



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Representatives  
April Council Meeting 2018

[No reports submitted]



Dear Council,

Please find my updates below in my final report as SGPS President.

### **Annual Report**

For a summary of what the SGPS has been up to this year, check out our [annual report](#). The report is reflective of the Executive's strategic plan and highlights noteworthy accomplishments across all areas of the Society. The SGPS does not normally produce annual reports, so any feedback on the document (i.e. format, depth, length) is welcome.

### **Elections**

This is the first meeting of Council since the "SGPS Votes (Again)" election campaign. I'd like to extend heartfelt congratulations to all candidates who bravely put themselves in the public eye. I particularly want to recognize Stefy and Tyler, who handled an unimaginable series of events with the utmost class and grace. Graduate and professional students are lucky to have had them as their elected representatives this year. Similarly, I want to commend the Elections Team for the way in which they navigated uncharted waters – and achieved a record voter turnout of 38.6% in the process.

### **Transition**

The incoming and outgoing executives participated in an offsite transition retreat from March 23-25. The purpose of the retreat was to strengthen transition practices by ensuring incoming teams are adequately prepared for their roles and can hit the ground running on day one. I confidently speak for all attendees in saying that the retreat was a success and should be institutionalized as an annual practice.

Separately, Tyler and I have been undertaking a comprehensive presidential transition since his election. Tyler has attended meetings of the Board of Trustees, Senate, and more committees than I can name in this report. We've also begun in-depth discussions on key issues and opportunities facing the SGPS moving forward. I have every confidence that Tyler will serve the student body well next year.

### **General Meeting**

While this is the last Council meeting of my term, I will likely need to call a General Meeting near the end of April. A General Meeting is required for a second reading of any changes Council makes to bylaws (in comparison with policy, which only requires a single reading through Council). Items that will need urgent second reading approval include a change to the Student Advisor salary and the introduction of a Marketing Officer that will be compensated with a stipend.

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It's been a pleasure working alongside each of you to strengthen the graduate and professional student experience. I hope you have found the year as worthwhile and rewarding as I have.

For the last time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Grotsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Adam" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Grotsky".

Adam Grotsky  
President  
Society of Graduate and Professional Students



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Vice President Graduate  
April Council Meeting 2018

Dear SGPS council and membership,

Please accept this as my final report as your Vice-President Graduate. It has been an honour serving your needs this year, and I truly believe we have made some remarkable changes and advancements. I am happy to say that with the help of the School of Graduate Studies and the administration that we have accomplished items that have been on our radar for years. Thank you for trusting me with this task, and I look forward to working with you in the near future.

**VPG Transition 2018-2019**

I am confident to say that Leo Erlichman is on his way to knowing everything that is needed to know about the Vice-President Graduate portfolio. We have met several times and he has observed many meetings over the last two months such as GSEC, GSLAG, and our month SGS & SGPS debriefs. While his term officially begins May 1<sup>st</sup>, he has been working with me very closely to wrap up this year.

**Student Advisor Hiring**

It is that time of the year again. We are circulating a call this week for applications for Student Advisor positions. As you have seen, there was a motion to change the salary of the Advisors to reflect discussions with the SGS and to hire more positions in the future. As incoming Vice-President Graduate and President, Leo and Tyler will be facilitating the hiring of the Advisors this month. Please circulate the call to your departments and encourage members to apply.

**Supervisor and Student Agreement**

We are moving forward with this quite smoothly. I hope to present a draft of this agreement to council in person on April 10<sup>th</sup>. The SGS is confident that we can roll this agreement out for September 2018.

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  
April Council Meeting 2018

Dear SGPS Council Members,

It is that time of year again, the final council meeting for the present SGPS Executive. It is surprising how fast the year has gone, I can still remember the beginning of the term and trying to learn everything for the position. There are a couple things I would like to say for the entire year before giving a brief of what I have been doing.

I want to thank everyone in the Executive, Front Office and Council for making this year and this term as VP Professional so great. The discussions had in the council meetings has been enlightening as to the greater school atmosphere, helping me to understand the school beyond the four walls of the Law School building. It has been refreshing to meet and discuss ideas with new people in different departments. I would like to thank the Front Office for all of the assistance they provided me over the course of the term, and thank you for being patient in the beginning when I was learning the ropes. Last, but not least, I would like to thank the rest of my executive for such comradery and professionalism. I enjoyed all of my time with the executive, because of everything that we could accomplish together. I could not have asked for a better term and wanted to make sure that I gave thanks where it was deserved.

