

Dear Council:

It has been a busy couple months for the SGPS, and your Executive has been hard at work on a number of fronts. Unfortunately I won't be able to attend October's Council meeting, since I will be in Ottawa for the National Annual General Meeting of the CFS.

### **Academic Reps**

This Council meeting will see first reading of by-law changes allowing SGPS reps on departmentalized Graduate Councils to be selected directly by SGPS Councillors for those departments. For those of you who represent departments in the Faculties of Arts and Science or Health Sciences, we will be holding committee meetings before Council at 5:30 PM to select the academic reps on your Grad Councils. The Grad Councils play an incredibly important role in discussing and approving changes to graduate programs. I strongly encourage members of Council for those departments to consider running for an Academic Rep position next Tuesday.

### **CFS NAGM**

As I mentioned, I will be at the CFS NAGM in Ottawa during our Council meeting. There are a number of motions that will be discussed in Ottawa and I'm particularly excited about a motion our VPCCA, Lorne Beswick, and I drafted about the T4/T4A situation for research assistants. In addition to calling attention to the impact being on a T4A can have for international students hoping to apply for permanent residence status, the motion would also have the CFS work with its legal counsel to draft an appeal guide for RAs on T4As who want to have a proper determination of their employment status by the Canada Revenue Agency.

### **Board of Trustees/Senate**

Over September I attended a Board of Trustees meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>, a Senate-Board Retreat on September 20<sup>th</sup>, and a Senate meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>. I'll leave it to SGPS Trustee James MacLeod and Graduate Senator Eric Rapos to go into more detail on what was discussed at the meetings. As an SGPS observer of the Board I updated the Trustees about some of the problems faced by international students on T4As, and I will be meeting with Queen's Vice Principal (Finance and Administration) Caroline Davis and School of Graduate Studies Dean Brenda Brouwer on October 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss what the university can do to make it easier for international students on T4As to apply for permanent residence (or potentially opt into a T4).

On the Senate side, I've submitted two Senate motions, which have been forwarded to the Senate Committee on Academic Procedures (SCAP). One motion has to do with the university's Student Debtor Policy and whether the university should release transcripts and documents required by students in professional programs to allow them to receive their professional designation (this is being done partially on an administrative basis but is not in policy). The second motion would allow the university to release Graduate/Professional Transcripts that would not include undergraduate Queen's courses. Unbeknownst to me, this is something the Aesculapian Society (the faculty society for medicine students) has been simultaneously pursuing and I'm optimistic that we can have some progress on the matter.

### **Faculty of Education Ancillary Fees**

Over the last month an ad-hoc working group with representation from the Provost's Office, Registrar's Office, AMS and SGPS has been working on questionable ancillary fees that are non-compliant with the rules set out by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The university has committed to remove non-compliant fees and at a meeting we went over all the fees in the Faculty of Education that are levied on ESS members. We agreed that some of these fees are being used for improper purposes (e.g. to bring in paid guest speakers) and for many of the fees there was

insufficient detail. Over the coming months I will be working to get more details on the fee expenditures and hope to have specifics on what changes will be made to the fees for the 2015-16 year.

### **Student Life Space Plan and Governance Discussions**

The first meeting of the Student Life Space Plan Advisory Committee happened this week and we set out a work plan that will run from now until December 2015. The first phase of the plan will involve canvassing existing student life spaces, both official and academic spaces used as such. Physical Plant Services is working on drafting a questionnaire that the SGPS and AMS can distributed to our faculty societies and departmental reps to determine how students at Queen's meet their student life space needs, and the administration will also be canvassing faculties directly to find out what they regard as student life space. Once the questionnaire is ready I hope you will all help me canvass your departments and faculties so that we can ensure the student life space plan reflects the unique needs of graduate and professional students.

