Laura Franklin
Report from the GES

The GES has agreed to go forwards with the I Love First People gift box project. We have also continued to discuss the SGPS space within the JDUC. There is a general concern over what this space will look like and general questions of the cost. They tentatively offer their support awaiting specific details.
Meeting with students November 7th 2017:
The aim of this meeting was to have a general idea of what students in this department think about the JDUC renovation project and the SGPSs’ possible contribution and partnership in this project through extra student fees.

Here are some of the main points/opinions students have brought up:

- Art Conservation students mostly use the Art Extension Building during their breaks between classes and lab hours.
- The JDUC isn’t a space they envision they would use even if it is renovated since the Extension Building, Ontario Hall (there is a graduate room for the Art History students that we can use) and the Stauffer Library already provide for most of their needs.
- A student brought up that she would rather have her department pay extra fees to support the renovation of the Art Extension Building rather than for the JDUC
- A fee of not more than 10$/semester seems to be the limit that most students in the department would tolerate should the Council vote a majority for the student fee to be applied.
- All students agree that a 2/3 majority should be required to pass the motion for the student fee.
- Many students pointed out that there is little detail as to the exact benefits graduate students can receive if the SGPS is able to influence the services offered in the newly renovated JDUC. Most are interested in having more study spaces for graduate students.
- In regards to the location of the SGPS offices, even if it means that the presence of a strictly graduate reserved space in the JDUC will not be possible should the Council vote against the fee, many students in the department find that the SGPS offices do not need to be in the central zone of the campus.
- Thus, all Art Conservation students agree that the SGPS should find another building for their services rather than continue to pay rent in the JDUC should the option of the student fee be voted out.
Lastly, a student commented on how she disagrees with the idea of having to involve students in contributing to the University’s infrastructure: it should be the University’s Administration’s responsibility to fit in their budget the maintenance and security of this campus. Extra student fees should contribute to student services and activities demanded/needed by most Queen’s students.

Lastly, I mentioned to the students of the Art Conservation department that there will be a renovated space at the Stauffer Library that will be reserved strictly to graduate students. Everyone approved of this project and the ideas brought forward in organizing this new area in the library.
November 8th, 2017.

**Program Report for Society of Graduate and Professional Studies**

Authors: Joseph Garritano & Norman Feliks
Queen's University Master's of Industrial Relations Program 2017-18

Dear SGPS Executive Council,

Industrial Relations is under the umbrella of Human Resources; approximately one-third of our courses are in HR matters related to how best to organize and manage the human capital, especially in an office environment. The other two-thirds of our courses are in labour law, negotiation, bargaining and arbitration. Of this two-thirds a large proponent of our courses explore the intersection of labour unions and employers. As the SGPS is a student union, there is significant overlap in the underlying philosophy governing both: representation and collective bargaining and the meaning of being a potentially weaker partner using the power of numbers and persuasion to achieve a better result for our members/employees/students etc. This is where our program shares a community of interest with the SGPS, namely in our expertise in making big things happen for small groups of people – and of course that we ourselves are a small group of people whom SGPS represents.

Paradoxically, the fact that our program only has 37 people in it and lasts for only ten months is the largest stumbling block to our fullest participation in SGPS issues. Instructively, regarding union organization we have learned about how ideally people are organized into bargaining units based on sharing a clear community of interest (see above). This is why there is controversy where it comes to bargaining units that contain both part-time and full-time workers; why would part-time workers be emotionally or intellectually invested in something like pensions if they do not literally invest in them with their money? The MIR program has a version of the same issue with respect to the SGPS: an intensely busy, three-semester, ten-month schedule does not lend itself to high engagement in outside issues, in particular long-term ones.

For instance, after I passively-aggressively and repeatedly entreated my classmates for input regarding the JDUC renovation issue, only one person responded with any degree of thoughtfulness. Moreover, in a more general sense, I find the question, “What does the MIR program want from the SGPS?” impossible to answer, at least at this juncture. We have repeatedly entreated our classmates’ for general input and have received negligible feedback. One theory is that our program is self-sufficient: all of our classes take place in one newly renovated room; there are well-lit breakout rooms adjoining it; and upstairs there is a comfortable student lounge if we prefer to study there. Since Stauffer Library and the athletic facilities are top-tier, some issues that may have concerned previous MIR years have now been resolved.

