No reports submitted.
Hi Everyone,

I hope you all enjoyed the summer and are excited for the fall! I am certainly excited for what this coming year holds. The SGPS Executive has been hard at work on the pursuit of graduate space, the selection of our next Principal, and the hurdles surrounding OHIP+ and its changes. I want to give you a quick update on these and other topics that have been at the front of my desk this summer.

**Graduate Space – Re-development of the JDUC**

As many of you know the graduate population overwhelmingly voted to support the re-development of the JDUC. Our fee is good through the 2019 school year and following the voices of graduate students it’s this Executive’s prerogative to continue to support the AMS in their pursuit of a fee that funds the JDUC re-development.

The University has heard what graduate students have to say and they understand that if the JDUC re-development is not successful graduate students need space to foster their community. The Executive will ensure that this remains a priority of the University.

**Principalship Search**

The search for Queen’s next Principal is well underway. While there is strict confidentiality surrounding candidates, I am very pleased to report that the candidate pool is incredibly deep and many of these individuals will make great leaders of our University. As I write this the Joint Senate-Board Committee is tasked with creating a short list that we will then interview. As always, any feedback members of the SGPS may have in terms of the ideal characteristics of our next Principal is invited.

**OHIP+**

The new Ontario Government has suggested that they will be changing OHIP+ to be a second payer insurer for prescription drugs. What this means is that private plans, such as ours, will be the one who bears the costs of prescription drugs. In other words, if you do not have a private plan or if your private plan doesn’t cover a specific drug OHIP+ will then cover it. This shifts the costs of drugs back on to our plan.

There is still significant uncertainty about when and if this will become a reality. The Executive and its advisors are keeping a close eye on the political situation and whether this will be implemented this academic year.

The good news is that the SGPS plan is in a very good position and this means we will not need to raise prices or lower benefits even if this change occurs. The plan is healthy and able to sustain a change in policy like this. This situation is evidence of why stability of a plan is so important.

**University District Safety Initiative**

Mayor Paterson recently announced that in combination with the nuisance party by-law the City would also be piloting a program that sees Kingston Police handing out court summons instead of tickets for a certain set of offences in the University District. I recently spoke to Mayor Patterson and outlined my shared enthusiasm for balancing safety and student freedom. After expressing some initial concerns that this initiative may not have got the balance quite right the Mayor assured me that this is a pilot program and with feedback from the students and the community he is committed to getting the balance right.
More problematic is the University’s plan to take the names of students from the public court dockets and enter them into NAM (non-academic misconduct) proceedings based on their violation. I will be working with the University to ensure the goals of this policy remain student safety.

**Strategic Planning**

Last year the SGPS Executive changed the way they presented their strategic plan. Rather than 5 individual year plans, the executive created one cohesive strategic plan. This better reflects the nature of our goals as transcending everything the Society does. This year’s Executive has chosen to use the same format. Our plan will both build on last year’s while also presenting the unique aspects of this Executive’s goals.

As was the case last year the Executive will be bringing this Strategic Plan forward for the September council meeting for discussion. However, I encourage suggestions from each and everyone of you about what you see as priorities for the SGPS.

President
Tyler Morrison
Hello Council,
I hope everyone has had an excellent summer term. I would first like to take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome our new Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Fahim Quadir who joined us this term. We have already had a meeting with Dr. Quadir and look forward to continuing our collaborative work with the School of Graduate studies.

Student Advisor Hiring
We will be entering our second round of student advisor hiring for this upcoming school year to fill out our student advisor team to its full complement of five advisors. This comes from the changes that were made at the April special General Meeting. The job description for the student advisors can be found in the attachments to the council reports, with hiring taking place in early September of this academic year with training following shortly after. All questions about hiring or the positions please do not hesitate to contact me at vp.graduate@sgps.ca.

Student Advisor Reports
Please find the attached reports from our outgoing student advisors as well as our first term report from our current advisors Hannah and Jake.

