



Agenda

February 27th, 2018 - 5:30pm
Winter General Meeting
Wallace Hall, JDUC

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



1. Presentations

A. A Year in Review – SGPS Executive 2017-2018

Ontario Liberal government has now released \$3.2 billion and \$2.6 billion for research for Sciences and fundamental sciences. Certainly a place to start.

Now onto our business... our “state of the union”. Happy to answer any questions you may have about this.

Our approach has been one of balance, looking at social and student experience, as well as what we hope to improve with academic experiences of the SGPS. I’ll highlight several facets that reflect this:

- (1) Strong emphasis to relationship building. Told that many University relationships was not to the satisfaction or quality; spend a lot of time investing in those relationships and I think the entire Executive would agree that they are much stronger. Great relationship with Graduate and Professional bodies, AMS...etc. The Principal has even noted the strength of relationship between the AMS and SGPS.
- (2) Implemented several initiatives with PICRDI and TRC – attempted to do our part to bring those forward; but by no means are we done.
 - a. Restructured grants to include a diversity and inclusion grant – grant has been utilized for some great events
 - b. Successfully coordinated a shoebox campaign with I Love First Peoples – very successful drives ~40-50 shoeboxes; one of the highest collections in the area
 - c. Rosie is working on a number of initiatives; seeking indigenous artwork; accessibility conference
- (3) Take steps to curb incidence of sexual violence on campus
 - a. Started with a myth busting video with the AMS; created decent awareness – thousands of views. A good first step.
 - b. Ask for Angela program at the Grad Club – code for support to get out safety; all grad club staff given bystander training



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- c. Got an email about a survey, provincially, this morning – if you didn't, check your junk mail – this is a provincially mandated survey and it's quite long; seeking to collect data to effective policy change to better change sexual violence pandemic
- (4) Graduate student experience – quite central for the SGPS and the University; credit the SGPS and Adam Ali (Graduate Student Trustee) – Board Senate retreat is focused on this topic. Continuing to work on numerous graduate student issues, including the Graduate-Supervisor form – trying to find a balance between specificity of departments and generalizability of different supervisor relationships
- (5) Working on experiential learning opportunities – PhD landscape is not hanging quickly; strong call at the Queen's level to change PhD experiential
- (6) Thesis writing workshops – taking place in Queen's Center and JDUC; if you want time on Thesis Thursdays to meet peers and work on research/degree, there's a community there to support you.
- (7) Finally, Space – to improve graduate student experience, need to have a space that fosters this. Stauffer Library 311 is currently a Graduate Reading Room being renovated - \$125,000 donor room is going to be a quiet study area; restrict space to graduate students only using a padlock only. JDUC – SGPS fee passed with considerable support (77% support from 30%+ turnout), which is very high – campaigning on the need for a graduate student wing. Hallmark of the campaign; Principal heard that message loud and clear. Principal has committed to sufficient work to create graduate space on campus. JDUC project is not dead – AMS fee failed by 77 votes in the end; they are doing an exit survey to determine why it failed. Timing is that the fee would not be collected until the year after next – seeking potentially a fee next year (different terms). The University seems to be willing to honour the original agreement. If that doesn't happen, we will be getting space regardless. Last comment: if the JDUC doesn't happen, the SGPS will not be collecting the fee unless the JDUC project proceeds
- (8) Electoral Engagement – pleased by the work done by the electoral engagement committee; Precious and Jenny; much more effective campaigning, online platform; I hope the final campaign coming up March 12th and 13th will have equal turnout (Bus-It) and Presidential election, Graduate Student Trustee, and OPIRG.
- (9) Approach to strategic planning – looking at the society collaboratively, and setting forward a comprehensive plan to tackle this issue to create a long-term plan, while respecting the autonomy of long-term plans.



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What's next? Three key things

- (1) Member perception – a poor perception given the Buslt and Presidential elections; while not in the control of the Executive, students will direct things to the top. Hoping to improve image to incoming members. Commissioner events have been going really well this year. Hoping to improve online presence.
- (2) Create new positions to offer more for students at large and better meet needs of students on campus; marketing commissioner to support messaging – effective for a position directly for that; second is an HR position, talked about for many years – Executive has worked well this year, so no immediate need; however, strong need to have an independent HR office to have a neutral independent person, rather than the VP Professional. Not the most effective way to run HR – transition next years team for the need for these things.

