



March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin 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.



## Adoption of the Agenda & Approval of Minutes

- A. Adoption of the Agenda** **MOTION 13/03/18:1**  
BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Council Meeting.
- B. Approval of February Council Minutes** **MOTION 13/03/18:2**  
BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Minutes from the February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Council Meeting.
- C. Approval of February Special Council Minutes** **MOTION 13/03/18:3**  
BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Minutes from the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Council Meeting.
- D. Approval of Winter General Meeting Minutes** **MOTION 13/03/18:4**  
BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Minutes from the February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Winter General Meeting.



## Executive & Speaker Reports

- A. Executive Reports**
- a. President – Adam Grotsky (report attached)
    - Library space design, the chief librarian, she asked me to inform you guys about two consultation sessions on the topic of digitalization, both at queens and in the country→ we are seeing a shift away from traditional libraries,
    - By-law and policy committee will be meeting next week to discuss changes to elections and judicial meeting we will have updates by April
    - Remind you guys about the diversity and film festival, Im excited about this, the idea is to feature a number of movie screenings, to embrace cultural points from different cultures, we will produce you with more detail

## Agenda



- The last board of trustees meeting was held and we want to thank adam ali with → he has one more left, he had an instrumental point, it offered a great gateway to explore this issue in a great way
- b. VP Graduate – Stéfy McKnight (no report submitted; on leave)
- c. VP Professional – Russell Durward (no report submitted)
- d. VP Finance & Services – Lauren Peacock (report attached)
- e. VP Community – Tyler Morrison (no report submitted; on leave)

### B. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Jennifer Williams (oral report)
  - The election and referendum for march will be ended soon, we have 1/3 in voter turnouts
  - Final numbers will be later today
  - By-law and policy committee is meeting next week, looking at elections and referendum policy, it will be brought up to the next meeting
  - We have looked at experts on how to look at
  - She will be leav

### C. Approval

**MOTION 13/03/18:5**

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

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## III. Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports

- A. **Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Alexandru Sonoc (no report submitted)
- B. **Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – Adam Ali (report attached)
  - **The plan is that there is a lot of data collected from the retreat, also wanted to recognize 7 individuals from speakers at the retreat**
  - Their presentations were wonderful, super enriching, personally thank them for participation and speaking
- C. **Commissioner Reports**
  - a. Athletics Commissioner – Lindsay Ruiten (report attached)

## Agenda



- Intermerals are wrapping up, if someone is here in the summer look into joining one of our teams
- We have mainly indoor soccer now
- Tomorrow we have 20 people going rock climbing
- There is food made healthy, its 5 dollars for
- b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Rosie Petrides (report attached)
  - The accessibility conference in in a little bit, If you
- c. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Atul Jaiswal (report attached)
  - This event is led by all of us, it will be nice to see all of you there, hope
  - Jenny: is
- d. Social Commissioner – Martyna Kamela (report attached)
  - Paint night coming up and pool night coming

### **D. Committee Reports**

### **E. Department Reports**

### **F. Other Reports**

- a. University Rector – Cam Yung (oral report)
  - It was a great opportunity when the board of trustees made
  - Principle wolff made remarks on Jordan Peterson, though this is not something that is endorsed by everyone here, we have to allow freedom of speech
  - We met with several institutions, focused on alcohol harms reduction – further to this, this Saturday is st patricks day, we are organizing the water tents, people to come out and hand out water and granola bars to people that are there
  - If
- b. Chief Returning Officer (oral report)
  - Hopefully this will be our last election, we have used coffee incentives and online voting, they seem like successful tactics to use

### **G. Approval**

**MOTION 13/03/18:6**

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports.