In terms of updates, Careers Day/Professional Development day has been finalized for two weeks from now. The specific day will be determined by the end of the week once bookings have been confirmed with the Careers Office. There will be a focus on providing students with the professional learning they should need for going out in the work force from their academic background. There will be a focus on determining your path from academia to professional life, as well as how to market yourself in this technological age. This will be capped off with professional photos of students, which is always popular and extremely busy, so we are looking to expand this to accommodate the demand. Please keep an eye out for the advertisements for this event and make sure to let your student bodies know about it, so that more can prepare themselves for lives after school.

It is also important to remind you that starting next year, the SGPS is merging their Careers events with the SGS, to better the events. We are in the process of discussing with SGS the logistics of the events for next year's Careers Week. We figured that it was better to have one consolidated Careers Week that has the backing of both departments, instead of two separate Careers Weeks.

I don't know what else to say other than thank you. This year has turned out different than what I expected it to be when I joined last year. It has been better, with better people and better experiences. I know that this will continue with the incoming executive, and I know that Lauren Peacock, the next VP Professional, will be amazing and kill it next year. I look forward to seeing how the SGPS continues to grow in the years to come.

Thank you all for such a great year, and I wish you all the best in exams (if you have any), T.A. work (if you have any) and for whatever you are doing over the summer. I hope to see many of you back again next year and hopefully still involved in the SGPS.

All the best,

Russell Durward

Vice-President Professional  
vp.professional@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Vice President Finance & Services  
April Council Meeting 2018

[No report submitted]



Hi Everyone,

This is my last report as your VP Community! The last couple months have been crazy with the dual elections, transition Isabel to be the new VPC and beginning my transition as incoming President. That being said I have had time to complete a few things that I want to update you all on.

#### Orientation Week Review

The scope of this project has shrunk for a few reasons. First, with the new fall reading week Orientation week 2018 will be reduced in length. Classes will now begin on the Thursday, meaning Monday-Wednesday and the weekend are the only opportunities to hold events. Second, having to take two leaves of absence plus transitioning has cut into my time to run the full review as I had planned. However, I am preparing a survey that will be sent to all those who sent me their contact info, plus department assistants. This survey will ask when their department's orientation programming will take place and get a general overview of what their programming will entail. From there the SGPS can determine when the best time to hold events will be, and what programming we can put on that will be beneficial to incoming students.

#### Commissioner Hiring

While this is technically part of my new portfolio I am happy to announce that the incoming VP (Community), Isabel, and I have hired the commissioners for the 2018-2019 school year. We had almost 20 applicants in total and the quality of applicant was amazing. This made each decision extremely difficult, but we could not be happier with our selections. The incoming commissioners are, Larkin Devenport Huyer (Athletics and Wellness), Atul Jaiswal (International Affairs), Willem Mueller (Social), and Catrina Mavrigianakis (Equity and Diversity).

#### Transition of Incoming VP (Community)

After an extremely productive transition retreat I would like to think we are well on our way to a successful transition. Isabel and I have also had multiple transition meetings and shadowing opportunities both at internal and external meetings. Having already hired commissioners for the year Isabel is beginning to tackle her first challenge for the year planning orientation week. As stated above she is eagerly waiting the results of my Orientation Week survey. We will continue to meet regularly until the end of my term as VPC and of course I will be around to continue to be a resource over the next year.

I want to take one last opportunity to thank each member of council, the executive, our speaker and executive speaker and the CRO. I believe this year has been a huge step in the right direction for the SGPS and I can only hope to live up to my predecessors great work!

VP (Community)  
Tyler Morrison



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

[Oral report to be presented at Council]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Graduate Student Senator  
April Council Meeting 2018

Dear members of Council,

I continue to try to make a positive contribution in my role as Senator as best as possible. Although some of my arguments at Senate and GSEC have not been adopted I have learned that nonetheless they are valuable and contribute towards better policies. The role of a senator, as explained to me by the Principal at my first function as senator, is not to act as a representative for his constituency and necessarily vote as instructed by his constituency but rather: to objectively analyse, to the best of his abilities, the agenda material presented keeping the good of the university in mind, to listen to the needs, concerns, and opinions of others, then to form his own opinion, and lastly to try to persuade, with facts and logic, other Senators of his opinion. I do not write this because I have received any criticisms for my performance but as an explanation in case any Councillors may have been confused by my action/questions I posed at Senate.

