

Hello Councilors,

We are well into Fall Term and everyone's wheels are turning. I would like to start by thanking Council for the excellent attendance at the Special General Meeting at the end of October, and for the involved and fruitful discussion that took place. There has been a lot going on at the SGPS Exec level over the past month – here's a quick overview of my work.

SGPS Specific

Human Resources Consultations

One of the specific recommendations of the Human Resources Standing Committee in its August report to Council was that SGPS Executives should receive formal training in human resources (among other things). Adequate training would require a rather significant time commitment that is difficult to achieve on short-term and during academic term. In lieu of availability for this training, I secured some time with members of Queen's HR to act in a confidential consultative fashion for the SGPS Executive in our planning and executing of human resources issues within the organization. We have had a few meetings thus far, which have informed the Executive on some best-practices with human resources that we hope will smooth out operations and assist us with formation of more sustainable HR policy in the future. This process will, specifically, also inform our recruitment and hiring practices over the coming months.

JDUC Space Update

The Executive has been working towards making the space reserved for SGPS use within the JDUC more functional for its members. Traditionally much of the SGPS space in the JDUC has been used for storage (either by the SGPS formally or other parties informally). Storage space is certainly not efficient use of member resources, especially given the lack of graduate and professional student specific space on campus. There are two specific spaces that you can plan on seeing operational over the next month. First, the Parenting Room in the former Student Advisor office space (previously mentioned by VPCCA Lorne). Next, the study space on the 200-level in the JDUC in Room 237. This space has been designated as a "lounge" in the past, and has been very under-utilized. We will be converting this space to a graduate/professional student specific study and workspace during the month of November. We will be taking advantage of the furniture 'recycling' program on campus to keep costs low on this project while still ensuring quality and usable equipment (as well as striving to achieve the sustainability mandate of the SGPS). If you have any thoughts or recommendations on the structure or amenities that would facilitate more productive use of such a space by your constituents, please let us know.

University Level Committees

There are four university-level committees that I am member of that I would like to bring to Council's attention. Each of these committees has been active in various capacities over the past month. I can't discuss the full details of each committee's proceedings so far, but I would like to give a brief update. If you have any questions or particular interest in the material covered by these committees, please do not hesitate to contact me – I want to be sure that the full variety of SGPS voices is heard at these levels.

1. Advisory Selection Committee – Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)

This committee is responsible for advising the Principal on suitable candidates for hire as the replacement for our current Provost (as his term ends next year). I am not sure how much I can discuss about the process at this stage, but Council should know that the candidates list is astounding and I am very excited for the future of the institution.

2. Advisory Committee on Non-Academic Misconduct

As I've mentioned previously, this committee is serving to review and make recommendations on the ongoing changes to the university's Non-Academic Misconduct (formerly Discipline) system. We have had consultation sessions with several stakeholder groups on campus so far (e.g. the AMS) and will continue to do so, with the target of producing a full

report by the start of May 2016. The SGPS will be having the first of its consultation sessions with the committee at the start of the Fall General Meeting on November 24 – I will be forwarding/posting some documents to motivate discussion at the consultation prior to the meeting (hopefully with the Meeting Package). If you have any thoughts on the process, or feel that you may not be adequately heard in the consultation session, I would be happy to discuss the matter one-on-one or in a small group.

3. Implementation Team on Prevention and Response to Sexual Assault

This committee was formed as a result of the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Working Group that VPCCA Lorne was working on over the summer, and is monitoring and ensuring the implementation of the many recommendations of that working group. The committee is (among other activities) reviewing the best method for disclosing its progress on the stated objectives, so expect an update on the progress either by next Council or in an upcoming newsletter.

4. Severe Allergies Review Committee

This committee is reviewing the campus' preparedness in responding to severe allergies amongst the student population. I know from speaking with members already that there are a few factors that will specifically or disproportionately impact graduate students, so I strongly urge anyone who knows of any specific allergy-related concerns facing their fellow students to bring these to my attention as soon as possible. These issues can be extremely serious for our members' health, and it will be more effective to address them proactively while this committee is active instead of reactively or after the committee completes its review. As an Epi-Pen carrier, I am personally familiar with some (but not all) issues facing those who suffer from severe allergies, and any information shared with me will be handled in the strictest of confidence.

Graduate Student Issues

There were two major events that I took part in over the past month that specifically addressed graduate student issues.

