Hello Council,

I would like to start by thanking my predecessor, Kevin Wiener, for all the work he and his team put into strengthening the SGPS last year. The last year saw a lot of progress for the members of the SGPS and the position of the SGPS on campus. While we have only been in office for a week and a half, I am already confident that the new SGPS executive team will be able to build on these successes.

**Board of Trustees**
I had the opportunity to give a speech at the May Board of Trustees meeting. I focused on the need to ensure that, while campus grows and the Queen’s experience changes, access to the University and its community remain open to all members. Ongoing service limitations in, for instance, childcare and mental health add barriers to participation for many of our members, not to mention deferred maintenance of certain buildings restricting physical access to others. My concerns were well received, and I plan on continuing to advocate for better services to enable all of our members the opportunity to take part in the wider University community.

**Education Welcome Event**
Mark Asfar and I welcomed several hundred new students to the School of Education. We gave away mugs and water bottles, and had many conversations with our newest members about how they can get the most of their SGPS. With the new program schedule, our B.Ed members on West Campus will not have the traditional welcome and orientation week events to help them get accustomed to campus, so the SGPS will have to make extra effort to ensure that they feel like they are part of the broader campus community.

**Internal Review**
One of my key interests in taking this position was to be able to have the opportunity to look at how the SGPS is run internally. As I’ve been just getting my bearings over the last week and a half, this review has not started in earnest yet, and will hit its stride over the coming months. My first focus will be our bursaries program, looking over the history of the program to ensure that the bursaries that have helped many of our members in their times of need are accessible to our entire membership. If you have any ideas on how to make the SGPS run more smoothly, or better serve our members, please let me know!

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Cochrane,
President
president@sgps.ca
Dear Council,

I am very excited to be beginning my term as your 2015-2016 Vice President Graduate. Our executive team has been in office for just over a week now so there are not a lot of updates, but I can ensure you we are already hard at work. Chris, Mark, Christina, Lorne and myself are thrilled to be working together.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank outgoing VPG Dinah Jansen for all her hard work this past year. She has spent a great deal of her time over the past two months giving me the opportunity to become increasingly involved in the position so I was ready to take over on May 1st. I was able to attend many committee meeting alongside Dinah and have been brought up to speed on many issues around the university affecting graduate students specifically.

**Student Advisor Program**

I have stepped into my role as VPG at a unique time in the Student Advisor Program history. During this transition period, I want to make one thing very clear: the program is still there. Students in distress will get help when they need it. I have spent a great deal of time speaking to program stakeholders and helping units across campus to keep them up-to-date on the program and to ensure we provide the highest level of service during these unique circumstances.

That said, the program has not stopped moving forward. After a call went out to the membership regarding open Student Advisor positions, we received an unprecedented number of applications. The hiring process is well underway and interviews are scheduled to take place. The hiring committee was very excited to see so much depth in the Student Advisor applicants. Rigorous training is currently being scheduled for the Student Advisors once hiring is complete. I have been in conversation with Health, Counselling and Disability Services, the Queen’s University International Centre, the Human Rights Office, the Equity Office, the Office of the University Ombudsman, and the School of Graduate Studies regarding advisor training to ensure we can build the strongest possible team to support the Student Advisors, and more importantly, SGPS members who use the program. I can ensure council that this program is on its way to being stronger and more effective than ever.

**Committees**

I have been able to attend several meetings of GSEC, GSLAG, SARC and others over the past few months to get a better idea of the kinds of issues discussed in these forums. The largest discussions are regarding plans for orientation events in September. Please keep an eye out for SGS and SGPS orientation information to pass along to your respective programs. Any suggestions for orientation events are also welcome!

**Other Business**

President Chris Cochrane and I had the opportunity to sit down with Cathy Keates, Director of Career Services, to discuss graduate student career planning. What came out of this conversation is that graduate students should begin thinking about career options when they begin their programs. Planning for Career Week, an event that was introduced last year, was also discussed.

I also had the opportunity to attend the May Board of Trustees Meeting with Chris and VPP Mark Asfar. Chris made a phenomenal opening speech introducing the SGPS executive and some goals for the coming year. The speech received great feedback from Board members.
If you have any questions or comments about an issue, please feel free to send me an email at vpg@sgps.ca. I will be in Kingston for the summing toiling away in my basement laboratory blowing stuff up (that’s not even a joke) and dominating (or at least trying not to injure myself) in intramural soccer. Have a great summer, enjoy the sunshine and keep smiling!

