[No reports submitted]
Dear Council,

Please find my key updates below.

**SGPS Votes (Again)**
The SGPS is going to the polls one more time in a by-election for President and Graduate Student Trustee. There will also be a re-vote on the Bus-It and OPIRG student fees. The campaign period runs from March 5-11 and voting takes place from March 12-13. As this is the third SGPS vote in a one month period, I am concerned that voter fatigue will hamper turnout in this consequential election. As such, I hope you will help in getting out the vote by encouraging your departments to participate in the democratic process. As our way of saying thank you, all voters will receive a coupon for a free cup of coffee.

**JDUC Redevelopment**
The SGPS fee for JDUC redevelopment passed with 77% support in a referendum that yielded a voter turnout of 33.7%. Since the AMS fee fell narrowly short, the SGPS is committed to working together with the AMS and University to determine how to move forward. At the March meeting of the Board of Trustees, AMS President Jennifer Li indicated that they will pursue a second referendum in Fall 2018. If the second AMS referendum is successful, and the University upholds their capital contribution and project financing, the project will proceed.

However, even if the project does not move forward, the decisive results of the SGPS referendum cannot be ignored. Our campaign for JDUC redevelopment was fueled by the need for graduate student community – and a space that will foster it. Students spoke loud and the results are clear: graduate students need graduate space to strengthen the graduate experience. The university must support the will of the graduate student body and provide the infrastructure necessary that will allow graduate students to thrive as a community of scholars.

**Board of Trustees & Board-Senate Retreat**
The graduate student experience was front and centre at the Board of Trustees, not just during my speech, but also as the theme of the annual Board-Senate Retreat. At the retreat, the graduate student experience was explored through four sub-themes: (1) promoting a graduate culture, (2) progression to completion, (3) career preparedness, and (4) building and sustaining relationships and managing expectations. A key outcome of the retreat will be the formation of a task force on the graduate student experience. Between the emphasis on graduate students at the Board level, and the results of the JDUC referendum, the time is now for real progress to be made – let’s continue working hard to capitalize on this moment.

**Principal Search Committee**
The work of the search committee continues. We are approaching the phase at which community stakeholders will be consulted on what they want from the next principal. Students participation at this stage during Principal Woolf’s review was minimal. I am hopeful that we will see increased engagement this time around.

**Student-Supervisor Agreement**
In collaboration with the School of Graduate Studies, the first draft of a student-supervisor agreement will be presented for feedback at the April meeting of SGPS Council. The aim is to have a finalized agreement in place for September, so that it can be incorporated into orientation for both new students and new faculty. The SGS has confirmed that this is a reasonable timeline to proceed with.

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

[Signature]

Adam Grotsky
President
Society of Graduate and Professional Students
[No reports submitted – on leave]
[No reports submitted]
Dear Council,

**Continuous Reporting Obligations P.1.2.5**

As many of you know, groups that receive a student fee are required to provide reports on an annual basis. This was the first year implementing this policy and the overwhelming majority of groups did comply with the reporting. We are currently working on tying up a few loose ends, but the reports will be going to the Finance & Services Committee in the next week or so for approval.

**Health & Dental Plan**

Both the incoming and outgoing Executive will be meeting with our insurance broker at the end of the month to discuss options and pricing for next year’s plan.

Sincerely,

Lauren Peacock

VP Finance & Services

Society of Graduate & Professional Students (SGPS)
[No reports submitted – on leave]
Oral report to be presented at Council.
[No reports submitted]
The Board of Trustees held its third meeting of the academic year on March 2 and 3.

**Board-Senate Retreat on “The Graduate Student Experience”**
The board-senate retreat took place on Saturday, March 3 in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies. The day began with a presentation by guest speaker Dr. Noreen Golfmann, Provost and VP Academic of Memorial University, who spoke about both her personal experience as a graduate student and the shifting culture of graduate studies at Canadian universities. Following her talk, we heard from a diverse set of Ph.D. students about their experiences at Queen’s.

I would like to personally thank Emma Thompson (Kinesiology and Health Studies), Jared Houston (Philosophy), Natasha Stirrett (Cultural Studies), Branaavan Sivarajah (Biology), Marla Dobson (Art History), Caitlin Miron (Chemistry), and Leena Yahia (Education) for their both their presentations and facilitating the breakout sessions later in the day. Your contribution was outstanding and enriched the discussions of the day.

During the breakout sessions, groups were assigned one of the four retreat sub-themes, which included time to completion, career preparedness, graduate research culture, and the supervisor-supervisee relationship. Following this, each group briefly presented their notes, which were recorded by the secretariat’s office and will be used for future initiatives focused on improving graduate studies at Queen’s.

The Secretariat’s office was integral to planning and executing the day, and I wish to acknowledge and thank them for their hard work.

I am happy to answer any questions related to specific themes/discussions that occurred at the retreat.

