[No reports submitted]
Dear Council,

Given the transient and ongoing nature of the events of the past two weeks, I will provide the bulk of my report orally to ensure it is accurate and up to date. However, I want to offer one last pitch to vote YES for the JDUC redevelopment – and to encourage your peers to do the same. Here are the key points:

- We are asking SGPS members for a $40 per student per year fee that does not begin until construction does in 2019-20. This is in comparison to the AMS fee of $89 per student per year.
- The total capital project costs, divided by party, are $37 million from the AMS student contribution, $20 million from the University, and $4 million from the SGPS student contribution. Despite having a significantly smaller contribution, the SGPS has an equal seat at the table for all decision making.
- In addition to the University's $20 million contribution, they will cover all financing costs of the project. Since the SGPS and AMS student fees will be collected over an extended period of time, but the capital costs need to be fronted for construction, financing costs will be high. It is projected that this will bring the University’s total contribution to a 50/50 split with students.
- If the SGPS student fee passes, we will be able to move forward with the current floor plan design that features a 4000-square-foot graduate student wing. This space will be designed entirely by SGPS members and can include social space, study space, meeting rooms, and presentation/workshop space.

Don’t forget to vote on February 12 and 13! For more information about the project, visit www.myJDUC.com.

Sincerely,

Adam Grotsky
SGPS President
Dear council,

I’m glad to be back after a short break. Thanks to everyone who voted and encouraged their colleagues to vote for Executive positions and the referendum. I am astounded by the voter turn out of 36%. I would like to give a big shout out and thank you to our amazing Electoral Committee, which included our Speaker, CRO, and Deputy Speaker, for their work promoting the elections and making sure everything ran smoothly.

Some brief updates:

**VPG Transition**

I am happy to welcome and announce that Leo Erlikhman will be my successor, and your new Vice-President Graduate as of May 1^{st}. I will be working with Leo over the course of the semester to prepare him for the role and ensure that he has a productive transition. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have any questions or concerns regarding Graduate student life!

**Thesis Thursdays!**

I’m happy to say that Thesis Thursday has been running for a month now and we have had consistent turn out. It’s been a big hit. Feel free to drop in between 12:00pm and 4:00pm in the Queen’s Centre, second floor, room 506 for tea and to write. Unfortunately, I was unable to book a space during reading week, so there will be a short break, but we will resume the first week of March! When promoting this event, please ensure that students are aware that in March the location will change for a few weeks, then resume in the Queen’s Centre. Let me know if you would like a poster for your home department.

**Supervisor and Student Agreement**

I am working on a draft to circulate to the SGS. If anyone has examples of supervisor and student agreements from their institutions, please send them along to me.

**URS Funding Opportunities Mailing List**

If you are interested in receiving updates on available funding opportunities across disciplines, think about subscribing to Queen’s University URS Funding Opportunities Mailing List, organized by Queen’s University Research Services. This list receives calls for funding applications, fellowships, and awards. Some include Mitacs fellowships, SSHRC, or NSERC awards as well. Award eligibility ranges from Master’s, PhD, and Postdoctoral research and fellowships.

Subscribe by emailing: fundopps@queensu.ca.

**Upcoming Expanding Horizons Workshops:**

Here is a schedule of upcoming Expanding Horizons Workshops:
More information (registration, location, time) on these events here: http://www.queensu.ca/exph/workshop-series/schedule

8 February, 2018 (4.30pm - 6.30pm)  
**Essentials of Productive Teams**

8th February, 2018 (8.45am - 5pm) (Registration needed)
Skills of Communication
9th February, 2018 (8.45am - 5pm) (Registration needed)
Financial Skills for the Real World 3: Introduction to Investing
13 February, 2018 (4.30pm - 7pm)
Financial Skills for the Real World 4: Investing & Taxation
14 February, 2018 (4.30pm - 7pm)
Time Management
15 February, 2018 (4.30pm - 6.30pm)
Dissertation Boot Camp
20 - 23 February, 2018 (8.30am-4.30pm)

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)
SGPS
vp.graduate@sgps.ca
Dear SGPS Council Members,

I hope everyone has enjoyed their first month back from break, and hasn’t been overwhelmed yet. There is really just one big project that I want to inform you all about, and that is the SGPS Careers Week.

