

Dear Council,

The time has flown by! As I write, I am preparing for Orientation Week events and the talks that I (and other executive members) will be giving to the various departments around campus. Not much has changed since August, but I have some updates.

Principal's Commission on Mental Health Discussion Paper

Last meeting, I gave a presentation on this paper and took some feedback. I confirmed that the Commission was expecting a response sooner than now, our September meeting, so the Executive produced a formal written response ourselves, with input from other SGPS members who are interested in mental health issues. We will see how our comments are reflected in the Commission's final report, due later in the Fall. We will also be posting our response on the SGPS website shortly.

President's Office Hours

I have said on several occasions that I wanted to hold regular office hours on both campuses in order to increase the visibility of the SGPS. I believe I have finally solidified the logistics. I will continue to hold Main campus office hours on Tuesdays from 12-1, but I will hold them in room 236 of the JDUC, not 213 as previously. As for West campus, I will be in the Student Street of Duncan McArthur Hall from 11:30-1:30 on Wednesdays. Please feel free to come and say hi! I am of course available for appointments anytime. Just email me.

Fee Protocol

As mentioned during our May meeting, the University is interested in creating a fee protocol that would determine/clarify how student fees are levied on behalf of the AMS and the SGPS. I have been meeting with the Associate Dean of Student Affairs on this issue for the past month. Overall, I am pleased that the document largely defers to the student society bylaws for all management of fees. I do not anticipate any changes to our operations as a result of this. I was hoping for a bilateral agreement between the SGPS and the University, but it seems that the direction we are headed for is a trilateral agreement that includes the AMS. The benefit of this, at least, is clarification over the issue of faculty society succession. The document should be finished by the September Board of Trustees meeting (September 28th), and I will update you next month on its progress.

AMS/SGPS Shared Space Policy

Last year, as you may recall, there was some confusion over who had the right to decide which clubs, if any, had space in the Grey House. Because the space is shared between both student unions, there needed to be a policy in place to decide how to assign spaces allocated as AMS/SGPS Shared Space in the Student Life Centre Operations and Management document (not to be confused with "Joint" space, which is mostly bathrooms and closets and the like, also shared by the University). The Student Life Centre Council struck a committee to develop this last year, but the committee never completed its work. I have been negotiating with the AMS on the creation of this policy over the summer, and save for some amendments, we are ready to bring it to SLC Council. I will update you (again) next month about how the document fares at Council (also held on September 28th): since this is a bilateral agreement in many ways, I hope that SLC Council respects the spirit of those negotiations.

Joint Senate/Board retreat

Over the past year, there have been some tensions between the academic operations of Queen's, symbolized by Senate, and the financial operations that it takes to run academics, symbolized by the Board. Veteran councilors probably remember the issues around the Academic Plan, the suspension (now rescinded) of admissions to the BFA program, and Senate's vote to seek legal advice on its authority with regards to the Board and administration. In order to pre-empt disagreements like this in the future, the Principal organized a joint Senate/Board retreat meeting to be held following the Board meeting this month, to which all Senators and Trustees are invited. I sat on the organizing committee for the meeting, and the committee decided to build the bridges between the bodies by engaging in a strategic planning exercise. Senators and Trustees will discuss Queen's strengths and weaknesses and discuss Queen's future through the lens of the Ministry discussion paper that I presented on at our August meeting. I look forward to participating in this retreat.

Advancement

This is an exciting time for Queen's as it is pursuing new fundraising opportunities. Watch for news as the month goes on!

It seems like I'll have a lot to update you on next month. Until then!

Cha Gheill,

Matthew Scribner

President

president@sgps.ca

Dear SGPS Council Members and Members-At-Large,

Welcome back! The new academic year has just begun and will soon get very busy, and I want to thank you for volunteering your time and energy to be a part of the SGPS and for representing your colleagues concerns. I would encourage you to talk openly with your colleagues about your role with the SGPS and invite them to participate themselves. As you are aware, there are many paid and volunteer opportunities available within the organization. I look forward to working with many SGPS members during the course of the next 8 months.

