



Agenda
April 11th, 2017 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Hall, JDUC

The Society of Graduate and Professional Students recognizes the traditional and ancestral territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nations on whose lands we gather on today.



Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes

A. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 04/11/17:1

Adam Ali (Graduate Students Trustee): I would like to move the motion to changes to the SGPS bursary amounts.

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the April 11, 2017 General Meeting.

Motion carries unanimously.



Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Saba Farbodkia (report attached)
- b. VP Graduate – Sebastian Gorlewski (report attached)
- c. VP Professional – Kishan Lakhani (no report submitted)
- d. VP Finance & Services – Stuart Clark (report attached)
- e. VP Campaigns & Community Affairs – Anastasiya Boika (report attached)

Saba Farbodkia (SGPS President): last Friday had a meeting, it was decided that the motion doesn't have to go to the senate to be approved, so, the SGPS is going to try and improve upon supervisory and mentorship resources. The council will follow up and it will be reviewed within the next year.

Sebastian Gorlewski (SGPS VP Graduate): End of the year review report. First, the mental health review, a project to determine which services the members were aware of. It was promoted through social and online advertising. The data will be vailed on April 24 and it will be very valuable. The next steps will be to come up ways to improve on the data gathered. Second, students' concern for lack of mentorship opportunities for graduate students was conveyed to the graduate studies. A space is allocated for graduate for various activities that can be booked almost every day.



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Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services): A renovation to this building will happen within next decade. It will be going forward and changed to figure out the logistics to proceed on this matter. Thanks the members for being a part of the SGPS financial committee.

B. Speaker Report

a. Speaker – Jennifer Williams (oral report)

Jennifer Williams (Speaker): will provide members with a report and will terminate her responsibilities as a speaker as of September. Welcomes those who are new and asks members to send her an email copying new members to help transition them into their new roles.

New member: thanks their members for their efforts. Asks about the student fee of 20 dollars. It's a lot and how is it going to work with the embedded counsellors.

Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services): It is different from the embedded counsellor, which is open to both graduate and professional students. For this proposal to take effect, it requires a 67 percent approval rate. The insurance rate will be covering off-campus counselling fees. The fee will provide students with the opportunity to get the help they need off-campus as well as on-campus.

New member: Asks about the VP's, who may have not been very present in the meetings, are there any updates and are they presenting reports?

Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services): There are scheduling conflicts which prevented them from being present. We have identified these problems and it is up to the coming members to follow up and pass reforms. Now that we have identified those problems and the executives having the power to have a more active role we will see improvements in the future in their actions.

C. Approval

MOTION 04/11/17:2

BIRT the SGPS membership approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Motion carries unanimously.



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III. SGPS and University Committee Reports

- A. Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – Adam Ali (no report submitted)
- B. Commissioner Reports**
 - a. Athletics Commissioner – Lindsay Ruitter (report attached)
 - b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Tahseen Chowdhury (report attached)
 - c. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Chiedza Pasipanodya (report attached)
 - d. Social Commissioner – Yann Grand-Clement (report attached)
- C. Committee Reports**
- D. Other Reports**
 - a. University Rector – Cam Yung (oral report)
 - b. Chief Returning Officer – Annie MacGregor (no report submitted)

Cam Yung (University Rector): apologizes for not submitting a report. Recommends everyone to read the Indigenous Foundational (...), a long report that has just been released. The report holds the university accountable for future actions, recognizes the Tricolor Society, and is a regional representative for PAPA which recognizes alcohol abuse across Ontario and Canada.

- E. Approval** **MOTION 04/11/17:3**

BIRT SGPS membership approve the Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports. Motion carries.



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Question Period & Departmental Issues

A. **Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Ciara Bracken-Roche (no report submitted)

Ciara Bracken-Roche (Graduate Student Senator): The report on inclusion is currently on the principal's website. It will be discussed next week. Asks members to voice their comments via the SGPS email.

Stuart Clark (VP Finance & Services): the bylaws have not been updated within the last decade to regularize expenditures. As a result of the relationship with the Local 901 who provides some funding for SGPS, we are adjusting the rate up a small amount which will help with future expenditures.

B. **Approval**

BIRT SGPS membership approve the Senator report.
Motion carries.

MOTION 04/11/17:4



Other Reports

A. **International Student Affairs Commission Constitution Document**

B. **Equity Draft Strategic Plan**

C. **Report on Indigenous Professional and Graduate Students**

D. **Report on International Professional and Graduate Student Resources**

Chiedza Pasipanodya (International Students Affairs Commissioner): Working on a constitution document to lay out the responsibilities of the International Student Affairs and how they differentiate from QUIC and making sure those responsibilities are met. The goal is to eventually influence policies with continuous update.