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Mark Kellenberger
Vice President Graduate
vpg@sgps.ca
Dear SGPS Council Members,

I am submitting this report to you a mere 12 days after having taken office, but with less than two weeks as the Vice President Professional I am happy to report that I am already incredibly excited to be a part of your SGPS Executive. In the days so far I have had a chance to get to know the new executives more, and can confidently say that we have a strong year ahead of us.

For those of you who have not yet had a chance to meet me, I earned my BAH in History at Queen’s in 2014, and have just completed my first year of law school. As an undergraduate student I was a member of the Queen’s Debating Union, worked for the Alma Mater Society (our undergrad counterparts), managed the Student Life Centre, and was a recipient of the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award. This past year I volunteered as a caseworker for the Queen’s Legal Aid Clinic, and was a Fundraising Coordinator for the Annual Queen’s Med-Law Games. Over the last 5 years I have come to love the Queen’s community, and all the amazing initiatives that our students have started. I hope to apply my experiences to further help our SGPS members, and to leave the organization better off at the end of my term.

Thus far I have been fairly busy getting oriented to my new role, and attending various introductory meetings with key university bodies. The following is a brief list of the notable things I have done in the first week:

1. **Education Students’ Welcome Day:** President Cochrane and I attended the welcome day for the new education students (approximately 300 in total), where we handed out SGPS swag and introduced our new members to their society and the services it offers. These students are a part of the new 16 consecutive month program, and will be spending part of their summer on practicum. More students will be joining their program from the Concurrent Education program in the fall, and we plan to be there to greet them at that time. We look forward to serving this new cohort and working with the Education Students’ Society Executive when it is elected.

2. **Dinner with the Principal and Board of Trustees:** I joined our other executives for dinner with the Principal, and later in the week for a Board of Trustees meeting. Principal Woolf was very welcoming at both these events and expressed his interest in seeing what initiatives the SGPS pursues this year. Most noteworthy was the SGPS Report that President Cochrane delivered at the Board of Trustees meeting. His speech focused on a theme of pursuing accessibility for the year, and was well received by the board. I think he made an excellent introduction for this year’s SGPS.

3. **Human Resources Review:** I have begun to examine the SGPS’ office policies, and Human Resources procedures. While our contracts are up to date thanks to the work of the previous VPP Thompson Hamilton, there is still a significant amount of work to be done in order to ensure that our organization is properly equipped to care for its employees and serve its members as best as possible. I have begun to reach out to our counterparts in the Alma Mater Society and the Human Rights Office to seek consultation and hope to get more work done on this in the coming months.

4. **Club Ratification Review:** Similar to my Human Resources review, I have noticed some possible liability issues in the way that the SGPS currently ratifies and associates with student societies and clubs. I am a firm believer that student clubs are an integral part of the Queen’s experience, and create important opportunities and networks for our students. However, groups that engage in risky or inappropriate behavior may put valuable clubs that add to our community in jeopardy. A more thorough review process of our clubs will ensure that we are protected in the future.

5. **CFS Representative:** I have volunteered to be the SGPS Representative to the Canadian Federation of Students for the year. This means that I will be attending the 65th Semi-Annual General Meeting in Ottawa from June 4 – 7, 2015, as well as other CFS events throughout the year. I am fairly new to the CFS as an organization so if you have any information to share, or would like to discuss any ideas, please feel free to reach out to me in the coming weeks.
Later in the summer you can expect to see updates regarding my campaign promise to provide SGPS students with greater professional development resources and opportunities. I also hope to identify new departments and programs that wish to be classified as professional students, as some parties have already expressed this interest to me. Finally, I plan to continue some of my predecessor’s exciting work on our Bylaws and Policies. Get ready for some exciting readings and revisions!

Going forward please feel free to get in touch with me if you have any feedback or ideas you would like to explore. I am always happy to get a coffee with our members to discuss what is going on, and how their SGPS can better help them.

Cha Gheill,

Mark Asfar
Vice-President Professional
vpp@sgps.ca
Dear Council,

That year certainly shot by fast, didn't it? I don't know if I've done so yet but otherwise, I'd like to thank you for giving me another year as your VP Campaigns and Community Affairs. We've had a good few weeks together as a new executive and things are going wonderfully for us.