This month has been busy with a number of things, including: organizing and participating in training sessions for the new Student Advisor. These include sessions with the Human Rights Office and the School of Graduate Studies (SGS). SGPS members also took part in conflict resolution training provided by K3C in Kingston. Preparations for orientation have also been a key priority this month. Further information is provided on these items and more below.

Academic Affairs Standing Committee Meeting

The AASC Committee will meet again in September to prepare a plan for the 2012-2013 academic year. Items that we hope to address this year include: T4s vs. T4As, revocation of departmental funding in light of external scholarships and work contracts being awarded, intellectual property and publishing, etc. **The AASC is looking for issues and members - please contact me (vpg@sgps.ca) with any ideas that you might have or if you are interested in becoming a member of the Committee.**

Student Advisor Program

August has been a busy month for the Student Advisor Program - clients are still being seen and our newest Advisor has nearly completed all mandatory training. Look for the Advisors' end-of-year report, which will be available at the end of the September. Unfortunately, we are losing Advisor Shauna - she will be moving on to new opportunities - so please check out the SGPS website for hiring information. For more information on the Student Advisor Program itself, please see: <http://www.sgps.ca/services/advisors.html>.

This fall I intend to further develop the SGPS Bylaws and Policies and the SGPS-SGS Memorandum of Agreement that govern the Student Advisor Program in an effort to further solidify the Program and Advisor roles and responsibilities.

- **The Student Advisors will hold office hours this fall on Wednesdays from 1:00pm-3:00pm and Fridays from 1:30pm-3:30pm.**

FREE Queen's

If you are interested in sitting on the FREE QUEEN'S steering committee, please send me an email at vpg@sgps.ca.

FREE Queen's supports the development of graduate and professional students at Queen's, providing them with an opportunity to share their intellectual resources with the wider Kingston community. The *FREE Queen's* event aims to foster dialogue and mutual exchange within these communities, and sessions offered take a hands-on and/or experiential-based approach to learning.

Centre for Teaching and Learning

Please check out the CTL; the Centre is an immense resource, and if you have not already, please familiarize yourself with all that it has to offer: <http://www.queensu.ca/ctl/index.html>. Principal Woolf will present on changes to post-

secondary education in Ontario and the potential influence that this will have on the environment at Queen's, as part of his Brown Bag Conversations on September 24. This would provide a great opportunity for you to ask any questions or speak to any concerns that you might have for the future of PSE, in general, and at Queen's, in particular. For more information, please see: <http://www.queensu.ca/ctl/ps/programs/brownbag.html>. **A representative from the CTL will speak to Council on October 9.**

SGS-SGPS Meetings

I will meet again with the SGS on September 19 and would invite you to send me any questions or concerns that you might have (vpg@sgps.ca).

Meetings

As VPG, I sit on a number of committees where I have the opportunity to directly voice member concerns to administrators; these committees include the Graduate Studies Executive Council and the Senate Residence Committee, among others. Over the next few weeks, committee meetings will commence following a summer hiatus. In my year plan, you will see that I identify some of the topics that I think are important to take to these meetings, but I always welcome your inputs and would love to address any concerns at different meetings.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any ideas or concerns that you wish to share!

Orientation

Orientation, as you know, is a busy time for members of the SGPS Executive and Commissions. There is much to do to welcome new students and bring awareness to the organization. The SGPS will attend a number of departmental orientation talks, as well as orientation sessions. I was a part of 6 orientation talks and participated in the Information Fair in the Biosciences Atrium as well as student card validation day in Wallace Hall. The Social Commission was also incredibly busy in organizing and executing an action packed orientation week for new and established graduate and professional students. Kudos to the Social Team!

Graduate Supervisor Award Selection Committee

I have participated with the SGS in selecting an exceptional graduate supervisor from a pool of excellent graduate supervisor nominations. More information to follow!

Equity Advisor at Council?

I have been investigating the idea of an initiating an Equity Advisor-type role at Council - someone who could speak to the equity climate at Council and be available should Councilors need to grieve concerns. Any feedback that you might have on this idea would be greatly appreciated (vpg@sgps.ca).