**Liberty Lecture**
During his remarks at the open board session on Friday evening, Principal Woolf addressed the Liberty Lecture, which was held on Monday, March 5 and included controversial guest speaker Jordan Peterson. Woolf re-iterated his commitment to academic freedom that allowed Professor Bruce Pardy to hold the event and invite Professor Peterson to speak. I raised the issue of how we define terms like academic freedom and “informed” debate in the open meeting, while also alluding to how these impact the university’s strategic drivers of research prominence and the student experience.

**Aboriginal Council Report**
Janice Hill delivered the Aboriginal Council of Queen’s University 2017 Annual Report. The Aboriginal Council of Queen’s University (ACQU) is an important body that provides guidance on programs, supports, and services for Aboriginal students, faculty, and staff at Queen’s. It also serves as a strong link between the university and Aboriginal communities in the region. Some highlights include:

- In response to recommendations in the TRC Task Force report around ensuring researchers are engaging Indigenous communities in culturally appropriate and respectful ways, the ACQU and the School of Graduate Studies struck a Committee on Research Collaboration and hosted a session on “Research Collaboration with Indigenous Communities”. More than 80 faculty and students attended the workshop, which included a keynote address, panel presentations, and a talking circle.
The Cultural Awareness and Programming Working Group of the Aboriginal Council assisted in the development of the first “Queen’s Remembers” plinth, which details the history of the Anishinaabe and the Haudenosaunee communities in the Kingston region.

Motions Passed
The Board approved the following motions:

- On the recommendation of the Capital Assets and Finance Committee, the Board approved the development of the West Campus District Energy Conversion Greenhouse Gas Retrofit Program (GGRP) project
- On the recommendation of the Capital Assets and Finance Committee, the Board approved the Major Capital Projects Approval Policy and Procedure
- On the recommendation of the Capital Assets and Finance Committee, the Board approved amendments to the Policy on Approval and Execution of Contracts and Invoices

Cam Yung
I would like to personally thank our outgoing rector Cam Yung. It has been a pleasure working with him over the last two years on the board. His commitment in particular to diversity, inclusion, and equity will not be forgotten, and I wish him the best in his future endeavours.

Next Board Meeting
The last board meeting of the year is happening on May 11 and 12. For more information about past/future agendas, please visit the Queen’s governance portal.

Next Trustee
My two-year term is complete at the end of May, and I look forward to transitioning my successor into the role following the by-election results.

Adam Ali
trustee@sgps.ca
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 26th 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.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Ruiter
Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, SGPS
Dear Members of the SGPS and Council,

I hope you are all having a productive and positive semester thus far! I have provided a few updates and reminders of events and initiatives occurring throughout campus, and look forward to providing further information as it arises.

**INCLUSIVITY NEWSLETTER**

The Deputy Provost (Academic Operations and Inclusion), Teri Shearer, is developing a monthly e-mail newsletter in support of an inclusive living and learning environment at Queen’s. Events and initiatives related to diversity and inclusivity at Queen’s will be outlined within these monthly e-mail newsletters, and the first issue will be sent out during this month. If you would like to subscribe to this resource, please email: phillip.gaudreau@queensu.ca.

**DIVERSITY & INCLUSION ROUND-TABLE AND TRI-AWARDS CELEBRATION**

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 on March 20th. I look forward to providing council with highlights of this event during our next meeting!

**CALL FOR INDIGENOUS ARTWORK**

The Equity & Diversity Commission has developed 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. Individuals can submit proposals for artwork of any form that can be displayed in SGPS spaces that includes a brief description of the piece, and its spiritual or thematic significance to equity@sgps.ca. The deadline for proposal submissions is April 1, 2018. If you have any questions or suggestions about this initiative please feel free to send me an e-mail, or visit me during office hours to chat!

**ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION CONFERENCE**

I am currently developing a conference surrounding Accessibility & Inclusion that will be taking place on April 7, 2018 from 10am-3pm in Robert Sutherland Hall, Room 202. If you are interested in collaborating with the Equity & Diversity Commission for this event, or have suggestions for speakers or topics, please feel free to contact me at equity@sgps.ca. More updates will be provided once the agenda has been confirmed!

**MARCH OFFICE HOURS**

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.

Best Regards,

Rosie Petrides

Equity & Diversity Commissioner
CALL FOR INDIGENOUS ARTWORK

The Call for Indigenous Artwork has been initiated in an attempt to foster the celebration and visibility of Indigenous art and culture, and recognition of Indigenous territory in spaces across the Queen’s University campus, including SGPS spaces.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Proposals for artwork of any form (visual, physical) that can be displayed in SGPS spaces with the purpose of recognizing and celebrating Indigenous culture and heritage including a brief description of the piece, and the spiritual or thematic significance
- Chosen pieces will be commissioned to be created throughout the summer, and will be unveiled to the general public in September 2018.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 2018

EQUITY & DIVERSITY COMMISSION
CONTACT EQUITY@SGPS.CA FOR MORE INFORMATION
Dear Council,

Season Greetings,

The month of February was used to plan our week-long event “Diversity and Inclusion Film Festival at Queen’s University” in March 20-28, 2018. To bridge the gap between the domestic and international students/staff and provide an opportunity for students on campus from different regions to share their culture, we call for this project where we will be screening films from different regions through an entire week and each film screening will be accompanied by snacks from the regions and a panel discussion led by student leaders from the region about the film.