**Outgoing Executive Luncheon with the Principal / Incoming Executive Dinner with the Principal**

As I was reelected, I was able to attend both of these meetings. Lunch with the Principal and the Provosts went really well and Daniel Woolf tweeted about Mouse (our rabbit), whereas during dinner we discussed some developments around the province related to post-secondary curriculum. Also discovered that the Principal may or may not run a wildly successful trade in British Columbian smoked salmon.

**Provost's Advisory Committee on Mental Health, Mental Health Working Group, & Health & Wellness Steering Committee**

These meetings went quite well and primarily dealt with end-of-the-year matters to be wrapped up prior to the new academic year. Briefly discussed the changes we'd made to our advisor program and the direction that we'd like to take things over the summer. And finally, I tried to pour some fuel on getting the Advisory Committee on Academic Accommodations to meet sooner as this would essentially be the master document that would alter all of the various accommodations for the entire campus and we unfortunately don't have one per se. Mental Health Working Group went well and primarily dealt with a wrap-up in addition to an internal audit of support services.

**Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Working Group**

Having completed a draft of our findings and after sending them off to campus stakeholders, I can say that I'm quite pleased with the way that our group worked and coordinated on this, but wish that the executive summary held a bit more weight insofar as recommendations were concerned; in no way was this a failure of any member of the working group, or the group itself, but the ebb and flow of wider trends on campus.

**Drop & Shop**

This event went quite well. We had a lot of great folks come out and we not only raised over $1100 for our partners Queen's Oxfam, the Sexual Health Resource Centre, and Four Directions Aboriginal Student Center, but also managed to give a full bin to the AMS Food Bank. We also managed to divert nearly 100 bags of gently-used clothing and other appliances from landfills and expanded the profile of the SGPS/Queen's with students, staff, community members, and parents. Afterward, we had a debrief with Joan of Student Community Relations and discussed how the program might be run even better for next year. Finally, we managed to pick up a few goods for the benefit of our membership.

**Camp Outlook**

Through sheer chance someone from Camp Outlook stopped by the event to enquire about camping supplies. This began a larger conversation and I discovered that they'd recently left the AMS and were in an unfortunate state of limbo. I've been in contact with their director Zoe and one of their coordinators had explained that she'd be more than happy to come in and speak with us if need be, and that grads and professionals have been camp leaders in the past. The service that they've provided to the Queen's community for the past 45 years is one of camping and leadership opportunities in outdoors education for children who due to their life circumstances would typically never be able to experience them. I think that it'd be a real shame if this organization were to experience a setback due to lack of affiliation and I get the idea that many of you would as well.
AMS Food Bank
Met with the new director of the AMS Food Bank and interviewed for the position. I was glad to see many other grads and professionals at the interview as well and know that we can really demonstrate to the community what we're capable of. I've also got some ideas to start up a community garden, or at least put some serious work into the one just behind the food bank proper so that it'll be ready for the fall.

Student Services Strategic Planning Exercise
This week I was invited to meet with key stakeholders from around the campus including Student Affairs, the SGS, and Career Services to have a discussion around the services that students will need in the years ahead of us; topics discussed will include enrolment trends, data graphing, trends and emergent issues.
Dear SGPS Council Members,

I am excited to have finally started my term as the new VP Finance and Services and I look forward to spending the next year working with all of you. I apologize for not being able to formally introduce myself at council this month as I am currently in Vancouver, but I look forward to seeing everyone at Council starting in September. If anyone has questions throughout the summer, I am accessible by email at vpfs@sgps.ca. I will happily answer any questions or concerns you may have.

**Bursaries**
I started my term catching up on bursary applications and have finally caught up. The Finance Committee and I are trying to turn applications around as quickly as possible to provide members with the funds they need. Our goal is to have no more than two days between receiving the application and issuing a cheque. This has been hard to do with so many outstanding applications, but now that we are finally caught up, I think this will be more than achievable.

**2015/2016 Budget**
My main focus over the summer months is to create a new budget for the SGPS. The budget will have a new structure that is based on accounting principles and will be tailored to the needs of our organization. My hope is to expand the bursary program and to provide a budget package that explains all budget lines so there is no question as to where money is to be spent. I have already spent the past 10 days of my term talking to staff and members about the budget and finding out where there is room for movement. Since, we are a not for profit organization, we do not require a surplus and as a result, I will be budgeting so that our revenues equal our expenses.