Ultimately, suffice it to say that there is a high overlap in the courses we all take, the majority of which are core courses rather than electives. We associate with one another outside of class time and discuss matters important to us on a group page online. Joseph and I have our fingers firmly on the pulse of our program; as motions arise in SGPS meetings I am confident we will be able to vote and speak appropriately to the needs and desires of our program. Unfortunately this could chafe with the agendas of programs structured differently, but for better or worse, the SGPS democracy unites a multifarious group of graduate students.

Sincerely,

Joseph Garritano and Norman Feliks.
Dear Council,

I'm writing this report on my way to Quebec City, where Stefy and I are attending the annual conference of the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies. This conference provides a forum to discuss issues and best practices pertaining to the graduate student experience, both with other student representatives as well as administrators. I look forward to returning with new perspectives on issues that we continue to grapple with. For now, see below for key updates since our last meeting.

**J Duc**

Following our special meeting, the SGPS Executive determined that it is in the best interests of the Society and its members to pursue a student fee in support of the JDUC redevelopment. As I explained in my November 5th email, the decision was made with an eye to the financial and operational benefits of remaining a managing partner of the building, as well as the value-add the redevelopment offers the graduate and professional student experience. A website ([www.myJDUC.com](http://www.myJDUC.com)) has now been launched jointly with the AMS to provide students with updates and to solicit feedback on the project. Behind the scenes, we are working collaboratively with the AMS and the University to undertake a process of value engineering, which has the purpose of reducing the total cost of redevelopment (including the size of a student fee). I will also be travelling to Toronto next week to meet with potential donors. I'll continue to provide updates as they can be made available.

**Graduate Reading Room**

Thank you to those who attended the special meeting and partook in a mapping exercise to envision the design of the graduate reading room being renovated in Stauffer Library. Common themes and needs that emerged are: individual study space, collaborative space, lounge space, and presentation space. If you were unable to attend the meeting or have additional feedback from your departments/faculties, please connect with me via email no later than November 18th at 5pm.

**Vice-Principal Searches and Review of the Principalship**

The searches for a VP (Research and Innovation) and VP (Advancement) remain underway, as does the Joint Board-Senate Committee to Review the Principalship. While these processes remain confidential, I look forward to Council's discussion on the Principal, and the state of the university, at our upcoming meeting.

**Expanding the SGPS**

The Executive continues to reflect on what the future of the SGPS should look like. To that end, we have identified three new positions that should be created: (1) Human Resources Officer, (2) Marketing and Communications Officer, and (3) Community Outreach Commissioner. Respectively, these positions will allow us to improve our internal operations, strengthen our relationship with SGPS members, and have a more meaningful impact on the Queen's and Kingston community. Policy will be brought forward to formally create these positions before the end of the Fall term. I'm happy to answer any preliminary questions in the interim.

**Electoral Engagement Review**
An issue that remains top of mind is how to improve the Society's electoral engagement, both with respect to the number of candidates and the voter turnout. Last year's lack of competitive elections and 6% turnout is unacceptable moving forward. A preliminary meeting with Jenny (Speaker) and Precious (Chief Returning Officer) yielded a number of strong ideas to rectify the problem. These ideas will be developed further as the Electoral Engagement Committee begins meeting regularly. If you share my interest in strengthening our democracy, consider joining the committee. You can email Precious at cro@sgps.ca for more information.

That's all for now. If you have any questions about my report, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Adam Grotsky
President

Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS)
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario
T: (613) 533-6000 ext. 78441
E: president@sgps.ca

Queen's University sits on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee & Anishinaabe peoples.
Dear council,

We’ve seen a lot of you this month with the SGM and fall General Meeting coming up, but I must say our conversations are always fruitful and I am very excited to be involved with such an active group of leaders.

Student Engagement Panel

On November 4th, myself and a couple of other AMS Queen’s students participated in the Queen’s University Council Student Engagement Panel. This was an interesting experience for myself as many of the questions asked were directed to the Undergraduate experience. The questions posed covered items such as alcohol use and misuse on campus as well as the student experience. I am hoping in the future they pay more attention to the Graduate student experience, since a lot of the numbers calculated were for Undergraduates. An issue that arose that I would like to look further into was employment opportunities on campus and lack of space to host more opportunities.

Student Advisor Program Report

The Student Advisor Report Andria completed is attached.