Since my last report I am happy to report that GSEC has adopted policies regarding Indigenous student admission and Equity admission. I believe that these policies will greatly help in making admission to Queen's grad school a much fairer process. Changes have also been made to appeals processes available to graduate students for appeals against an academic decision (typically a requirement to withdraw) and a course grade. Changes have also been made to probationary status regulations, they are now provisional status regulations. The wording change better reflects the fact that provisional students have not done anything wrong to be placed on probation for but rather that they must excel in certain criteria (typically courses) in order for their admission to Queen's to be complete.

In the near future I will be involved in three academic appeals at the University Student Appeals Board. All three are complex cases, with potentially wide ranging ramifications. I am not however, at liberty to discuss them. I will say this though, if any student feels that they have been unfairly treated by their department/supervisor/faculty I encourage them to reach out to the Ombudsman's office. They are excellent people who can be of great help.

Alexandru Sonoc.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Trustee  
April Council Meeting 2018

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Athletics Commissioner  
April Council Meeting 2018

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Equity & Diversity Commissioner  
April Council Meeting 2018

Dear Members of the SGPS and Council,

This will be my last report writing to you as the Equity & Diversity Commissioner of the SGPS. Thank you all for providing me with the opportunity to advocate for diversity and inclusion on campus, and for your on-going support.

The Incoming Equity and Diversity Commissioner, Catrina Mavrigianakis, will be your point of contact starting May 1, 2018, and can be contacted at [equity@sgps.ca](mailto:equity@sgps.ca). Catrina will be a wonderful addition to the Commissioner team, and will continue providing support for all individuals throughout the SGPS community.

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

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The Accessibility & Inclusion Conference occurred on April 7th, and I will provide a brief verbal overview of the event during our council meeting. Thank you all for your support in developing this conference! If anyone attended this event, and has any feedback or suggestions for future events, please do not hesitate to contact [equity@sgps.ca](mailto:equity@sgps.ca)

Have a lovely rest of your semesters!

Best Regards,

Rosie Petrides  
**Equity & Diversity Commissioner**



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

Dear Council,

Season Greetings,

The key accomplishments of month of March was our week-long event “**Diversity and Inclusion Film Festival at Queen’s University**” from March 20-28, 2018. We screened films from different regions through an entire week and each film screening was followed by a panel discussion led by student leaders from the region about the film. Film festival was successful with the support of our SGPS Executive members and Commissioners. The event got good traction from different stakeholders on campus. The event was captured in the Queens Gazette - <https://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/think-diff-erently>. We hope to do similar film festival in Nov 2018 for the incoming batch where we would have more movies from other parts of the world. Some of the pictures of the event are attached with the report here. The discussion after the movies were very engaging for the audience to learn about the region specific culture.

Our workshop for international students on job search was well received and Julia Blackstock from Career Services gave a two hours session with tools and resources to find jobs once people graduate. The details are follows:

Event - Workshop	Date & time	Venue	Focus
Job Search for International Students (in collaboration with QUIC and Career Services)	March 26, 2018 (5 pm to 6:30 pm)	QUIC Hall	Skills to find jobs in Canadian context once the students graduate

I am also supporting the work of our Equity Commissioner, Rosie, for SGPS Accessibility and Inclusion Conference on April 7, 2018. We hope to see you all there. I am working on my year-end report for our Executives. We plan to create and infographic with our events highlights and its outcomes.

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](mailto:international@sgps.ca)

Best wishes for the semester,

Atul Jaiswal and Khulud Baig  
**International Student Affairs Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner**



March was filled with a variety of events from the Commissioners – see below for details!

**Thursday, March 22: SGPS Paint Nite**

- The SGPS came back with a second Paint Night event, after a successful outcome from the previous year! Held at The Merchant, Paint Night was a great success that involved many students from various faculties. The event appealed to many students who don't regularly attend SGPS events – and the feedback was all positive.

**Friday, March 30: Pool Night at the Grizz**

- As always, pool night at the Grizzly Grill is a popular event for students. Though it was Easter Weekend, we had 40+ students attend the event, and had the pool tables running until almost midnight. Many students appreciated hosting this event prior to the semester ended – I would recommend an event like this to occur within this timeframe again (especially for students who are not going home for the Easter break weekend).

The SGPS has now hired a new Social Commissioner. The majority of April will be focused on transitioning our new member to the team, and potentially co-hosting an event later on in the month. This will be determined in a few weeks, so stay tuned! As this is my last Council with the SGPS, I want to extend a warm thank you for having me work as part of the team. I wish everyone all the best with their futures.

Warm regards,

Martyna Kamela  
Social Commissioner



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the University Rector  
April Council Meeting 2018

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Chief Returning Officer  
April Council Meeting 2018

[No report submitted]