**Surplus Investment**
We are currently looking at investment options for our current outstanding surplus. We have obtained an investment advisor to assist us in this process. We hope to earn enough interest off of these investments to provide us with a steady cash flow over a long term horizon. This cash flow will be added to our funds to support bursary applications.

**Exciting Changes to Come**
There are a few other items that I am looking at over the summer months that I am sure you will be excited to hear about as we head into the 2015/2016 school year. I will provide the details of these items once I have completed some more research, so stay tuned for some exciting changes.

Sincerely,

Christina Huber  
Vice President Finance and Services  
Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
vpfs@sgps.ca
Dear Council:

Max Ma’s successful term as Speaker is now complete and I am sure I speak for all of us in thanking him effusively for his admirable service over the past year. In my role as Deputy Speaker, I have now taken over his duties as the Interim Speaker until a replacement is elected or acclaimed at the upcoming SGPS Council meeting. In this regard, I have coordinated with our new President, Chris Cochrane, to ensure smooth progression into the new Executive’s term and first Council meeting. I will also be actively assisting in the transition process with the incoming Speaker and Deputy Speaker once they become known in the near future. I will continue to fulfill the duties of Interim Speaker until that time and I am happy to assist in this regard as needed. Thank you all for a gratifying year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Samosh
Interim Speaker
speaker@sgps.ca
Greetings Council!

I hope your summer terms are off to an excellent start!

First off, let me welcome the new Exec! I have the pleasure of holding a two-year position, meaning I get to work with two sets of Executives. I look forward to continue working with Lorne, and to begin working with Chris, Christina, Mark, and Mark. To Kevin, Thompson, Dinah, and Patrick (I know you are all still reading these reports), it has been a productive year – best of luck in the future.

Once again, my apologies for my absence last month – I was absent in Austria, but I hear I missed an exciting meeting.

Now on to the reports:

GSEC Meeting – April 16, 2015

So unfortunately, this was the week I was away in Austria as well – and not sure if Mark will be reporting on it, but I can provide details about what happened.

- Dean’s Report:
  - B. Brouwer reported on her meeting with the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS) last week. The Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents (OCAV) will expand the Faculty at Work project to include OCGS recommended metrics associated with graduate supervision. Also the OCGS is working with members of CUPA on the development of a postgraduate survey of graduate students to collect information on career paths and employment and the relationship with graduate training.
  - The Aging and Health graduate diploma, Master’s and doctoral degrees proposal is now with the Quality Council.
  - Spring 2015 Graduate Forum took place on Monday, April 13. S. Korba and S. den Otter presented on services (particularly writing support) available for graduate students, and T. Harris gave a presentation on Advancement initiatives as related to graduate studies.
  - The quota of SSHRC and NSERC CGS-M recipients has yet to be filled. The deadline for students to respond to their CGS-M offers is April 22.
  - A renewal of The Queen’s-Trent Agreement that provides opportunities for Trent faculty members to supervise students enrolled at Queen’s is under negotiation.
  - Twenty-eight graduate students and postdocs from Queen’s, RMC, the University of Ottawa and Trent University are registered for the April 21 SSHRC-CAGS Roundtable “Imagining Canada’s Future”. Erik Lockhart (Queen’s Executive Decision Centre) will facilitate the event. A report of the event and recommendations will be submitted to CAGS and SSHRC, and will presented at the Learned Societies Congress in June and at the CAGS annual congress in the fall.

- Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees and SGPS:
  - Graduate councils and committees reviewed and approved changes to courses and similar routine matters, and also reviewed proposed changes to the SGS Restriction of Thesis regulation. Two incoming members of the SGPS Executive for 2015-16 were present and were introduced. D. Jansen provided some details of a recent presentation made on Queen’s University Student Advisor Program.

- GSEC approved:
  - Preapproval of New Graduate Diploma and Professional Master’s in Medical Sciences
  - Revisions to SGS Restriction of Thesis Regulation
Senate Meeting – April 28, 2015

- The usual reports were delivered and received from the Standing Committees of Senate, the Principal, and the Provost – for details on these reports, please view the Senate Agenda, which can be found here: https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=725

- **Enrollment Targets** for the University for 2015/16 and 2016/17 were approved, and the Enrollment Projections for 2017/18 were presented.
  - https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/59287/SCAD%20%20Enrolment.pdf?handle=BC1DB0F103354E3B9858D1789AC95C3F

- Senate approved a Specialization in Biotechnology and a Joint Degree/Diploma Program in Biotechnology with St. Lawrence College

- Senate approved the Amalgamation of the Schools of Drama and Music in the Faculty of Arts and Science

- Senate approved the Major Modification to the Bachelor of Science General in Life Sciences in the Faculty of Arts and Science
  - This entails an entirely online degree in Life Science
  - This was met with heavy concern by students and some members of the faculty, regarding the absence of lab components in a Life Sciences degree.
    - An amendment to encourage Arts and Science to look into the feasibility of a lab-intensive course to supplement the online course for the students wishing to transfer from the online degree to an on-campus degree was passed.