Thanks for reading!

Respectfully,

Becky Pero
VP Graduate
vpg@sgps.ca

Dear Friends

August was warm and sunny. Here are some updates:

- I've made contact with the LSS President this year and we're getting along fine, with a plan to have regular meetings throughout the school year.
- I'd like to do the same with the ESS President, once they get elected. We have been nice to the incoming class and they don't even know it yet: at the advice of the ED, I arranged for transportation from West to Main Campus so they could pick up their cards during Orientation week.
- the Professional Student Standing Committee is in full swing. Despite the fancy title, it's really an opportunity for any professional student to meet with myself, any other members of the SGPS exec or staff who'd like to attend, and one another to discuss professional student specific issues. The meetings are the same day as Council meetings, so we're all fired up for Council.
- the SGPS response to proposed changes for the Non-Academic Discipline Policy has been given to the Provost. Let me know if you'd like to see it, and I'd be happy to send it to you. Interestingly, the week I finished it was the same week the Globe and Mail outlined non-academic discipline policies, especially pertaining to undergraduate drinking, and I was pleased to see that the SGPS' suggestions are in line with what the experts are reportedly saying are the effective methods, especially the advice to confront drinking culture by talking with parents and alumni as well as students and administration, and using peer discipline methods.
- as regards Council, I unfortunately have classes from 3 pm until 6 pm Tuesdays in the fall semester, and will likely be unable to attend Council regularly. However, I'll ensure there's someone able to speak to any motions I put forward.
- the work study program is up and running for this year. With the ED and EA, I developed a plan so that work study positions will have clear goals and effective supervision. Hopefully this will help the SGPS provide employment opportunities to our members, and also increase the abilities of our executive and officers of Council.

That's all for now. It's a continued honour to work with everyone.

Cheers,

Annie Clifford
VP Professional
vpp@sgps.ca

Dear SGPS Council,

Past Month Highlights

In my last report I discussed the then-upcoming CFS-Ontario General Meeting, which took place the weekend following the August Council Meeting. I live-tweeted the various workshops, committees and plenary meetings from the SGPS VPCCA Twitter account (@sgpsvpcca), a practice I shall continue at subsequent CFS meetings and of course, other events (e.g. Labour Day, when the SGPS was right at the front of the parade from Skeleton Park. Together with the teacher's union and PSAC 901, education was at the vanguard!) While the blow-by-blow account of the plenary sessions might not be your thing, there were also workshops on everything from Ontario's great new trans rights bill, to Access Copyrights ugliness, at which I picked up lots of fascinating tidbits.

I am pleased to report that all motions brought forward by Local 27 (to call for reform of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act; to demand the abolishment of the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario; for CFS-O policy documents to be published online; to endorse the extension of the Ontario Ombidsperson's remit to include municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals; and to call for solidarity letters to be written on behalf of Thames Students Inc., a new CFS local having serious problems with its administration) were passed quite enthusiastically. Inspired by our HEQCO motion, the TAs union at Western has now raised the issue of contractual clauses waiving the moral rights of researchers, standard practice at HEQCO and a snare our own members have fallen afoul of. There is also the possibility that Theresa Armstrong, the NDP education critic, may open the question of HEQCO at Queen's Park.

The same cannot be said of other motions, in particular those relating to provincial mobilization aimed at bringing direct action inspired by the Quebec student strike to Ontario's beleaguered schools. These motions, comprehensively addressing mobilization issues with plans of action, internal policy changes, the updating of campaign materials, and more, proved contentious. Both the campaigns sub-committee and the closing plenary (to say nothing of the many informal discussions in between scheduled events) were largely dominated by spirited debates over these motions. These disagreements were more over tactical, strategic or practical concerns than the inherent desirability of action: there is a near-unanimous feeling that if anyone in Canadian post-secondary education should be taking action it is Ontario's students, who get by far the worst deal. In the end, compromises were found that left everyone happy ... meaning CFS-Ontario has taken the first small steps towards a strike mobilization. Of course, a lot (everything, really) depends on what our members choose to do from here over the coming weeks, months, and years.

