

Dear Council:

With the fall semester in full swing, we've started to see some progress on a number of longer-term initiatives.

CFS NAGM

I attended the CFS NAGM on behalf of the SGPS from October 14-17. I'm very pleased to report that our motion on T4/T4As was very well-received by other delegates and was unanimously approved by Closing Plenary. I will continue to keep in touch with the CFS National Executive about the development of a T4A appeal guide to be made available to members.

Budget Discussions

Along with the AMS President, I've been having continuing discussions with the Provost about how the student governments can be more involved in university budgetary decisions before the final report is approved by the Board of Trustees each May. It has been slow going, but I believe we've made some real progress and it looks like there will be some consultation about the draft budget before it gets sent to Board for the first discussion at the March meeting.

Student Life Centre Governance Discussions

I attended a meeting with a number of university administrators, the Student Centre Officer and AMS President about remodeling the structure of the Student Life Centre, where we examined some relatively large changes to the way the SLC is governed. Currently the SGPS has representation on SLC Council, which is in charge of governance, but operational decisions are simply between the AMS as manager and the university as landlord. Our discussions include the possibility of creating a new management board to oversee AMS operational control of the SLC on which the SGPS would have representation. The details of the new structure will be fleshed out over the coming months but I expect we'll have a new draft constitution(s) and management and operations agreement for approval by Council sometime in early 2015.

Harassment Policy

I've made a significant amount of headway in getting the university to acknowledge gaps that exist in current harassment procedures where the complainant is not an employee of the university and the harassment does not have a nexus with Human Rights Code grounds. A few administrators are now looking at some of the options for best developing a procedure (and determining if this is something that is best dealt with by expanding the equity-based Harassment/Discrimination Policy, through the Ombuds office or some alternative method), but at least the ball is now rolling.

Fee Slate and Services for Consecutive Education Students

The SGPS has reached out to the Education Registrar and will be commencing discussions with the ESS, Registrar and Student Affairs to come up with a plan for fees and service deliveries to BEd students who will be starting their degrees at Queen's in May instead of September starting next year. A number of our fees are currently charged in order to provide services for an eight or twelve-month period starting from September and it is our hope that these services can be made available to Education students when they start in May before they've paid the normal fee slate. These services include access to the Athletics and Recreation Centre, our Health and Dental Plan, and the Kingston Transit Bus-It Fee. Some of these services require negotiations with external groups (like the City) so we're beginning negotiations now so that we have a strong idea of the service levels that will be available next May.

Writing Centre Services for Professional Students

I've started preliminary discussions with Student Affairs about what some of the shared academic supports like the Writing Centre can do to better reach out and meet the needs of professional students. While the School of Graduate Studies provides some of these academic supports to grad students, the Student Affairs supports tend to be very undergrad-focused and professional students tend to depend wholly on their faculties to provide these academic services. Given that our tuition money goes to fund the services and they have certain specialized expertise that may not exist in faculties, I think this is an area that is ripe for expansion to our membership (both professional students and pre- or non-thesis graduate students). The response from Student Affairs at a high level as been positive, so I'm hoping to start talking with the directors of the Student Academic Support Services directly and begin forming these links.

SGPS Bookable Rooms

The SGPS Executive is looking at making two of our JDUC rooms (the lounge and 235) into bookable spaces exclusive to SGPS members (while still remaining available for drop-in when not booked). Currently we're examining options for an easy online space booking system and we've received strong indications that we may be able to integrate the rooms into Office 365 as bookable resources so our members will be able to easily book the rooms with no cost to the SGPS to purchase a third-party service. I'm hoping to have a system in place and the rooms bookable by December if possible.

As always, I'm happy to answer any questions you may have either by email or in person at Council, and **please** encourage all your friends to come out to our Fall General Meeting.

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

Student Advisor Program

The SGPS has four fully trained Student Advisors available to assist graduate and professional students with advocacy and support services. Their office hours this Fall Term are:

- Mondays 10:00 am- 12:00 noon
- Tuesdays 1:30- 3:30 pm
- Wednesdays 10:00 am- 12:00 noon
- Thursdays 3:00- 5:00 pm

SGPS members can reach the Student Advisors by emailing advisors@sgps.ca.
Visit the website! <http://www.sgps.ca/services/advisors.html>

Dear Members of Council,

October was the month for conferences. I attended the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS) meeting in Toronto on October 10th, chaired by Dean and Vice Provost Brenda Brouwer. There, graduate student representatives from across the province met with Deans and Associate Deans from a number of universities to discuss issues including how to support students in crisis and fostering timely degree completions.

