



Dear Councilors and Members of Council,

It's been a short but steady few weeks since we've met last. Everyone on campus came off their summer vacation at the same time, and, since we last met, barely a day has gone by without a meeting with a group that wants to develop a collaboration. We're well into Orientation Week, as well, and the whole of the executive is excited about welcoming our newest members.

Non-Code Harassment Report

One of the major advocacy points of my predecessor was to encourage the University to engage in a review of non-code harassment, including that of students. This resulted in the striking of a committee to produce a report, which is now in the final draft stages and should be released over the next month. During my consultations with members and alumni on this matter, I was appalled at the severity and regularity of non-code harassment of our membership during their conduct of business or study at the University. This is an unfortunately standard experience of many graduate or professional students in academia, and I hope that the release of this report can produce some tangible targets for myself and the rest of my team to work towards. I will be meeting with the Director of the Human Rights Office to discuss the report before our Council meeting, so hopefully I will have some additional information to provide.

Homecoming in the SGPS Context

I had the fortunate opportunity to speak with representatives from the Queen's University Alumni Association, including past-SGPS President Iain Reeve, and representatives from the Office of Advancement to discuss long term plans for the future of Queen's Homecoming events in the SGPS context. Homecoming is a major event at Queen's University and is one of the most effective ways for current students to benefit from the depth of experience and compassion that is present in the alumni community. Unfortunately, the appeal of Homecoming is not felt as strongly within the SGPS community as it is at the undergraduate level. This is a significant lost opportunity for our members, not only in a social sense but in a career development sense, and it is through this lens that our discussion was shaped.

Former President Reeve has proposed an alternative model for an SGPS-centric Homecoming, which will leverage the large amount of event planning that takes place around the traditional Homecoming, while also catering to the specific needs and social context of graduate student populations. The general thrust of the proposal is to focus the reunion of program clusters, instead of program years. The traditional undergraduate Homecoming is oriented around graduation years – this year, 2015, the campus invites alumni that graduated in 2010, 2005, and so on, in five year intervals. This model doesn't transfer well to graduate studies, where years of graduation are not necessarily rallying points for social groups. Instead, this model focuses on program of study. We haven't ironed out the details yet, but we propose to focus on, for example, a year for "Arts" alumni, a year for "Social Science" alumni, a year for "Applied Science" alumni, and so on, extending to the represent the entirety of our membership. Planning of events would be delegated to departments, and hopefully the departments acknowledge this model as a valuable way to strengthen connections between research students and its alumni. The specific approach in this model for professional students has not yet been established. If anyone has any feedback or suggestions on how to make Homecoming more relevant and more appealing to either our current members or our alumni, I would be happy to discuss the proposal and your ideas in detail.

Graduate Leadership Summit

I have been working with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Brenda Brouwer, to plan a new event, the first Graduate Leadership Summit. The event will be a short one-day event in which students from the graduate population will work together with stakeholders in the administration to explore the following question: "How can we best prepare graduate students for leadership and success in an evolving global labour market?" The SGPS will be working to attract

members from a broad range of disciplines to be involved in this exercise which will, we hope, lead to substantive changes to the structure and image of Ph.D. curricula at our University. This is a unique opportunity to work together with the University administration to shape the future of graduate studies at Queen's. If anyone is interested in getting involved, or knows of any student leaders in their department who may be interested, please let me know.

Departmental Student Societies

During many of my Orientation Week talks to incoming students, I have become aware that many departments do not have departmental sub-societies. Many departments do, and these groups are a valuable part of the social and academic lives of their members. I have encouraged those departments that do not have departmental societies to consider forming them. To support these initiatives, the SGPS is developing a framework for structuring these societies and resources for members who wish to found societies within their departments. If your department does not currently have such a society, I urge you to contact either myself (president@sgps.ca) or our Executive Assistant, Andria (ea@sgps.ca), to bring this absence to our attention and so that we may assist you or others in your department pursue such a goal.

I've also had the chance to speak with Thrive, who will be presenting at Council, and a representative from the Engineering Society, who is interested in establishing mentoring roles for SGPS members in the Engineering Society Design Teams. More details on each of these initiatives will follow.

I hope everyone has had a chance to participate in the Orientation Week events put on by our Social Commission, and I would like to thank our Social Commissioner and Coordinators for all the hard work they've put on for welcoming new members to our society and the campus community.

Respectively submitted,

Chris Cochrane.
SGPS President



Dear Council,

Not a lot of stuff to report on in the two weeks since our last council meeting as lots of effort has been focused on orientation.