Re-Vamped Thesis Thursdays
We are excited to announce that our Thesis Thursday program has reached a partnership with Student Academic Success Services (SASS) and the Student Life Center (SLC) to serve you better! The program will still be providing graduate students with a space on campus to write and motivate one another on thesis work each Thursday from 12pm to 4pm in JDUC 352 thanks to a partnership with the SLC to provide and maintain the space for us. In addition to writing space our partners at SASS will be providing educational sessions on topics that relate to graduate writing throughout the term. From basic editing skills, grant writing, to providing students with feedback on assignments topics have been designed to assist with graduate students’ academic needs as the calendar moves forward. We will have full time staff member from SASS available each week who will host 20-minute drop-in sessions for students to discuss and improve their writing. We hope that this new program will allow for graduate students to further develop their skills in a supportive space while working towards their goals.

Trudeau and Vanier Presentations
The largest scholarships available to graduate students has its deadline coming up shortly, the school of graduate studies will be running a webinar to outline what you need for an application at the end of this month. As a follow-up our Thesis Thursday program will be running a seminar on September 27th (one month from the application deadline) tailored to grant writing for all of those interested in one on one support as the application deadline approaches.

Graduate Peer Support Center
We are moving forward with plans to create our own peer to peer mental health service the Graduate Peer Support Center. We have received excellent feedback in our initial meetings and I will be hosting consultations with the membership this term to work on best servicing our community. More details will follow in the coming weeks and I look forward to developing this promise into reality!

Please let me know if I can help with anything else that you need!

Cheers,
Leo Erlikhman
Dear Council,

Well the summer months are not particularly heavy months for the professional portfolio there are a few things to note.

First, I’d like to recognize Isabel as well as our commissioners and permanent staff for their hard work in planning this year’s orientation week, it looks like we’ve got some spectacular events planned!

I am also pleased to announce that the SGPS will be teaming up with the SGS to run a joint careers week in October 2018 in addition to career-focused programming throughout the year as well as our regularly planned careers week in Winter 2019.

I’m really looking forward to jumping back into things in Kingston in September and having a great year again with the SGPS team!

That’s all for now,

Lauren Peacock
Council,

It has been a moderately busy summer. I am glad to report that our 2018 finance committee is up and running going through bursaries and grants.

Of note is that I am exploring different funding opportunities including the Canada-Ontario Jobs Grant, looking to implement some of our auditor-recommendations with our Finance Manager, and closely monitoring the impact of the reversal of OHIP+ to our health plan.

**OHIP+**

OHIP+ was set to offset a considerable percentage of our health plan costs. The current provincial government has decided to make OHIP+ a secondary payer insurance. Roughly, this means that the cost of pharmaceuticals must goes through private health insurance plans and if it isn’t covered, then it a claimant becomes eligible for OHIP+. There hasn’t been much released on this matter but it is reasonable to anticipate a higher strain on our health plan than this previous year. We are working closely with our healthcare broker to reach some certainty on the impact of the provincial government’s decision.

Abel Hazon
VPFS
Dear SGPS Council,

I hope you’ve all been having productive but restful summers! It’s been busy over at the SGPS, particularly as we’ve hired and trained new front desk staff members, so please introduce yourself to them if you stop by! I’ve also been working closely with the commissioners to make sure we had a great summer full of SGPS events. We invested in some board games so that we can have monthly games nights at The Grad Club (let us know if you have any favourites that you think we should add to our collection), we went bouldering, raspberry picking, played beach volleyball and more! There are a lot of new events lined up for the school year, so take a look at the commissioner’s reports for more event details.

I’ve been working on a series of webinars with Colette from the School of Graduate Studies to introduce incoming students to a range of topics from what the transition is like from undergraduate to graduate life, to what Kingston as a city has to offer (posted here - https://www.queensu.ca/sgs/summer-webinar-series-incoming-students). I also sat on the Provost's Advisory Committee for the Promotion of the Arts in May, attended the biannual Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) four-day conference in June, and sat on the Queen’s National Scholar Committee this July. Here are some of my other updates -

