



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

[No reports submitted]



Hi Everyone,

I am incredibly honored to write my first council report as your President. It feels like yesterday I decided to run for VP Community and I could not be more excited to continue the great work of this years Executive to better the student experience for Graduate and Professional Students. I am writing this report on May 1<sup>st</sup>, which as you know is officially the first day of the new executive's term. This also means I have spent the last couple months preparing for this day and I want to fill you in on what I have been up to, and my plans moving forward.

### **Transition**

I want to start by thanking Adam Grotsky for an amazingly thorough transition. Through countless meetings and his endless willingness to let me shadow him I feel extremely prepared and equipped to take on this role. Anybody who knows how hard Adam worked for the Society knows that he leaves some pretty big shoes to fill, but I am confident he has prepared me well for this challenge.

### **Hiring**

As many of you are aware the SGPS has begun hiring many of our staff for the next term. We have already completed the hiring of our 4 Commissioner, and 3 out of the 5 Student Advisors. We could not be more excited about the level of enthusiasm and experience our team brings forward. We are currently hiring Front Desk staff and should have this process wrapped up within the month. Our next round of hiring will take place in the Fall, giving new students an opportunity to get involved with the SGPS. This round will include the hiring of the Marketing Officer, up to 6 Deputy Commissioners, and two more Student Advisors, giving plenty of opportunities to incoming students.

### **Principal's Search Committee**

The search for the next Principal is officially under way. The position has been posted and I look forward to moving forward with this committee. My focus will be on stressing the need for a Principal who has a vision of strengthening our Graduate Community and research excellence.

### **Health & Dental Plan**

One of my main platform points was to stabilize our Health & Dental Plan. Our contract with our current Insurance Broker expires August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 which gives us a great opportunity to explore our options. This does not mean a change is imminent, it simply means we as an Executive must do our due diligence to determine what the best option for our members is. I have already begun meeting with different Insurance Brokers to first see what each one can offer the SGPS in terms of sustainability and affordability. This process will likely take the entirety of our term as we continue to weigh our options and eventually make a decision for the 2019/2020 school year. My approach to this is simple and will remain the same, create a lasting effect on the SGPS Health & Dental plan that will ensure students have access to the levels of care that they need, while also ensuring that premiums do not continue to rise.

### **Graduate Peer Support Centre**

Vice President Graduate Leo Erlikhman and I have promised to create a Graduate Peer Support Centre. I am pleased to announce that this idea has been welcomed with great enthusiasm from partners at the University. Leo and I will move forward with this project, and the intricacies of space and insurance with the goal of opening the service as soon as possible. I look forward to giving you all further updates on this project.

### **JDUC Redevelopment Project**

After a referendum of our members saw a record turnout that voted 77% in favor of the redevelopment of the JDUC, I feel very strongly that this project must continue. The incoming AMS executive has expressed that they will be holding another referendum in the fall and I plan to work closely with them to help show their membership that this project is

an important next step for Queen's. With this project would come a great opportunity for new Graduate and Professional specific space. Original estimates have shown over 4,000 square feet of space allocated to Graduate and Professional students. I am committed to do everything I can to see this project through. In the unfortunate event that the AMS cannot pass their fee, I will ensure that the University hears the Graduate and Professional Student voices asking for their own space to foster community engagement.

### **Strategic Plan**

Last year the Executive introduced a single cohesive strategic plan that laid out the goals for their term. This approach was well received and this year's executive plans on implementing a similar cohesive Strategic Plan. However, this year we will also include an evaluation of the previous year's strategic plan, to outline goals that are completed, in progress, or need to be re-addressed. Our goal is to have this Strategic Plan brought forward by August council, and I can't wait to share our vision with all of you.

I am extremely excited to work with all of you this year to better the student experience here at Queen's. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to chat please feel free to email me at [president@sgps.ca](mailto:president@sgps.ca).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tyler Morrison', with a stylized, cursive script.