These issues also arose at the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Annual Conference I attended from 26-29 October in St. John's, Newfoundland. This meeting consisted of Deans, Associate Deans, administrators, and graduate student representatives from across the country. The theme of that conference was focused on 'rethinking the PhD,' namely, lots of panels trying to present new ways to reframe the doctorate as a degree suitable for many different career paths, not simply academia. I received positive responses from graduate student peers and the Deans and administrators present regarding my question to Dr. Frédéric Bouchard (UQAM). His presentation talked about the need to remind PhD candidates from the very beginning that they are being trained as researchers, not academics and that conversations need to begin early about the skills PhD candidates mobilize while doing their work, isolating those skills, and discussing ways those skills can be used elsewhere. While I thought Dr. Bouchard's discussion was spot on, I asked him and his panel ways that the Deans and administrators from the many schools of graduate studies present at CAGS could both equip and encourage faculty to familiarize themselves with the world outside of academia- depending on the field, many professors do train their students to just be professors, having no knowledge themselves- or worse, having occasional contempt for- what else is out there. I noted that while the focus at CAGS seems to be on changing grad student thinking about their doctoral degrees, faculty need to learn this as well and assist their students accordingly. While the response was positive, it tended to focus on 'best practices,' though there was general agreement (noted by a lot of nodding heads) that faculty need to be on board and help train their students more broadly. While mingling with Deans later, I was able to tell them that I've initiated a meeting with our own Career Services Office on November 6th to talk with Director Cathy Keates specifically about the ways that Office can start an outreach program directed at graduate supervisors at Queen's regarding 'alternative career pathways' for their students and equipping supervisors with the tools they need to competently 'cross-train' their students for the research world beyond Faculty Row.

At both OCGS and CAGS, I was able to promote the SGPS Student Advisor Program and its many benefits heavily. Many graduate student representatives were particularly keen to learn more about the program, our memorandum of agreement with SGS, how the program got off the ground, how it's funded, information about the Advisors' training suite, and the kinds of issues they deal with. They were also particularly excited about the fact that our Student Advisors also make significant recommendations regarding structural and institutional change at Queen's that can ameliorate problems students can and do encounter, recommendations we regularly negotiate with the Deans and that inform some of the projects and goals that I work to achieve where possible in my role as VPG. My takeaway from the two conferences is a general desire

from other graduate student societies for the SGPS to produce a webinar so that we can essentially teach our colleagues, many of whom go to universities with neither an arm's length advocacy office nor even an Ombuds person, about creating their own Student Advisor programs. I have also asked the University of Calgary GSA, next year's GU15 host, to allow me to do a presentation there next April to do much the same: promote our Program and lay the ground work for other grad student societies to start their own.

Other than that, I've attended my regular committee meetings, performed a few health and safety inspections, planned a meeting with AMS Exec about forming the student health and safety committee, and I hired a wonderful new Research Assistant to help me with my many many projects. I also ran a TF Talk! session in my home department (History), whereby Teaching Fellows and several faculty members had a roundtable discussion about teaching and sharing ideas about balancing time with research, course design, class exercises, evaluation and more. The point was to get people talking and thinking critically about their teaching. As such, I am currently in talks with the SGS about the need to encourage faculty to mentor their PhD students as Teaching Fellows: imparting some wisdom, advice on a proposed syllabus, tips and tricks of both teaching and administering one's own course etc. Mentorship is qualitatively different than formal training but still absolutely crucial. Whether or not Teaching Fellows enter academia, TFs at Queen's tend to have a particularly strong dedication to doing an exceptional job of teaching undergrads while they are here now. However, in their dedication and hard work, many Teaching Fellows, especially new ones, report regularly spending two or even three full days a week preparing for their classes, time that is obviously drawing heavily away from their research and writing. Of course, it is generally understood that departments that assign Teaching Fellowships in years three and four also tend to have significantly higher times to thesis completion. I think we need our grad supervisors to give us more mentorship in our teaching as well as our research. At the same time, I'm hoping that other departmental graduate student associations might consider organizing their own TF Talk! or similar session so Teaching Fellows can share ideas among one another about teaching in ways that are specific to their department. I'm in talks with the Centre for Teaching and Learning about securing resources for future sessions in my own department and I hope other departments as well. If any Councilors or departmental grad association representative wants more information about this, please do reach out; I'd be delighted to share!