Graduate Leadership Summit

In late October, the SGPS in partnership with the School of Graduate Studies held the "First Annual" Graduate Leadership Summit. Over twenty SGPS members from a variety of disciplines met with deans to discuss the structure of PhD programs at Queen's University. Both the SGPS Executive and the deans in SGS agree that the event was very successful. What impressed me most was the high level of involvement and depth of knowledge of our members in the critiquing of policy and formation of tangible recommendations for a path forward. The deans in the SGS have committed to a pan-university review of PhD comprehensive examinations, with the goal of forming a set of best practices to distribute and encourage across disciplines. Special thanks to two specific members, Jared Houston (PhD, Philosophy) and Amanda Maracle (PhD, Psychology) for acting as facilitators (along with VPG Mark and myself).

Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS) Annual General Meeting

The first weekend of November was spent by VPG Mark and me at the CAGS AGM and conference in Calgary. Much of the discussion at the conference was centred around preparing PhD candidates for the transition to careers outside of academia, and graduate student health and wellness. I will be contacting at least one of the speakers at the conference to attempt to have a follow-up presentation for our members on campus at some point in early 2016. This event was also a useful means of networking with other graduate/professional student societies across campus, and I hope to implement some of the ideas for fostering graduate community and involvement that were shared with me by my fellow graduate society presidents.

As always, if you have any questions or ideas about anything going on in the SGPS, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Cochrane President, SGPS president@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the Vice President Graduate November 2015

Dear Council,

I would like to thank all the people that managed to make it out to the special meeting of Council. I really appreciate everyone coming out on such short notice to address the issues that arose. I also hope everyone had a great Halloween and ate as much candy as I did. Prepare yourselves for the endless awesome moustache pictures that come along with the month of November.

Student Advisor Program

The Student Advisor Program currently has 5 active cases in total, 4 of which have come in within the past two weeks.

At the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS) meeting, I was approached by several student leaders from across Canada after the Advisor Program was discussed by a School of Graduate Studies representative at a forum on graduate student wellness. They were asking for more details about the program and how it benefits graduate students at Queen's.

Rethinking the PhD

A large portion of my time over the last few weeks has been spent analyzing the PhD. We have all heard that the vast majority of PhD graduate do not end up with a career in academia, so are we properly preparing PhD students? This is not an easy question to answer.

I was invited to the Graduate Leadership Summit to act as a facilitator to help answer the question: How can we best prepare graduate students for leadership and success in an evolving global labour market? This lead to discussions about what the PhD curriculum and thesis should look like in 2016 and what opportunities can be created to facilitate interdisciplinary/collaborative approaches that align with identified needs in industries where PhD students are likely to be employed. A report from this discussing will be coming out shortly, and I welcome your thoughts on this topic.

I also had a chance to attend the CAGS meeting in Calgary this past weekend where the theme was "Rethinking the PhD". The discussion here was similar to the Leadership Summit, with a little more focus on how schools can implement changes. This was very beneficial because the meeting provided the chance to get feedback from Graduate Deans from across Canada.

Committees

The Graduate Studies Executive Council met for the second time this year and discussions were focused on several combined degree programs and major program modifications including the introduction of an industrial internship to a popular Masters program. Results of the SGS 2015 Applicant Survey were also presented. The purpose of this survey was to gain information on why or why not applicants to graduate programs at Queen's ultimately chose to come.

The Graduate Student Life Advisory Group met for the first time since June and priorities for the upcoming year were discussed, including student orientation and promotion of Expanding Horizons and Career Week. An update of the "Student Costs" section of the Registrar's website was reviewed and now much more accurately reflects the cost of

living for graduate students in Kingston. The SGS Habitat website has now been launched (and won an award at CAGS), so please go check it out.

http://www.queensu.ca/sgs/current-students/sgs-habitat

Teaching and Learning Space Planning Committee also met for the first time this year. This committee is responsible for reviewing and proposing alterations to the approximately 118 centrally-bookable classrooms on campus, including all large lecture halls. A comprehensive review of these spaces was performed over the summer and it was found that many rooms are in need of maintenance. Some highlights from the review include:

52% of these classrooms need light bulbs replaced

12 rooms have a wall colour other than beige

97% of rooms have a ceiling-mounted projector

67% of the walls/flooring needs to be cleaned

Probably the most important piece of information coming from the report is that while only 5 rooms are entirely wheelchair inaccessible, there are no lecture podiums which are entirely accessible to instructors. Information from this classroom audit is being added to a separate AODA audit.

