

## **Agenda**

September 11th, 2018 – 5:30pm  
Dunning Hall Room 11

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.

### **1. Adoption of the Agenda and approval of the minutes**

A. Adoption of the agenda, Motion 11/09/18:1

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the September 11th, 2018 Council Meeting.

Mover: Vice-President Graduate

Secunder: President

Motion 11/09/18:1 is adopted.

B. Approval of the minutes, Motion 11/09/18:2

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Minutes from the August 21st, 2018 Council Meeting.

Motion 11/09/18:2 is adopted.

### **2. Council Elections**

A. Election of the SGPS Council Speaker, Motion 11/09/18:3

Following an election for the position of speaker, Simon Gollish elected as SGPS Council Speaker for September 2018 – August 2019.

B. Election of the SGPS Council Deputy Speaker, Motion 11/09/18:4

C. Election of the SGPS Chief Returning Officer, Motion 11/09/18:5

BIRT Motions 11/09/18:4 and 11/09/18:5 be tabled until the General Meeting.

Mover: Vice-President Graduate

Secunder: President.

Motion is adopted.

### **2. (a) Other business?**

Shane Forbrigger: Is there any comments on the free speech announcement from Doug Ford as it may affect us?

President: We shouldn't be taking a position on this without consulting members first. The university is going to do that, and I have been in the room with administrators while this conversation is happening and something like this was probably going to happen. The principal will strike a committee to discuss it and it will be my job to consult with students to see what's important to them because there's two sides and I look forward to the consultation.

### **3. Executive & Speaker Reports**

#### **A. Executive Reports**

a. President – Tyler Morrison (nothing to add)

b. VP Graduate – Leo Erlikhman

Vice-President Graduate: Thesis Thursday first session this Thursday, following one will be thesis therapy

Jared, philosophy: Grad peer support centre – how does that integrate with the student advisor program?

Vice-President Graduate: Right now advisors can't deal with mental health complaints, they must be referred elsewhere. Grad students are ineligible to go to the AMS peer support centre so this new grad support centre fills that gap and is not therapy but it is peer to peer help.

c. VP Professional – Lauren Peacock

Vice-President Professional: Nothing to add, careers week is moving forward

d. VP Finance & Services – Abel Hazon:

Vice-President Finance & Service: Nothing to add, finance committee in good standing

e. VP Community – Isabel Luce

Vice-President Community: Nothing to add

#### **B. Speaker Report**

No Report

Motion: BIRT that the Executive Reports be approved.

Mover: Vice-President Graduate

Secunder: Vice-President Professional

### **4. Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports**

#### **A. Senator Report (not in attendance)**

**B. Trustee Report** (not in attendance)

**C. Commissioner Reports**

**a. Athletics & Wellness Commissioner – Larkin Davenport Huyer**

Athletics & Wellness Commissioner: updates- sports hour has been booked, its 5-6 on Mondays, bi-weekly occurrence, soccer, European style handball, more info to be dispersed.

**b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Catrina Mavrigianakis**

Equity & Diversity Commissioner: no updates beyond report.

**c. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Atul Jaiswal**

International Students Affairs Commissioner: sick but sends his regards.

BIRT the other report be approved.

Mover: Vice-President Graduate

Secunder: President

Motion is adopted.

**5. Question Period & Department Issues**

None

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

None

**7. Main Motions & Discussion**

**A. Motion: Changes to B.16 Bylaws and Policies, Motion 11/09/18:8**

Mover: President

Secunder: Vice-President Graduate

President speaks to it: Things that need to be changed must go to the council and then to the general meeting, the motion is to just do two council meetings instead of one council meeting and one general meeting (sometimes resulting in calling a special general meeting just for this purpose).

Matt Nelms, kinesiology: Is this considered the first reading of the motion and then it's read again at GM?

President: Yes.

Britney Lester, education: Will the general SGPS membership be informed this will happen so the general membership can attend?

President: They can attend but aren't voting members, so reps are supposed to go to their Constituents.

Shane Forbrigger, electrical and computer engineering: I understand why when you call these meetings and no one shows up and there's no quorum. I don't feel like this is the right way to go about it. Every student government he's been part of, and it means that any 12 of us could make any changes to the bylaws in a 12-day period. It's a pretty low requirement to change significant rules on how the society operates.

Jared: Speaking against the motion. The fundamental changes to the organization should go to the general membership and we should not take this away from the general membership. It gives them power to debate and discuss. The general membership would only have an ability to have a motion to overturn, and it creates antagonistic relationship. It should be difficult to change the most fundamental document we have. If we have trouble with getting people to these meetings we should have programs to increase attendance. It will make changes too easy and will take away democratic abilities of the membership.