Before signing off, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Tabitha Renaud, SGPS Council representative for the Department of History and President of the Graduate History Student Association, for all her assistance in promoting and preparing for TF Talk! Her help on this project was crucial and her enthusiasm was just wonderful.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dinah Jansen
vpg@sgps.ca

Dear SGPS Council Members,

This past month has been extremely busy and productive!

Human Resources

My life was consumed almost entirely by hiring for the past few weeks. We had a great selection pool for our commissioners and coordinators.

Based on the performance of the Social Commission and on their interest in returning to the job, Andria and I conducted year end performance reviews (more like joint feedback sessions) and my recommendation to rehire the entire team was approved by the Executive and will be ratified by you lovely people next week!

We have new commissioners and coordinators for all our other positions, and we also hired a survey designer for an ongoing project, a policy review assistant for Dinah Jansen, and are currently in the process of hiring someone to assist with bringing us up to par on the AODA front. I indicated at previous council that I would be bringing a policy for review, but it became apparent that this was not feasible with hiring going on.

One of my major goals for the year was to clean up HR and I am very proud to report that we have comprehensive employment contracts in place for our commissioners and coordinators. The 'precedent' contract I drafted was reviewed by a local lawyer and is an important step for the SGPS in terms of Human Resources. This contract will become part of the institutional memory of SGPS and can be used in the future to quickly and easily create employment contracts for new employees, rather than having different VPP's hash out different contracts each year.

To conclude this part of the report, I wanted to thank Sean and Andria for all their work in the busy hiring time these past weeks. We have spent countless hours in the boardroom together and haven't killed each other yet, so that is really good.

Professional Student Outreach

Also happy to note that we had our first professional student social meeting a few weeks back. We were able to plan out our first event of the year, which will hopefully involve five professional programs across both the SGPS and the AMS, and is a great opportunity to let students branch out. More on this in the next week, so keep your eyes peeled!

Meetings of Note

SONAD met this past month, and yearly reports were submitted (ours was approx. 2 lines because our membership is so well behaved).

The Bylaw and Policy Review Working Group also met to discuss changes to council composition. Based on our meeting, some additional work is being done before we come back to council with a plan for any changes to council composition.

Best Regards,

Thompson Hamilton
Vice-President Professional
vpp@sgps.ca

Hey Council,

October seemed to slip away faster than September! Anyhow, here's what I've been up to:

Advisory Committees & Administrative Meetings

I sat upon an external review of HCDS and believe that I vouched for our memberships' concerns, such as having an appropriate framework for dealing with a higher than normal influx of students, or our general desire for the school to not download services onto the city. I also met with the DSO to raise the topic of graduate and professional accommodations, and how these might effect the employer/employee relationship should they be sought; ie: how might a teaching fellow be accommodated? Would this be done as a student, or as an employee, and how might this affect their continued work relationship?

I met with the Community Housing Board to discuss the shape of campus housing in the coming years. Also, if you or someone you know lives in John Orr tower, and would like to serve as a representative for this Board, please contact Bob at pritchb@queensu.ca.

I finally attended an SGPS coffee hour in order to raise our profile and hopefully recruit some individuals for our Holiday Assistance Program, and my Campaigns and Community Affairs Standing Committee.

Campaigns and Community Affairs Standing Committee

I'm looking to staff the Campaigns and Community Affairs Standing Committee. It hasn't run for the past few years and I'm looking to rebuild it from the ground up for the benefit of all parties involved. I feel that this could be an excellent opportunity for students to both connect with their campus and community, and to also gain volunteer experience, which is something that I feel looks impressive upon most any c.v. or resume. Also, as a thank-you for all of our volunteers' hard work, we will also regularly meet at the Grad Pub - while good deeds and community-building are often their own reward, I know that drinks, burgers, and nachos come a close second.

However, as an upper year PhD, I can definitely appreciate the difficulty of committing time to something that isn't thesis related! Having said that, I'm envisioning two distinct avenues for opportunity: the first stream would be something of a reserve force to be offered opportunities as I conduct my campaigns over the course of the year and the position would revolve around picking and choosing issues that I'm working on as they saw fit; the second stream would be people who already have a cause or issue that they're passionate about around the campus, such as sustainability, equity issues, or greater awareness for local music, for example. These people would benefit from this group as both support and sounding board for their ideas, and also from the resources of the SGPS as a whole.