As you begin the arduous task of navigating the herds of confused new students clogging up the sidewalks on your way to campus, remember that you were once one of them. In fact, there are thousands of new and confused graduate and professional students this year! Please lend a hand to any new students in your department and help make their lives easier. Make sure to mention how great the SGPS is and to keep an eye out for how to get involved. If you are a new SGPS member, thanks for taking the time to read this and welcome to Queen's!

Student Advisor Program

Since our last Council meeting, where the findings of the Student Advisor Program Review Committee were presented, I have had an opportunity to sit down the Advisors and discuss some of the recommendations. They had some great feedback and we will be continuing to work to strengthen the Advisor Program.

The Advisors have been working hard promoting the program and were essential in distributing Kingston Transit access wristbands for incoming SGPS members. This was a great opportunity to introduce themselves to many departments across campus and make departments aware that the SGPS Student Advisor Program is a place to direct their students to when they are in need of assistance.

Committees

No committee meetings have taken place since the last council meeting, but I will be sure to keep Council up to date as committees begin to reconvene in the fall.

Orientation

We got to see so many new faces at education, law and, SGS orientation events over the past few weeks and handed out hundreds of SGPS swag bags to new members. There are also lots of SGPS day planners in the office that are free for all members!

Since there are so many students that ride their bikes to campus and around Kingston, I just wanted to mention that as of September 1st, fines for inadequate bicycle lighting have gone up from \$20 to \$110 in Ontario. At any time half an hour before sunset and half an hour after sunrise, your bicycle must have a white or amber light on the front and a red light or reflector on the rear. Please stay safe!

If you have any questions or comments about an issue, please feel free to send me an email at vpg@sgps.ca. I built a key-switch safety interlock for my laser and despite it adding yet another key to my key ring, it makes everything a bit more James Bond-like. Its a great way to have fun at the start of what will be grade 22 for me. Make your own fun and keep smiling!

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Kellenberger

Mark Kellenberger
Vice President Graduate
vpg@sgps.ca



Dear SGPS Council Members,

This month's report will be fairly brief, as I communicated the majority of my summer work in my August report to council. Since that meeting I have been giving welcome talks at various departmental and faculty sessions, attending orientation related activities, and preparing for the start of my own academic year. There are a few key things to note for the coming month.

Firstly, the SGPS is hiring 6 work study students as researchers for various projects this fall! If you or someone you know qualifies for work study and cares about student issues, these positions can offer a great opportunity to do some independent research that would benefit the student community! We have been accepting applications since the summer but there is still time to apply for one of these exciting positions. Interviews will take place towards the end of September and we hope to find some stellar candidates. If anyone asks you how to get involved in the SGPS, this is a great way to start!

In addition the SGPS will be hosting its first **Professional Makeover Week** during the week of October the 5th. During this week we will be bringing professional wear tailors to campus to do custom business fittings students. This includes men AND women's professional clothing! In addition we will be providing free professional headshots for interested grad students with Studio Q, so that they may update their social media profiles for the coming year of networking. Finally, I have negotiated to have a series of custom business cards made available for SGPS students at the P&CC, so that they will be prepared to share their info at major conferences and networking events in the year. Mark your calendars, promote the event online, and let your friends know!

Finally, while September Council will be occurring the week after SGPS Orientation it is important to remember that September is an exciting month for our new members. I encourage every council member to reach out to the new faces in their respective departments and invite them to get involved in the SGPS or even just attend our various social events. Our graduate and professional communities are truly extraordinary, and it is important to continue this tradition of excellence by welcoming newcomers and helping them feel at home here at Queen's.

As always if any of you have any questions or concerns please feel free to get in touch with me.

Cha Gheill,

Mark Asfar
Vice-President Professional
vpp@sgps.ca



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.

Investment

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



Dear Council,

Here's what's kept me busy these past two weeks.

Orientation Week

Spent some quality time over at West Campus in order to ensure that our members in Education had a warm SGPS welcome. Barring this one guy, they loved our swag bags, and were quite pleased to see how welcoming the society was. Our StudentVIP rep. Sam was on call and thankfully was able to answer most of their health-and-dental related questions.

By the time you read this report, I'll have gone through the rest of my O-Week talks and events, and I will be attending our social events when possible.

OPIRG's Feminist Cookout

I've been in talks with some folks planning their fall festivities and I'd like to get the word out on OPRIG's Feminist BBQ, scheduled the night before council. Your executive is going to be there, as is the rector Mike Young, in addition to many others as we recognize the real differences that feminist organizations and organizers have made upon this campus. A wide array of dietary options will be provided for, including halal, vegan, vegetarian, meaty, and gluten-free.