President  
Tyler Morrison



Hello Council,

First off, I would like to thank Stefy McKnight for an excellent transition into the role to allow me to hit the ground running. I would also like to thank all of you and the membership for providing me with a mandate to be Vice President Graduate this year. With my first report I will share with you some updates from my transition and items that I am working on at this time.

### **Student – Supervisor Agreements**

Throughout this year the previous executive has been working with the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) to address a major concern in student – supervisor relationships. At the last council Meeting Stefy brought a draft that the SGS put forward to council. After receiving feedback from council and the membership, we went back to the SGS and asked for the memorandum of understanding to be edited further into a form fillable document where students and departments can customize agreements that will hopefully alleviate some of the issues that we are seeing in these relationships. We are expecting an updated form in the coming weeks and will provide circulate it to councillors and students to gain more feedback, so the agreements can be implemented on September 1<sup>st</sup>. I am happy to get any additional feedback you may have about student – supervisor agreements and will bring it forward with the SGS.

### **Student Advisor Program**

I would like to take this moment to thank our current Advisors (Emma, Jeremy and Sarah) for their service to the society and wish them luck on their future endeavors. Our three current advisors will end their terms on May 31<sup>st</sup> and will be providing me with an end of year report that will be presented at the next council meeting.

After an excellent hiring cycle, I am happy to announce that we have hired three new Student Advisors in our spring hiring cycle. With two of our new Student Advisors starting their jobs on May 1<sup>st</sup> this year and a third candidate who will start on September 1<sup>st</sup>. They are Jacob DesRochers who is enrolled in an M.Ed., Anne Price who will be in the MIR program and Hannah Ramsay in enrolled in an M.Sc. candidate. Hannah and Jacob will have the fortunate opportunity this year to transition for the month of May with our outgoing advisor team. This will allow for a smooth transition of our caseload onto new advisors while they complete their training program.

The Advisor program will be changing this year with an expansion to five team members, with another hiring call being sent out at the end of the summer for a September 1<sup>st</sup> start date. This will allow incoming students an equal opportunity to apply for the positions available. Other changes will have our Student Advisors working on student advocacy issues with the university in a more outward facing role while continuing to manage cases. These changes are currently being discussed with the School of Graduate studies as we negotiate a new Memorandum of Understanding. I am happy to answer any questions about the advisor program at council or by email!

### **Incoming student information guide and checklist**

As mentioned in Isabel Luce's report the two of us are working on a new information guide for incoming graduate and professional students. We will work on providing vital information about Kingston in connection with the university's Town-Gown relations department. We will also be working on a new checklist for graduate students to ensure that students are aware of all the necessary tasks needed to register as a student and as a teaching assistant. Please let myself or Isabel know if you have anything that you think should be included in this document as we will hope to have this available for our incoming cohort.

### **Graduate Peer Support Center**

Myself and Tyler Morrison both campaigned on establishing a Graduate Peer Support Center for our membership. I have brought this idea forward to the University and I am happy to announce that it has received enthusiastic initial support. Over the coming weeks we will work with various stakeholders across the university to bring this idea forward and establish this as another service provided by the SGPS. The goal of the centre will be to provide a peer-to-peer mental health support service on campus.

That's all for now!

I look forward to working for you all this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leo Erlichman', with a stylized, cursive script.

Leo Erlichman



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

[No report submitted]



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

[No report submitted]



Dear SGPS Council,

I will begin by saying how excited I am to be joining the SGPS 2018/19 executive team, and I look forward to working with you all to improve the graduate and professional student experience over the ensuing year. Over the past several months I have been busy transitioning into my role having meetings with the outgoing VP Community, attending committee meetings, completing the Intercultural Awareness Certificate this March through QUIC, and working on my portfolio. I'd like to take this opportunity to outline a few things I've been working on.