If you have any questions or comments about an issue, please feel free to send me an email at vpg@sgps.ca. On second thought, I really hope no one ate as much candy as I did. However, if you did and are feeling regrets you can give me any uneaten candy. Keep smiling!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kellenberger

Vice President Graduate

Marie Kullfruffer

vpg@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the Vice President Professional November 2015

Dear SGPS Council Members,

The last month has been spent working on some changes to the human resources structures and policies of the SGPS. As some of you know these policies were passed at the special council meeting held at the end of October. I am hoping these changes will help create a more flexible SGPS commission structure, and empower future commissioners to take on bigger and greater projects for our community.

On that note, we are currently accepting applications for all four of our commissioner positions! Please direct anyone you know that might be interested to the following link for the job descriptions and application process: http://www.sgps.ca/jobs/jobs.html. The SGPS relies on talented individuals with drive and vision to run the commissions and deliver the best experiences and initiatives to our members, so please help us spread the word and find some excellent candidates!

Finally, you will notice that I have attached my Executive Year Plan for this council. If you would like to know more about my projects and goals for the year please consult my plan, and feel free to ask me questions!

Cha Gheill,

Mark Asfar Vice-President Professional vpp@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the Vice President Finance & Services November 2015

Dear Councilors and Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the first week of the fall term. I am back in Kingston and excited to work with the rest of the executive on all the projects we have planned for this year. Not much has changed since my last council report as many of the staff and executive were on holidays in August. However, there are a few items I have been plugging away at.

Bursaries

Making changes to our current bursary program has been my top priority and will remain so over the next month. With our new budget, which was revealed at August Council, we will have more money available to assist more members.

The new plan is to change the program so that we have two programs: the bursary program and the grants program. Bursaries will be open to all members who have financial need and grants will be open to groups of members who would like money to either support their club, conference, etc. I am currently in the process of drafting new policy that will eliminate our old bursary programs and implement this new program. The goal is to make it easier for students to apply, while still ensuring we are giving the money to the right people. I hope to have this ready to go for October Council.

I have drafted new application forms for each of these programs. Each form is a PDF that can be completed online and printed or saved and sent to our front desk for convenience to all members. The plan is for these applications to be available and submitted online by the end of the year, if not sooner. The applications are more detailed than our current applications in order to ensure we are giving money to the members who need it the most.

Budget

I have received a lot of positive feedback about the budget that was submitted to council in August. I am glad that everyone is happy with the structure. It is a very different structure than last year, so if anyone has any issues reading it, please reach out to me before council next week and I will be happy to explain it to you.

<u>Investment</u>

As for investing our excess funds, we are at a standstill until the end of the month when we have collected all student fees. At this point, we will better be able to judge how much money we can comfortably put aside for a period of time. More details will follow when I have received this information.

Orientation Week

Over the next week, the executive will be giving presentations to all new members of the SGPS. This gives us the opportunity to welcome our new members and let them know the services that we offer. I have already had the opportunity to meet some of our new members, many of which seem very keen to get involved.

Further, both the staff and the social committee have worked hard to plan the SGPS social events for orientation week. A big thank you to all of them for their hard work over the past few months.

Best Regards, Christina Huber VP Finance & Services vpfs@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the VP Campaigns & Community Affairs November 2015

Dear Council,

And here I thought that things could calm down after September. Of course, in addition to many of the efforts and initiatives that I was working on, my daughter showed up a few months early, somewhat throwing a delightful little wrench into my past few weeks. While I could not be happier, I am now somewhat tired all of the time, and on the verge of forgetting things, or, as us grads call it, "business as usual." Still, here's how I've been occupying my time.

AMS Equity Caucus

I have become involved in this effort lead by their Social Issues Commissioner in order to pool valuable knowledge and resources around the campus pertaining to equity. During the introductory meeting, I met many respective campus leaders interested in accessibility, mental health, gender diversity, and other issues that are of interest to our membership. I will naturally keep you informed as developments occur.

If anyone has any interest in joining or serving on this caucus, please let me know.

Queen's Thrive!