I will also be meeting with the AMS President and University Secretary on October 8<sup>th</sup> to begin a discussion about the changes to the governance structure of the Student Life Centre. There are some changes both us and the AMS want to make to governance. For example on our side it's not very satisfactory that 100% of revenues from commercial tenants go to the SLC's administration budget rather than covering the utilities and cleaning costs directly attributable to that space, especially given that a smaller share of administrative budget profits go to the SGPS than the portion of the facilities costs that are paid by the SGPS. Essentially we will be starting off by deciding how aggressively we want to change the governance structure as a whole (for example by looking to have the space leased by the university or by setting up a jointly-controlled corporation to run the SLC). Based on those discussions we can move to start hammering out the finer details of a renewed Management and Operations Agreement (or some other agreement to take its place).

Because I won't be able to make Council in person, if any of you have any questions about my report, please shoot me an email and I'm happy to draft a response that can be read out at Council.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Kevin Wiener  
President

[president@sgps.ca](mailto: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](mailto:advisors@sgps.ca).  
Visit the website! <http://www.sgps.ca/services/advisors.html>

Dear Members of Council,

September and early October have been extraordinarily busy. All committees that I work with are now back in session and I do have a number of interesting projects underway.

**At GSEC** on 25 September, I reported that SGPS is currently working on electing students who will sit on the Faculty Graduate Councils in the Health Sciences, Sciences, and Arts; updated them about the Student Advisor Program; updated them on language changes we succeeded in achieving in the Grad Supervisor Handbook regarding the supervisor's responsibility to prepare students adequately for Oral Thesis Examinations etc. Significantly, the School of Graduate Studies released its action plan on recommendations made by the Times to Completion (T2C) Task Force, an action plan that will not act on all of the recommendations made by the Task Force. As expressed at the GSEC meeting, I think the recommendations could go much further, especially in areas that can ensure that Graduate Supervisors are fulfilling a minimum standard of supervision rather than simply encouraging supervisors to access new resources provided by SGS that describe only 'best practices' for them to follow. SGS has jurisdiction over department heads and Graduate Coordinators and as such, their focus seems to be on steering things at the departmental level. Nonetheless, I will continue to pursue better protections and better quality supervision for graduate students in the supervisory relationship. This includes an upcoming pilot project developed by the Student Advisor Program with the support of SGS to create Student-Supervisor Meeting Record templates. Planning is still underway, and I will talk more definitively at next Council about this. Other action items SGS has on its radar that arose from the T2C Task Force recommendations include standardizing departmental and program graduate handbooks that outline clear milestones; make inquiries about increasing space availability at the libraries for grad students; and open discussion about the possibility of making changes to the policy for changing student status from full to part time to help alleviate costs. I would be delighted to talk more about these and other SGS action items with members and hear their thoughts and ideas as well. Please do reach out.

**Library access on the other side of the dissertation:** Another issue I have taken up is opening conversations with the Library, SGS, the Registrar, and Alumni Relations regarding access to library sources after the final revised and defended dissertation is submitted. Typically, as soon as the final electronic copy is uploaded to the University, the student is no longer a student and therefore loses their access to library databases and interlibrary loans because they are no longer 'affiliated' with the University as most licensing agreements require (it appears Teaching Fellows who become adjunct professors are able to reestablish affiliation). As well, all library books must be returned to the library as soon as the dissertation is uploaded. There are several problems with this especially for new PhDs who need sources to write adequate post-doctoral and tenure-track research plans and funding proposals. Master's graduates may wish to pursue a

PhD or do research to pitch a project in industry and also require resources. The point is that with the new Times to Completion policy, students may not have adequate time to work on 'the next step' and must wait until they are essentially done their dissertations to begin work on their future research plans because the time to do it during the course of normal graduate studies has been narrowed significantly. I want to make sure we can find ways for students to still access necessary resources after submitting the final copy, at least up to the day they apply to graduate, and perhaps after. SGS noted that conversations are happening at the national level on precisely this issue and I will continue to look into it. In the meantime, all students need to be aware that they will not have the same library access when they submit their completed dissertation and until we can secure continued access, everyone should know they will need to plan ahead and access resources for future projects earlier rather than later.