### **Commissioners Hired**

I am pleased to announce that this year's commissioners have been hired. I'd like to give a big thanks to Tyler Morrison (President) and Andria Burke (Director) for sitting on the hiring panel with me in March. The new team includes Catrina Mavrigianakis (Equity & Diversity), Larkin Davenport Huyer (Athletics & Wellness), Will Mueller (Social), and returning Atul Jaiswal (International). I am currently organizing training for the incoming commissioners and will be working with them closely this month, guiding them in producing their year plans. I also sat down with each of the outgoing commissioners for in-depth conversations to learn what worked well and they gave very insightful suggestions for the upcoming year that we're hoping to incorporate. Keep an eye out for a number of great events we'll be having this summer!

### **Orientation Planning**

Part of my portfolio involves organizing Orientation Week. We have been in talks already about this year's orientation activities; however, this year the week will be shorter than previous ones as classes begin sooner on Thursday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (the week of Labour Day Monday). Despite the shorter week, we'll be bringing back some of your favourite orientation events that have been so successful in the past and spreading out some events throughout September so you don't miss out on some great Meet & Greet activities.

### **New-to-Kingston Graduate Information**

The incoming VP Graduate Leo Erlikhman and I are working towards producing informational material for incoming graduate students new to Kingston. This guide will amalgamate information from a vast range of offices, at Queen's and beyond, in order to make settling in a less daunting task. Information will include tips on housing, banking, cell phone providers, internet, places to eat and shop, local events and organizations, and more! We'll be adding this guide to the SGPS website so everything you need to know about moving to Kingston will be available in one place. If you have any suggestions of material you think we should add, please feel free to email either me ([vp.community@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.community@sgps.ca)) or Leo ([vp.graduate@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.graduate@sgps.ca)). We'll keep you informed as this project progresses!

### **Front Desk Staff Hiring**

We're currently hiring SGPS Front Desk staff for this summer and upcoming school year. The deadline to apply will be May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at noon, so please pass this on to your departments asap! I've personally worked at the Front Desk for the past year and it has been an incredibly rewarding job; one that has allowed me to meet many of my fellow graduate students and become very familiar with the services offered to our students. For more information, please refer to the job description posted on the SGPS website - <https://sgps.ca/jobs/> - or email [apply@sgps.ca](mailto:apply@sgps.ca).

### **Feedback Needed on Journals Available at Queen's: Journal Usage Project**

A quick note from Heather McMullen, Associate University Librarian at Queen's – "Last year the library solicited input from Queen's faculty, Ph.D. students and post-doctoral fellows via a survey asking about their top journals for research and teaching. This survey was part of the national Journal Usage Project undertaken by 28 universities across Canada;

the project included quantitative download and citation measures for each institution as well. We are now sharing the Queen's results with our community and providing an additional opportunity for input.

We encourage members of the Queen's community to review the journal list (<http://queens-only.library.queensu.ca.proxy.queensu.ca/queens-journal-feedback>) and to provide the library with additional input about journal titles you value for your research and teaching. Our subject liaison librarians will be working with the new input to determine a revised list of journals known to be valued by the Queen's community. More information about our information resources strategies can be found on the library's web site (<http://library.queensu.ca/about-us/planning-assessment/information-resources-strategies>)."

That's it from me for now! I'll be working more with the commissioners this summer to bring you some really great events and addressing some of the more pressing concerns facing graduate students (including finding more graduate space while we're in the JDUC revitalization limbo). In the meantime I'll be in Kingston this summer, and if you have any questions please feel free to email me at [vp.community@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.community@sgps.ca)!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isabel Luce'.

Isabel Luce  
VP Community



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

Oral report to be presented at Council.



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

[No report submitted]



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

To the SGPS Membership,  
This is my last report as the SGPS Trustee.

**Next Board Meeting**

The last board meeting of the year occurs from May 11-12. For more information about past/future agendas, please visit the [Queen's University Governance Portal](#).

**Transitioning the New Trustee**

The last Board meeting of the academic year is on May 11 and 12. As part of the meeting, the Trustees will have a mini-retreat on Saturday, May 12 following the regularly scheduled meeting.