For the past few weeks, I've been working with members of Queen's Human Resources on a campus-wide initiative called Thrive, a movement that is concerned with better mental health and the wellbeing of students. I was originally attracted to this effort via my own interests in stress reduction, and over the course of several meetings I realized that the best way to ensure that grad students were included in the scope of this movement was for myself to become a facilitator, holding a seminar and informal session on stress within the academy. I've gotten a lot of positive feedback thus far and have been well supported by Human Resources.

I am hopeful by the time that you are reading this I'll be able to speak more fully about my involvement, and what I've learned from this process for future years.

SGPS Parenting Room

The structural issues within the JDUC have been remedied and I am further happy to announce that the SGPS Parenting Room has been fully assembled. Barring a few last minute issues, as of the eve of council this room will be officially open. The next phase of this initiative is to embark upon a campaign to better publicize this facility, ensuring that all of our members will be aware of this and other efforts that the SGPS has made for student-parents and families.

Queen's Graduate Jackets

I have been assisting some grads who've been hard at work developing jackets to recognize and raise the profile of grads on campus. They have been hard at work developing some prototypes, and I am hopeful that by December council, this wonderful addition to grad culture and campus life will be ready to be unveiled.

Graduate Faculty Societies

The plain fact is that many graduate students are not part of active departmental societies, and are unaware of the benefits of the SGPS both as its functions as council, or as an organization. As laid out in my year plan, it was one of my goals for this to be a year where we might be able to help encourage and foster the growth of faculty graduate societies. The benefits of such an arrangement are many, as these may serve as collectives whereby grad students might find

support, friendship, and assistance with the issues and topics unique to their own department; and secondly, such societies are often warmly supported by faculty, and at times are invited to the table during departmental meetings, giving grads a much-needed voice on important matters. I've been in contact with a few societies about their own successes, spoken with staff about the logistical issues involved, and have worked on a draft constitution.

I'll be reaching out over the next week or so, but if your department does not yet have a functioning faculty society, don't hesitate to contact me.

Trans* Accessibility Bursary

After many months of hard work, the AMS' Social Issues Commissioner and myself have submitted a first draft to Jean at the Human Rights Office and the working group that she leads. The initial feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and informative, and although there is still much work to be done, we are hoping that we will be able to collaborate and make significant gains on this effort throughout the remainder of the year.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, or would simply like to get involved within this effort, please feel free to contact me.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the Council Speaker November 2015

Hello Council,

Nothing much to report this month on from the Office of the Speaker, other than reminders that the Fall General Meeting is coming up.

The Fall General Meeting will be Tuesday November 24, 2015 at 5:30pm in Wallace Hall in the JDUC.

All SGPS Members are entitled to a vote, so please make sure your departments are aware of the meeting. There is a poster attached that I would like you to print off and post in your department and/or email out to students.

Agenda Items for the Fall General Meeting are due Saturday November 14, 2015 by 4pm to councilreports@sgps.ca

If you or any of your constituents cannot make it, they are able to proxy their vote to another SGPS member, as long as they do so 72 hours in advance by emailing me with their student number and the name and student number of the student they are proxying to.

Please help spread the word!

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos Council Speaker speaker@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the Graduate Student Senator November 2015

Hello Council,

Graduate Studies Executive Council (GSEC) Meeting – October 15, 2015

(Meeting summary prepared by Monica Corbett, SGS)

- Dean's report: B. Brouwer reported:
 - B. Brouwer attended a Graduate Education Global Summit in Singapore last month. The topic of discussion was the use of big data and big data analytics in graduate education serving to highlight the potential advantages to be had by accessing and analyzing multisource data as well as challenges relating to privacy, ethics, and data management.
 - Meetings with departments and their faculty to review their respective program 'report card', discuss active recruitment and SGS initiatives are ongoing.
 - Deans will attend the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) conference at the end of the month where the SGS team will receive the national ETS-CAGS award for excellence and innovation in enhancing the graduate experience for the SGS Habitat web resource (S. den Otter will give a presentation on the resource).
 - At the Graduate Forum on November 2015, Dr. Mahadeo Sukhai will present findings on the issues and barriers faced by graduate students with disabilities focusing on the important role faculty have in providing an accessible graduate learning environment. Determining the essential requirements of graduate education including general, discipline-specific, technical and research related essential requirements will be discussed.
 - The SGS recently ran a webinar about the new Academic Excellence Awards, tips for applying for scholarship funding and the Queen's advantage which attracted 74 participants. The webinar followed a media campaign including advertisements in the Globe & Mail, in student newspapers across the province, and on Facebook.
- Reports from Faculty Graduate Councils/Committees and SGPS:
 - At the recent Arts Graduate Council, Science Graduate Council, and Engineering and Applied Science Graduate Council meetings, proposals for new programs or major modifications to programs were reviewed and approved. The Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Council will begin discussion on developing a Professional Master's in Medical Sciences. The Graduate Committee for Law reviewed enrolment and application data and proposed revisions to their website at a recent meeting. The School of Business discussed application procedures. The Graduate Studies and Research Committee for Education discussed application and enrolment numbers, and continued discussion on revising PhD courses.
- M. Kellenberger of the SGPS attended a recent Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS) meeting along with student representatives from other universities to discuss key issues. The SGPS will conduct a survey of its membership to get ideas on how to assist students socially and will develop a framework to facilitate consultation with students. They encourage participation in Career Week workshops.