**Meetings & Outreach** Aside from these, I have been doing work for SARC, SRC, GSLAG the Ban Righ Board, the Grad Club Board, Arts and Science JHSC and have attended meetings for the QNS Advisory Committee, Arts and Science Faculty Board, and regular meetings with the Student Advisors and the SGS. I have been meeting with union members about health and safety issues, and talking to other unions and organizations about health and safety on campus and the need to raise awareness about these issues among students (including AMS) and faculty. I also served as a Guest Chef at Four Directions Aboriginal Centre on October 1<sup>st</sup> in cooperation with our Student Advisors and Ms. MaryClaire Pappas, Equity Officer for PSAC 901. Thanks to everyone who helped with the preparations and who came to enjoy the feast! PSAC 901 also elected a new executive committee at their SGM on September 18<sup>th</sup>. A list can be found at <http://www.psac901.org/2014/09/psac-901-new-executive/>.

**Upcoming events** Several big upcoming things are my attendance at a meeting of the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies (OCGS) in Toronto on October 10<sup>th</sup> and the annual Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) conference in St. John's, Newfoundland from October 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Issues to be discussed in Toronto graduate students and Deans of graduate studies present include new online professional skills modules; 'best practices' for supporting grad students in crisis; supporting good student-supervisory relations; and effective institutional supports for progress to completion. This will be followed by a grad student roundtable, which will be valuable to gauge how things are going at other institutions from the student perspective. As for CAGS, items for discussion include Rethinking the PhD and its future; prepping students for life outside of academia; intellectual property, and updates from research-granting agencies. I will report back for the next SGPS Council on meeting and conference outcomes. In the meantime, I would like to hear from members about any issues or concerns related to the SGS Action Plan or graduate life and studies in general. Please do get in touch! [vpg@sgps.ca](mailto:vpg@sgps.ca)

Respectfully submitted,

Dinah Jansen  
Vice President Graduate  
SGPS

Dear SGPS Council Members,

We have had a great start to the year, and I am excited to report on some progress I have made on a number of my goals for the year.

### **Human Resources**

I will be bringing a comprehensive accessibility policy to council next month for feedback and approval. The legislation that governs these standards is the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*. I am nearly done the policy, and will be running it through the Human Resources Standing Committee to help breathe life back into that committee, and I will also be reaching out to our outgoing and incoming equity commissioner to get their feedback on the policy. The policy is designed to lay out the SGPS's commitment to offering services to persons with disabilities, and will include a customer service component, emergency response plans, training requirements, feedback avenues, and other policy compliance. Our lovely Andria has been working diligently on the training side of this.

I have also solicited some quotes from both a local law firm and the AMS lawyer to have them review a 'precedent' employment contract that the SGPS can use for all of its employees going forward, to ensure that our contracts and practices are up to par with the relevant employment standards. I am just waiting on the AMS to get their quote, and then I will bring a recommendation to exec and get that done prior to our upcoming hiring period.

Sean and I are working on our first round of performance reviews. I am not sure if these have been done in the recent past, but in my view they provide a valuable opportunity to ensure that the SGPS is functioning as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

As I am sure you are aware, much of my time will be consumed with hiring in the next few days. We have received a lot of applications at this point for both equity and international commissioner positions, which is really great. I will be helping with transition where possible as we head into November, and hope to familiarize myself with the current and ongoing projects in the various commissions before transition begins. I will also be strongly encouraging the use of year plans for each of the commissioners and coordinators. I have found for myself that having a concrete plan written down is extremely helpful for

keeping on track and tracking progress. I would also like to have each of the commissions come and give a quick talk at one of our weekly exec meetings in November to increase information flow and cohesion on projects. I am very excited to see how interviews go!

### **Professional Student Outreach**

I have been regularly attending Law Student Society Meeting's, and I also have been to the first Rehabilitation Therapy Society Meeting. I am currently waiting on dates and times for ESS meetings, but will be going to those where possible as well. The goal here, as discussed in my year plan, is to remain plugged into the issues of the day for each of the professional degrees in my portfolio. The feedback on my attendance has been very positive so far, and I hope to be in a position to bring concerns to council from the individual societies, and inversely, to bring important information from council to the individual groups.