Careers Week will be taking place from February 26 to March 2nd. With 5 days, we will be spreading the events out a little bit more to offer people time to do other things in the day, but have a singular seminar that will run over the five days, culminating in a certificate to denote completion of the seminar. Other events will be dispersed accordingly, so that no one feels overwhelmed or completely dedicated to the Careers Week any one day. We want to make sure that people can go to the events but not write the entire day off. We will be bringing back well-received events from the past years, such as LinkedIn photos and how-to seminars for creating a linkedIn profile. Closer to the date, notifications will be dispersed to inform students of the events and their locations, keep tuned.

Over the past couple weeks, I have been emailing and discussing the Careers Week with various school organizations and employment businesses to see who will be presenting and hosting events during the week. On campus, I have talked with the SGS and the Careers Office. Unfortunately, the Careers Office is completely booked for that week, so they will only be able to help with the linkedIn events, but going forward they will be much more engaged in the Week. In terms of the SGS, going forward the Careers Week will be a joint venture between the two departments so that both can pool their resources and create a bigger and better event for all the students. So, on top of planning the Careers Week this year, we have been discussing plans for careers weeks in the future.

In terms of outside companies, I have been in discussions with hiring companies, such as TalentEgg and Indeed, to see if they would be willing to provide advice to students when marketing themselves outside of academia. Currently, Indeed has gotten back to me and we are discussing times and details for their event. They are also willing to assist in marketing for the event.

Just briefly I will discuss an update for the Grad Club. Over the winter break there were maintenance issues with the pipes, leading to a couple days of it being closed for repairs. It is much better now and open to everyone. There have been additions to the Grad Club website, with the beta being released for booking rooms online instead of having to call. This provides a much quicker and immediate response to booking. The Grad Club will be having their Executive elections at the end of March, so keep your eyes open for when the applications are released. I will also notify the Council again in my March report.

That is everything.

All the best,

Russell Durward

Vice-President Professional
vp.professional@sgps.ca
Dear Council,

Due to the election I was on a leave of absence for part of January. Since returning I have been working with Adam, Andria (our Executive Director) and Sandy (Director of Finance) to take a hard look at the budget to make necessary spending cuts to alleviate the $120,000 loss caused by PSAC 901’s failure to contribute to the health and dental plan.

On a lighter note, I’d like to welcome Abel Hazon, our incoming VPFS, to the role and I look forward to transitioning him over these next few months.

Sincerely,

Lauren Peacock
VP Finance & Services
Society of Graduate & Professional Students (SGPS)
Hello Everyone,

I have a few quick updates for:

**CFS Annual General Meeting**

As you are aware Adam and I went to the CFS Annual General Meeting about two weeks ago. While we continued to make great connections with individuals at other student unions, the meeting was less then productive. Delegates voted down a motion by U of T Student Union to add online elections to the ratification/de ratification process. What was most surprising was the attempt to mask the true reasons for voting no with no sense arguments about how online voting is not secure enough, even when confronted with the facts that many, if not all, municipalities in Ontario use online voting. The reality is the Federation does not want to take any steps making it easier to de-ratify. I am not taking a side on whether we should be pursuing de-ratification. However, I wanted to update all of you on what other schools are doing in this regard. I also want to keep this conversation going and ensure that we get as much value out of the CFS as possible, or determine there is no value.

**Orientation Review**

I have received several contacts for departmental orientation week. I want to collect many more but for the time being I will begin consultations with the groups that have reached out. As I have explained before, consultation is the first step in this review in which I will hopefully come out with several recommendations for next year’s planning committee to help make Orientation Week a more wholesome experience for all members.

**Principle Advisory Committee on Mental Health**

This committee has recently tasked its members with a review of the mental health resources and initiatives on campus. This is just beginning, and I would love to hear any feedback members have that I can bring forward to the committee. The idea being that we will set goals for this committee, the University, and all stakeholders for the next few years. We do have last years mental health survey, and the current two-part survey that we will have access to by the end of the year, but personal anecdotes are also very useful in ensuring we are doing the best we can.