So, if any of that sounds interesting to you, or you have an idea, thought, or cause that you're passionate about and would like to know how to bring it to fruition, please contact either myself vpcca@sgps.ca, or our executive assistant, Andria ea@sgps.ca to let us know!

TL;DR?

1. I need a group of people to help me do good and civic-minded deeds around the campus.
2. I can't pay you, but you can gain volunteer experience, a nice reference, and some beer and/or food.
3. We're interested in part-time, or just a one-time thing if that's what you're interested in.

Municipal Elections

Our municipal elections came and went on October 27th, and I hope that all of you had a chance to both become informed as well as to participate. Despite a few absentees my surveys were well received and managed to enable our

membership to get an idea of how each of the candidates felt about issues central to graduate and professional students.

During the series of events hosted by the AMS, I was able to ask the candidates directly what they felt about the current lack of accessible child care around the city and our campus more specifically.

I was also able to incorporate a lot of the material that I'd asked CFS Ontario to send me, and was able to pass it along to many of our campus allies, like PSAC, as well as other unions around campus, like QUFA, in hopes of increasing voter turnout.

Community Affairs

I have compiled and presented the results of my appraisal of our community partners to our executive, and it has provided us with a wealth of information to on our relationships and given me a lot of ideas about how we might better situate ourselves, and our membership to the greater community.

I also met with an officer of PSAC901 who was very interested in the opaque manner with which one-half of Queen's Day Care was closed earlier this year. We are in early discussion on what might be done at this point but have generated lots of ideas involving the wider community. If this sounds like something that you may be interested in, why not sign up for my VP Campaigns and Community Affairs Standing Committee?

Finally, the first person who is not a member of our executive or directly connected with the SGPS to email the name of their favourite animal, real or imagined, will get a free coffee, on me.

Happy Almost-End-Of-The-Semester! I hope you are all surviving and thriving despite the general gloominess of Kingston in November.

Commissioners/Coordinators

I am happy to announce that (pending Council approval) we have hired some fantastic people for our Commissioner and Coordinator positions.

The proposed Equity Commission will be made up of incoming Commissioner Kuukuwa Andam (PhD candidate in the Faculty of Law) and incoming Coordinator Erica Baker (MA candidate in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies). Megan MacCallum (MA candidate in the Department of Geography) will be returning to the position of Sustainability Coordinator.

The proposed International Commission will be made up of incoming Commissioner Jhordan Layne (PhD candidate in the Department of English) and incoming Coordinator Ahmed Abdel Razek (PhD candidate in the Faculty of Civil Engineering).

The proposed Social Commission will be made up of returning Commissioner Ciara Bracken-Roche (PhD candidate in the Department of Sociology); returning Athletics Coordinator Prashant Agrawal (PhD candidate in the Department of Chemistry); returning Logistics Coordinator Ahmad Saleh (PhD candidate in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics); returning Planning Coordinator Jamie Summers (PhD candidate in the Department of Biology).

By the time Council meets, all incoming Commissioners and Coordinators will have undergone the full slate of SGPS Bylaw and Policy mandated training and will be ready to start in their respective positions immediately.

Holiday Assistance Program

The SGPS annual Holiday Assistance Program is in full swing and we have already approached staff and faculty members for donations. The SGPS Holiday Assistance Program looks to help those of our members who are struggling with financial hardships. The goal of the program is for us to empower these members and relieve some of their winter stress. Last year we helped approximately 50 families and we are looking to double that number this year.

We are asking for monetary donations to support this initiative with all money raised being used to buy grocery and department store gift cards to give to our assistance recipients in order for them to create a holiday celebration for themselves and their families. We are also seeking donations of non-perishable food items and gently used toys and clothing.

If you are interested in making a monetary donation, you can do so by contacting me via email at ea@sgps.ca and I will gladly pick up your donation on campus. You can also visit <http://www.sgps.ca/events/donate.html> to make a donation via PayPal. If you would like to make a donation of non-perishable food or gently used toys and clothing, you can drop your donation off at our Main Office in the basement of the JDUC, Room 021. All types of donations will be accepted up until Friday, December 5th 2014.

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 [this 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.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Andria Mahon
Executive Assistant
ea@sgps.ca



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

Dear Council,

At our last Council meeting, By-law B.5.1 was referred to an *ad hoc* committee. This committee has met on October 24th. We are working on updating the definition of “constituent bodies” under B.3, and are also reviewing the option of creating intermediate faculty society councils between departmental/program societies and the SGPS Council. The committee will meet again on November 14th.