State of the union is strong. Any questions?

Kayla: Members are wondering what Health and Dental plan will look like?

Adam: We will be assessing that – at the start of our year, planning with last year's Executive, we reflected on two data-based surveys: one from the provider and the second from PSAC – the Union, telling us the gaps in the plan. We made adjustments and provided new benefits, but that comes with a price increase, along with an unavoidable increase with dental services increase coming onto campus. Spike in usage, so insurance company says they have to increase rates. We need to balance and stabilize the plan – key goal to stabilize for next year. Next year is the last year with the current provider – assessing the current provider and plan satisfies need of the society; a call to make for the next year's team.



II. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 27/02/18:1

BIRT the SGPS General Meeting adopt the Agenda for the February 27th, 2018 Winter General Meeting.

Leo: Discussion to move discussion to earlier, as I will be leaving earlier.

Motion carries.



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Motion carries.



Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Adam Grotsky (report attached)
Nothing to add.
- b. VP Graduate – Stéfy McKnight (report attached)
Report is super long; let me know if you have questions. Posters here for thesis Thursday – please grab one for your department. I'll pass them around.
- c. VP Professional – Russell Durward (no report submitted)
- d. VP Finance & Services – Lauren Peacock (report attached)
- e. VP Community – Tyler Morrison (no report submitted)

B. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Jennifer Williams (oral report)
Continuing to work with the Judicial Committee – I'd like to thank the Committee: Adam, Kayla, Paulina, Rochelle, Leo, Kristen, and Russell for their ongoing support.

Reminder that of the next election and referendum period: 5th-11th campaign period, 12th & 13th voting days: include Graduate Student Trustee, Presidential by-election, Buslt Fee, OPIRG fee; Graduate Student Trustee nominations are now open until Sunday, March 4th at 2pm via email. Nomination packages are available online.

C. Approval

BIRT SGPS General Meeting approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.
Motion carries.

MOTION 27/02/18:2



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Adam Ali: One question re: Stefy/Adam – is there an implementation plan for the supervisor student relationship?

Stefy: We have a meeting tomorrow with the SGS; Marta is currently developing the grant, looking at other institutions. What I've heard is that she wants to bring that forward by April, bring to Council, hopeful implementation in September – but not sure as of now. Definitely some questions around how to make an agreement for both science and humanities students. How do we keep supervisors and students accountable to this. We're going to have some lengthy discussions about this.

Emma: Going off of Adam's point – is that focused on the technicalities of the degree or more about the supervisor relationship, which is hard to implement in policy?

Stefy: The challenge is that this is not mandated. At the moment, key elements will include on expectations for supervisor and student, frequency of meeting, timelines and feedback, time of completion, thesis proposal. It's about accountability.

Isabel: Incoming VP Community – Commissioner hiring has come up! All posted on the Facebook page and the website; take a look through there – paid opportunity, do a lot of interesting things, like organizing a lot of great events.



Financial Report

A. Financial Report - VP Finances & Services; Auditors KPMG

B. Approval

MOTION 27/02/18:3

BIRT SGPS General Meeting approve the Financial Report.

Mike (KPMG): Completed the Audit August 2017. Take a quick discussion through the auditor report and a review of key changes from 2016 to 2017. Financial statements fairly represent the direction of the organization; that's a good thing.

The first statement: the balance sheet – the loan receivable has decreased by \$60,000. The Society did loan some money to the AMS, charging 3% interest. Regularly scheduled payments coming back from the AMS, which is why it is decreasing. The net assets have recently gone up; your surplus in 2017.



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Flipping to the statement of operations page/income statement; I'll highlight the big changes. With revenues – internally administered student fees. Amount has gone down – less to the University Center, Student Advisors ~\$25,000, because costs went down. Payment to provider for Health and Dental went down.

Within expense category – about a \$6,300 decrease. Last year; 5 employees getting paid – now 4 being paid. Bursaries and grants saw a significant increase (\$21,000) – a lot of international students applying for bursaries/grants. 19 applied for in 2016; 54 in 2017. Last item: social events, gone down ~\$20,000. Some expenses now being recognized under other captions. Just a change in presentation.

Statement of financial position – notes provide information about the interest rate, loans; general updating year-to-year.