I have been working to reach out to all the professional degrees at Queen's in order to get reps for a social committee that we will be striking shortly (or hopefully, that will have already met by the time this council is going on). The goal here is to have a committee with reps from Law, Education, Meds, MBA, and Rehab Therapy to plan events that bring together professional students across campus. Feedback from the individual societies has been positive on this front, and now I am just dealing with the logistics of coordinating schedules between 5 different programs (ugh).

As noted from this summer, this committee will have funding in the amount of \$3000 (jointly from SGPS and the AMS) to help plan these events. I am excited to see what we can do with this!

### **Meetings of Note**

I met with Benjamin Seewald to work out a plan to gather some data on SGPS alumni interest in homecoming. More on this in November, hopefully (this is a long term plan for homecoming in future years).

I unfortunately missed the first SONAD meeting of the year, for which I am deeply sorry and embarrassed. For some reason the invites went to my Gmail account and I missed them. My apologies for not being there.

The Exec met with Student Affairs for our monthly meetings. These are a chance to touch base and have informal discussions about ongoing projects.

I have also been to the first Food Committee Meeting of the year – much of this is undergrad specific, but I will be going to those to ensure SGPS has representation on decisions related to hospitality and food services at Queen's.

We have also done some hiring for some work study positions in the past month, and I remain committed to participating in hiring in my capacity related to Human Resources.

**Best** Regards,

Thompson Hamilton  
Vice-President Professional  
vpp@sgps.ca

Hey Council,

This year has started off fantastically well.

My 88 first-years, far from being an exercise in herding cats, are in fact excited and eager to participate in my classes (!), and my thesis work is coming along nicely. I'm even having regular and productive meetings with my advisor. Also, my marriage and social lives are both busy and doing well, so yeah, I don't know what's going on here either.

At any rate, here is my report for September:

### **Advisory Committees & Administrative Meetings**

I met with the Outdoor Arts Advisory Committee, had a Student Mental Health Discussion with the AMS, and the Provost's Advisory Committee on Mental Health. In particular, this final group has revealed that the old Physical Education Centre might be given a new lease on life as plans are underway for it to be rebuilt into a new health and wellness centre primarily for the benefit of Queen's students.

I also met with the Dean of Student Affairs to discuss my plans for the upcoming year, and had a chat with the University's librarian Martha Whitehead about the outcomes and future plans of the Queen's library system. Both of these meetings were quite fruitful, and I'd discussed plans involving a holiday food drive with the library. Also, the associate Dean of Student Affairs, Roxy Denniston-Stewart put me in touch with Joan Jones of Student Community Relations (formerly Town-Gown), where my ideas were well received. In particular, I'm hoping to revive the old "Move Out" event, where resources are reclaimed from exiting undergrads and re-purposed for parties in need; I feel this is an area where should we provide the labour, we might be able to retain a significant amount of materials for the benefit of incoming students who are otherwise unable to access the resources required in order to succeed at Queen's, something that Joan was quite excited about and wished to discuss further in the coming months.

### **Municipal Elections**

With each passing day we come closer to our municipal elections, which of course I hope you all plan on participating in on October 27th. I've been conducting surveys and interviews with candidates representing areas where our membership is well represented, namely, the Sydenham, Portsmouth, and Williamsville districts, as well as all of the mayoral candidates as well. Once completed, I'll be working with our Executive Director to add a section to our website that will include all of the candidates' responses to our questions, so that our membership will be able to be better informed on this important matter. Also in the coming weeks are meetings scheduled with Ken Ohtake of the Sydenham District Association, and the AMS' Municipal officer, in order to work together during the various candidates' debates, the previous of which I unfortunately missed due to medical reasons.