Cam Yung (University Rector): In the principals of ISAC free speech and effective communication section, there is a paradox, especially in situations where there is conflicts



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of interest, political sensitivity, such as the Arab-Israeli conflict. Will think about whether or not that can be rephrased.

SGPS member: the document has a mission, which is very nice. Wonders whether it would be difficult in some situations and questions the need for such a document, as there are other avenues to express some of those issues on campus.

Tahseen Chowdhury (Equity & Diversity Commissioner): Reads some of the document. Emphasizes the point that it is a collective process. It is mainly focused on recommendations for now, and the incoming person will hopefully take it further. Some of the main focuses of the document includes orientation, areas of recommendations, assisting bylaws and changes in the policies. Hoping to make amendments as we go on but we need to clearly phrase our responsibilities for the members. Welcomes questions and comments.

Jennifer Williams (Speaker): Will the policy changes be presented in the next meeting?

Tahseen Chowdhury (Equity & Diversity Commissioner): It is the next step to make adjustments in strategies which will carry on and will be included in the next report.

SGPS member: Asks about the recommendations which are tailored towards policies and how we can turn it in to something tangible.

Tahseen Chowdhury (Equity & Diversity Commissioner): Points out the importance of language, which is open to interpretation. The more purposeful and accessible the description of SGPS member responsibilities, the better and more informed their decisions and actions will be. We need to make this a campus-wide movement so we are held accountable for our actions.

Jennifer Williams (Speaker): Anna is absent. Questions and comments are welcome.

SGPS member: asks whether members feel like they need more time to review the report more comprehensively, given the scope of these issue and the exam time and suggests that members might need to put more time in.

Terry Soleas (Graduate Education, PhD Voting Member): Has had a chance to look through them and the information was clear and was able to understand and appreciate the thoroughness of the reports.

Emma Thompson (Kinesiology and Health Studies Department Voting Member): Has read the summaries but not the details. Emphasized the fact that we need to make sure the incoming members have a full understanding of the reports, especially the first and the second ones.



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SGPS member: We need to make sure that we have a directive from the executives that we follow through and make sure that the reports are fully discussed.

Alexis Near (Nursing Department Voting Member): It is hard to have a discussion where there are no direct actions. The reports are concrete in nature which does not include a lot of active engagement.

Adam Ali (Graduate Students Trustee): Can we send these to committees in a smaller form and hold a separate meeting with representatives from each committee to fully review the documents and present their comments.

Jennifer Williams (Speaker): An amendment to the motion to be put forth to review the above reports on a separate date. The reports will be going to the above committees first for implementation, we will then have another meeting to discuss these implementations. The motion will be brought back for November council meeting.

SGPS member: Asks about those whose role will be terminated by November.

Adam Ali (Graduate Students Trustee): the previous members whose roles are terminated will still be able to participate in the meeting and have input.

E. Approval

MOTION 04/11/17:5

BIRT SGPS membership approve the aforementioned reports.
Motion carries



Main Motions

A. Adjustment of SGPS Bursary Amounts (Second Reading)

MOTION 4/11/17:6

Whereas the Finance and Services Committee has recommended small adjustments in bursary rates of \$50.00 per bursary

Changes and additions written in green

BIRT B.24.1.2.b.a be amended to read:

Dental Bursary, which subsidizes dental procedures not fully covered by the SGPS Health and Dental Plan to a maximum of \$800.00



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BIFRT B.24.1.2.b.b be amended to read:

Activity Bursary, which subsidizes participation in Queen's University clubs, intermural teams, events and conferences to a maximum of \$150.00.

BIFRT B.24.1.2.b.c be amended to read:

Emergency Assistance Bursary, which provides emergency financial assistance to an applicant to a maximum of \$450.00.

BIFRT the policy B.24.1.2.b amended to read:

b. There are four types of bursary:

...

d. International Student Bursary, which subsidizes an international student member's University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) fee to a maximum of \$800.00.



New Business



Notices of Motion & Announcements

A. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 9th at 5:30 PM (location Robert Sutherland Hall). Motions for the May Council meeting are due by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, May 2nd.



Adjournment



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A. Adjournment

Motion 04/11/17:7

BIRT this SGPS General Meeting be adjourned.

Motion carries.