President: I recognize the concerns being brought up. This motion is coming from practical experience of mine and other executives experience. If I had to be frank I would call a special general membership if I wanted to push something through. If there's no quorum it's announced at next council meeting, and then they can approve it or not. Council approves it at first meeting, they call a special meeting where no one shows up, it's pushed through, and it is approved at next council meeting. He's saying to streamline it. The spirit of the motion is a practical one over what has been happening over the last several years.

Vice-President Graduate: Removing special general meeting function. If members have issues, they can still call their own special meetings with 10 signatures. These are things that better the society.

Alex, consecutive students: So, to clarify, if we were to go with your option a motion would never go to a general meeting?

Vice-President Graduate: Yes it could still go, but it doesn't have to.

Cameron Wathey, Public Administration: Are we under Ontario's incorporation act. What does it state under this concern?

President: Any corporation is run by the board of directions, this is the executive, and the powers have been delegated to council to make these decisions

Jared: I've been to meetings with low attendance, I don't think this is the right way to address it. It's part of the executive and council's job to make it function and we should do something about it as opposed to passing motions of this kind.

President: This requires a second reading at a general meeting and if people come out and say we shouldn't do it, I will listen to that. At this point where I'm sitting, the way to push things through is the special general meeting function. This will avoid that and allow active debate. Its still two readings.

Emma Bozek, Education: Is this to increase speed of process?

President: It's not about speed, if we wanted to call 2 councils back to back we can't because we only do council once a month. It won't let us call a special meeting.

Shane Forbrigger: It's a 2/3 vote at council meeting.

Liz, physics: Do you have a ballpark how often special meetings happen?

Vice-President Graduate: 3 times in 6 months.

President: This reading is the first one, and we called a general meeting in September. If this were to pass we would do this council and then next council.

Jared: President can call special council meeting at his discretion.

President: I thought was special general.

Shane Forbrigger: Yes, special council meeting too.

Vice-President Graduate: The main spirit of this is to prevent slamming things through.

Britney Lester: Clarification – if we pass the motion today it goes to general meeting and if we don't have enough?

President: We can still vote on it but at next council meeting we tell them that it passed without quorum and it can be overturned.

Matt Nelms: The executive can call a special general meeting?

Speaker: There is an 8-day notice for special general, 4 for special council meeting.

Jared: There is a problem with not enough people coming out, and too much discretionary powers. The problem I see is that this motion doesn't solve any of these problems and threatens the powers of the membership. If there is a quorum problem, then change quorum numbers but this motion is doing something else and we should be worried about it.

President: The motivation is not because not enough people are showing up. Its because a new exec comes in May and if the new exec wants to bring anything up they have to call a special general meeting, and they can do that and will push something through. I'm trying to eliminate that possibility.

*President puts forward a friendly amendment to change it to the council meetings must be 21 days apart.*

*Changes to bylaw requires two reading of SGPS council read no less than 21 days apart.*

Shane Forbrigger: I suggest just amending what's already there in "e"

President: We're going to say 3 weeks. "d" first sentence will remain striked-through and then changed from two weeks to 3.

BIRT the question be called on Motion 11/09/18:8.

Mover: Vice-President Graduate

Secunder: President

Motion is adopted. Council proceeds immediately to a vote on Motion 11/09/18:8

Motion 11/09/18:8 carries with 17 votes for, 1 vote against, 2 abstentions.

#### **B. Motion: Creation of a Committee to Review SGPS Council Membership**

Mover: President

Secunder: Vice-President Graduate

Vice-President Graduate: 78 is clearly not hitting, we want to review the membership. Striking a committee to look at it.

President: Part of the committee's mandate is to review why there are only 25 people out of 78 reps. We want to investigate that.

Motion carries unanimously.

#### **C. Motion changes to policy 2.1.1. – Description of Executive Responsibilities, Motion 11/09/18:10**

Mover: President

Second: Vice-President Graduate

President: It came out of last meeting, and we crossed out old committees and add new ones. Friendly amendment, VPG should say graduate studies executive council, not committee.

*(friendly amendment was taken to name the change)*

Motion is adopted.

**D. Motion: Changes to Bylaw B.25.2 – Sponsorship Addition, Motion 11/09/18:11**

Mover: President

Second: Vice-President Graduate

President: Bylaw and Policy wanted us to look at how sponsorship happens. I've gone through and more expressly stated that sponsorship follows the process that grants goes through and removes the wording about Queen's community, and added that VP Finance presents reports on how much is given in sponsorship to add transparency to this.

Shane Forbrigger: Remind me the composition of the finance committee?

Vice-President Finance & Services: 5 members at large, chaired by VP Finance.

Brianna Pioli, LSS: Is this from grants funding or another area of the SGPS?

President: Not from grants, its under advertising and promotion line in our budget that has been approved. I will suggest to incoming executive that it should be a separate line in the budget.

Motion is adopted.

Motion to adjourn moved by Vice-President Graduate.

Adopted, Council adjourned at 6:47pm.