CFS Ontario has indicated that they will be sending me a full compliment of election related materials, enabling me to send along the appropriate media to our allies in and around the campus, like PSAC or CFRC, for example.

### **CFS National**

I am excited to announce that Kevin and myself have been taking seriously the work conditions around Queen's. We sought to draft a motion for CFS that would draw the attentions of member locals, schools, and other interested parties to the issue of RAs having unfair labour practices applied to them insofar as their wages being reported on a T4/T4A are concerned. Doubly disadvantaged are our international students, who not only lose out on valuable work hours, but are faced with a needless extra hurdle when forced to produce an employment record that details labouring hours (where none *legally* exist), for example, should they attempt to apply for citizenship through Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

CFS National have received and accepted this submission and in fact have made it the very first motion up for consideration. However, I am unfortunately unable to make this meeting as my teaching fellowship has me in class for three of the five days that they've requested me, so our president Kevin Wiener will be delivering this motion to CFS National alone.<sup>1</sup>

### **Community Affairs**

With the end of the summer and the return of undergraduates to Queen's our time with the Food Centre this year has come to an end. I was able to stage a volunteer appreciation day, to thank all of the people who helped keep the Centre's doors open over the summer and it was quite well received and gave us some nice time with the AMS' Social Issues Commissioner Emily Wong, their head of HR Meg Monteith, and the Director of the Centre, Rebecca Silver. In somewhat more exciting news, I managed to have a brief discussion with Meg Monteith and she'd indicated that their bylaws will more than likely change so as to allow graduates and professionals to volunteer next summer, or indeed, any time where undergraduates are unable to staff and otherwise perform their duties. I consider this a big win for the wider community at large, and a wonderful showcase of the benefits of further partnership between our respective student societies.

United Way Queen's held a meeting and a later kick-off barbeque that I attended. It was great to see so many friendly faces, and generous people willing to support such a good cause.

And finally, by the time that council meets I will have compiled the results of my external survey of our community partners for the SGPS' internal use. This will provide us a wealth of data and help direct our policies in a way that both reflects the best interests of our membership, but also reinforces our relationships with our friends in the wider community.

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<sup>1</sup> Admittedly, this is a highly unusual sentence.



**Society of Graduate and Professional Students**  
OCTOBER 2014 COUNCIL REPORT  
Report of the Vice President Finance and Services

Dear SGPS Council Members,

For those of you who were unable to attend the September council meeting, I presented the annual SGPS budget for the second time to council. I am pleased to report that the budget passed second reading and has been ratified. The full document and guide are posted on our website at [sgps.ca/council/documents](http://sgps.ca/council/documents).

On September 19, I travelled to a conference organized by the University of Toronto - Faculty of Law on financial system design. I was able to observe the discussions on effective policies and management directives that contribute towards running a fiscally prudent organization. I am working on putting together a short summary report of the talking points which I believe to be applicable to the SGPS, and presenting this report to council in the form of policy recommendations for discussion.

Our new health and dental plan has been active for over six weeks now, and the transition has been almost entirely without problems. We will continue to educate members on the new coverage details, promote the health/dental plan, and assist our members with processing their claims. Please direct your constituents to our office if they have any questions whatsoever in regards to their coverage or the plan more broadly.

The SGPS continues to offer a range of bursaries to members in need of financial assistance. The team and I continue to forge ahead with overhauling our processing system, and we are making good progress. We are moving the application process to a digital format, with the option to still submit paper applications based on individual member preference. The ultimate goal with this project is to significantly reduce wait times, free up staff resources, and make the whole process generally more efficient.

We are also exploring alternate policy options with the way bursary applications are awarded. I will be coming to next month's council with a recommendation if we decide it is in our member's best interest to pursue these avenues. The Finance and Services Committee will be handling this initiative and we welcome any councillor/member input.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Gajos  
VP Finance and Services  
Society of Graduate and Professional Students

Dear SGPS Council Members,

I am happy to report that your SGPS Staff survived orientation and the chaotic month of September. This was my first September as a non-student and I am still in awe of all the work that goes into making Orientation run smoothly. I hope you were all able to receive some orientation swag from us and if not we still have water bottles, travel mugs, and agendas available at the SGPS Main Office in JDUC 021.