Alex: \$1.5 million for the Health and Dental Plan came in; \$1.3 and a bit million paid to the company?

Chris: I have another question about the Health and Dental plan. Historically, the SGPS receives \$120,000 from an external organization – is that in the \$1.5 million.

Mike: Yes.

Lauren: Can we talk about the different funds and the purpose of having them separated and benefits of having them collapsed into one fund?

Mike: The society has created a number of funds to track things separately. When you create a separate fund, you specifically track the expenses associated with that fund. Some organizations cannot separate that; the value is up to the organization to create and set-up. Some funds over time are no longer needed, and if you don't maintain them over time, it can get quite confusing and this statement can get quite long. The determination of whether it is needed or not is up for discussion; could collapse with just a motion.

Motion carries.



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SGPS and University Committee Reports

A. Trustee Report – Graduate Student Trustee – Adam Ali (oral report)

Adam: We have a board meeting this Friday and Saturday – graduate student experience (research culture, career preparedness, supervisor relationship, time to completion). 7 PhDs will share their experience.

B. Commissioner Reports

a. Athletics Commissioner – Lindsay Ruitter (report attached)

Adam (on behalf of Lindsay): March 14th – going climbing with Kingston Bouldering; March 19th cooking workshop – vegan pledge this month, so making this a vegan workshop. Sports hours every week – Soccer from 5-6 Monday in MacBrown Hall

b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Rosie Petrides (report attached)

Rosie: Two exciting events:

(1) Call for indigenous art until April 21st, summer to develop art-work, to display in SGPS spaces

(2) April 7th Accessibility and inclusion conference – great new speaker! Get in touch if you have any ideas

c. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Atul Jaiswal (no report submitted)

Adam (on behalf of Atul): working on a diversity and inclusion film festival (DIFF) – picking movies for certain cultures, presentations, informative and fun.

d. Social Commissioner – Martyna Kamela (no report submitted)

Adam (on behalf of Martyna): this Thursday – fantasy trivia topic. Hope to see you there! Paint night, \$15 for food and painting in late March. Pool night at the Grizz on March 30th.

C. Committee Reports

D. Department Reports

E. Other Reports

a. University Rector – Cam Yung (oral report)

Alex (on behalf of Cam): Senate discussion about the Jordan Peterson event coming up; shadowing and transitioning in the upcoming months!

Question: What did the Principal talk about during the Senate meeting?



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Alex: There has been discussion about an open letter; a final statement will be coming once he's had a chance to review the letter. The letter currently does not call for not doing the event, but rather encourages students to get involved and be vocal and seek supports on campus.

- b. Chief Returning Officer (oral report)

Approval

MOTION 27/02/18:4

BIRT SGPS General Meeting approve the Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports.

Motion carries.



Senator's Report

- A. Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Alexandru Sonoc (report attached)

- B. Approval**

MOTION 27/02/18:5

BIRT SGPS General Meeting approve the Senator's Report.

Motion carries.

Adam: Alexandru copied and pasted a question about the Senate; and about why the JDUC is going to be invested in when there are some pressing spaces that need renovating. Answer was that the University makes investments in a wide array of building; it doesn't mean we'll be taking away funds from other projects. My own view is to stress the graduate student experience as a way for better research.

Chris: Because you are on Senate, and Adam Ali are here, I was hoping you can answer this. What is the Graduate Student quota? He says that Queen's does not meet the Graduate student quota.

Adam: He was referring to the applications and number of students – Queen's fails to meet domestic PhD quotas. We are meeting international quotas, but lower domestic applicants and current students. And those are targets set by the University and province (clarification asked for by Brittany).



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Adam Ali: Our domestic PhD enrollment is decreasing; I think we are having serious issues with PhD culture, especially with experience of graduate students. We need to start thinking about graduate student experience as essential to better research environment.

Adam Grotsky: Our student experience is lower, which will hopefully be discussed at length on Saturday.



Other Reports



Main Motions



New Business

A. Smoke Free Campus Proposal – Leo Erlikhman, Sociology Representative

Leo: Introduced proposal – see statement provided. Wanting to seek further information and feedback from students at large about this issue.

