPS Member” or “AMS Member”.

At the April Senate meeting, Committee members were appointed for varying terms. This included my appointment to the Senate Governance and Nominating Committee.

There was a very engaging discussion on the proposed enrollment numbers

(<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentDisplay.aspx?Id=38204>) which looks at the proposed increased enrollment over the next several years. Faculty Deans spoke to this motion first, each of them in turn discussing their faculty’s thoughts on increased enrollment, with each expressing support, and the necessity of the proposed increases. Student Senators (as well as some Faculty Senators) raised concerns with the increased enrollment without a commitment to increasing the shared services. Ultimately the proposal was approved (with Student Senators opposing), and the Principal reaffirming that the concerns raised by students should be considered moving forward.

The next area of discussion was the proposed policy on program closure. There was some good discussion here, but of note, the amendment I mentioned coming out of GSEC was proposed by the Dean of Graduate Studies, which was approved, thus removing Graduate Fields from the proposed policy.

There were several other motions regarding anonymous voting, publishing of minutes, and agenda deadlines, which can be found in the agenda, and if you have any questions, I will be happy to address them.

I hope everyone has an excellent summer!

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos
Graduate Student Senator
senator@sgps.ca

Dear Council,

I am pleased to report on the activities of the Board of Trustees over the May 2/4 2014 meeting. A number of items were discussed which I believe are worth bringing to your attention.

As you may be aware, an election has recently been called for the Government of Ontario. This will be a period of uncertainty for Queen's as we are currently unclear as to the role the MTCU differentiation framework will play in any future government. However, the exercise of generating the aforementioned document has been a useful one for Queen's, and will guide the administration over the coming years. Changeover of government may also impact the pension situation.

Unfortunately, it does not appear that any additional core residence space (Leggett, Watts etc), including the 2 new buildings under construction will be allocated to graduate or professional students, contrary to my earlier impressions. However, I can confirm that residence space on West campus is undergoing considerable renovation to increase its attractiveness to potential tenants, which includes the graduate and professional student population.

I am also happy to report that, in conjunction with pressure applied from Senate, the university administration is critically assessing funding allocations for services such as HCDS. Some budgets for the coming years were passed as projections, meaning that they will be adjusted as we realize our revenue each fiscal year. I have requested additional metrics so that I may directly monitor the performance of some of our core services, and I will be keenly attentive to any performance impact in the coming academic year.

Should you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best Regards,

James A. MacLeod

Graduate Trustee
trustee@sgps.ca

Dear SGPS Council,

In April the Social Team hosted a successful Speed Meeting Event at the Agnes Etherington Art Centre. Students had an opportunity to meet new people and check out the exhibits! We also continued with our Sports Hours throughout the first half of the month.

The Social Team had hoped to get bi-weekly outdoor sports hours started in early May, however we've been running into some delays and probably won't get started until mid-to-late May. While we wanted to host some of the sports hours on the cricket field at City Park, due to poor weather conditions on large snowfalls over the winter the field is not open until June 1. In the meantime we're working on booking space in the ARC or at Tindall field so we can get our very popular sports hours started back up!

We're planning several social events for May: a board games night in the SGPS Social Lounge on Wednesday May 14, and mixer at the Grad Club later in the month (date TBA).

The Social Team is working on some great events for June, July, and August, including trips to the beach, taking in a Blue Jays baseball game, and white water rafting, among others!

Finally, the Social Team will be getting the Social Committee together over the summer to begin preparations for Orientation Week 2014. If you, or anyone you know, would like to be part of the Social Committee, we would be happy to include you!

Respectfully submitted,

Margaux MacDonald
Social Commissioner
social@sgps.ca

SGPS Computer Network

- New laptops were purchased for the incoming Executive as the old laptops had run their course. I had to prepare all the new systems with patches and software updates. I also had to migrate all the data from the old machines onto the new machines. Furthermore, I had to verify and test many parts of the new machines as they were a couple of operating system versions newer than the old machines. I wanted to make sure they worked corrected with all SGPS services before handing them over to the new Exec.
- I transferred e-mail, wiki, calendar access from the outgoing Exec to our new Exec.
- I am working to integrate a Blackberry into our network as our new President uses a Blackberry and the Blackberry is not properly connecting to our mail server or calendar server.
- I am looking to update the operating system on one of our servers. The timing is right now that summer term is upon us. Traffic is at its lowest for the year so the update risk is lowest at this time of year.

SGPS Website

- Queen's has purchased a year license for software that tests the accessibility of websites. I have gained access to this software for the SGPS and I will be going through the reports and correcting any issues our site may have with respect to accessibility guidelines and web accessibility standards. I have and will continue take the accessibility of our website very seriously and I look forward to correcting all issues on our site. After the initial check from the software, our website appears to require only small fixes and updates. I have completed work on this project. Our website is now compliant according to web accessibility standards.
- Website has been updated with pictures and names for our new Executive members.
- Andria and I will be working to do a massive update to the committee section of our website over the next couple of months.