Graduate Student Life Advisory Group Meeting

Last week I attended our first GSLAG meeting of the year. We went over passed goals and some issues we would like to address this upcoming year. A few student issues brought to my attention was that international students are not having enough time to find housing after they receive their acceptance letters into programs, and have been using online platforms such as Facebook, Craigslist and Kijiji to find housing, often leading to scams or unexpected apartment conditions. GSLAG is committed to creating webinars they can share with incoming students on how to properly choose a home and how to look out for scams.

Another win for us, and an item that was on my radar and in my platform, was to create better writing support for funding opportunities. In the last year there have been many more workshops and writing tips to apply for SSHRC and tri-council awards. I suggested that we institute writing workshops or webinars for writing Vanier and Trudeau applications. Vanier is open to international students to apply, but these writing workshops would be open to both domestic and international students.

CAGS in November 2017

Adam and I will be attending the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies conference in Québec, November 7-9. The programme can be found online here. We can give a better report after conference during our council meeting in person, or in my December report.

Upcoming workshops and events (brought to you by the SGS):

The School of Graduate Studies has asked me to help promote their events with our members, thus I will be listing a few events in my report that may be of use to you, your research and professional development. Please circulate this with your departments.

November 8th – Health Sciences Grad Studies Open House
Where: Botterell Hall, room 351
Time: 4:30pm – 6pm

November 9th - Bayer Canada on campus
RSVP to OPI.info@queensu.ca

The presentations are designed to resonate with a general audience including faculty and students in programs that are outside of science, and are designed to cover the innovation and science stories behind some of Bayer’s products, present the company’s partnering and funding programs, and present types of career opportunities to students plus tips for applicants on how to apply.

**The Crop Science presentation (12:00-1:30) will be delivered in the Biosciences Complex, Room 1102.**

**The Pharma presentation (4:00-5:30) will be delivered in the HMRC Innovation Lab.** Bayer has agreed to provide pizza and refreshments during both presentations.

The following objectives for Bayer’s visit to Queen’s:

- Provide an opportunity for students/faculty/staff to learn more about Bayer and its science and innovation.
- Facilitate discussions around partnering, collaborations, and funding through Bayer’s Open Innovation programs.
- Present Bayer as a potential employer and hear about what it is like to work at Bayer.

**November 13th - Killam/Fulbright presentation - 12noon – 1pm, Robert Sutherland Hall, room 327**

Are you interested in studying abroad, completing research, or enrolling in graduate studies in the United States? EducationUSA Advisor Jenika Heim will explain Fulbright Canada scholarship opportunities, as well as what to expect during the U.S. admissions process for graduate schools. Students interested in any level of study (including one semester abroad) in the United States should attend!

EducationUSA is a free advising resource funded by the U.S. Department of State with an office in the Fulbright Canada commission in Ottawa.

**International student advisor (QUIC)**

QUIC has hired a new International Student Advisor, Arthur Chen. Arthur comes to Queen’s from Centennial College, where he worked in a similar role, and he has previously worked in International Student Services at Brock, and the University of Calgary. He is licensed, as required, as an International Student Immigration Adviser, and is ready to apply his extensive advising experience to supporting our international students here at Queen’s. Arthur has a Bachelor of Engineering in Applied Mathematics from Tianjin University in Tianjin, China, and a Master of Engineering from l’university Louis Pasteur, in Strasbourg, France. He is fluent in four languages.

Arthur’s drop in advising hours are between **11-4pm, Monday – Friday** at the QUIC, and student do not need to book an appointment. As well students can email him using the isa@queensu.ca email account.

Additionally, we also have an immigration consultant working with QUIC who is available by pre-booking appointment on Wednesday and Friday from 8.30-4.30pm. Appointments can be booked by emailing a request to isa@queensu.ca or by calling our office at extension 32604.

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**Queen’s Aboriginal Cultural Safety Training**

**Train-the-Trainer!**

**Call Out for Volunteers**

Help out with Cultural Safety on campus with Four Directions!

Gain valuable volunteer experience!

Make an impact on our Queen’s community!

Train-the-Trainer will take place at Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre on
- Sunday November 5th 11am-3pm
- Sunday November 12th 11am-3pm

Lunch Provided 😊

To sign up or if you have any questions please email Rachael Beck at 15rcb3@queensu.ca
Bursaries and Awards
This is a reminder to apply for bursaries and awards. There are a few options here and many can be applied for on a rolling basis. Please make sure to read the qualifications carefully. If it does not specify that it is an award for an undergraduate then I believe you are safe to apply.