## Question Period & Departmental Issues



**Business Arising from the Minutes**

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**Main Motions & Discussion**

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**A. Graduate Student**

**Graduate Student experience:**

**We have 4 key sub themes and we will divide into groups so that ou discuss one of these topics and reflect on your views, then we will come back as a group and share our prespectives, then we will type that up and send that to the university**

**It is important that we get our presepectives heard**

- 1. Promoting graduate culture – could be things like graduate community or space or whatever you feel**
- 2. Progress to completion**
- 3. Career preparedness**
- 4. Building and sustaining relationships**

1, make sure that there is an ongoing commitment to keep the graduate club running

## Agenda



### There were no solid suggestions

- Promote interdisciplinary contact, people are not participating in the ones that are there
- The orientation fair was excellent, people promoting their different things
- Make sure that information is funneled through the program
- People that come in confused in orientation week, funnel

1,

- It would be great to see integration with other departments or experiential learning opportunity
- Greater graduate student space
- In the MPA department we need more opportunities near by for volunteering and to get involved – but people didn't know what opportunities were open to them
- Greater connection with the SGPS, graduate students want to get involved with the society
- More spaces like the grad club
- Graduate orientation exp

2,

- In education they have Phd programs that we are supposed to follow and we find that helpful
- They feel like the course function is controversial, you can only take them in one area
- If you are doing a phd in law, it is normalized that it is 4 years even though normally it is 3
- Another thing is ethics – ethics takes a long time and that conflicts with times of completion
- In our conservation most people do finish on time
- In most departments finding is cut off if you go over but some people continue to work on their thesis
- Lab space: people don't get kicked out for staying over time, this is a good thing
- Most pressing reason for completion is financial
- In law, there is no pamphlets that we know of that tell us how to go through the steps
- Your supervisors don't

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3,

Advertising opportunities that exist, like the queens job search function is not well advertised

- Advertising is important
- Using calendars more to branch out, when different groups have speakers coming in
- Some groups have speakers come in regularly, having those on people's radar is important
- Just trying to get more of those speakers in, working with alumni to bring people in to present

3,

- The importance of discussing alternative to academia, some people are encouraged to leave academia because there is a demanding job market
- If you mandate it outside of the department to bring people in from the outside
- The faculty itself does not give a fair alternative
- In departments like humanities can benefit from

4,

- We talked about how supervisors are gatekeepers to many things that are important to students
- They really are making great components of the degree
- We have to cultivate short term and long term goals by having regular check ins with supervisors
- Her supervisor, when there was a conflict, there is a structured way of bringing that to the department,
- We talked about how there aren't any particular metrics to use to evaluate supervision, for things like tenure these are important
- It's difficult to change things from a graduate student perspective
- How do we sustain relationships with supervisors beyond degree,

4,

We spoke about relationships as well

- One of them was a culture change from the faculty perspective, making supervision part of the contract and talks, tenure and renewals of contract has become important to them
- We have things like the supervisors handbook

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- Some people fill out forms, but if you have a great relationship with your supervisor, then you don't need the sheet
- Potentially we need more supported orientation, not only focusing on what a good relationship looks like, but also what a bad one looks like and how to avoid it
- We thought maybe a panel to talk with students that have bad relationships with supervisors, we can administer anonymous surveys
- We also talked about phd students being used as cheap labour for supervisors, that is a norm in the culture but we have to set boundaries in that relationship
- Talked about getting more use from the peer review group
- We also had a student group that had a coordinator, for that program they feel like there is not enough support (there is 1 prof for 45 stu

Atul

Fovud to completion

Ther eis a lot of talk on completion exams

The separation is playing some role in the completion of the degree, if would be nice to see w that heps with degree completion

A lot of students being pushed to finish in 3 years, and for some faculties as 4 uears, but in sme departments it might not be applicable, this puts fome people at a disadvantage, the funding is not is not good, all those not able to finish in four years are disadvantaged

- Career services, are there for undergrads, there is not equal events for graduate students
- Ther third thing, a lot of pushes to publish more, in that ther eis open access, but no one is talking about it
- 1 artcle tehre is thousands of dollas, otherwise if you don't have the money you are not good
- We need to make those articles more accessible
- We need to raise resources to support stidents to support pulishing artices

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### **Promoting Graduate Culture**

Paulina: I actually think the JDUC would be a great way to promote the culture of graduate students; we all spoke fairly strongly about the importance of this space.

Adam Grotzky: The short version re: JDUC is that it was decisive, whether or not the JDUC happens, the University agrees that there is a strong need for graduate space on campus. Ideally the JDUC remains the primary vehicle for change. Next, the AMS is pursuing a second referendum on the JDUC in the Fall. If the fee passes, then we would proceed. However, if it does not pass, we are in good shape to receive space.

