



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Representatives  
Winter General Meeting 2018

[No reports submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the President  
Winter General Meeting 2018

Dear graduate and professional students,

With just two months remaining in the SGPS Executive's term, the Winter General Meeting is an ideal setting to reflect on our year-to-date. My report, therefore, will be delivered orally in the form of a "state of the union" that highlights the progress made on the Executive's [Strategic Plan](#). While this will give you a chance to hear from us, it's more important that we get to hear from you. Legislative duties are normally delegated to your elected representatives, but the Winter General Meeting allows you to vote directly on motions brought forward. I encourage all students to attend, ask questions, and raise issues that matter to you. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Adam Grotsky  
President  
Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
[president@sgps.ca](mailto:president@sgps.ca)



Dear SGPS council and membership,

Please accept the following report as an overview of the programs and activities I have accomplished over the last several months. Thank you for attending this general meeting and being such an active community of students. It has been a pleasure serving you as your Vice-President Graduate, and though it may seem like the year is coming to an end, there is still a lot of work to be done. This year, I am happy to say that I have accomplished everything I have set out in my platform, if not more. In this report I will outline my accomplishments, current projects, and ongoing initiatives. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to get involved in the implementation of these projects or want further clarification and information.

### **Student Engagement Panel – Working towards Graduate Student Experience on Campus**

On November 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, myself and a couple of AMS Queen's students participated in the Queen's University Council Student Engagement Panel. I am providing a report on this panel to you today, because I do not believe it adequately addressed graduate student issues on campus. Most of the questions (if not all) were directed to undergraduate students. After participating in this panel, I further realized that graduate student experience is often overlooked on campus, and we need to mobilize to make the administration understand that great research stems from well and productive graduate researchers. As you know there are current initiatives here at the University to rethink graduate student experience on campus. If you have feedback or concerns on this issue, please contact the SGS or myself. I am hoping that the future Vice-President Graduate or SGPS member who sits on this panel, can work with the organizing committee to implement more graduate student directed questions and facts. Currently there is no work or data that addresses drinking in the graduate student community or their healthy living habits. There is also concern about campus wide employment opportunities that expand beyond Research Assistantships, Teaching Assistantships and Fellowships. My hope is that the upcoming Executive can begin to assess these issues, and become more involved in the Queen's University Council in the near future.

### **CAGS - November 2017**

Adam and I attended the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies conference in Québec on November 7-9. The conference program can be found online [here](#). The conference was very fruitful as we met with Deans and Student Society members from across the country. We have found that most Canadian Universities are struggling with research funding, providing career support for graduate students who would like to work outside of academia, and student and supervisor relationships. Two main outcomes Adam and I would like to bring to Queen's and the SGS is the implementation of supervisor and student agreements (as noted in more detail below), and 1 credit personal development courses.

### **Non-traditional Thesis Support - Fund**

Queen's University has been implementing several new thesis formats. Some formats include, projects based and creative research, portfolios, and manuscripts\*. We are looking for feedback from members who may be doing a non-traditional thesis, and some of the support they may need. Some examples may include, creating an interactive website but no access to platforms or funds to host it; creative project but limited funds for materials; or limited space/studio to produce work.

Working with the Faculty of Arts and Science, and with the help of Faculty in the Cultural Studies Program, we have implemented the Dean's Award for Project-based and Portfolio PhD Research, a new fund that supports the production of creative research and non-traditional projects. Doctoral students who have completed their proposal defense and examination may apply for a grant of up to \$3000 to help subsidize the cost of materials and such. If you would like information about this fund please do not hesitate to contact me or Lynda Jessup the Associate Dean of Arts and Science, at [lynda.jessup@queensu.ca](mailto:lynda.jessup@queensu.ca).

Further, if you are a graduate student in the Faculty of Arts and Science you may apply for several other grants such as, Dean's Award for Women in Science, Dean's Award for Social Justice, Dean's Award for

Environmental Justice. More information on these awards is available here: <https://www.queensu.ca/arts/grad-studies-and-research/funding-and-scholarships>.

\*While manuscripts are common in science programs, it is very unusual for doctoral students to follow the manuscript style in the social sciences and humanities. This is becoming an option for several social sciences and humanities programs and departments.

### **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 for tea and writing in JDUC room 352. If you would like a poster to hang in your home department promoting the event, please let me know. I am currently working with the new Executive to see if this is a space we can implement for the summer term and perhaps again the fall.