### **Employment Opportunities**

The SGPS is currently hiring for its Commissioner and Coordinator positions. If you have yet to check out the job postings, please head on over to the [SGPS website](#) and [newsletter](#) in order to find out more.

We are currently restructuring our training process in order to provide the most effective training to our staff in the smallest amount of time possible. We will be test-driving this new model with our incoming Commissioners and Coordinators and we are looking forward to receiving feedback on this new model.

### **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.

### **Holiday Assistance Program**

With the winter holidays on the horizon, the SGPS is planning our annual Holiday Assistance Program (aka HAP).

SGPS HAP 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](mailto: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.

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](mailto:ea@sgps.ca)



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

Dear Council,

Since our last meeting, I have met with Christian Jope, the Head Manager & Chief Constable of Queen's Student Constables. We discussed, among others, the procedure for filing complaints with the SGPS Judicial Board.

Jon Samosh, the Deputy Speaker and Andria Mahon, the Executive Assistant have been working diligently reaching out to our members, councilors and member societies to ensure that all Council positions are filed.

Thank you to all those outgoing councilors who have reached out to us with the names and emails of their successors.

Kind regards,

Max Ma  
Speaker (speaker@sgps.ca)

Hello Council,

I hope your fall terms have been off to a great start!

### **GSEC Meeting – September 25, 2014**

- Approvals:
  - There were a number of graduate programs that received pre-approval at GSEC:
    - Diploma, Master's and PhD in Health and Aging
    - Doctorate in Physical Therapy
    - Occupational Therapy Doctorate
    - Executive Doctorate in Business Administration
  - Additionally there was a major modification to the Master of Planning program to add a coursework Master's pattern.
- Dean's Report:
  - The Dean stressed that with the signing of the Strategic Mandate Agreement, the focus of the SGS is on expanded credentials as a means of increasing enrollment.
  - Recruitment is a priority at this time.
  - Sept 8th saw the launch of 18 online graduate professional skills modules including academic and research integrity, avoiding plagiarism, intellectual property and several on entrepreneurship & career development (including the versatile graduate) and others. See [www.MyGradSkills.ca](http://www.MyGradSkills.ca) – registration is completely free for students of Queen's (as well as other Universities).
  - Career week for graduate students and post-docs will be held Oct 14-17, 2014 (<http://www.queensu.ca/sgs/career-week-graduate-post-doctoral-fellows>)
- Time to Completion:
  - We discussed the GSEC Action Plan on the Time to Completion Report – this report is currently marked as confidential, so I cannot provide details. When more information is available, I will include that in my council report.

### **Senate Meeting – September 30, 2014**

- I was unable to attend senate, as I was traveling for a conference, however I have spoken with Senators who attended, met with all Senators before the meeting to discuss items, and was involved in a Skype chat with Senators during Senate – however if you have any questions, I would recommend asking the SGPS President, Kevin, who is also a Senator.
- The September Agenda for Senate can be found here: <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=554>
- Contact information for Senate Committee Secretaries, and the names of Committee Chairs were reported (<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/44791/Chairs%20and%20Secretaries.pdf?handle=5AC55D214F8C45B6B3A93C6B6BAB4D61>)
- Topics to be discussed by Senate Committees for the upcoming year were presented ([https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/44733/Senate%20Committee%20Items%202014\\_15.pdf?handle=09CEB02F8A61454F9487CE0121A1AD82](https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/44733/Senate%20Committee%20Items%202014_15.pdf?handle=09CEB02F8A61454F9487CE0121A1AD82))
- The following are the honorary degrees that will be presented at this fall's convocation: <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/44803/HDs%20ReportToSenate%20Sep14.pdf?handle=0BE51E93563D411BAA4CA4DABC405112>
- A motion was referred to SCAP regarding a Graduate Transcript – they will investigate the possibility of creating a Graduate (or second degree) Transcript for those students who have completed both an undergrad and

second degree at Queen's so as to not disadvantage our students when undergraduate marks are not required to be submitted.