On the subject of the global fight against tuition fees, a couple of weeks ago a (rather execrable, in my opinion) column was published in the Whig Standard, attacking our counterparts in Quebec. I responded with a lengthy letter to the editor, which has over the past few days kicked off quite the entertaining back-and-forth on the Whig Standard's website:

The original article: <http://www.thewhig.com/2012/08/21/an-education-in-equalization>

My response: <http://www.thewhig.com/2012/08/23/letters-to-the-editor-for-aug-24-2012>

A response to my response: <http://www.thewhig.com/2012/08/30/letters-to-the-editor-for-aug-31>

Feel free to join in, or to give me an earful if you feel I'm misrepresenting the views of our members!

Other highlights of the month include Conflict Resolution training, which I received with other SGPS executives, coordinators, commissioners, and officers of council. This valuable training gave us a primer on assertive

communication styles and negotiating tactics ... useful skills to have when dealing with the power asymmetries that confront us on an almost daily basis.

Upcoming Events

The CFS is holding a pair of upcoming Town Halls intended for public discussion of the discussion paper, 'Strengthening Ontario's Centres of Innovation, Knowledge and Creativity', released by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The Town Halls will be held on Sept 19th/20th on Main and West campus respectively (specific location TBA). Please remind your constituents about these: the official consultation process has been less than thorough, and it is very important that student voices be heard on the issues touched on by the discussion paper. There are some sweeping changes being proposed, many of which could be extremely damaging to Ontario PSE. Slightly before this, on Sept 14th, I'll be going to Toronto to lobby the Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities directly. If there's anything you'd like me to say, please contact me before then, and likewise of course for the next CFS-O executive meeting, Oct 4th-5th.

From Oct 12th-14th, the CFS is holding an Activist Assembly in Toronto. This is an educational event meant to bring together several hundred students from around Ontario, in order to learn useful skills and network with like-minded activists from other campuses. We'd obviously like to get as many Queen's students out as possible. Please help promote this event to our members!

Now, you may have noticed in my Year Plan three 'Round Table' events, tentatively scheduled for Sept 26th, Oct 17th and Nov 14th. The intent of these discussions is to compare the ways in which each department engages its members in collective decision-making processes, and to settle upon a common set of protocols that ensure every graduate student at Queen's is has as much opportunity as possible to be involved in our collective self-governance. Personally (and this is just me!) I envision this taking the form of regular departmental meetings at which students are able to confront issues of common concern at the departmental, institutional, and higher levels. This kind of structure is found at virtually every institution in Quebec, and has recently (over the Summer) been adopted by the U of T Grad Students' Union. But who knows what will emerge from these discussions? Further details will be publicized soon. Hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Shultz
VP Campaigns & Community Affairs
vpcca@sgps.ca

Greetings friends & welcome to new council members! It has been a busy few weeks with firming up Orientation activities. I attended Orientation events including the ESS BBQ and gave many, many Orientation talks during the first week of September. I will outline a few of the other things I have been up to over the last few weeks below:

Finance & Services:

The committee will be meeting mid-September to review and adjudicate applications as well as to plan our goals for the year. If you are interested in joining the committee, please email me at vpfs@sgps.ca. Over the last year, we were able to assist over 50 members with ESA's (Emergency Student). We provided over 35 DBA's (dental bursary's) and 25 Grants for conferences here at Queen's. As well, we assisted 9 clubs with Club funding and over 12 SGPS teams accessed the Sports Fund. I want to encourage you all to remind your constituents that these are resources available to any SGPS member.

Budget:

As you will note, the budget is attached for its second reading. Our fiscal year runs from Sept 1st to Aug 31st. Please take a minute to review the budget and feel free to email me if you have any questions or require clarification. Sept 1st also marks the start of the new Health & Dental coverage. Please remind ALL members that the **opt-out period runs from Monday, September 10 to Friday, September 21**. They must opt-out during this time frame.

Food Committee:

I am a member of the Queen's Food committee. As such, I represent SGPS members with respect to meal plans and similar services. This year, I would like to work on creating a more user friendly Grad Meal Plan and am looking for input from all of you on what works, what doesn't and any creative ideas you may have. Please email me if you are interested in meeting/talking about or working on this project.

