



Hi Everyone,

I have a few quick updates.

Principal Search Update

I recently had the pleasure of attending the first round of interviews for the Principal Search Committee. It was an incredibly rewarding experience and as I have said before am completely confident that Queen's will be in great hands based on the level of applications received. If we remain on schedule we will be in a position to announce the next Principal before the end of the semester.

JDUC Revitalization

Through an RFP process the architects for the redevelopment of the JDUC have been chosen. The architects will be a joint team by HDR and MJMA, both very well known in the University realm and beyond.

As most of you know the AMS is planning a second referendum to secure funding for the project. Working with these architects they are beginning a consultation process to bring stakeholders together in an effort to pass this upcoming referendum. The SGPS remains fully behind this project and will support the AMS in any way it can.

I have recently met with individuals from the architect's team and they are excited to work with the SGPS and upon a successful AMS referendum will be consulting with SGPS members to determine what we would like to see in the new JDUC, specifically what the designated graduate space will look like.

Municipal Election

I just wanted to give a quick reminder to everyone that as Queen's students we are eligible to vote in the upcoming municipal election on October 22, 2018. To be eligible to vote you must be on the voters list, to check if you are on the list click [here](#). If you are not on the list you must complete this [form](#) before voting. If you have any questions, please contact the elections office at elections@cityofkingston.ca or 613-546-4291 ext. 1430.

President
Tyler Morrison



Hello Council,

I hope everyone had a relaxing Thanksgiving Holiday weekend and is ready for the second half of the term to get going! There is not too much to add from my last report. Our student wellness survey will be launching this upcoming term once again with eight \$50 gift cards up for grabs each term for participants. This survey will provide us with valuable data to know what is going on with the wellbeing of our students. Thank you to Terry and his team for the excellent work that they are doing for the society and graduate students as a whole!

The student advisors will be facilitating townhalls all this month to get feedback on what SGPS council will look like in the future. All departments will be contacted to set up a session hosted by the advisors who will be presenting three options for what we can do moving forward. This will be followed by a committee vote to put forward changes to the SGPS general membership at a council followed by the General meeting. Lauren and I are excited to be chairing this important task force and we look forward to a month of discussion.

Finally, we are hosting two townhall meetings this month to get more feedback from Graduate students on what they want to see done on the issues of time to completion and the international PhD experience. They will be held October 23rd and 24th in a room that is posted online (sorry my report was submitted before the room was confirmed). Food will be provided at these events and we look forward to what is sure to be an informative discussion.

Have an excellent October!

Leo



Dear Council,

Careers Week is almost here and will be held October 15th – October 19th. The SGPS will be hosting the following events:

Introduction to Excel

October 15th Noon-2pm

Join us for an introductory workshop for Excel. This interactive workshop is well suited for those who have not used Excel before. We will learn how to navigate the program and how to use some of the main functions of Excel. We will spend an hour and a half getting comfortable with the program and learning the basics.

Register at: <https://sgps.ca/event/introductory-workshop-for-excel/>

Advanced Excel Techniques

October 15th 2:30pm-4:30pm

Join us for an advanced workshop for Excel. This interactive workshop will focus on using IF statements, lookup functions and pivot tables. We will work through several examples with an opportunity for individual q's at the end of the session.

Register at: <https://sgps.ca/event/advanced-workshop-for-excel/>

LinkedIn Headshots

October 17th Noon-4pm

Join us in **Gordon Hall Room 302** please come dressed in professional attire (at least from the waist up!) to have a professional "LinkedIn Profile" style photo taken by a professional photographer. No prior registration required!

**This event immediately follows a LinkedIn Workshop run by Career Services so be sure to check that out as well

The School of Graduate Studies is also offering the following activities for students:

Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Presentation Skills (Mitacs)

Wednesday October 17, 2018

Evaluate your LinkedIn profile and learning strategies for finding work using LinkedIn

Thursday October 18, 2018

Articulating The Value of Your Grad Experience to Employers

Your Versatile Degree: Graduates on working outside academia

CV's, Cover Letters & Mock Interviews

Friday October 19, 2018

Resumes & Cover Letters for Positions in Business, Government & Non-Profits

Interviews for Business, Government & Non-Profits

Capstone event: Clear, Concise & Convincing: How to Communicate Your Research to Increase Your Impact

Visit their website for more information, times & locations: <https://www.queensu.ca/exph/career-week>

That's all for now,

Lauren Peacock

VP Professional

Society of Graduate & Professional Students (SGPS)



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Finance & Services
October 2018

No report provided.



Dear SGPS Council,

This week has been another busy one as the Commissioners and I have been getting Deputy Commissioner interviews underway. Once hiring has been completed you'll likely be seeing a few new faces helping us out at upcoming events! And a big shout-out to our Commissioners who have been working so hard to put some really great events on for this October!

Opening of the SGPS Lounge, room 237 of the JDUC

I'm very happy to announce that the SGPS Lounge is now open and ready for you to book as SGPS members! Use it as a reading space, a hang-out spot, a meeting place for your departmental association. We've added the room booking page to the SGPS website, and after you book the room on the online calendar you can pick up the key between 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday from the SGPS office with your Queen's student ID card. I'll be posting graphics with everything you need to know once we have the details completely ironed out, but I'm happy to report that we had our first room booking on October 1st for the **Queen's Reads Reading Nook**. This was part of a series where Queen's Reads offers cozy nooks across campus where you can read their book Scarborough. It was a lot of fun, and we'll be advertising their future nooks on social media as well! **Please Note:** Before this October Council Meeting, I invite you all to stop by the SGPS Lounge from 4pm to 5:30pm to mingle, play some air hockey or ping pong, or just check out the space!