Adam Grotsky: The Department of Student Affairs is doing an environmental scan about internal Queen's policies, what other schools are doing, and are seeking a draft policy proposal. Big questions: Should this policy be a reflection of the smoking policy, or different given the marijuana nuances? There is some student involvement – up until they collect the findings, it's being done by 2-3 people in Student Affairs, at the research and review stage. The next stage under committee work in the Health and Wellness working group, with students on each committee. There will be a specific task force on marijuana, again with student voices involved. I encourage you bring forward your thoughts now.

Jared: I'm not clear on the suggestion for the enforcement and monitoring. The goal is not to enforce or punish; so what would the policy say? People should feel free to go up to people and tell them to stop smoking; threat of campus security involvement? Interested in the effects.



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Adam Ali: This definitely targets people, largely disadvantaged students, Faculty members, and staff. We need to keep in mind this legal way of coping with poverty. Not in favour of supporting enforcing people going off campus to have a smoke break. Would like evidence/research, smoking outside? Drinking culture is a serious problem – is the answer to not serve alcohol on campus, in football games. As a cultural thing; I don't think that is the answer. Is this the greatest harm to our students now? Our resources can be better spent on other things.

Chris: You mentioned a task force? And I'm glad Adam is fighting for the need for students on those groups, so thank you.

Leo: Medical students brought this forward and put together a scientific briefing, and I haven't heard anything about this since. Jared to your point – it really depends on the environment of enforcement. Acadia has a sliding scale of enforcement. Other programs are designed to not be about asking people to stop smoking, to denormalize smoking on campus. With regards to those addicting to smoking – it continues to be a part of smoking – Leave the Pack Behind already exists to provide counselling and addiction for students and employees to aid in finding new coping mechanisms. With drinking, Adam to your point, I find that's an interesting point. Literature on smoke free environments have assisted with quitting and with reducing second hand smoke.

Kristen: I'm concerned about implementation of this – if we don't have the power to stop people from smoking on the sidewalks and roads. There are a low proportion of students who smoke, this would be more impactful for those who started smoking decades ago – Faculty and staff, and forcing them to speak.

Matt: Key to have student voice throughout the process. I think one of the things I've been thinking about 1987 drafted, implement in 1988; with the legalization of cannabis on campus, what are we going to now do on campus, especially in Residence. Like Leo said, we have the opportunity now to be proactive in terms of policy before the legalization comes out. From a public health perspective, there's been a lot of discussion with regards to how legalization of cannabis will have an impact on a University campus, where lots of students are on campus. Start to recognize policy with respect to that. Not sure if the University has focused on this. As Leo has already brought up, alternative smoking mechanisms need to be integrated into policy.

Precious: I don't know if you spoke about this – I'm not sure what exactly the issue is on campus. I'm trying to understand what the big issue is – it's being done outdoors, not indoors.



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I'm not seeing the impact it's having on anybody. Has there been a serious issue, or is it more about student wellbeing. I don't see the effect.

Leo: The issue with smoking outdoors, individuals smoking just outside (3m from doors), second hand smoke will be as negative. Vape pens and smoking products are significantly more problems with new products. Lingering impact of second hand smoking impacting entrance ways. Now, smoke free Ontario has barred smoking from the hospitals, with air quality decreased

Andrew: Important topic, but perhaps premature. Two comments: implementation and sanctioning. When it comes to implementation, you can have a policy that is inherently a punishment to certain individuals. Taking municipal locations on campus, with people having the ability to police others on campus. Discrimination of discrete groups on campus – why are we not talking about having discrete locations on campus to smoke for a safe place for those to partake, without discriminating of the groups. That takes away those individuals rights.

Lauren: Going to build off of Adam and Andrew points – hospitals are not the same as Universities. It's a lot easier to leave hospitals than the University. If you're a staff person with a 30min lunch break, taking 20min to leave campus and walk back to have a smoke break, you're not having a lunch. How burdensome it is for people/ to leave. Practically it doesn't make sense. But we do need to recognize some students who have sensitives to smoke. Having designated smoking areas, and those who are sensitive can stray away from those areas.

Adam Ali: Need to have a separate and robust discussion about marijuana. I think that's more fruitful than having a discussion about smoke-free campus. It should be centered around talking about marijuana, rather than about nicotine. Would like to talk about that at a later date. A question for Leo – have they measured the amount of effectiveness of those enrolled in those groups (Leave the Pack Behind) after this has been implemented?

Leo: I can give you the numbers – they are quite positive with smoking cessation on campus. They are built into your networks. I can send you more information.