### **Supervisor and Student Agreement**

After several conversations amongst students, previous Executives, and the SGS, we know that Supervisor and Supervisee relationships is one of the largest, most complicated issue for Graduate Students on campus. After deliberation and speaking to students, we have found that a productive way to move forward with this concern, is to create and encourage the use of a Supervisor and Supervisee Agreement. This agreement, that is not legally binding, will allow students and their supervisors to set goals for time of completion, feedback, meetings, and expectations. As of this month, I have compiled a series of agreements from institutions nationally and internationally. This agreement is not as uncommon as we may think. To continue, I would like to strike a committee of Council and general members to give feedback on what they would like to see in the agreement. We will be working with the SGS to implement this in the near future. If anyone has examples of supervisor and student agreements from their previous institutions, please send them along to me.

### **Funding Campaign for Vanier and Trudeau Scholarships**

With the help of the Graduate Student Life Advisory Group and the School of Graduate Studies I am implementing a summer funding campaign that will promote the deadline, and tips on applying for scholarships such as Vanier and Trudeau. As you may be aware, international students are not eligible to apply for Tri-Council Funding in the form of SSHRC, NSERC, etc. By consulting with our International Commissioner Atul, we have found that many international students don't know they are eligible to apply for Vanier and Trudeau, and when they do, they are rushing to put together a tedious and competitive application, while adapting to a new landscape and environment. This campaign will run in 2018 from the month of July to October (depending on funding deadlines) and will consist of banners on social media and around campus that include tips and tricks. I am also looking to host a writing workshop. This campaign is for both international and domestic students, however we have seen over the years much more applications from domestic students than international students. I would like to see more international students apply and be successful.

### **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](mailto:fundopps@queensu.ca).

### **VPG Transition 2018-2019**

I am happy to welcome and announce that Leo Erlikhman will be my successor, and your new Vice-President Graduate as of May 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. 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.

### **Queen's Vegan Pledge**

This year the SGPS is participating the Queen's Vegan Pledge. What this means is we will be providing vegan options at events for the duration of March. We are happy to support initiatives organized by our members. If you have any questions about the pledge or would like to participate please contact me.

### **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](mailto:vp.graduate@sgps.ca).

All the best,



Stéfy

Stéphanie McKnight (Stéfy)  
Vice-President (Graduate)  
SGPS  
[vp.graduate@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.graduate@sgps.ca)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Vice President Professional  
Winter General Meeting 2018

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Vice President Finance & Services  
Winter General Meeting 2018

Dear Council,

It seems like our last BAGM was just a few days ago. However, there are two main things that are of importance.

**REVISED 2017-18 Budget**

Adam, Andria (our Executive Director) and Sandy (Director of Finance) have had 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. We were able to make significant cuts to alleviate this loss – more detail can be found in the revised budget file.

**2016-2017 Financial Audit**

Our audit has been completed by KPMG and they will be joining us at the BAGM to answer any questions you may have.

That's all for now,

**Lauren Peacock**

VP Finance & Services

Society of Graduate & Professional Students (SGPS)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the VP Community  
Winter General Meeting 2018

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Council Speaker  
Winter General Meeting 2018

Oral report to be presented at Council.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Graduate Student Senator  
Winter General Meeting 2018

Dear SGPS Council,

From my time in the Senate and the Graduate Studies Executive Committee I have come to learn that Queen's has achieved excellence in the student experience, especially in the undergraduate student experience. I have also come to learn that on the research front Queen's is not doing as well and there is great need to invest in research. One of the ways lack in research excellence showing up is not enough graduate students enrolling to meet Queen's allotment quota. If this quota continues to not be met there is a danger that there will be a significant drop in research funding for Queen's and that the university will lose its status as a research intensive university.

Given what I have learned, I conclude that it is wise for the university to throw everything it has at improving the research experience for graduate students at Queen's. And therefore that expenses not central to the university's central mission of research and teaching, such as improvements to recreational facilities like the JDUC, not be borne by the university until it has improved the graduate research experience. Such expenses should be borne by students and donors solely without university funding. To this end, I have asked the question below for the Feb 27 Senate meeting and received the response below. I intend to follow up with the response at the Senate meeting. Councilors who see flaws with my reasoning or agree with it, or have additional information to affect it are invited to message me at [senator@sgps.ca](mailto:senator@sgps.ca) before 10 a.m. on February 27<sup>th</sup> so that I may read them and reflect on them before the Senate meeting.

“Question – From Senator Sonoc

At a Senate meeting in the fall, the Principal stated that: We have achieved great progress in improving the student experience, particularly the undergraduate student experience. While not detracting from what we have achieved in student experience, we need to improve research at Queen's. As such, what is the rationale for the university contributing significant funds towards the renovation of the John Deutsch University Centre or other improvements to the student experience rather than directing them towards measures to improve research? For example, capital intensive measures such as new facilities and additional internal grants for capital research expenditures. Or measures to increase the time supervisors can spend with their students such as: expanded guaranteed research grants for all faculty, more assistance for faculty to write grants, more IT support for faculty that also teach to lessen the time it takes to prepare teaching materials or run a course. Or measures to improve the learning of graduate students such as the hiring of full time lab technicians whose duties explicitly include teaching graduate students. Answer – Provided by Benoit-Anton Bacon, Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic) Thank you for the question. Yes, you are correct that given our positioning as a university that is committed to excellence in research and the student learning experience, we must ensure that both of these core priorities are supported by an appropriate allocation of resources. Our current focus on faculty renewal, 200 positions over 5 years, is by far our largest current investment and it obviously contributes on both fronts. It is also an incredible opportunity to diversify our faculty complement and make our campus more inclusive. Current “capital intensive measures” to increase research productivity and impact include cutting-edge innovation and research space in the Innovation and Wellness Center, revitalization of biomedical facilities in Botterell Hall, and planning for a new science and engineering facility currently