Communications

- I have been creating a working plan with our new health and dental broker. We are working to roll out a strategy to announce the new health and dental plan and make sure everyone is very well informed. This has taken a fair amount of time already and will continue to be the primary point of focus for the next month or two. I am keenly interested in any questions you have about the transition so that I am able to make sure as many questions as possible can be answered in advance.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Richards - info@sgps.ca

May 5, 2014

Hi everyone,

Please find below a report from the Equity Commissioner, and Equity Coordinator:

Equity Commissioners Report:

Since January, I have been collaborating with the Kahswentha Indigenous Knowledge Initiative on a teach-in on sovereignty, planned for Thursday, April 3, 2014. However, due to last minute cancellations and logistical issues, this teach-in was cancelled. Alternatively, we are looking forward to another exciting collaboration between SGPS Equity Commission and KIKI. Specifically, we are looking to establish a learning community at Queens for all grad students who have an interest in indigenous studies and issues:

“We are looking for graduate students who have an interest in Indigenous Studies to be part of an informal learning community at Queen’s. The learning community will provide a space for discussion, sharing resources, and working through challenges. Possible topics include: critical readings, pedagogy (both as teachers and learners), Indigenous-settler relations in the academy and beyond, and community involvement. Possible activities include: cultural competency training, symposiums/conferences, teach-ins, guest speakers, reading groups and socials. This is an opportunity for those working in Indigenous Studies to deepen and share knowledge, and for those with an interest in the subject to learn more. All graduate students are welcome!

Interested students are invited to come to an informal dinner at Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre on Wednesday May 14th from 5-7PM to meet other students, and discuss possibilities. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jen Hardwick at jennifer.hardwick@queensu.ca or Equity Commission, Tabasum Akseer at equity@sgps.ca.

I also was a part of the planning committee for the Equal Pay Day Coalition at Queen’s University. This is a nationwide initiative with planned activities in Kingston, London, Ottawa, Sudbury, Toronto and Windsor on Wednesday, April 16 between 11am- 2pm. The event was a success despite the cold weather and last-minute preparations. We will be planning another one for next year and are hoping to include more Queen’ scholars and community partners (for example, Kingston Labour Council, and Interval House), departmental Social Justice Committees and Anti-Poverty Groups within campus and the community.

If anyone has any suggestions for increased community partners, please feel free to contact me. We will ideally send out information regarding our plans to hold an Equal Pay Day event for 2015 (or perhaps more than one event) over the summer.

Equity Coordinators Report:

In the last month the Time to Completion Task Force wrapped up our work. The final report will be presented at the May GSEC meeting. Working with this Task Force was a great learning experience and I sincerely hope that our efforts lead to a more satisfying and rewarding experience for all graduate students. The issues surrounding completion times are quite diverse and so it was not possible to come up with a 'one size fits all' solution, but I hope our recommendations will prove helpful.

In the past month I have also conducted the annual review of the Good to Know document. This document was prepared last year but has not yet been published on the SGPS website. My responsibility mainly revolved around ensuring all of the contact details in the document are up to date, and adding in any resources that are new to the University or community or that were not already listed in the document. I hope to have it online in the coming weeks.

Best,

Tabasum Akseer, Equity Commissioner equity@sgps.ca

Colleen Webber, Equity Coordinator equityco@sgps.ca

Rector's Report to SGPS
Mike Young
May 13th, 2014
rector@queensu.ca



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I submit my first report as Rector for the SGPS. My name is Mike Young and I am a third year undergraduate student in Concurrent Education (I will eventually be one of you in my final year) majoring in Gender Studies and minoring in Global Development Studies. For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Rector and the role the Rector plays at Queen's, you are not alone. The Rector is the 3rd officer of the university, after the Chancellor and Principal, and represents undergraduate, graduate, and professional students in a number of different capacities. The Rector acts to support and mentor student representation and to enhance the broader learning environment. Serving on university governing bodies, including the Board of Trustees and Senate, and on numerous committees, the Rector voices student concerns and promotes educational excellence. The Rector also acts as an advisor to and advocate for students in grievance procedures. Additionally, the Rector promotes scholarly dialogue amongst students – notably through public speaker forums on topical issues. Most visibly, perhaps, the role involves many ceremonial functions, including convocations and conferring of awards. One of the parts of the Rector's portfolio that I am looking to expand and advertise to Queen's students over my term is that the Rector is a confidential support system in addition to the more formal parts of the job. That means that any student, at any time, can come into the office with any problem (whether it pertains to their mental health, an academic issue, etc.) and have a discussion that is 100% confidential. I will listen to your issues, help in any immediate ways that I can, and help you determine appropriate next steps if applicable. Furthermore, I will keep contact with you throughout whatever further support you require to make sure that you do not have to struggle through anything alone. This is an integral part of the role and I hope that you know that my personal support is available to you unconditionally. The office is located at the top of the stairs in the JDUC, room 124. Drop by anytime.

Vision for Engagement with the SGPS

As I mentioned, part of my job is to represent the SGPS to the administration and on various important bodies at the university. However, I see graduate and professional students as the part of the Rector's constituency that is most often forgotten, especially when the position is held by an undergraduate student. I hope to engage and work with all of you more than has been done in the past. I'd like to do everything I can to bring the SGPS and AMS to the same table such that ideas and resources can be shared. We can accomplish more working together than either the AMS or SGPS can in isolation, and I feel as Rector I can work as a facilitator to bring about positive relations

Rector's Report to SGPS
Mike Young
May 13th, 2014
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OFFICE OF THE RECTOR
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

this year. I have been in contact with President Weiner since his election and have reached out to the Executive with the hope of fostering a strong working relationship this year. More tangibly, I vow to attend every SGPS council meeting in which I am physically able and not otherwise restricted. I think the Rector's physical attendance at SGPS is vitally important and will allow me to get to know each of you personally. In addition, my attendance will allow me to keep a pulse on issues resonating within the community of graduate and professional students.

I cannot wait to get to work and to make the Queen's experience a more positive thing for all members of the SGPS. Please don't hesitate to reach out – I am more than happy to meet with anyone. You're always welcome in the office to drop in and I look forward to visitors!

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My most sincere well-wishes,

Mike Young

34th Rector of Queen's University

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