SGPS Orientation
Over the past few months I’ve been working to ensure that orientation events are organized for this September. The schedule is now posted on our SGPS website here: https://sgps.ca/eventscalendar/2018-09/. This year we’ve put emphasis on including more family friendly events, and with that in mind we’re introducing a second 1000 Islands boat cruise that will run earlier in the afternoon on Wednesday September 5th. Unlike the evening 19+ cruise, the afternoon cruise will be a dry one with a focus on seeing the sites of the Kingston waterfront! We’ll also be having a Game N’ Greet night at Barcadia, Haunted Walks around Kingston, Trolley Tours, Corn Maze and more! Remember that these events are not just for incoming students – we welcome everyone as it’s a great way to meet new people and students outside of your department. Tickets sales will go live on the SGPS website on August 22nd and they sell out fast so get yours soon!

SGPS Orientation Volunteers Needed
With all the events, we’ll need some help to make sure they run smoothly! If you’re interested in lending a hand, send me an email at vp.community@sgps.ca. Volunteers get free entry to events and a free SGPS t-shirt; it’s a wonderful way to meet new people!

SGPS Event Feedback
If you attended one of our SGPS events this summer you may have noticed that we've introduced an event feedback survey. This year one of my platform goals was to make our events more successful and reach out to more students, but to do so we need to have a straightforward way to evaluate our current events and obtain clear feedback on where we can improve. I have been compiling the feedback survey results and relaying them on to the commissioners, so we know what works and what doesn’t. So if you attend one of our events, please let us know your thoughts!

Queen’s Reads Program
This is the second year that the SGPS will be a part of the Queen’s Reads program, where students are given a free book that addresses a topical issue in society. As a member of this year’s planning committee, I want to make sure SGPS members get involved with this exciting program. There will be programming throughout the year from reading spaces on campus, to an author’s talk, to a documentary screening. Be sure to pick up your free copy of Scarborough by Catherine Hernandez at the SGPS office in September!
I have a number of other projects in the works that I’ll be filling you in on at the September Council meeting. I’m working towards creating a drop-in/bookable community space for graduate and professional students to use in the JDUC. We will be hiring deputy commissioners in September, and I’m currently working with the Equity Office to change our hiring practices at the SGPS so that they’re more equitable. In the meantime, we’re looking forward to welcoming new graduate and professional students during Orientation Week and seeing all you returning students at our events as well! If you have any questions about this report, orientation, social events, or anything else, send me an email at vp.community@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,

Isabel Luce
SGPS VP Community
Oral report to be presented at Council.
The Senate and the Graduate Studies Executive Council have been in recess for the summer. Thus there is no Senate or GSEC business to report.

SGS has a new dean. He invited me for an introductory meeting. It went well and I anticipate a splendid working relationship.
Reported submitted: Nothing to report.
Dear Council,

Over the course of the summer I have run about five successful events, each are included below in this report with a small description and discussion. The month of June was a month of exploring and understanding this role of Athletics and Wellness Commissioner; July and August I started to implement the events you see below. I am excited for the school year to start and I am excited to see campus (and the athletic/wellness events) buzzing.

**Summer Events:**

**Intramural:** This summer we had two intramural teams run under the SGPS, Ultimate Frisbee and Soccer. Our Ultimate Frisbee team made it into the semi finals and our soccer team unfortunately lost out in the first round of finals. We had great attendance and I thank every SGPS student who played consistently this summer. We only had to forfeit one of the soccer games, meaning we get nearly a full refund!

**Free For All Week at the ARC:** During the week of July 16-20 the ARC hosted the “Free For All” week where SGPS members could attend any classes offered at the ARC for free. Based on the information the ARC gathers, we had nearly 100 SGPS students capitalize on the classes. This was a great success as an event as well as an initial step to strengthening the relationship between the ARC and SGPS. We are currently in discussion about hosting another Free For All week come the beginning of classes.

**Rock Climbing:** We partnered with the Kingston Bouldering Co-op to host us for two hours. No experience was required. We sold tickets for $8. The event was at full capacity (approximately 20 people) and there was really positive feedback. The KBC was a great partnership to form, they were very friendly and helpful. There is discussion of hosting another event like this in the school year.