- Another motion was submitted to SCAP to investigate the policy on Student Debtors, to allow a waiver of policy for BEd and Law students who require documentation for professional certification.  
(<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/44781/Student%20Debtors.pdf?handle=D98C754B5AD14E708FC1C3FE19514C2A>)
- Principal's Report  
(<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/44897/Principal%27s%20Report.pdf?handle=024EFFDE4FBB4B02B6D8FA4B3597EDD2>)
  - Principal highlights that with the signing of the new Strategic Management Agreement, there is a focus on new credentials, both at the graduate and undergraduate levels.
  - The Principal is now the Vice-Chair of the U15.
- Provost's Report  
(<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/44888/Provost%27s%20Report%20Sept%202014.pdf?handle=8E6554201638478F9DEC1FD2E53CEC57>)
  - The budgeting process for 2015-2016 is underway.
  - The provost reminded senate of the previous communication regarding budgeting  
(<http://www.queensu.ca/provost/index/Developmentofthe20142015BudgetFinal.pdf>)
- For the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Queen's (2016) – Senate has approved that all honorary degrees granted in 2016 will be to Queen's Alumni (with the exception of a royal visit).
- An initial report on the Strategic Framework was presented  
(<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/45275/Strategic%20Framework%20Initial%20Report.pdf?handle=941A91DB5928449E8CDF5D8FDA4BFC23>)
- A notice of probation for Commerce Orientation was presented  
(<https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/document/45558/SOARB%20NOP%20-%20Commerce.pdf?handle=B6E3D71B574B47A289B85DEB96F25A78>)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos  
Graduate Student Senator  
[senator@sgps.ca](mailto:senator@sgps.ca)

Hello Council,

I am happy to report that the October 2014 Board meeting and Board-Senate Retreat ran very smoothly. The Capital Assets and Finance Committee were presented with a number of items for review, most of which did not warrant concern. However, one item in particular caught my attention and I did bring this up in the committee. The Chair and I share the same view, and we will be monitoring the situation accordingly.

I have also followed up with a letter to the Board Chair on one other item relating to shared services funding. Additionally, I have requested some specific usage metrics from HCDS which will put me in a better position to comment on the shared services budget when it is presented shortly. Of note, Queen's did take in approximately 300 students above and beyond what was expected this year. While this does grant us access to additional governmental funding in the form of FTE's, it remains to be seen whether this year was an outlier, or whether there is a shift towards greater enrolment at Queen's compared to our peers.

During the Board-Senate retreat on Saturday, our group had some very stimulating conversations surrounding student services. Bringing both the Board and Senate together to jointly discuss these issues broadens our perspective. The concept of a "student services plan" was raised, which may merit some investment of manpower by the administration.

Respectfully submitted,

James MacLeod

Graduate Trustee  
trustee@sgps.ca

#### SGPS Computer Network

- Pam has returned from maternity leave so I have completed the necessary server transitions to give her the access she needs.
- I have installed necessary security patches to server and workstation computers.
- I have started the testing process for the new release of OS X to begin to get a picture of anything that will break or need updating when the new OS is released later this year.

#### 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. Some of them are currently live (and we would love if you help spread the word about the job opportunities):  
<http://www.sgps.ca/jobs/jobs.html>
- 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. We are expecting to post the new info before the next meeting of Council.

#### Communications

- I have spent a fair amount of time this past month going through health and dental details and preparing our new health section of our website to go live around December. I am leaving the current information on the site because people need to make claims to both insurance companies for the next couple of months. After that, we can move the information on our website to just detail our new (current) plan. I will retain an archive of the old information once the new plan details are live on our site.
- I am working with our VP Finance and President to improve the manner in which we receive and process bursaries. We are working through a number of ideas and will be presenting a new plan to Council as soon as it is ready. This will give Council a chance to discuss the system and make any suggestions.
- Ian has resumed coffee hours and is in contact with many departments and societies around campus to firm up our schedule for the rest of the year. More details to come as they become available.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sean Richards - [info@sgps.ca](mailto:info@sgps.ca)

Hello all,

It's been a busy first month of the school year with lots going on! The Sustainability Committee has finally met to plan and organize what we aim to achieve for the 2014-2015 academic school year.

