



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Representatives
September Council Meeting 2017

[No reports submitted]



Dear Council,

I write this report amid the excitement and craze of Orientation Week, which has been a success by just about every measure. For that, it is appropriate to thank the commissioners, executive, front desk staff, and permanent staff for their efforts during what is undoubtedly the Society's busiest week of the year. In particular, Tyler, Martyna and Lindsay are owed much credit and praise for organizing an outstanding week of events that were highly acclaimed by attendees. Below, you'll find my updates since our last meeting.

Trivia Agreement

I am pleased to share that the SGPS and Grad Club have come to a written agreement for weekly trivia. The SGPS will act as title sponsor, and will help cover costs through a contribution of \$65/week plus printing for the photo round. I have been told the photo round used to be a fan favourite, until high printing costs forced its end. With an industrial printer, the SGPS can print at a much lower price, making possible the return of this beloved round of trivia!

SGPS Grants

At this month's meeting, Council will be voting on the creation of four grants: Department Student Council, Accessibility, Sustainability, and Diversity and Inclusion. Each grant is proposed with the goal of improving the student experience and campus life in their respective domain. I'll note that SGPS policy is rather quiet on details surrounding grants, leaving the nitty-gritty to the Finance Committee. Thus, if the grants are approved by Council, the Finance Committee will be tasked with generating their descriptions and criteria.

Vice-Principal Searches

I continue to be active on the search committee for our next VP (Research and Innovation). Though the process is highly confidential, I will say that I am thoroughly impressed by the quality of candidates. I have also been asked to join the search committee for our next VP (Advancement), which will commence later this semester. I am pleased that the SGPS has been invited as participants in these important decisions for the future of our university.

Academic Integrity

A notable outcome of the September 6 meeting of the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) is the approval of a new subcommittee and roundtable on academic integrity. The subcommittee's mandate will be to advise on initiatives, programs, and activities designed to make academic integrity an integral part of Queen's. The roundtable's membership will include representatives from each Faculty or School, and its mandate will be to coordinate procedures and practices where possible to ensure academic integrity policy and practices are administered on a

consistent and equitable basis. It will also advise the Academic Integrity Subcommittee on issues of academic integrity relevant to each Faculty or School. The SGPS President (or delegate) will serve as an observer on both bodies, while a student a large will be elected as a voting member for each of the two bodies.

Queen's at Queen's Park

On Monday, September 11, I will be joining a small number of students, faculty, alumni and administrators for a lobbying event at Queen's Park. It will be an opportunity to meet with elected representatives, including Deb Matthews, the Minister of Advanced Education and Skill Development, about issues facing our university. I look forward to sharing the realities and issues of graduate and professional students.

That's all for now. As always, please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Grotsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adam" and last name "Grotsky" clearly distinguishable.

Adam Grotsky
SGPS President
president@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Graduate
September Council Meeting 2017

Dear council,

I am happy to celebrate the end of another successful and exciting Orientation Week. As Vice-President Graduate I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to the wonderful SGPS team who organized, facilitated and participated in this year's Orientation events. Thank you to the office staff, commissioners, executive team and volunteers for their dedication.

As VP Graduate, I spent the majority of the week meeting incoming graduate students at the Graduate Student Resource Fair, Student Card Pick-Up Day and at events such as Trivia Night at the Grad Club on Thursday, September 7th. I am impressed by how eager our incoming students are to start the semester and who want to get involved in future initiatives.

While orientation week is a time to meet new students, ask questions and catch up with returning students, I have also made sure to be critical in the ways orientation was organized this term. As this is my fourth year as a graduate student at Queen's, I've experienced my share of graduate orientations. I can easily say that, this year, our executive was visible, ready to address students and questions and were organized. I have also kept a short list of comments and concerns brought to me by students during orientation that I hope to bring back to council and the executive in the near future.

Finally, besides the listed events, I've been visiting departments and programs around campus to share information on what the SGPS has to offer its students and how to be further involved.

I am happy to continue our work, post-orientation. In the upcoming weeks I will be meeting with several Queen's organizations such as GSEC, the SGS, The Provost's Advisory Committee for the Promotions of the Arts and participating in the Student Engagement Panel at Queen's on Wednesday, October 4th. I look forward to updating you on this shortly.

If you have any questions about this report, please send me an email at vp.graduate@sgps.ca.

All the best,

Stéfy

Stéphanie McKnight (Stéfy)
Vice-President (Graduate)
vp.graduate@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Professional
September Council Meeting 2017

Hello Council,

Welcome back to the start of school. I hope everyone's summer was good, in whatever manner was best for them. There has not been much for me to talk about, but I know in the coming weeks that will change.