VP Community
Tyler Morrison
Oral report to be presented at Council.
Dear Council,

I recently had the privilege of serving on the University Student Appeal Board. It was an eye opening experience into the robustness of procedures at our University to do right by students. The university has many regulations and they are there for a reason. The regulations ensure both that individuals have a fair chance to earn their degrees and diplomas and that those degrees and diplomas have significant value and are recognized. It is often the case that a student who is having difficulties does not know the proper procedures by which to argue that their difficulties have impaired their ability to earn their degree/diploma and that they need help. If you or any student is in academic trouble I encourage you to seek help. In particular I recommend the Office of the Ombudsman. They are an underutilized, well-trained resources at Queen’s whose mandate is “to provide independent, impartial and confidential advice. This may include facilitating the informal resolution of concerns and complaints in support of University policies and procedures and in accordance with best practices in organizational conflict management” (http://www.queensu.ca/ombudsman/home). Additionally if you are looking to speak with a peer I recommend the SGPS’s student advisors.
Hello Council Members,

I have two points of information:

First, the next Board of Trustees Meeting takes place Friday, March 2.

The following day is the Joint Board-Senate Retreat.

The topic this year is the “Graduate Student Experience”. The sub-themes are as follows:

- The Research Culture and Queen’s
- The Student-Supervisor Relationship
- Time to Completion
- Career Preparedness

If you have any insight, feedback, or comments, please feel free to e-mail me. I am looking forward to providing a full report of the retreat happenings at our March 13 meeting.

Second, my two-year term ends in the spring, and I am actively looking for those interested in the trustee position. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact me directly and I will be happy to answer any questions you have about the position.

Thanks,

Adam Ali

trustee@sgps.ca
Dear Council,

The momentum has continued through January and February for Athletics and Wellness events. This commission has hosted weekly sports hours that have been well attended. There have been many requests for even more sports hours, which I will pass on to next year’s team. There are two intramural teams currently – volleyball and dodgeball. We hosted a Sex and Disability talk with the SHRC, which went over very well and created lots of interesting discussions. Another SHRC workshop will be planned for this semester. Unfortunately the January cooking workshop was cancelled due to the ice storm, however, there will be cooking workshops in both February and March as well as a potluck in April. On Feb 6th there was a moonlight snowshoe with Trailhead. Another is planned for the end of the month. In March I hope to work with the Kingston Bouldering Co-operative to host a bouldering night aimed at all levels of rock climbing abilities.

I continue to sit on the University Council for Athletics and Recreation and we have had monthly council meetings this semester. I also voluntarily sit on their budget committee.

I am happy to take any suggestions or comments about future and past SGPS athletics and wellness 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 Members of the SGPS and Council,

I hope you are all having a wonderful semester thus far! February is quite a busy time for us all, and I have a lot of exciting things to share from the Equity & Diversity Commission.

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL ON ANTI-RACISM AND EQUITY (UCARE) ORIENTATION MEETING**

On January 29, 2018, I had the privilege to meet alongside 17 inspiring individuals from the Queen’s community to promote diversity and inclusion through involvement within the University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity. As an SGPS representative on UCARE, I will aid the group in developing strategies going forward that will directly address recommendations put forth within the PICARDI report, and will facilitate information sharing within the SGPS as updates arise.

**CALL FOR INDIGENOUS ARTWORK**

The Equity & Diversity Commission will be developing a Call for Indigenous Artwork this semester in order to foster the celebration and visibility of Indigenous art and culture and recognition of Indigenous territory in spaces across the Queen’s University campus. I will be unveiling a “Call for Indigenous Artwork” in the coming weeks, with consultation from Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre, for individuals to submit artwork of any form (visual, physical) that can be displayed in SGPS spaces along with an inclusion of a brief description of the piece, including its spiritual or thematic significance.

**EQUITY & DIVERSITY AWARDS**

I had the privilege of sitting on the Selection Committee for the 2017 Tri-Awards put in place by the Equity Office to recognize individuals who made lasting and substantial contributions towards advancing accessibility, employment equity, and human rights throughout the Queen’s community. The Steve Cutway Accessibility Award, the Employment Equity Award, and the Human Rights Initiative Award will be presented at the Diversity & Inclusion Round-Table and Tri-Awards Celebration that will be taking place on March 20th. This event is an excellent opportunity for individuals to hear from leading practitioners in the fields of equity, diversity and inclusion.

**ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION CONFERENCE**

I am currently developing a conference surrounding Accessibility & Inclusion in April 2018. After speaking with Andrew Ashby- Accessibility Coordinator at the Human Rights & Equity Offices, I have been directed towards several individuals across the Kingston community to collaborate with for this project. However, I am still looking for keynote speakers, or individuals/groups to facilitate a discussion around the theme of Accessibility & Inclusion. If you are interested in collaborating with the Equity & Diversity Commission for this event, or know or anyone who may be interested please direct them towards me at equity@sgps.ca. I look forward to providing you all with more information as speakers and dates are solidified!

Best Regards,

Rosie Petrides
Equity & Diversity Commissioner
Dear Council,

Season Greetings,

The month of January was more of planning events for the winter term. We ran a Facebook poll in December last year to understand the needs of international graduate students on campus, and we came across two important concerns – editing their research work and finding jobs once they graduate. Hence, we based are planning of events on this brief needs assessment. After frequent meetings with Queens Career Services and Student Academic Success Services on campus within this month, we worked out a plan and are hosting three workshops in collaboration this term –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event - Workshop</th>
<th>Date &amp; time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Editing Research work for International Students (in collaboration with QUIC and SASS)</td>
<td>March 2, 2018 (1:30 pm to 3:30 pm)</td>
<td>QUIC Hall</td>
<td>Editing Skills in North American academic context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Search for International Students (in collaboration with QUIC and Career Services)</td>
<td>March 26, 2018 (5 pm to 6:30 pm)</td>
<td>QUIC Hall</td>
<td>Skills to find jobs in Canadian context once the students graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QYourFuture event 2018 in collaboration with QUIC, Queen’s Students Alumni Association, and Career Services</td>
<td>March 10, 2018 (9:30 am – 3:30 pm)</td>
<td>QUIC Hall</td>
<td>International Student Support: Experiential work opportunities and Career Planning (Resource persons are two Queen’s Alumni who graduated and working well)</td>
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In addition to this, we attended the QUIC Advisory Council meeting on Jan 30 and shared our work with Advisory group. There was a lot of appreciation of the collaborative approach which SGPS have taken this year. SGPS International Students’ Affairs Standing Committee (ISAC) gave their inputs and reworked on ISAC mission document. This document is more of internal guiding document to this commission and has been now approved by Adam and Tyler. The document is attached herewith for your information and feedback. We also attended the QUIC Orientation for Winter term for International graduate students and represented SGPS with Adam. We informed 22 new international students (SGPS members) about our SGPS services.

We are also hoping to do a “SGPS Diversity and Inclusion Film Festival” starting in the first week of March. We have submitted our proposal to SGPS Executive team and looking forward to their feedback. We would share the event information in our next Council meeting. 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
Preamble:
The International Student Affairs Commission (ISAC) is an SGPS organization that represents and advocates for the rights and interests of Queen’s University SGPS members who identify as international.

The International Student Affairs Commission hereby adopts the following as its Mission and Principles:

Mission:
(1) To investigate the experiences of International graduate and professional students;
(2) To make recommendations to the SGPS Executive Council, and other relevant bodies at Queen’s regarding how the international graduate and professional student experience can be improved;
(3) To strengthen the connection between domestic and international students in order to promote a culture of respect, inclusion, and support for each other.
(4) To work in conjunction with SGPS and Queen’s University International Centre (QUIC) to develop a welcoming Queen’s environment that helps international students to succeed in their academic and professional lives, as well as personal and social growth;
(5) To provide a forum to discuss issues of importance to international students and maximize communication of events and issues throughout the university in collaboration with SGPS Council, QUIC Council, ISAC Standing Committee, relevant committees and subcommittees on Campus, and with international students;
(6) To encourage and support international student clubs, and organizations thereby helping to build an international community on Queen’s University campus that celebrates diversity and promotes inclusion and cultural understanding;
(7) To uphold the definition of “international” in the title of the organization as distinct from “foreign” that is, to promote inclusion of “all” including students who are citizens of Canada and consider their issues as equally “International”;
(8) To research and plan initiatives that give international graduate and professional students the tools to navigate Queen’s University with comfort and confidence.