1. This year we had an amazing turn out of people looking to be involved in the committee. A total of 23 people will compile the group (including myself). During the first meeting we went over SGPS bi-laws and policies, last years work as well as the potential for this years goals
  - This year we will host one big event
  - We will host several "Sustainability Thinks, Sustainability Drinks" (STSD) events at the Grad Club to discuss and debate topics related to sustainability
  - We are also looking into providing an environmental certification (ECO Canada's Environmental Professional In-training) workshop for SGPS students and potentially undergrads
2. Since the initial meeting, we met for a second time to define the specific roles within the committee, and work towards choosing the events we look forward to undertaking this year
  - The committee will be divided into roles: Chair (myself), Vice Chair, Finance, Social Media as well as Advertising and Events
  - We have an upcoming STSD event that will be taking place at the Grad Club on October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7 pm (topic TBA)
  - We are deciding between two different ideas as our major event for the year
    - An event that focused on the **2015 Federal election**. We hope that through this we can educate students on political party platforms, gather different party representatives to discuss and debate important election issues
    - We hope to capture this event through a broad sustainable lens (social, environmental, financial, political)
    - The opposing goal would be to work with **Physical Plant Services** to perform an environmental audit on their operations. We also considered looking into purchasing and implementing a specific technology or piece of equipment that could make their operations more environmentally sustainable.
3. This week (October 6-10) is Sustainability Week at Queen's University. This was a major planning process that was predominantly organized by myself, Leah Kelley the AMS Environment and Sustainability Commissioner, as well as Lynne Osborne and Aaron Ball from Queen's Sustainability Office.
  - On Tuesday the Sustainability Committee was responsible for the Wolfe Island Wind Farm Tour, which had an amazing turn out of 18 people! Planning went into securing a tour of TransAlta's facilities,

renting vans from Discount car rental, making promotional items for the event as well as leading and directing the event. It was a huge success and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves!

- On Thursday the Sustainability Committee will hold the Sustainability Careers Workshop at Speakers Corner from 1-3 pm. This will be a paneled discussion (and Q&A) with established individuals within Ontario's sustainability sector.
  - This will be followed by a Sustainable Careers Social at the Grad Club between 4:30-6 pm. SWITCH Ontario (a local NGO involved in promoting sustainable energy) is sponsoring this event, that will be attended by the majority of the panel members, as well as other individuals from Kingston's sustainable sector, and Queen's faculty to network and discuss career topics with students.
4. Myself, Leah Kelley (AMS Environment and Sustainability Commission) and Aaron Ball (The Sustainability Office) will be heading to Portland, Oregon on October 24 (until the 29) for the Association of Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education conference. This trip was sponsored by Coca Cola's sustainability fund for Queen's University.

Best,

Megan MacCallum

Rector's Report to the SGPS  
Mike Young  
October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
[rector@queensu.ca](mailto:rector@queensu.ca)



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

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Hi everyone,

Not much new to report on my end since the last time I spoke to you all. At our next meeting, I hope to have a timeline to present regarding the Tricolour Award – start thinking about who you're going to nominate!

Additionally, at our next assembly, I hope to bring forward some information about a new position I'm creating for the office. I'll be looking to hire a volunteer SGPS advisor who I will meet with on a weekly basis to make sure I'm keeping apprised of relevant issues and information. This is a way of institutionalizing the Rector's commitment to you and your constituents.

That's it for now. As always, please send an e-mail to [rector@queensu.ca](mailto:rector@queensu.ca) if I can ever do anything for you. You can expect a prompt response.

Princeps Survesque Es.

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