- **Senate approved Modifications to the Master of Finance Program**, Queen’s School of Business
  - The addition of, and changes to delivery at, a new site at Renmin University in China.

- Senate approved the Proposal to Create an International Business Field in the MSc and PhD Programs in Queen’s School of Business

- Senate approved a Proposal to Establish a **Combined BCom/JD Degree Program** in the School of Business and Faculty of Law

- Senate approved that the University will now hold undergraduate exams on Sundays.

- After consideration, SCAP has determined that they will not be making available a separate “Graduate Career Transcript for students. This request originally came from a motion from former SGPS President, Kevin Wiener.

- The Nominations Report was approved, assigning members to Senate Committees for the following year.
The full list can be found here: https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/59402/GNC%20Nominations%20Report.pdf?handle=6582F3D89D0B4CCD94369B5B5F1F8B17

However, the new SGPS representatives on Senate Standing Committees are:

- Senate Committee on Academic Development – Lisa Carver
- Senate Committee on Academic Procedures – Leah Thompson
- Alumni Excellence in Teaching Award – Daniel Lanfranconi
- Senate Educational Equity Committee – Precia Darshan
- International Centre Council – Samuel Abegunde
- Senate Library Committee – Kaitlyn Withers
- Senate Committee on Scholarships and Student Aid – Paula Mott
- University Council on Athletics and Recreation – Sarah Barnes

- A notice of motion was presented to revise Senate’s rules of procedure, regarding the obligatory leave and removal of Senators and members of Senate Committees.
  - Please review this and provide any feedback you may have, as this will be going to a vote at the May Senate.

- Amendments were made to the Senate Policy on Student Appeals, Rights, and Discipline to include Group Non-Academic Discipline.

- There were changes made to the Orientation Week Policy Manual, which made provisions for Orientation Committees to be keep up to date with correct enrollment information, among other changes.

- The Student Life Center Annual Report was presented:

- The following is the list of new Senators beginning their terms in May or September:

It was a packed agenda, so let me know if you have any questions.

Cheers,

Eric Rapos
Graduate Student Senator
senator@sgps.ca
Hello Council,

I am pleased to report on the latest meeting of the Queen’s Board of Trustees. During this meeting, the operating budget was approved. The effect of the new budget model is being realized, with two units coming in over budget as a result of a tapering in their hold harmless payment. New submissions will be received by the Provost to address these areas. In order to address going concern and solvency payments, units were instructed to factor in a 4.5% pension charge which will allow the university to build a reserve to make future payments.

With regard to the pension plan, the university remains in talks with key union groups. Collective bargaining represents an opportunity to receive member approval to make changes to the pension plan. A move to a university sector jointly sponsored pension plan, or merger with CAAT would represent a significant step forward in terms of rectifying this major pension issue. Going concern payments during the 2015-2016 fiscal year represents $12.7 million dollars.

Shared services remains an area of focus, and while student facing services did not receive a substantial increase in funding as a line item payment, these areas will be receiving support as flow through from the capital budget of other units, in addition to direct returns in the form of dividends from the new residence buildings. I am happy to report that the 2 new residences are on track to open in September, and are coming in under budget. Part of the excess funds are being used to address maintenance on Victoria Hall and John Orr Tower.

There is one issue coming up which I believe will be of interest to the Graduate and Professional body. Relevant stakeholders are currently being engaged, and I will be able to update Council once this has taken place. In the meantime, I have met with several representatives and am confident that we are moving on a positive trajectory.

Finally, I will be joining the Board later this month for a retreat where we will undertake strategic planning and a long term visioning exercise. This will be the second time I have attended an event such as this, and I find it very helpful in terms of not only appreciating how we will address current issues facing the university, but the longer term implications for Queen’s reputation and its ability to remain a competitive player in the university sector.