➢ Bursaries and Awards
➢ External Awards
➢ Specific Student Groups
➢ General Bursary & Summer Bursary

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

All the best,

[Signature]

Stéfy
Stéphanie McKnight (Stéfy)
Vice-President (Graduate)
SGPS
vp.graduate@sgps.ca
[No reported submitted]
[No report submitted]
[No report submitted]
Oral report to be presented at Council.
Senator's Report to SGPS Council

Greetings SGPS Council there were two developments that occurred at the last Senate meeting that I would like to report.

The first is regarding Homecoming. The Principal reported that the while the majority of participants in Homecoming festivities behaved themselves admirably the actions of a few students and alumni had a negatively affected the our city. For those that do not know, at some points over the weekend Kingston Transit stopped service to parts of the university district because of students walking in front of busses, at one point Kingston General could not admit any more patients and at least one had to be sent to Smith’s Falls for treatment, and there were circa 300 tickets and arrests. The Principal stated that the some of the behaviour at this year’s Homecoming was reminiscent of the behaviour that lead to Homecoming being cancelled in the first place. He did state that cancelling it again is an option, but one which he does not believe is effective. His message was that unless there is a radical change and some out of the box thinking someone will eventually die at Homecoming, St. Patty’s Day, or other large scale drinking celebration. I did offer three out of the box ideas to the principal and they will be considered by a working committee. If you have any suggestions yourself please send the either to myself or the SGPS President to be sent along.

The second is regarding the special designation of online degrees on transcripts. Now this may seem like a very dry topic, but it is one of ever increasing importance and fairness as there are more and more online degrees and courses. The standard practice has been that undergraduates who graduate from a full undergraduate online degree have the designation “distance studies”. I am checking if this is the case for graduate online degrees as well. Since online courses and degrees have been introduced they have grown considerably in quality and are now considered by the University to be just a valid as on campus courses and degrees. Not only that but many courses and degrees are offered in blended format with both online and in class components. There continues to be unfortunately a stigma associated with the terms “distance studies”, “online courses”, “online degrees”. The stigma is that these are of lower quality and worth; which is generally false, especially for courses from reputable universities such as Queen’s which work hard to ensure a high academic standard in all courses they teach.

Recognizing the changed reality and continuing stigma, the Senate Committee on Academic Procedures (SCAP) recommended that the special designation “distance studies” be dropped from official transcripts. The Senate narrowly rejected this recommendation and referred back the matter to SCAP.

There were two arguments given against the change: 1) someone reading a new transcript could erroneously assume that a graduate of an online degree completed practicals (e.g. labs) just like someone completing a campus degree because there was no special designation that they were not on campus. The second was that there was no faculty present at the SCAP meeting were the change was voted on. The arguments seem to me dubious. On a transcript no course descriptions are given so the reader does not know either way whether the graduate has practical experience. Academic calendars should be consulted for such information and those are readily available to the public. At
the SCAP meeting in question there was quorum. I suspect that perhaps the reason for the rejection was the very stigma the change was trying to redress. In an effort to combat this stigma I propose the SGPS Council write a letter of SCAP supporting the change and have prepared a motion to the effect for your consideration.
The last Board of Trustee meeting took place October 13-14 over Queen’s homecoming weekend.

**Doctoral Graduate Engagement**

Graduate engagement was a central topic of the Principal’s address at the open session of the meeting. As one of the indicators of the university’s strategic framework, graduate engagement was 64% this year, compared to 62% the previous year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate student engagement</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Rating academic experience &quot;very good&quot; or &quot;excellent&quot;</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Professional masters</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>75%+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research masters</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>70%</td>
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<td>Doctoral</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<td>70%+</td>
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The CGPSS (Canadian Graduate and Professional Survey) analysis identifies program and course assessments, research and publication opportunities, and advising and dissertation issues as primary targets of the administration’s efforts in the area of graduate student engagement.

I made a point of ensuring that Principal Woolf, the administration, and the board understood the importance of the supervisor-supervisee relationship in shaping the experiences of doctoral students across various disciplines and faculties.

As stated above, the professional master’s engagement was low as well at 65%.

**PICRDI and TRC Implementation**

There was an update on the implementation of the PICRDI and TRC reports to improve diversity and inclusion at Queen’s.