Jon Samosh, our Deputy Speaker (deputyspeaker@sgps.ca), has updated the nameplates used in Council meetings. If you have just joined us after November 1st and find yourself without a nameplate when we meet on Tuesday, please let Jon know. He will be happy to make you one.

Kind regards,

Max Ma
Speaker (speaker@sgps.ca)

Hello Council,

I hope everyone is making it through the term alright!

GSEC Meeting – October 23, 2014

- Approvals:
 - The details of the following approvals are still marked confidential – I can provide you with this information, however if you have any questions, let me know, and I can provide answers as appropriate:
 - GSEC approved the proposal for a 1 year MA in Gender-Studies requiring a major research paper, instead of a thesis.
 - GSEC approved the creation a new Master of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, a joint program offered by the School of Business and the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.
 - GSEC approved the creation of a joint program of a Master’s of Science in Healthcare Quality and a Master’s of Business Administration offered by the School of Nursing/Department of Anesthesiology Perioperative Medicine and the School of Business.
 - There were a number of course renamings and changes to course descriptions in the Faculty of Law (graduate level courses), as well as some in Engineering and Applied Science
- Discussions:
 - FEAS request to temporarily suspend admissions to the ADMI program, primarily for reasons of declining enrolment and demand.
 - MTCU Request for proposals for the development of online courses or modules at undergraduate or graduate levels. Statements of design intent are due on November 14.
 - MITACS: Dr. Niraj Kumar, a Kingston-based business development specialist from MITACS, is available to meet with faculty, staff and students about MITACS programs. Arrangements will be made for him to attend upcoming Faculty Graduate Council/committee meetings.
 - Involvement of graduate students in recruitment strategies: SGS will propose ideas to engage graduate students in recruitment efforts, as they are excellent ambassadors for our programs.
 - Some ideas include video contests, and other social media advertising such as Vine.

Senate Meeting – November 3, 2014

- The agenda for the November Senate Meeting can be found here:
<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&id=593>
- I would like to thank Thompson for his great work on submitting the SGPS Non-Academic Discipline report to the Senate Committee on Non-Academic Discipline, which can be found here, and was submitted to senate for information:
https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/47484/SGPS%20NAD%20Report%2013_14.pdf?handle=AD23BED0B20B4E1999AAACA9AAED98B6
- There were several motions/discussions brought forth by the Senate Governance and Nominating Committee, largely of a procedural nature:
 - The first was the nominating report, which appointed several members to Senate Committees:
<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/47493/SGNC%20Nominating%20Report%20Nov14.pdf?handle=1994AB9F5F2943CCBBDCCD5CBE79DF3C>
 - The second was a change to the Terms of Reference for the Senate Orientation Activities Review Board, which changes the mandated time when they must submit their report on Orientation – this changed had been requested in January 2013, and has since been the practice, but is now officially in Senate Policy. More details:

<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/47499/SOARB%20TOR%20Amendment.pdf?handle=6D7BC86801D04FC7A302CF6769C5BD85>