Principles: ISAC is committed to the following fundamental principles:
(1) Respect for all cultural backgrounds and heritages of international students;
(2) Effective communication of all opinions considered a part of one’s culture or cultural heritage in the University community;
(3) Promotion of activities that will encourage participation in experiencing cultures represented in the international community at Queen’s;

(4) The recommendation and creation of inclusionary initiatives in student organizations at all levels within the university community/Canadian society

**Slogan/Motto:** Enriching the experiences of international graduate and professional students at Queen’s to enjoy with comfort and confidence.

**Symbols/Logo:** TBD

**ISAC Standing Committee Members:** The Committee shall be composed of:

(a) the SGPS International Students Affairs Commissioner, who shall Chair this organization and will also represent the SGPS ISAC Commission on QUIC Council

(b) the SGPS International Students Affairs Deputy Commissioner, and

(c) at least three members of the SGPS who identify themselves as ‘international’, striving for fair representation of all international students.

**Meetings:** There shall be no less than one meetings of the ISAC Standing Committee per two months in the Fall and Winter Terms of the academic year. At least one meeting should be held in the Summer Term of the academic year.
Dear Council,

In January, we were able to run a successful weekend ski trip event at Calabogie Peaks Resort and have received a great amount of positive feedback from our students. The event in itself had sold out within a week, and many students were inquiring about running another similar event this year. Due to the extensive planning that was involved in planning this event, we will be unable to host one this year, however we hope that an event like this could be carried on throughout the years as it was a very positive and memorable experience for all of our students.

A planned event that is coming up in February:

**Sunday, February 11: Lumina Borealis SGPS Event**
- We will be meeting students downtown to take the shuttle bus up to Fort Henry to experience the magical light show at the top of Fort Henry. This event is mainly being organized by our Deputy Social Commissioner, Colette, so any questions can be directed to her at: deputy.social@sgps.ca

We are also in the midst of planning a movie/documentary and pizza night at the Queen’s University International Centre (QUIC) at the end of the month, so stay tuned for that!

As always, I am happy to take suggestions and feedback for any of our social events. I can be reached at social@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,

Martyna Kamela
Social Commissioner, SGPS
Dear Assembly,

In my last few months serving as the 35th Rector of Queen’s University, I wanted to reiterate my focus on completing and accomplishing many of the tasks and advocacy around healthy drinking, mental health, study space, diversity and inclusion, and sexual violence and assault. Please see the rest of my report:

36th Rector for Queen’s University | It is my absolute pleasure to introduce the 36th Rector of Queen’s University, Alex da Silva. Alex ran a spectacular campaign and is extremely deserving for the position of Rector. I have begun my transition with her and will continue to do so in the weeks ahead.

Joint Board-Senate Principal Search | I had the opportunity to sit on the sub-committee to select the next search firm that aid the institution with the hiring of the next Principal. This committee will help compile candidates, organize interviews, provide briefs on the candidates, and help onboard the new Principal of Queen’s into their role.

Alfie Pierce Social Justice Centre | Work on the Alfie Pierce Social Justice Centre has continued with Teri Shearer, Ramna Safeer, and now UCARE. We have identified a space on campus and will begin with hiring an architect, and will move forward with consultations as soon as possible.

Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award | The 2018 recipients of the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award are Adam Grotsky, Alex Palmeri, Asha Gordon, Emilio Frometa, Hana Chaudhury, and Max Garcia. The selection committee members were incredibly impressed by the caliber of service, leadership, and character displayed by each and every student that they had the pleasure of interviewing. I want to thank all of the members of the selection committee for their service to selecting this year’s recipients.

The Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award is the highest tribute paid to a student for valuable and distinguished service, character, and leadership to Queen's University and its community in non-athletic, extracurricular activities.

Princeps Servesque Es

Cam Yung
35th Rector of Queen’s University
Oral report to be presented at Council.