Some highlights include:

- The appointment of Janice Hill as Director of Indigenous Initiatives
- Expansion of Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre to almost double in size
- Chancellor Jim Leech providing a $15,000 fund for upper year Aboriginal students
- The formation of UCARE (University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity)
- The implementation of the DEAP (Diversity and Equity Assessment and Planning Tool), which is being used by a number of academic units across campus to implement the recommendations at the department level, and
- A review of Orientation Week in consideration of the culture and climate at Queen’s University with attention to diversity, anti-racism, and inclusion
Capital Assets and Finance

**Innovation and Wellness Centre**
The Innovation and Wellness Centre development is going well, but did face some challenges with a rainy summer. However, the project is expected to be completed in September 2018.

**JDUC Revitalization**
As we are all aware following the special meeting on this November 1, a proposed major project on revitalizing the JDUC was presented by the AMS at the Board’s open session on the Friday evening. It should be noted that the Board has not taken a position for or against the project. For this to occur, the full capital project plan will have to come to the Board after being presented to, and recommended by, the Capital Assets and Finance Committee.

The target has been set for March Board to approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the administration, the AMS, and the SGPS (should we become partners). It should be noted that this is not the same as approving the project itself.

The senior administration is keen to see success in this project, and is currently working on the MOU with the AMS, which would:
- express commitment to the project;
- outline a tentative timeline; and
- clearly state a series of conditions that will have to be satisfied before a shovel goes in the ground, including an identification of all the funding sources committed or pledged, and the university’s potential contribution in its capacity as the building owner/landlord.

**Approval of Consolidated Financial Statements**
The Board approved the audited consolidated financial statements for Queen’s University as at and for the year ended April 30, 2017.

The auditors KPMG found no deficiencies in controls, no misstatements, and thus gave a clean audit opinion of the statements. During the 2016-17 fiscal year, Queen’s achieved a surplus of $88.6 million, which was driven by higher than expected student enrollment and favourable investment returns.

Deferred maintenance and a financially unstable pension plan continue to be the two major financial challenges facing the university.

More details on this summary of the meeting can be accessed in the open October Board Agenda, located at the [Queen’s University Governance Portal](https://www.queensu.ca/governance).

The next Board meeting is slated for December 15-16.

Please e-mail me if you have any questions or issues for the Board and/or administration.

Adam Ali
trustee@sgps.ca
Dear Council,

During the past month I have hired a deputy commissioner and have also run many exciting events and have more to come this semester. Please read on for a list of past events.

**Events Since October Council Meeting:**

**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:** Run and Social events are catered to all levels and include a group run (or walk) followed by nachos. These events will be ongoing throughout the fall.

**Intramurals:** Three SGPS intramural teams are ongoing. We have a tier 2 and a tier 3 volleyball team as well as a tier 1 ultimate Frisbee team.

**Cooking Class:** A second cooking workshop occurred with 10 students attending and the theme was 7 ingredients (or less) meals.

**A night with the Sexual Health Resource Center:** A SHRC workshop and discussion occurred on Nov 13th. A verbal report of this event can be given at council if requested as the event had not yet occurred at the time this report was written.

**Health and Wellness Committee:** The health and wellness committee had their second meeting on Nov 13th with the topic of mental health. A verbal report can be given of the outcome of this meeting during council, if requested.

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 Ruiter
Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, SGPS
Dear Council,

I am incredibly honoured to introduce myself as the Equity and Diversity Commissioner of the SGPS! I am in the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program and believe that my background in International Development has sparked an interest in all things equity, diversity, and inclusion.

I am currently transitioning into this role, and look forward to engaging with committees and working groups across campus that focus on issues and programming related to equity and diversity.

So far, I have been attending meetings with key individuals across campus that relate to my role, including:

- Meeting with commissioners and other executive members to find overlap and areas of collaboration, as well as clearly define my role as Equity and Diversity Commissioner.
- An information session scheduled for November 10th with Erin Clow and Meri Diamond from the Equity Office, which will allow for fluid discussion regarding possible collaboration over the coming months. The details of this meeting will be provided at Council.

Similarly, I attended a board meeting with the AMS Equity Caucus where I discussed several events and initiatives that are currently underway throughout other faculties, including: the development of a series of equity education videos by the Arts & Science Undergraduate Society - the first being centered around accessibility and ableism.

During my research, I have also come across an incredible opportunity on campus that is open to all students: Intercultural Awareness Certificate Training. QUIC and the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre offer a joint certificate series centered on intercultural competence that I believe would be beneficial for all to participate in. There are two sessions remaining in the Winter semester, however, spaces are limited so be sure to register early!