In closing, I am looking forward to getting to know you over the upcoming year & encourage you all to join a committee and get involved. Let your voice be heard!

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Burford-Grinnell
VP Finance & Services
vpfs@sgps.ca

Welcome/welcome back, all Council members! Like many of my colleagues, I have spent the greater part of the last month preparing for Orientation:

SWAG – New SGPS members will be provided with tote bags filled with an assortment of free goods, courtesy of our many on- and off-campus partners. Our aim was to solicit “swag” from as many varied groups as possible to promote their services. Thank you to our sponsors: Ban Righ Centre, The Campus Bookstore, Canadian Federation of Students (Ontario office, National Graduate Caucus), CFRC 101.9 FM, Drug Smart Pharmacy, Immigration Kingston, Kingston Transit, Lake Ontario Water Keepers, Mad Students Society (MSS), OPIRG Kingston, PSAC 901 Graduate TA/TF Union, Queen’s International University Centre (QUIC), Sexual Health Resource Centre (SHRC), the Sir John A. MacDonald Bicentennial Commission, and the Sustainability Office. To mark the ban on bottled water sales on campus (starting September 1st), the SGPS also ordered water bottles/canisters (not to be confused with bottled water) through the Canadian Federation of Students’s ethical bulk purchasing network.

ISICs – The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is the only globally recognized student travel discount card. With it, our members have access to a 30% discount on VIA Rail travel (until December 31st – although we are currently working to have that extended), discounts on Greyhound bus travel, and discounts on international air travel purchased through Travel CUTS. ISICs also provide discounts for travel abroad. All SGPS members can get their ISIC at no cost and year-round at the SGPS main office (JDUC room 021). However, to avoid congestion at our front desk, staff members of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario will be traveling to Kingston to help us distribute new ISICs this month. You will find them at the Queen’s Centre (table 2) on Wednesday, September 19, from 9am to 5pm and on West Campus, Student Street, from 9am to 4pm on September 20th. For more information on discounts, please get in touch with us or download the free ‘ISICBenefits’ application for iPhone or Android.

StudentSaver – What is the difference between ISICs and the StudentSaver card SGPS members receive in their handbook/dayplanner? StudentSaver is Canada’s only student owned and operated national student discount program. Beyond discounts on travel, the StudentSaver card also offers discounts on purchased goods and services such as books, clothing, food and entertainment. With that said, many businesses which subscribe to the StudentSaver program accept the ISIC card as proof of student identification. Given the costs associated with obtaining a post-secondary education, we certainly consider this a valuable service. However, the SGPS has had a difficult time recruiting new local subscribers in recent years, and our roster of available discounts has suffered as a result. To redress this, I am seeking to hire one SGPS member to coordinate the review, solicitation and oversight of the StudentSaver program in Kingston from September to April. Applicants must: demonstrate knowledge of the local and independent business sectors in Kingston; have excellent organizational skills; and qualify for financial aid through the Work-Study program.

Committees – I am building master lists of all SGPS committee representation. Internally, this has meant updating the lists of all standing committees. I will be working with our Speaker, James, to add new Councilors to these standing committees over the next month. Consideration will be given to Councilors’ preferences. Externally, the process is much more complex as it entails tracking down the list of all University committees, their Chairs, point of contact, and representatives. This is important for several reasons: first, to identify vacancies and advertise opportunities for involvement (I’m told, for instance, that the office of the Provost will soon be looking for members to participate in the selection of new faculty Deans – email me if you are interested). Second, the committee master list helps us to find out who sits on the various committees where decisions affecting our members are made. This comes in handy when our members ask questions to which we don’t know the answers (e.g. “why did parking fees in residence increase last year?” or “how many on-campus food providers offer Halal foods?”) – after all, we cannot rely on a handful of Executives to represent our members on all the committees that are out there (there really are too many to count).