- The Committee presented its proposal for a method of selecting Committee Chairs, since this responsibility now lies with the Governance and Nominating Committee as opposed to solely the Principal. The proposed process can be found here:
<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/47505/Draft%20Committee%20Chair%20Selection%20Procedure.pdf?handle=107002F0153043F79F81E827337CC169>
- A notice of motion was presented regarding the Terms of Reference for the Senate Committee on Academic Development. The notice can be found here, and the motion will be discussed and voted on at the next Senate: <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/47509/Notice%20-%20SCAD%20Revised%20Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf?handle=24C773EBB4C64C6198C3DB9C9DA07A84>
- Motions from the Senate Committee on Academic Development:
 - There was a motion to change the Terms of Reference to the Irving and Regina Rosen Lecture Series, proposed here:
<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/47513/Amendments%20to%20I%20R%20Rosen%20Lectureship.pdf?handle=FD7C863423F4D22AFF67B8DF23BBAF1>
 - There were some concerns raised surrounding “New 3” by some members of the Faculty – to be honest I am not 100% sure on the outcome of these concerns (the meeting got a little hectic) but I will follow up and if you have any questions, let me know at Council.
 - There was a Proposal to Establish the George Munro Grant Distinguished University Professor Program which can be found here:
<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/47525/George%20Munro%20Grant%20Distinguished%20Professor%20Proposal.pdf?handle=0A4CDD1522DB4B53A328869C150E0066>
 - There were concerns raised by Student Senators that the process for this award, one that does value teaching, had no student input.
 - We motioned to amend that the nomination packages include at least one letter from a former student of the nominee (supervised or taught).
 - This amendment carried.
 - We then motioned to include a student on the committee.
 - This led to good discussion which eventually led to the whole motion being referred back to the committee to further evaluate the selection committee, hopefully the returning proposal will include student representation.
 - There were proposed amendments to the Queen’s University Quality Assurance Processes, as seen here:
<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/47519/Amendments%20to%20QUQAP%20Policy.pdf?handle=CC96990284BF4BFCB8DB8D7C51BD5B7C>
 - There was a request to defer voting on this motion until December, just due to the large size of the document, many Senators agreed more time was needed.
 - Three reports were presented for communication to Senate:
 - The SOARB Terms of Probation for the Commerce Society Orientation were presented:
<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/47531/Terms%20of%20Probation%20-%20Commerce%20Orientation.pdf?handle=9D5C5FA03E0E48F3892DF250B9E123DC>
 - The Policy and Procedures for Safe Disclosure Reporting and Investigation was presented as an Annual Report:
https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/47644/Safe%20Disclosure%20Rpt%202013_14.pdf?handle=C58A1D1E2D69412DAF15EAD0CFB5DFCA
 - The Provost’s Advisory Committee on Mental Health Annual Report was presented:
<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/48200/2014%20PACMH%20Report.pdf?handle=71677E6044E04E14900058B736A17E7D>

And that about wraps up my November Council Report! As always, if you have any questions please ask.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos
Graduate Student Senator
senator@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Trustee
November 2014

Hello Council,

The Capital Assets and Finance Committee will be meeting on December 5th, 2014. The Board will be meeting on December 5th and 6th, 2014. I will be able to provide an update to Council once these meetings have taken place.

Respectfully submitted,

James MacLeod

Graduate Trustee
trustee@sgps.ca

Rector's Report to SGPS
Mike Young
November 4, 2014
rector@queensu.ca



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

Dear Council,

I do not have much to bring to your attention at this time. I have two motions on the docket, as indicated at our last meeting, that will appoint both a member to the Tricolour Award Selection Committee and to be an SGPS advisor to my office respectively. I hope that there will be interest in both of these appointments as both are great opportunities.

I highly encourage all interested in either positions to attend our meeting. Please let any interested parties know about these opportunities. Both are available to members of the society at large, but they must be present at the meeting.

Finally, just for information, due to budgetary constraints, I will not be hiring an assistant for the entirety of this year as was previously intended and indicated. I hope to investigate this as a possibility again next year.

Princeps Servusque Es,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Young'.

SGPS Computer Network

- I have installed necessary security patches to server and workstation computers.
- I have completed all the necessary server and infrastructure changes necessary to support the new OS X release. I am pleased to report that our first workstation upgrade went very smoothly and all interactions with our network and server are working as expected. We will continue the upgrades as time allows.
- I have updated the mail filter rules on our server in hopes of reducing the amount of spam that gets to each of our mailboxes. The junk filter is conservative (so it does not accidentally mark something as junk that is legitimate). The server has enough email volume at this point to reasonably be able to make the filter less conservative. I am going to be keeping a close eye on the filtering for the next week or so to make sure nothing is marked spam that is real.
- I have added another wireless node to our network to better serve the upstairs offices as we have considerably higher bandwidth needs than when the network was first introduced.
- I have completed a few fixes to the Student Advisor computer and printer so all is running smoothly again.

SGPS Website

- Andria and I have worked on the job postings documents for Commissioner and Coordinator hiring. We have updated as necessary and have posted the available positions on our site. The main hiring cycle is now complete and Andria and I are working on iterative improvements to the documents for next year.
- I have been working with our VP Graduate and a Work-Study student implementing new and improved information on the Student Advisor section of our website. You will be receiving the new one-sheet tonight at Council and the remainder of the documents will be posted to our main website soon.

Communications

- I have spent more time finalizing the health/dental plan details for the upcoming release of our new health/dental section of our website. I am still anticipating a go-live date on our site some time in December.
- I am working on a number of documents/posters to better communicate SGPS services to our membership. The idea is to highlight the things done by the SGPS and to make sure that as many members know about what we do and how services are accessed.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Richards - info@sgps.ca