I look forward to engaging with you all throughout the year in different capacities. Similarly, if there are any perceived areas of collaboration or suggestions for future programming, please feel free to reach out to me at the email: equity@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,
Rosie Petrides
Equity and Diversity Commissioner, SGPS
Dear Council,

Season’s Greetings,

The month of October was fruitful in terms of two successful events (Thanks Giving celebration with Social on Oct 9, and Halloween celebration at Fort Fright on Oct 26) with almost full capacity. Thanksgiving celebration with Social on Oct 9 had more than 70 international students at QUIC. International Students’ Affairs Committee (ISAC) members helped to set up and organize the event as they were involved in this event planning since the inception of the idea. For Fort Fright, we (Martyna, myself and our newly recruited deputy commissioners) had 47 SGPS members (with the majority of international students) attending the event at Fort Fright and getting exposed to the Canadian celebration of Halloween festival. They all enjoyed it and looking forward to our next event.

Another important milestone in October for us is that 100+ SGPS members were added to our SGPS group for International Students. Another important accomplishment was the recruitment of our Deputy Commissioner-International. Khulud Baig joined our team and is trying to strengthen the collaborative work we are doing to improve the experiences of our SGPS members. Her induction went well and she is now working with me to facilitate events planned in November month.

We have three major events in November for our members. A two hours workshop on “Work on/off campus for international students” are organized in collaboration with QUIC, Career Services, and SGS Student’s Awards. Everything is well planned and the event is scheduled on Nov 22 from 5 pm to 7 pm in QUIC Hall. In this event, we are trying to provide information of different resources on campus/off campus for part-time work. We (Khulud and I) had three meetings with QUIC Facilitating staff to plan the workshop in partnership so that it is win-win situation for everyone. My emphasis is to create a strong bond with QUIC so that both SGPS and QUIC can achieve more than what we do in isolation. QUIC Director is very supportive of our SGPS events for international students and is open to let us use their space to organize events. Adam and I will be going to Welcome Event for the winter term intake organized by QUIC for graduate international student members on Jan 9 to give orientation about SGPS services.

In addition to this, we, in collaboration with Martyna, are helping to organize “Social for international/domestic students at Grizzly Grill” on Nov 17 evening and “International Trivia Night” at Grad Club in last week of November. We are also working with Lindsay to facilitate participation of international students in events organized by her. We will be participating in SGPS Health and Wellness Committee meeting on Nov 13 to see how we could improve the mental and physical health of SGPS members.

SGPS International Students’ Affairs Standing Committee (ISAC) second meeting is scheduled this week with focus on the event planning for November month events and ISAC policy document revision.

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

Best wishes for the semester,

Atul Jaiswal and Khulud Baig
International Student Affairs Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner
2017-2018
It has been an eventful Fall with many festive social events. See below for past and upcoming events!

**October Events:**
- **October 21 – Hike to Rock Dunder**
  - This event was postponed one week due to special weather statements and wind warnings on the day we were originally meant to hike Rock Dunder. We ended up going on a beautiful day, and had about thirty students in total come hiking. Many of the students had great feedback and really enjoyed the fall foliage at the top of the hike. Overall this was a very successful event, and I would highly suggest running a similar event to this again.

- **October 26 – SGPS does Fort Fright**
  - A very popular SGPS event that occurs each year – this year was no different. Forty-eight students in total came out to the haunted house. Although it was quite a chilly night, most students seemed to really enjoy the festive event.

**November Events:**
- **November 17 – Pool Night at the Grizzly Grill**
  - Look out for our upcoming event at the Grizzly Grill. The SGPS has booked four pool tables for a Friday night and has purchased a few appetizers so that graduate and professional students can come and socialize in a relaxed atmosphere on a Friday night. Hope to see some of you there!

- **November 30 – International-Themed Trivia Night at the Grad Club**
  - At the end of the month, the SGPS is organizing an “International” theme trivia night! This is an event that is created in collaboration with the International Commissioners. Questions will be created by the Commissioners and will go into depth and detail about various cultures to put all students’ knowledge to the test! Hope to see some of you out at this event too!

As always, I am happy to take any questions or feedback regarding some of the events. If there are any specific suggestions for ideas around events in the winter semester, I am always eager to hear them. I can be reached at social@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,

Martyna Kamela
Social Commissioner
[No report submitted]
Oral report to be presented.