**Water Day:** This event was completed through a partnership with Trailhead Kingston. They brought all equipment and their own staff to teach our students about SUP and kayaking. Despite rainy weather we had almost 100% attendance. We established a relationship with trailhead and definitely a great event told hold in years to come.

**Thesis Therapy:** Through a partnership with St. John’s Ambulance Therapy Dogs we were able to have dogs and their owners come to the JDUC prior to the known event of Thesis Thursday. We provided coffee and cookies. This event had a ton of upfront interest with nearly 150 views on Facebook. It was low organization both on the SGPS side and for any student that wanted to drop in to say hello and was a great way to partner with VP Graduate on his Thesis Thursday initiative. Due to the event’s popularity, we’re hoping to run another one during the school year.

**Upcoming September Events**

For the month of September, I have a few events in the planning stage. Some events include: Learn to Row Evening, SGPS Football Game. Stay tuned for more information on both the SGPS Facebook page and website.

**Ongoing Semester Events**

**Intramurals:** I will be creating two fall intramural teams. I have not decided on the sports yet – most likely will create a poll on FB and see where the interest lies. If any of you are interested, please keep note of the Facebook page as well as your emails.
Sports Hour: On a bi-weekly I will rent the gym space and organize an hour of “sports”. Each week I will organize a different sport (hockey, soccer, dodgeball, wheelchair basketball, European handball, badminton, etc).

Cooking Class: On a bi-weekly basis (the opposite weeks of Sports Hour) I will partner with the Healthy Cooking Club to host cooking classes. These classes can be approximately 10 people and I will create a weekly sign up. It is a great way to make cooking a more accessible and enjoyable task if it is done with others and instructions.

Run and Social: This event will happen (most likely) on a bi-weekly basis where a group of graduate and professional students can join for a run (or walk). We will set a meeting place and meet at the grad club about 40 minutes later for snacks and water! A great way to meet people, be physically active, and enjoy the outdoors.

Overarching Goals
I have created some overarching goals that are guiding both my events and actions in the role of Athletics and Wellness Commissioner.

- I will focus on quality of events, reaching 75% attendance and 75% satisfaction.
- I plan to improve our relationship with the ARC and wellness support (e.g. SHRC, Peer Support) on campus to better support the graduate and professional students throughout their time here as students.
- I strive to improve the overall awareness and participation in athletics and personal wellness throughout the graduate and professional student body.
- I will improve accessibility of athletic and wellness events (e.g. women only classes, hold all events in accessible buildings).

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 wellness for graduate students. I can be reached at athletics@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,
Larkin Davenport Huyer
Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, SGPS
Dear Council,

Over the course of the Summer I have been settling into my role as Equity and Diversity Commissioner. I have submitted my year plan, which has since been approved, and there are many events scheduled for the upcoming school year.

I am working on an Equity Workshop series which will give SGPS members a chance to learn among their peers and promote established workshops on campus such as Bystander Intervention, Anti-Oppression Training, and professional development workshops run by the Equity Office. This workshop series will run in the Fall and Winter terms, with approximately 2-3 workshops per term. The workshops will be run free of charge and light refreshments and snacks will be offered. They will take place after 5:30pm on weeknights to accommodate as many students’ schedules as possible. I am also thinking of pairing the workshops with a creative exercise as well, such as painting, or planting succulents. Any suggestions or requests for workshop themes or trainings would be welcome!

I am also planning an initiative in partnership with the AMS Food Bank to raise awareness about food insecurity on campus, recruit volunteers for the Food Bank, and collect donations. SGPS members have access to the services of the AMS Food Bank, and I hope this initiative will raise awareness about the role of the Food Bank, and encourage students to get involved. The initiative will take place in November and will include a social media campaign and a food drive on campus, as well as a call for SGPS volunteers. This month, Myriam Djossou; AMS Social Issues Commissioner and I created a call for SGPS volunteers for the Food Bank because volunteer numbers are quite low during the Summer months. This call was posted on the SGPS Facebook page by Andria. The Food Bank is located in the JDUC, and Summer hours from May-August are Mondays and Thursdays from 5:00pm to 6:30am. During the School year (September – April) it is open daily from 5:00pm to 6:30 pm. The Food Bank website is http://amsfoodbank.com/ . The Manager of the Food Bank can be reached through email, at foodbank@ams.queensu.ca for more information. I encourage you to check out the website and check out all the great things the Food Bank is doing for the Queen’s community.