I have been transitioning my successor Leena Yahia into the role, and she will be attending the May 11 and 12 meetings as an observer to help further that transition. She is well-equipped to handle the role, and I am excited to have her represent graduate and professional students on the Board of Trustees.

I will pass along my notes and updates from the May 11-12 meeting to her as part of the transition.

Thanks,  
Adam

[trustee@sgps.ca](mailto:trustee@sgps.ca)



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

Dear Council,

My name is Larkin Davenport Huyer. I am the new Athletics and Wellness Commissioner. I am really excited to join the SGPS this upcoming school year! I hope to continue with some of the events past commissioners have held, as well as really try to integrate with the other commissioners to promote positive well-being through athletic and wellness activities/events across the entire graduate community.

So far, I have met with the Lindsay, the past Athletics and Wellness commissioner to understand the role, what works vs. what doesn't work, and what some of the better events were. In addition, I will replace her position on the committees of University Council on Athletics and Recreation and Healthy and Wellness Steering Committee. I have signed up for one outdoor soccer and one ultimate frisbee intra-mural team for the summer season and always welcome to include more players - please let me know if any of you would like to join these teams.

I am currently working on the Year Plan and by next meeting, I will provide an update explaining upcoming events for summer and the 2018/2019 academic year!

I am happy to take any suggestions or comments about future and past SGPS athletics 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,

Larkin Davenport Huyer

Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, SGPS



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

Dear Council,

I am pleased to announce that I will be the incoming Equity and Diversity Commissioner for the 2018/2019 school year. I would like to start by introducing myself; I am currently an MA candidate in the Department of Cultural Studies, and I will be starting my Masters of Public Administration in the Fall. In addition to my studies, I work at the Human Rights Office as a facilitator for a sexual assault resistance program known on campus as Flip the Script.

Over the past month I have been working on transitioning with Rosie, and I am currently working on my year plan and budget. In April, I attended the Accessibility & Inclusion conference that was run by Rosie, and it was a great way to see the role of the Equity and Diversity Commissioner in action. I also attended the April 23<sup>rd</sup> UCARE meeting, where I got to meet the committee members and gain a better understanding of what my role will be on this committee.

I am looking forward to collaborating with the other Commissioners for events, and Orientation activities. I am also following up with a connection that Rosie had made with an Indigenous artist for a potential partnership for an event in the Fall.

I look forward to working with you all throughout the year! Comments, suggestions, and questions are always welcomed, so please do not be a stranger. My SGPS email address is [equity@sgps.ca](mailto:equity@sgps.ca).

In Solidarity,

Catrina Mavrigianakis  
**Equity and Diversity Commissioner**  
**2018-2019**



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

[No report submitted]



Society of Graduate and Professional Students  
Report of the Social Commissioner  
May Council Meeting 2018

Dear Council,

I am thrilled to be the new Social Commissioner for the 2018/2019 term and am excited to be planning out this year's events schedule. I look forward to working with all you in the coming months and hope to see you out at some great events! I'm currently working on the events year plan and budget for the year. I hope to have a ton of events that will cover a wide array of interests and will be engaging for our diverse student body. In addition to this, I am working to adapt orientation week to the new schedule resulting from the addition of a fall reading week. I'm sure this year's orientation will be a great opportunity to introduce the incoming students to our community.

One of my main goals for this coming year will be to enhance events awareness and engagement amongst our graduate and professional programs we have at Queen's University. To achieve this, I will work to offer a multitude of diverse and unique events that will be accessible to our community. Additionally, I will try to promote our activities through as many channels and means possible to both enhance the awareness of our events.

I hope to be working with all of you to improve the social engagement of the of our graduate and professional student. If you have any suggestions or feedback on events in the future or would like to work on realizing a specific event, please feel free to contact me at [social@sgps.ca](mailto:social@sgps.ca).

Let's make this a great year,

Willem Mueller  
Social Commissioner  
[social@sgps.ca](mailto:social@sgps.ca)



OFFICE OF THE RECTOR  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON

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

[No report submitted]



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

[No report submitted]