Adam Grotsky: Our Health plan covers smoking cessation!

Stefy: Reading the report, it started very broad with policies. Smoking nicotine is very different from medical marijuana. Where are people supposed to do medical marijuana off campus? I'm curious as to why we're looking at these together, rather than separate.

Paulina: I'm going to echo what Lauren was saying about a compromise: having designated smoking spaces on campus. I think it's infeasible for people to go off campus; need a



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compromise. I do notice a lot of the times that with policy, Leo perhaps you can touch on this, respecting the space is currently not occurring. Often times I can smell smoke in a closed area. Often, in Mac Corry, walking in the entrance way, I can always smell smoke. So whatever we are doing right now, it doesn't seem to be working. Student's health is more important than a person's decision to smoke. So we do need to do something about this. Another note I want to make: as a privately owned space, we do have the right to ban smoking. So I think somewhere in there we can find a solution; perhaps not a total ban – but looking at elementary schools. Regarding the point on marijuana – I'm not sure we should be looking at them the same way. Maybe that's up

Leo: So the Acadia example was an example of 2,000 options. Manitoba has a 20m rule. Unfortunately, discrete areas do not work. Effects of where individuals smoke does linger. And they do not help with supporting those who are addicted – they normalize the issue. Kingston Health Sciences has an indoor ventilated area for those who need medical or Aboriginal use. There are policies around to accommodate those who need it. This wouldn't be a part of the discussion. The whole purpose of this discussion is about any product that produces smoke to de-normalize smoking behavior on campus to prevent new usage.

Rochelle: Want to echo the earlier point of having discrete areas. As someone with asthma, having areas on campus would be helpful.

Brittany: The idea that students on campus would ask other students or staff to stop smoking is a problem. That's quite confrontational.

Lauren: I have some questions for Leo - Do you have a radius of how discrete areas would impact air quality?

Leo: I'd need to look back at the sources.

Lauren: You're just displacing the areas people are smoking; now students walking onto campus are walking through areas of smoke. Our current policy is that we have a smoke free campus – we currently have students still smoking on campus. We need to find something that will work, rather than a prohibition. People will still smoke. I don't think this is something that we should be forcing from the University on individuals.

Adam Ali: Point of information – smoke free environment is indoors; so it doesn't apply to outdoors.



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Shane: Are there alternatives to medical marijuana – it seems strange a doctor would encourage you to smoke. If someone could address that?

Kristen: I looked at the policy and it is about indoors smoke free – yet there's ashtrays around campus. There is a rule about 3m from every entrance. You can smoke between buildings. Are you proposing banning smoking on streets and sidewalks as well? What are you proposing?

Leo: I'm not proposing any policy. A group of students want a smoke-free ban on campus; denormalization on campus – not permitted on campus grounds, not on roads and sidewalks.

Alex: In a completely different direction, we each specialize in each of our areas. We have staff that specialize in multiple areas; this matter is not a policy yet – when we get to the stage of discussing a proposed policy, this is not the time nor the space to put this forward. We have some very very smart staff who are discussing this issue, and chatting through their Executive. At a general meeting, where we have students at a general meeting, this may not be the time or place to continue to discuss.

Lauren: I'm going to continue with this; I think including vaporizers into smoking policy. I don't understand how you can implement anything with vaporizers – if they are smoking water to help stop smoking; I don't understand how we can stop.

Leo: Displacement is not found in the literature; the most recent national Canadian health assessment survey – just under 20% have occasionally smoked and 3% regularly smoke. In campuses have smoke-free environments, that number is much lower. Cigarettes were banned on campus stores 5 years ago by the University, which went unnoticed. We live in an environment, a University environment, is a place for experimentation and learning. Some students decide to explore substances. This will hopefully prevent new individuals from seeking participation. Alcohol addiction is not talked about considerably.

Stefy: Shane, I don't have all the answers, but there's several ways you can administer marijuana – capsules, vape, edibles, smoking. Smoking tends to be the most common, given by medical professionals. With this you have the opportunity – and please correct me if I'm wrong – you have the ability to grow for medical purposes. Again, I'm not an expert, but wanted to contribute to your question.



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Notices of Motion & Announcements



Adjournment

Adjournment

MOTION 27/02/18:6

BIRT this SGPS Winter General Meeting be adjourned.
Motion carries.