- GSEC approved:
 - proposed Major Modification, addition of the field MEng in MME with Industrial Internship
 - proposed combined degree, B.Sc.H./M.Sc. (Biomedical and Molecular Sciences)
 - proposed combined degree, B.Sc.H./M.Sc. (Biology)
 - proposed Change of program Name, Collaborative program in Political Thought
 - proposed major modifications, MPH degree program
 - Omnibus Report October 2015
- R. Huegler from the SGS presented an overview of the 2015 Applicant Survey.

Senate Meeting - November 3, 2015

Not too much went on at this Senate beyond the usual, aside from the milestone of the first program closure in University History. The three programs in Theology in the School of Religion were closed due to declining interest. Interestingly enough, the Theological College was one of the first offerings at Queen's University. More details on the closing can be found here:

 $\frac{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20of\%20Theology\%20Programs.pdf?handle=D83085FF0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20of\%20Theology\%20Programs.pdf?handle=D83085FF0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20of\%20Theology\%20Programs.pdf?handle=D83085FF0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20of\%20Theology\%20Programs.pdf?handle=D83085FF0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20of\%20Theology\%20Programs.pdf?handle=D83085FF0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20of\%20Theology\%20Programs.pdf?handle=D83085FF0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20Of\%20Theology\%20Programs.pdf?handle=D83085FF0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20Of\%20Theology\%20Programs.pdf?handle=D83085FF0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20Off0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20Off0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20Off0A174068BBD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20Off0A174068BD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20Off0A174068BD5DF708280B32A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCAD\%20Closure\%20Off0A174068BD5DF708280B30A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCADM20Off0A174068BD5DF708280B30A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCADM20Off0A174068BD5DF708280B30A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/69939/SCADM20Off0A174068B0A1740B30A}{\text{https://queensuniversity.civicweb.n$

The full Senate Agenda for this meeting is available here:

https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=836

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos Graduate Student Senator senator@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the Trustee November 2015

Hello Council,

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Capital Assets and Finance Committee is on December 4^{th} , 2015, and the Board will be meeting on December 4^{th} and 5^{th} , 2015.

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

Respectfully submitted,

James MacLeod

Trustee trustee@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the Equity & Diversity Commissioner November 2015

Dear SGPS Members,

In late October, a special meeting of Council was held that passed a motion that would extend our contracts as the current Equity & Diversity Commission to the end of November. I have accepted the offer of a one-month contract extension and I will be spending this month working on preparing the Commission for its hand off.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve the membership in this role.

Sincerely,

Erica Baker

Equity & Diversity Commissioner



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the International Student's Affairs Commissioner November 2015

No report received.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the Social Commissioner November 2015

Dear SGPS Council and Members-At-Large,

Fall term is well underway for the Social Team, and as well as running some amazing events for our members, we're currently in the middle of transitioning to a new structure for the Commission. We will officially be saying goodbye to our Athletics Coordinator, Logistics Coordinator, and Planning Coordinator positions. Jamie, Prashant, and I hope to stay involved in the Social Commission in various capacities but Margaux MacDonald will be stepping down at the end of her term. Margaux has been a member of the Social Team on and off for three years in various roles, including Planning Coordinator, Social Commissioner, and Logistics Coordinator so I would like to thank her for all of her work and dedication to our graduate community here at Queen's. The position for Athletics Commissioner and Social Commissioner are being advertised until November 12, 2015. And we are all excited to help with the transition and make sure things are as seamless as possible so that we can keep bringing students the social events that they have come to know and love!