Over the course of Orientation I, along with the rest of the executive, was talking with the various faculties that form the SGPS. I was making sure in my talks to gauge interest in the SGPS amongst the faculties. My initial reaction is that some faculties are keener towards the Society than others, Philosophy and Classics were very interested. I was able to also see that the professors and other staff in these faculties had a lot of positive things to say about the Society, which is a good sign.

Another major duty I had recently was assisting the President in terms of creating a report on trademarking the logo for the SGPS. I was doing intensive research into the process to make sure that the Council has as much information as possible in front of it so that they can make the best response possible.

I am in the process of meeting with commissioners and other executive members to begin my platform to create social events to bring the many professional faculties together and meet one another. After meeting with some of the graduate faculties during Orientation I have decided to try and expand that to graduate faculties as well, even though it is not directly under my jurisdiction, because there was positive feedback from them for similar events. As the events are further developed I will give you more in-depth details about them.

I look forward to seeing you at Council and hearing your opinions and questions.

Thank you,

Russell Durward
VP-Professional



Dear Council,

There is not much for me to report as this month has largely been spent keeping up with our day to day activities (bursary and grant applications, responding to student inquiries etc.)

One thing to note is the Bursary system is back up and running, we had closed the system to applications for our fiscal year end reconciliation but it is now reopened to applications.

There are a few things I will be working on over the next month or so:

NEW Grant Program

Pending council approval Adam, I and will be working with the Finance and Services Committee to establish the criteria for the new Department Student Council, Accessibility, Sustainability and Diversity grants. This will take place in the final few weeks of September and should be completed, with a Grant guide posted on the website in time for October's council meeting.

Continual Review of Bursary/Grant Application Process

I will be working with Sandy Beaton (our Director of Finance) to tweak our email responses to include specific reasons for denial when advising students that their application has been denied. I also hope to book an in-person meeting with the Finance and Services Committee to review and modify Application guides.

That's all for now,

Lauren Peacock

VP Finance & Services

Society of Graduate & Professional Students (SGPS)



Hi Everyone,

I am sure it has been a busy time for everyone as the school year jumps back into swing. I have been extremely busy visiting departments to give O-Talks and facilitating Orientation Week events and throwing in some class time as well. I have lots to share with you all from the success of this year's orientation week to my time spent at the CFS Annual General Meeting.

1. CFS Annual General Meeting

As you all know I attended the CFS Annual General Meeting on August 17-20. It was very informative and I learned a lot about what the CFS does and what it can offer us as a member local. I would like to schedule a time (perhaps next month's council) where a representative from the CFS will come and give a brief presentation to council about all the initiatives the CFS is currently undertaking. This would be a great opportunity for anyone not familiar with the CFS to gain a little more understanding of what they are about.

2. Orientation Week

As I write this report we are about half-way through this year's Orientation schedule so I am sure I will have things to add come this council next week. All in all the week has been a great success. Almost all events have sold out. However, this is as good as it is bad. Many individuals who would have liked to attend these events did not get the opportunity. This is why moving forward we need to discuss ways in which we can get a larger group of students together, and make sure all individuals interested in Orientation Week events get the opportunity to attend. This will be a part of the Orientation Week review I will conduct over my term.

One thing that has become blatantly obvious is the need for better communication between the SGPS, the SGS, and each department. Incoming students do not necessarily recognize the difference between these three parties and their roles during orientation week. Examples include individuals who paid for our boat cruise thinking it was their department or faculties cruise. These are problems that can be solved with a little more communication.

After experiencing the practical side of what it takes to organize and facilitate an event I have realized that an Orientation Week Manual is necessary to pass on to my successor. This will include little things like ensuring we use hard tickets for something like the boat cruise, and making sure international students understand the identification requirements in Ontario. Small things like this that I can pass on to my successor would go a long way to making Orientation week the best it can be.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TM' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

VP (Community)
Tyler Morrison



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Council Speaker
September Council Meeting 2017

Oral report to be presented at Council.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Graduate Student Senator
September Council Meeting 2017

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Trustee
September Council Meeting 2017

[No report submitted]



Dear Council,

After a busy and exciting orientation week, I am looking forward to organizing fall athletics and wellness events. All of the energy and enthusiasm from members throughout the summer and orientation week has made me hopeful that we will be able to run lots of successful events this fall and winter.

O-week Hike

On Sept 7th we hosted an o-week hike at Charleston Lake Provincial Park. The weather was excellent and members hiked two different trails through the forest and along the lake edge. It was a great chance to meet new friends and enjoy some of the great nature found near Kingston.