We developed collaborations with different groups on campus to choose films and organize panel discussions specific to share the knowledge of culture unique to the region. QUIC, Four Directions, Queen’s Native Students Association, Queen’s African and Caribbean Students' Association, and Vanessa Yzaguirre (Queen's diversity and Inclusion coordinator) are on board and supporting this film festival. In the light of Indigenous cultural awareness week (March 12-16, 2018), our first movie screening will be on “Indigenous culture”. This will be our launch event where we invite resource speakers from Four Directions, QUIC, SGPS and Queen’s Student Affairs to deliver a brief talk on the importance of this topic. For movie on “Indigenous culture”, we will have Laura or Karine from Four Directions to lead the panel discussion. For other movie screenings, we have student volunteers who showed interest in leading the discussion. Rosie, Martyna, Lindsay, and Colette are supporting the event and would be supporting in the organizing the week-long event.

The schedule is as follows and we expect all of you to be there:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date &amp; time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Name of facilitator and movie to be screened</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kickoff Event and Film Screening # 1 “Indigenous culture”</td>
<td>March 20th, 2018 (Evening)</td>
<td>QUIC</td>
<td>Karine/ Laura from Four Directions – “Rachel Perkin’s Bran Nue Dae”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Screening # 2 “African culture”</td>
<td>March 21, 2018 (Evening)</td>
<td>QUIC</td>
<td>Michael Boeme and Buni Samuels: “Queen of Katwe”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Screening # 3 “Middle East Culture”</td>
<td>March 23, 2018 (Evening)</td>
<td>QUIC</td>
<td>Shahrzad: “Tales”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Screening # 4 “Asian Culture”</td>
<td>March 27, 2018 (Evening)</td>
<td>QUIC</td>
<td>Lydia and Johnny: “Confucius”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capstone event “Cultural representation of different countries” on campus</td>
<td>March 28, 2018 (evening)</td>
<td>QUIC</td>
<td>We would have student representatives from different countries with their country specific booths. We would have quiz/games on cultural awareness. We might have one more movie screening on this day.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We also organized a two-hours “Editing workshop for International Students” (in collaboration with QUIC and SASS) on March 2, 2018. 13 graduate students attended the workshop and found it helpful. They have recommended for more such workshops in future. It covered following topics:

1. What is editing? How will it improve my writing?
2. What do Canadian academics expect from written work?
3. Tools for:
   a. Making sure your essay matches your professor’s expectations.
   b. Improving your spelling and grammar.
   c. Ensuring you understand academic integrity.

Our other two workshops for international students in March are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event - Workshop</th>
<th>Date &amp; time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We look forward to interacting with you all at the various events. 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
It has been an eventful winter so far, and many more events are to come this spring. In February, the social commission had only organized one event due to the reading break occurring and varying schedules of the students. In March, the social commission is hoping to host three different events and prepare the transition for the incoming Social Commissioner. See below for past and upcoming events!

**February Event:**
Sunday, February 11, 2018: SGPS does Lumina Borealis
- The Social Commissioners took a group of students out to see the light show up top of Fort Henry, the Lumina Borealis. Around thirty-two students attended the weather (even despite the rainfall that evening), and everyone reported to have had a very fun time with the lights!

**March Events:**
March 8, 2018 – Fantasy Movie Night at The Grad Club
- This report will have been submitted before this trivia event, but we are looking forward to engaging many graduate and professional students to attend the weekly trivia at The Grad Club with a special theme created by the Social and Deputy Social Commissioners – fantasy movies! Each round will focus on a specific fantasy movie phenomenon – such as Harry Potter, Star Wars and Lord of the Rings. We hope to see some of you put your “geeky” knowledge to the test on Thursday!

March 22, 2018 – Paint Night at The Merchant
- The SGPS will be hosting a second Paint Night event this year, due to the popularity and positive feedback received from the previous one. This event will be hosted by an experienced art instructor at The Merchant, and we are hoping to have tickets go on sale for about 28 students. With a ticket price, students will be led through a 1.5 hour paint lesson and will be provided with some light snacks, a canvas and paint supplies to utilize for their personal projects. We hope to see some of you there!

March 20 – March 28, 2018 – Diversity and Inclusion Week Collaboration with International and Equity Commission (see the International Commissioner’s report for more information on this event).

Friday, March 30, 2018 – Pool Night at the Grizzly Grill
- For those who are preparing for finals in April, we will be finishing the month off with a mixer event at the Grizzly Grill! The SGPS has booked a couple of pool tables that Friday evening, and students are welcome to come out and socialize in celebrating the end of another semester.

Currently, the social commission does not have any set plans for events in April. I am hoping to work closely with the incoming Social Commissioner to help facilitate training and learning in preparation for the 2018-19
Year Plan. There may be an event that is planned towards the end of the term with the incoming Commissioner – but this will be determined at a later date.

As always, I am happy to take any questions or feedback regarding some of the events. I can be reached at social@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,

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