That October Election

I have been in talks with members from PSAC901, the AMS, as well as campus labour in order to see if we can't pool our resources in order to coordinate an effective, campus-wide voter outreach initiative. By the time council meets I'll have more to say, but otherwise if anyone's interested in the upcoming elections - and by this, I of course mean all of you - let me know if you're able to make yourself available.

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Working Group

As part of my continued work with this group, a few others and myself were asked to help out with an educational initiative for incoming students, "Train the Trainer Sexual Violence Bystander Intervention Program." Working alongside former director of the SHRC, Doulton Wiltshire, we co-presented a talk on consent and bystander culture for undergraduate student leaders, being residence dons, folks working in the AMS, and others positioned similarly in the student community. Although presenting in front of more than three-hundred was nerve-wracking, I was really pleased to see so many undergrads taking this pressing issue so seriously.

SGPS Breastfeeding/Quiet Room

I am happy to say that this effort is moving along faster than I'd originally planned. We've gotten word that our proposed space is not beholden to the Day Nurseries Act, and we are now in the process of ordering room materials and furniture. My hope is that this location will be completed before October council.

Queen's Day Care

The President and myself stopped by the official ribbon-cutting of the daycare's new An Clachan site. In addition to some wonderful speeches from the Day Care Board members, the director Eileen, and Provost Alan Harrison, our own Chris Cochrane took some fantastic pictures of our time at the event.

Further, the day care is currently looking for families interested in filling its many new spots - if you are interested in having your children taken care of at this location, please contact the Queen's Daycare Board post-haste!

In related news, at the end of the month I'm going to have a discussion with Eileen in hopes of formulating a semi-official FAQ for SGPS membership in Kingston. Having recently used the municipality's website, I figured that this would not only ease some stresses for soon-to-be-parents, but I also plan to translate this document into several well-represented languages spoken around the campus, in order to ease the difficulties that those new to Canada may face when seeking our childcare.

Thrive

I also took part in some of the early planning stages of Thrive, a student-based mental health and wellness initiative from British Columbia. This effort seeks to equip students with the tools they need in order to not only meet the daily challenges that they may face as grads and professionals, but thrive while doing so. This event is planned for November, so I'll update you as I hear more but I am already quite excited from some of the things that were discussed.

If any of you are interested please let me know and I can forward your information along to the event's planning committee.



Hello Council,

Not much to report at this time since we haven't had much happen since the last meeting. I have just been keeping busy with updating the Council List. That being said, I would really appreciate all of your help in the coming months as departments transition to their new representatives. As new reps are selected, please make sure that you email me and let me know the name(s) and email(s) of your successors, so that we can get proper tent cards made up, and ensure they are added to the mailing list and receive all the necessary info. Keep in mind, new representatives should be starting their terms for the October Meeting of Council.

At the beginning of Next month's Council meeting, I will be giving a brief presentation on Council Rules of Order, and basically running an orientation session to familiarize everyone with the way things will be run. Make sure you show up and don't forget to take notes; it will be helpful for the rest of the year.

I am still looking to fill the final position on the Judicial Committee, so if you are interested, get in touch with me, as it will be filled at the September Council meeting.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.

Cheers,

Eric Rapos
Council Speaker
speaker@sgps.ca



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

Hello Council,

Both Senate and GSEC have not met since my last report. Look for details in my October Report to Council.

Cheers,

Eric Rapos
Graduate Student Senator
senator@sgps.ca



Hello Council,

A quick reminder that the Chair of the Board has called 3 special meetings –The second meeting will be taking place in Toronto the week of September 7th.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Capital Assets and Finance Committee is on October 2nd, 2015, and the Board will be meeting on October 2nd and 3rd, 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 School of Kinesiology and Health Studies (Arts)
September 2015

Hi Council,

There's not a whole lot to report from the SKHS Arts at this time; however, we wanted to submit a report in order to ensure our representation carries forward.

Our Annual General Meeting will be taking place next week, where we will be renewing our constitution and introducing incoming SKHS graduate students to available council positions. Elections for the 2015/2016 SGPS council representative for SKHS Arts will occur before the end of September. Representing SKHS this past academic year has been a whirlwind, and I believe I am ready to pass on the torch! The new representative is expected to take over for the October council meeting.

SKHS Arts is hosting several orientation events of its own this week, whilst also promoting the SGPS orientation events. We expect to have a group of SKHS grad students at the semi-formal on Friday!

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Wigglesworth, SKHS Arts Council Rep
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