Upcoming Events

We have lots of events coming up in September and throughout the fall. Below are some dates to keep in mind:

Sports Hours: Sept 19th, Oct 3rd, Oct 17th, Oct 31st, Nov 14th, Nov 28th, Dec 12th – this is a free event and sports will include floor hockey, basketball, and volleyball

Run and Social: Free run event that will happen throughout the fall – check the website and facebook for dates

Terry Fox Run: Sept 17th 10:30am – We will be honoring the life and dreams of iconic Canadian, Terry Fox, by participating in the Terry Fox Run on campus. The loop is 3.5km and can be walked or run (or run multiple times). Come out to celebrate the legacy of Terry Fox!

Yoga Class: Sept 27th 6:30pm – we will be hosting a \$5 yoga class at a studio downtown, taught by an excellent yoga instructor who will take students through a flow followed by some deep stretching to release tension

Intramurals:

We are putting together intramural tier 2 teams for volleyball (likely Tuesday night) and ultimate Frisbee (likely Monday night). These teams are open to all experience levels and are meant to be social and fun. Email athletics@sgps.ca if you'd like to join.

Health and Wellness Committee:

The new health and wellness committee is looking for committee members who are interested in helping with advocacy, events, and general ideas about health and wellness related topics for graduate students. If you are interested in joining please email athletics@sgps.ca

I am happy to take any suggestions or comments about future and past SGPS athletics events as well as general questions or comments about athletics and physical activity for graduate students. I can be reached at athletics@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Ruitter
Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, SGPS



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity & Diversity Commissioner
September Council Meeting 2017

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the International Student's Affairs Commissioner
September Council Meeting 2017

Dear Council,
Compliments of the season to you all.

The month of August was all about preparation for the orientation of new SGPS members. Starting from Orientation week beginning on September 5 "Student resource fair" at ARC to the SGPS Orientation at "Meet and Greet 2017" at An Clachan on September 16, I have devoted my time to contribute as an effective team member to represent SGPS in the best possible ways. Today at Student Resource Fair, we (Adam, Tyler, Stephanie, front desk team and myself) welcomed more than 300 students, informed them about SGPS and our services and distributed them our SGPS Planner and pens. In addition, we, the Commissioners, are working to conduct successful orientation week activities planned by SGPS this month. I have publicized these events using Facebook and word of mouth among international as well as domestic students and hope to have a good foot fall.

I had meetings with Kingston Community Health Centres (KCHC) regarding planning for 8th Multicultural Arts Festival in downtown Kingston on Sept 10 and with QUIC orientation for International Graduate students on Sept 13 evening. We have been invited by QUIC to give orientation about SGPS to new international student members. I prepared a welcome note for our new international student members that could be handed over to them along with our planners and pens. Regarding 8th Multicultural Arts Festival in downtown Kingston, I will ensure good numbers of Queen's SGPS members are engaged in the event and enjoy the wonderful chance to understand the diversity within the city of Kingston.

With the support of SGPS, I will be presenting a poster in Teaching Development day on Sept 6. I would be using this opportunity to sensitize the students/faculty about the need for more diversity and inclusion on campus and in classroom. Additionally, I attended a Working Group Meeting on Turnitin Software implementation on Aug 14, 2017. We discussed how Turnitin is now implemented across all departments and how students might need support. I advocated for supports required for the international graduate and professional students.

I look forward to interacting with you all at the various events that will be hosted throughout the year. As always, I welcome any suggestions or comments, my email address is international@sgps.ca

Best wishes for the semester,

Atul Jaiswal
International Student Affairs Commissioner
2017-2018



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Social Commissioner
September Council Meeting 2017

Orientation Week is in full swing, and we have been receiving a lot of positive feedback and excitement around our events thus far. Most events have sold out and were at capacity, which is great to see so much student involvement. Speed Meeting at the Grizzly Grill, the Wolfe Island Corn Maze and the Boat Cruise, Barcadia and the Trolley Tours have all reached their maximum for registration. The Commissioners and the Executive have been very busy in the midst of planning, organizing and running these events, but every effort is worth it to see how successful some of these events have turned out.

The majority of our family friendly events will be occurring this weekend, so we are excited to see what the turn out will be like for those. We're hoping that the weather doesn't put a damper on the Corn Maze and the Trolley Tours!

A big event to look out for is our trip to Canada's Wonderland that will be happening on Saturday September 23, 2017. Tickets went live this morning, and we've already almost sold half of the available tickets, so the SGPS may consider increasing ticket amounts. It will be a full day event, and we will be having a bus take a group of students to experience one of the best amusement parks that Canada has to offer. We've had feedback from many students in requesting for the SGPS to hold an event similar to this one, so we are excited to get the ball rolling and giving students the opportunity to have their voice heard and make these events happen for them.

Due to the business of Orientation Week, this report will be kept short and simple but I am looking forward to providing a more extensive update on this fun-filled week at our meeting.

Warm regards,
Martyna Kamela



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the University Rector
September Council Meeting 2017



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Chief Returning Officer
September Council Meeting 2017

Position vacant.