Our sports hours have been running every Wednesday from 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Upper West Gym in the ARC with average attendance of 10-15/ week. We'd love to encourage all councilors to keep telling their departments about this event so we can grow it and have more students coming out each week for friendly and fun pick up sports. It's a great way to destress, make friends, and get some exercise! We had two very major events in October. We hosted an exclusive SGPS trivia night at the alibi with up to 40 people joining us throughout the night. At the end of October we went to Fort Fright with 50 students and a great night was had by all!

On November 12th we will be co-hosting a movie night with the Queen's Film Club, screening the movie "Whiplash". Later in the month we will be hosting a Karaoke night and in December we will have a board games night and an end of term mixer at the Grad Club. Please tell your colleagues to join the SGPS Facebook group where all events are posted: https://www.facebook.com/groups/2310661892/.

Respectfully submitted,

Ciara Bracken-Roche

Social Commissioner (social@sgps.ca)



Dear Council,

This is the first report that the Finance and Services Committee is submitting to council. The purpose of our report is to ensure that council is informed about the financial happenings of the SGPS. From now on, two members of the committee will be at council every month to answer questions about the SGPS finances. We hope that you find our reports informative and useful.

Bursaries

A total of \$10,087.90 was distributed through the Bursaries program in the months of September and October. The money was distributed as follows:

	Sept.	Oct.	Total
ESA	\$1,800.00	\$3,400.00	\$5,200.00
Dental	\$0	\$637.90	\$637.90
International	\$1,900.00	\$2,350.00	\$4,250.00
	\$3,700.00	\$6,387.90	\$10,087.90

The budget for the 2015/2016 year for bursaries is: \$78,020.47 for General Bursaries and Grants, \$30,000 for the Dental Bursary, and \$20,000 for the International Bursary. We are currently on budget in all areas: General Bursaries has \$72,820.47 (this does not take into account grants) remaining, the Dental Bursary has \$28,363.10 remaining, and the International Bursary has \$15,750 remaining. It is important to keep in mind that the General Bursary budget line can be tapped into by the dental and international bursaries as they are part of the general bursary. They have been kept separate on the budget to show a specific amount that must go to these bursaries as the union is contributing to these areas of our Bursary/Grants Program.

Grants

A total of \$4843.63 was distributed through the Grants program in the months of September and October. The money was distributed as follows:

	Sept.	Oct.	Total
Grants	\$600.00	\$1,335.00	\$1,935.00
Sports	\$2,625.00	\$283.63	\$2,908.63
Club*	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$3,225.00	\$1,618.63	\$4,843.63

The budgeted amount for Grants for the 2015/2016 year is \$78,020.47. There is \$67,976.84 (including bursaries) remaining.

The following groups were awarded grants:

Grants Program:

- Performing Pedagogies Panel
- CanPrevent Conference
- Chancellor Dunning Trust Lecture Series @ The Screening Room
- CONNECT ED Connecting Students with Campus & Community Resources
- 17th Annual Indigenous Research Symposium
- ScholarShare
- Graduate Fall Writing Retreat
- Rehabilitation Career Fair
- Gender Studies Graduate Symposium

Sports Fund:

- "All Sets Are Off" Team
- Pathology (Indoor Volleyball & Ultimate Frisbee)
- "We Talkin' Bout Malpractice" Team
- "Winter is Coming" Team

Club Funding:

• There were no successful club funding requests in Sept/Oct.

Other

In September, the SGPS' auditor severed its relationship with the Society. The Finances and Services Standing Committee received packages from three auditing firms for the purposes of completing the outstanding 2013-2014 audit, and for consideration for the role of auditor of record for the Society. Based on a review of the packages, the Finances and Services Standing Committee recommends that the SGPS pursue KPMG as its auditing firm, for both the 2013-2014 audit and future financial audits.

The Committee recommends KPMG as the SGPS's auditor going forward for two main reasons: KPMG guarantees its audit price of \$8000 and KPMG is already the auditor of the AMS and Queen's. This means that we will not be expected to pay more than \$8,000 for our audit, even though this is a quote that they have provided us with. Also, the committee believes that KPMG will be more efficient at performing audits since they already know how our system works based on having worked with Queen's and the AMS.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Huber and Chris Cochrane,
On behalf of the SGPS Finance & Services Standing Committee



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the University Rector November 2015

No report received.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students Report of the Chief Returning Officer November 2015

No report received.