One thing I have noticed so far is that, whenever committee terms of reference specify having student representatives from *either* Society (AMS or SGPS), the AMS tends more often than not to occupy these seats. Having a committee

master list at our disposal will allow us to be more proactive next year in offering up SGPS members to serve on the committees where this is the case. As I continue to gather information about committees, I welcome the opportunity to advertise any committees you might like to see promoted. I also welcome all members to contact me about getting involved – whatever it is you are interested in, we have a committee for you, I can almost guarantee it (e.g. sustainability, policy, human resources, finances, accessibility, equity, health & occupational safety, academic affairs, strategic planning, urban planning, research, awards, ethics, library services, student loans, residence life, campus safety, indigenous education, international student education, and many, many more).

Aside from Orientation, a few more items of note before signing off:

Human Resources – Interviews for the Equity Coordinator position were held on August 15 and 16. I am pleased to welcome Ian Fanning to the Equity team and to the SGPS. I also want to thank all of our applicants.

Canadian Federation of Students – I accompanied our VP Campaigns & Community Affairs, Matthew Shultz, to the semi-annual General Meeting of the CFS-Ontario last August 16-19. The SGPS had submitted a number of motions to the assembly, and each of these passed. I was able to represent our local at the women's constituency, the graduate caucus, and the organizational & services development subcommittee.

How to get in touch with me – Please don't hesitate, whether you have a questions about the SGPS in general or about Council, or even just to introduce yourself. You can visit me in my office, Room 235 of the JDUC / contact me by phone (extension 75424, or via the SGPS office 613.533.2924) / send me an email at ea@sgps.ca / follow me on Twitter @AMGrondin.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Grondin
Executive Assistant
ea@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Speaker
September 2012

Dear Council,

I'm pleased to inform you that Council affairs are in order and everything looks set for the upcoming year! I understand that a number of Councilors will be joining us for the first time this September meeting, and I would like to direct everyone to a few resources in terms of orientation.

There are several documents available on the SGPS website (<http://www.sgps.ca/council/orientation.html>) which cover a multitude of Council-related issues. The presentations span 2 years so there is quite a selection of reading available! I encourage everyone to take a look before our September meeting, and if there are any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

For those of you who may have missed our August Council meeting, I am pleased to announce that we will be hosting Principal Woolf as well as Arig Girgrah, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at this coming September Council. Please feel to bring some questions!

As a quick reminder, we will be filling the SGPS committees shortly, so if you have an opportunity to review their mandates and decide which one is of interest to you, I encourage you to do so!

Respectfully Submitted,

James MacLeod
Speaker
speaker@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Social Commissioner
September 2012

The Social Team is currently in the thick of things with orientation week. Day 1 was a rousing success. We had events spanning two campuses and kept our spirits up despite the rainy weather. The ESS BBQ was hugely successful, thanks in great part to our liaison at West campus.

Today brings sports and cruises (which has sold out quickly due to very popular demand). Tomorrow will be bowling and trivia night (for which the team has been tirelessly practicing).

Forgive me for the brevity of this report, but we're in full-throttle orientation mode. The next report will give a more detailed account about the outcomes of orientation.

Best,
Cassandra
Social Commissioner
social@sgps.ca

SGPS Computer Network

- We had our second broken server fan in 2 months. This time the fan on the mail/wiki server failed. It has been replaced and no damage to our server (or downtime even!).
- I completed a few tweaks and additions to the workstation for the Executive Assistant
- As I mentioned last month, a significant effort was needed to transfer data from the Executive Assistant's (EA) account to the Assistant Executive Director's (AED) account. A few more changes were necessary and have been completed.
- My network infrastructure changes for the Executive Assistant (working 2 floors away from the main network) have been completed.
- The changes made for the increased usage of our website in September have been completed and have so far proven effective.

SGPS Website

- I have updated the people section of our website to reflect the newly hired staff.
- I have updated all the information for our health and dental plan to reflect the new benefit year, which began 1 September.
- I am in the process of finalizing the updates to the travel insurance section of the website as there are improved benefits for the current benefit year.
- The registration section of the orientation section of our website was completed and has been widely used for members to sign up for orientation events.
- I tightened up many of the images on our website to lessen the bandwidth required when someone visits the site.
- Opt-out period information (for health and dental and optional fees) has been added to the website and has been made very visible.