Shane: Speaking from past experience at my previous University, having lower level societies and groups is key for promoting student community. It's challenging for the SGPS to reach all students; encouraging groups on campus to get tougher, apply for grants, at the department or office level can make a big difference.

Paulina: Not just having department groups, however having department reps for all departments for Council.

Adam: If your department doesn't have a student council, we would strongly encourage you to go back. We recognize how important it is to form groups at the department level, and we're happy to work with you on this.

### **Progress to Completion**

Adam Grotzky: Sometimes a four year plan doesn't quite work for some programs, and doesn't match the work of diversity and inclusion on campus (ex. A student working in an indigenous community, wanting to spend 2-3 years first getting to know the community before studying)

Adam Ali: Thinking about the relationship between time to completion and quality of research. What is not reflected in the current time to completion is the nuances of needing more time to enhance quality of research that exists.

Paulina: I'm on the grad community for Geography and a point we realized is that our time to completion statistics is a bit more rough around the edges. Let's say one person needed an extra 6

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months/1 year, that greatly impacts your statistics, especially in smaller programs. It's not the whole picture.

### **Career Preparedness**

Adam Grotsky: When only 30% of PhD students remain in academia, but we train PhD students for academia, we need to have programs and skill development integrated into the PhD program. If we can embed internships, workplace opportunities that will allow you to receive credit, we are better preparing students for graduating. Any other thoughts on this?

Christine: I think this has come up before, I guess exploring non-traditional or alternative theses for those in a PhD or Master's program, or at least talking about those options.

Paulina: In Geography, we have non-traditional these options which have been approved. And I think in cultural studies I think they do something similar. The problem with that is finding a supervisor to support us.

Emma: We do a four month policy co-op, where we are still a student until the end of August, with a P/F credit, with 1 week in May and 1 week in June, with a policy co-op, right in the field, and write a report at the end of the summer semester. You're able to gain those skills as a co-op student and able to transition to something later.

David: For grad students in more computer sciences/technical disciplines, our experiential learning is pretty good. Whatever lab you're part of, taking those skills directly into industry. Very similar work environments; for those in those disciplines, they are relatively prepared through those disciplines.

### **Relationships:**

Adam Grotsky: As we've discussed many times, the need for an agreement between supervisors and students is key. This will be coming forward at the April meeting – common expectations with your supervisors. The other struggle is the power dynamics between the Supervisor and student. A model that Adam mentioned re: OT and external placements would be great! However, students often don't report, because there's issues with power – having a visa as a student, professional opportunities...etc.

Atul: You need to create connections with others who are "at length" from you, to provide a reference, as some positions will ask for an "at length" reference, rather than a supervisory reference. Focusing on broadening your relationships, rather than focusing on one.

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Paulina: If your supervisor is tenured, students may feel there's no point to bring up issues about them.

Sometimes people don't mesh quite well; there are options to switch within your department to another department. I did this, so I know this personally, but it's also something that people worry about with their funding. If a student wants to switch, there needs to be an opportunity that also is standardized, and includes a funding reset.

Adam Grotsky:

I have two supervisors there is a consideration of meshing well, but I've seen people being at the crosshairs of their supervisors that conflict in their opinion on what to do

If you are co-supervised you have to see how well they get along, it's a case by case scenario

- I've seen people who have been co-supervised, but because they are working more closely with one supervisor, then the other supervisor feels like the student is not working well for them
- I'm also co-supervised, one person said you need expertise from this other professor, these two professors worked well together
- But when one of them doesn't live up to the expectations that I would want to, the other professor doesn't say anything because they don't want to damage the relationship between the two professors and the student does not want to be gossiping
- There is no point

An expectation from students' side, we might have supervisors that are different, they might have graduate chairs, there is that expectation that they now have these new roles that they did not have in the beginning

- In other departments where supervisors wear two hats, it sort of trickles down to the student
  - When students are frustrated they just want someone to listen to them, we implemented 2 anonymous people that you can talk to, if they feel that they are steps that they can do, they will ask your permission and then take the steps that are needed there



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Other Business

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Notices of Motion & Announcements

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The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM (McLaughlin Hall, JDUC).  
Motions for the February Council meeting are due by 4:00 PM on Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.



Adjournment

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**A. Adjournment**

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

**MOTION 13/02/18:7**