called “Physics+”. We have also recently made progress on a number of measures to improve research that you raised:

- The 2017-18 budget included funding for three dedicated University Research Services Research Facilitators to be based (one each) in the faculties of Arts and Science, Engineering and Applied Science, and Health Sciences. The Research Facilitators will work closely with the Faculty Associate Deans of Research to provide tailored support and expert advice on all aspects of TriCouncil research funding applications, including strategy and planning, reviewing draft applications, advising on and costing budgets, securing institutional authorizations, and liaising where necessary with other colleagues in URS.

- Information Technology Services is developing enhanced training programs for the use of classroom AV technology.

- The Teaching and Learning Spaces website, launched in 2016, is a collaboration between Information Technology Services, the Centre for Teaching and Learning, Facility Services, and University Planning. The website outlines all central classroom support services, room specifications, booking information, and allows faculty and staff to submit technology issues directly to the IT Support Centre.

Finally, recent adjustments have also been made to our budget allocation process to allow our Faculties, especially research-intensive ones, to better support research. I will be speaking to these modifications, and to the budget planning process in general, when I present the preliminary 2018-19 operating budget to Senate in March.”



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Trustee  
Winter General Meeting 2018

Oral report to be presented at Council.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Athletics Commissioner  
Winter General Meeting 2018

Dear Council,

Please see the below highlights of events and initiatives run through the Athletics and Wellness Commission this semester.

Intramurals – Volleyball and dodge ball intramurals are going well this semester, both teams have had several wins and several losses each.

Sports Hours – Floor hockey sports hour continues on a weekly basis. We have also had volleyball and basketball sports hour this semester. Students continue to enjoy sports hours, but would prefer a 5:30pm start time.

Cooking workshops – Unfortunately the January workshop was cancelled due to freezing rain, but all students received refunds. We just had the February workshop and it was excellent! Events sell out very quickly and are quite popular among the students. We will have another in March and then a potluck in April.

Snowshoe Events – One snowshoe event occurred already and was great! The students had lots of fun and enjoyed a chocolate fondue after. The conditions were excellent for it as well. The next event is on Feb 26<sup>th</sup> and has already sold out, however due to the current lack of snow it may have to be rescheduled.

SHRC Event – the Sex and Disability Talk with the SHRC went very smoothly, with about 16 students attending. We will likely have one more collaborative event with the SHRC in March.

Upcoming Events – We will be hosting a climbing night at Kingston Bouldering Co-op in March. I will also host either wheelchair basketball or a hike event in April.

Committees – I have been sitting in UCAR and the UCAR budget committee this semester, each has monthly meetings. I have spoken with Varsity Council and the Marketing Manager for the Gaels about increasing awareness of events among SGPS members.

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](mailto: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 productive and exciting mid-point to your Winter semesters!

In this brief report, I have included several important events occurring on campus, and will provide updates on future events and programming as they arise.

### **EQUITY & DIVERSITY AWARDS**

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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 20<sup>th</sup>. This event is an excellent opportunity for individuals to hear from leading practitioners in the fields of equity, diversity and inclusion.

### **ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION CONFERENCE: April 7, 2018**

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I am currently developing a conference surrounding Accessibility & Inclusion, and have set the date for **April 7, 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](mailto:equity@sgps.ca).**

### **MARCH OFFICE HOURS**

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I will be holding office hours in March every Tuesday from 9:00 am- 11:00 am in JDUC Room 021, please feel free to drop in to chat about any equity issues, ideas for upcoming events or feedback on previous programming, or to simply come in and talk in a confidential space. Similarly, I can always be reached through my email, [equity@sgps.com](mailto:equity@sgps.com), if you would like to get in touch with me for any reason.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosie Petrides". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rosie Petrides  
**Equity & Diversity Commissioner**



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the International Student's Affairs Commissioner  
Winter General Meeting 2018

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Social Commissioner  
Winter General Meeting 2018

[No report submitted]



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the University Rector  
Winter General Meeting 2018

Oral report to be presented at Council.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Chief Returning Officer  
Winter General Meeting 2018

Oral report to be presented at Council.