I am looking ahead into the Winter term for the annual Equity and Diversity Conference. The conference will be held in January or February, and will be a one-day weekend conference with a keynote speaker, and several other speakers. There will also be the opportunity for students to present their own research in the form of posters and talks. For this year, and the conference in particular, I am looking for volunteers an SGPS Equity Issues Standing committee. The Standing Committee would assist in choosing speakers and posters, and organizing the event. I think it is important for a diverse group of students to be represented in the theme and speakers at this year’s conference, and as such the Standing Committee will be an essential part of the planning process. If you are interested in learning more, or volunteering please send me an email. A call for volunteers will also be sent out after classes begin.

I am also in the process of completing the Employment Equity Training that is run through the Equity Office in preparation for Deputy Commissioner hiring which will take place after class begin next month. I am looking forward to adding a Deputy Equity and Diversity Commissioner to our team.

Along with the other Commissioners, I am looking forward to a successful Orientation Week and an eventful school year. As always; comments, suggestions, and questions are always welcomed, so please do not be a stranger. My SGPS email address is equity@sgps.ca .

In Solidarity,
Catrina Mavrigianakis
Equity and Diversity Commissioner, 2018-2019
Dear Council,

Compliments of the season to you all.

After joining SGPS, I had regular meetings with Isabel regarding my job role and responsibilities. I prepared my Year plan and budget and submitted the same for approval. We, all four Commissioners (Social Commissioner, Athletics Commissioner, Equity Commissioner, and International Commissioner) had regular meetings for creating possible collaborations to organize joint events for graduate professional and international students from June 2018 to April 2019. A tentative list of annual lists is prepared and waiting for approval.

This year, I am trying to build on to my previous work as commissioner and add more events and workshops for our members. I approached Career Services, QUIC, SGS, and Student Wellness for their support and collaboration for these workshops and events. I have received their support for resource persons and venue for workshops on academic writing, student wellness, and career prospects. A final list of workshop and events will be shared with you all soon.

Regarding SGPS Orientation events this year, we are also doing a fascinating project with CFRC where we will have our own podcasts for orientation events. We will be recording a 60-90 sec podcast on each of the day of our orientation event and that will be aired on that respective day for our members. We will be also publicizing our SGPS services in the podcast.

9th Kingston Multicultural Arts Festival is going to be organized in downtown Kingston on Sept 9 (Sunday) this year (Flyer is attached along). Kingston Immigration partnership and Kingston Community Health Centres (KCHC) are organizing it and I represent SGPS on their planning committee. We had meetings to plan for events and how our SGPS members could be engaged in it. I am trying to ensure good numbers of Queen's SGPS members are engaged in the event either in terms of participants or volunteers in the event. There was an ad for volunteers recruitment shared in our recent SGPS newsletter. Please feel free to reach out to me for more information regarding volunteering or suggestions.

I look forward to interacting with you all at the various events that will be hosted throughout the year. As always, I welcome any suggestions or comments, my email address is international@sgps.ca

Best wishes for the semester,

Atul Jaiswal
International Student Affairs Commissioner
2018-2019
Get Involved with the Kingston Multicultural Arts Festival

Would you like to get involved with the 9th annual Kingston Multicultural Arts Festival?

Sign up to be a volunteer! Join us Sunday, September 9th, 2018 (11:30am-5:30pm) at Confederation Park to experience world music, dance performances, and cultural pavilions with traditional food from all over the world. As a volunteer you will get:

- Festival t-shirt
- Festival food vouchers
- Student volunteer/community service hours
- Front row seat to all the action!

Contact Chantal Valkenborg at chantalv@kchc.ca, with your full name, email, phone number, and your availability for the day (between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm). You will be required to attend a meeting in August where we will discuss all the details!

Join us for one of the most exciting outdoor events of the year!
No report submitted.
No report submitted.
Position vacant.