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

Respectfully submitted,

James MacLeod

Trustee

teacher@sgps.ca
SGPS Computer Network

- I have updated and cleaned all Executive laptops. They have been prepared and given to the new Executive team.
- The mail server was having issues with the SSL certificate specific only to web browser connections. I have found and squashed this annoying bug!

SGPS Website

- Updating the SGPS logo all over our website. This is a significant undertaking as our logo is all over the place. I have started the process and I expect the logo conversion will be complete at the end of the summer.

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 your summer semester has been off to a lovely start. Please find updates from the Equity & Diversity Commission, below:

**Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Working Group**
Over this past semester, I have sat on the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Working Group (SAPRWG). The working group has wrapped up their duties and draft recommendations have been made for a new sexual assault policy and prevention response at Queen’s. I want to thank everyone for the time and energy they gave to the feedback process.

**Gender Neutral Washrooms**
The Positive Space Working Group, with financial support from the SGPS, has successfully transitioned a number of washrooms on Queen’s campus to be gender neutral. Please expect to see this new signage in some of the buildings you frequent on our campus.

Over the upcoming months the Commission will be working collaboratively to revisit our core objectives and to vision for the 2015-16 year. If you would like to be in touch with the Commission and get involved, please feel free to contact us at any point by emailing equity@sgps.ca.

Warm regards,

**Erica Baker**
Equity & Diversity Commissioner
Supervisory Relationship Workshop

We had begun talks about having Supervisory Relationship Workshop with the former Student Advisors and the VPG, but they came to an unfortunate halt due to the Student Advisor issues. Ahmed and I engaged in a fruitful discussion with the VPG concerning the revival of the SGPS run workshop geared toward international students. We intend to schedule discussions throughout the summer about the creation of the workshop. As it stands, according to various reports from previous student advisors, there are a great many international students who find themselves unequipped to deal with issues that come up in their supervisory relationships. Our goal is to produce a workshop that shows our international graduate membership the tools to help them ensure a healthy relationship with their supervisors and the resources to consult if there is a breakdown in the communication between them.

International Student Affairs Standing Committee

Regrettably it appears that the International Student Affairs Standing Committee is dissolving during the summer. I have e-mailed the committee members, asking them if they are available and interested in continuing to meet, but I have heard from only one volunteer who is available to meet. I will try to contact them once more. Although I would love to have their help and support, I am sure Ahmed, Jaimilla (the one committee member), and I will be up to whatever tasks are ahead of us this summer.

Mission Statement

A part of my position as the ISA Commissioner is to help clarify and solidify the ISAC’s role in SGPS and Queen’s University at large. In an attempt to accomplish just that Ahmed and I will be consulting Bylaw and Policy, our employment contracts and our experiences in the past seven months in an attempt to make our roles clearer and more structured. We will produce a mission statement for the ISAC and review our responsibilities to see if there are any changes that we can suggest to permanent staff and the executive.

Jhordan Layne – international@sgps.ca
Dear SGPS Council Members,

Our weekly sports hours wound down at the end of April and were a huge success all year. Our summer term will include at least 1-2 sports event per month and we hosted our first event on Tuesday 12 May in the ARC and had a great turnout for floor hockey. Bookings during the summer do not follow a regular schedule due to booking availability and because of all of the bank holidays. However, our team will post an event in the SGPS Facebook Group as events occur. People of all abilities and skill levels are welcome, and it’s a friendly and non-competitive environment that gives everyone a chance to meet fellow SGPS members in a fun setting.

We will be hosting one social event per month in addition to various sports during the summer months, on average. Our first official summer social is happening on Wednesday 20 May in collaboration with the Grad Club. We will be hosting a beer tasting and social mixer! The tasting starts at 7pm and tickets can be purchased at the Grad Club for $5 for SGPS members, after this point we will move into the main room on the ground floor to snack and socialize, we will also have a DJ from CFRC to play some lounge grooves. The mixing portion of the event will happen from about 8pm on.

Other events for the summer include beach volleyball mixers at the Mansion, Karaoke nights, and more! The Social Team is also in the midst of booking and planning Orientation Week events so that we can host another amazing welcome (back) for new and existing SGPS members! Our team will be working to make this year more fun, more helpful, and more informative for our members than ever before. We hope to add some info sessions to the schedule for members and work alongside other commissions to give students the most holistic welcome to get them settled into Queen’s for a new school year.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ciara Bracken-Roche

Social Commissioner

social@sgps.ca