Communications

- I am working to improve transitional documents for staff.
- I have created signage for the SGPS President's office hours.
- I continue to work with Queen's IT to work out kinks with mailing list services. I am making plans to ensure all mailing lists are kept up-to-date. This process has been heavily complicated by the new PeopleSoft system.
- I met with the communications group at the Office of the University Registrar. We continue to work together to make sure the right information is going out to our membership (especially at this very busy time of year).
- I continue working with Front Desk Staff to generate organizational charts for all units at Queen's.
- I am working to update our media mailing list. I am making sure all contacts are up-to-date.
- I updated the tri-fold, which we have been using at many of our orientation events. The tri-fold contains information about the SGPS and important dates/info pertaining to orientation and September.
- I prepared all the nametags and buttons we needed to orientation events to make sure our staff are easily recognizable at events.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Richards - info@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity Commissioner
August 2012

Hello all!

For the month of August I am afraid that there is only one thing in my life that I focused on: finishing my MSc. However, I am now finished my MSc. (yay!) and am full-steam ahead back in equity commissioner headspace.

Forgive my month of neglect!

Cheers,

Robin Westland
Equity Commissioner
equity@sgps.ca

Dear SGPS Council Members,

The International Team has had a fairly quiet September as we've both been away on holiday for parts of the month. We've been continuing to prepare ourselves for the beginning of the academic year in the following ways:

- Identifying specific goals and projects for the coming year. To date, our specific areas of focus are: fostering increased communication between international students and the SGPS; raising awareness on campus about international student healthcare and campaigning to have international students back on OHIP; launching the on-going campaign on Accent Discrimination; providing support for international students in community housing.
- In pursuing some of these goals, we have done / are doing the following:
- Maintaining the Facebook group for International Students at Queen's
- working on removing the UHIP Bursary Committee
- in discussion with the Executive about how to best elect non-departmental representatives to Council
- working with the Cultural Engagement Group on ideas for their formal series of talks for the coming year and thinking about how to ensure that the group has longevity into next year
- participating in discussion to address members' concerns re. student housing
- participating in the SGPS Orientation events and QUIC's orientation
- planning to liaise with Robin Westland (Equity Commissioner) and Stephanie Simpson (from the Human Rights Office) regarding the implementation of the Accent Discrimination campaign
- continuing to communicate pertinent information and events to international students via the SGPS Newsletter and the SGPS and Intl Facebook Page.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns about the above, or if you have any ideas that you would like to share pertaining to international students at Queen's.

Warm Regards,

The SGPS International Team

Holly McIndoe
International Student Affairs Commissioner
international@sgps.ca

Kris Singh
International Student Affairs Coordinator
isc@sgps.ca

Greetings Council,

As of writing this report, I am just gearing up for the ESS Elections. The nomination period begins (or began by the time you read this) on Tuesday September 4th at 9:00am, the first day on campus for the ESS members. The election process will be taking place over a two week period, with the voting taking place on September 13th.

Based on the suggestions from last year's CRO, the election was set up a little differently this year, allowing candidates to rank up to five positions for which they wish to run for, in an effort to ensure that all positions are filled. This does not mean that they are able to run for or hold more than one position; it just allows them to become candidates for differing positions, depending on the preferences of other candidates.

The deadline for nominations is Friday September 7 at 4:00pm, and over the course of that weekend, my time will be spent validating the nominations, and determining which positions have been acclaimed, and which will be going to election. Campaigning will run from 9:00am Monday until 6:00pm Wednesday, with an open forum on Wednesday September 12, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm in Room A237 in Duncan McArthur Hall. This will allow candidates for election a chance to address the ESS membership, as well as the members to ask questions of candidates. Depending on the time available, acclaimed members of the ESS Council may also have a chance to address the membership, should they wish.

For those who are interested, keep your eyes on the ESS page on the SGPS website (<http://www.sgps.ca/ess>) for the results!

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos
CRO
cro@sgps.ca