Queen's United Way Fundraising BBQ

As your SGPS representative on the Queen's United Way Campaign (the largest campaign in Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington raising over \$300,000 annually), I'd like to bring to your attention to their annual fundraising BBQ on **Wednesday, October 10th from 11am to 1pm** at the corner of Union and University. More information can be found on their event page here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1116538771841910/>. The money raised goes towards three local community-related programs: All That Kids Can Be, From Poverty to Possibility and Healthy People, Strong Communities. For more information about these organizations check out the United Way's website: <https://www.unitedwaykfla.ca/>.

Ride for Kerala: Fundraising Event

As VP Community, I think it's important to highlight and advertise campaigns that our SGPS members are working hard on and feel passionately about. After the worst flood in a century in Kerala, India this past August causing the evacuation of at least one million people and leaving over 483 people dead and 14 missing, PhD student Salim Gopi has partnered with the Kingston Velo Club and the Queen's Cycling Club to develop a family-friendly fundraising bike ride on Wolfe Island to raise money for the flood victims. Join Salim and other bicyclists on **Saturday October 13th** as they leave from the General Wolfe Inn at 10am and ride across the island. Registration will cost \$15 and more information about the event can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/894115494046090/>.

That's it from me! I hope you all had a tasty Thanksgiving and have a spooky Halloween!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isabel Luce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Isabel Luce
SGPS VP Community



Hello all!

At our November meeting, I will give a presentation on Roberts's Rules. I hope this will help those who are less familiar with the rules of procedure. If there are any specifics you wish me to cover, please reach out.

Food: I will be ordering Subway for Tuesday's meeting – I will have gluten free and vegetarian options, but please let me know if there are any further restrictions or concerns that I should be aware of.

There are a number of issues I will discuss at the meeting, namely reports, the mailing list, attendance.

I look forward to the meeting! See you Tuesday,

Simon



Dear SGPS Council,

Interactions with the SGPS executive, both present and past, have revealed to me that there is confusion in the SGPS regarding the role of the graduate student senator. Specifically: is the graduate student a representative of students and is supposed to speak, consult, act, and vote accordingly? Or is the graduate student senator a participant in the business of the Senate who, by virtue of being a graduate student, brings unique abilities, perspectives, and knowledge and acts, speaks, and votes for the greater good of the university? In other words, is the graduate student senator the representative of graduate students in the Senate or is he a senator who is a graduate student?

I have recently consulted Len Knox, the university secretary, on this matter. He has referred me to a report adopted by the Senate in 1970 that provides a definitive answer. Excerpts of it may be found below and at <https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/history/historical-development>. He has also offered me the full report if needed.

“June 1970: Report of the Joint Nominating Operations Review Committee of the Senate on Proposed Revisions to the Senate Constitution

This report, adopted by the Senate in June 1970, brought about changes in the membership of the Senate and the composition of Senate Committees.

Excerpts from the **Report of the Joint Nominating Operations Review Committee:**

"Senate Membership

The first principle of Senate membership is 'participation' as opposed to 'representation'. Members of the Senate bring to that body and its deliberations, experience, knowledge, and critical and practical abilities; this combination will enable the Senate to develop, coordinate and integrate wise academic policies for the University. Although, on occasion, a Senator may act in a representative fashion (e.g. a Dean will quite often do so when he presents proposals from his Faculty), usually a Senator will find himself dealing with a question about which he is not personally involved and can consider it as it will influence the University as a whole. In this respect students and faculty are alike. This consideration also makes the question of constituency size less important.

"There was a similar agreement about having all elected Senators come from constituencies which are established Faculties and Schools. Although this may lead to disparities in the size of 'constituencies' it was agreed that existing interests and channels of communication have been built up in this manner and we should utilize them.

"The university is the permanent, and often the only, home of a group of academic disciplines; if the university is to thrive, then those who lead and direct the disciplines, **the faculty**, must have the major voice in determining the academic policy of the University. To succeed, a university must attract leading scholars and practitioners of the learned professions; the faculty must be free to pursue the disciplines they profess, to increase the stock of knowledge and to educate their successors; and faculty must transmit to those who leave the university a sound knowledge of how their discipline can contribute to society. This most vital aspect of the university maintaining and promoting academic disciplines requires that elected faculty constitute a majority of the Senate.

"The contribution of **students** to the university must also be recognized by effective membership on the Senate. They can contribute knowledgeable criticism of the methods and aims of academic policy. Only students can give firsthand expression to their varying expectations and life aims. Their judgments of the academic programmes offered them provide one means of assessing the growth and value of the academic work done in the university. In the past, students have contributed much to Queen's and an enlarged Senate Membership will encourage further student commitment to their university. Also a recognition that students can play an important and a creative role in university government may help attract outstanding students to Queen's.

"The varied tasks facing the university have to be done taking into account the resources available and the existing facilities. Since administrative **officers** have to provide the means for executing and developing academic policy, their opinion must equally be heard in debate.

"Impressions of how the new Senate has worked since 1968 lead us to think that a slight increase in size will not be harmful to the University. Initiatives for new ventures usually begin in various quarters other than the Senate, and come to the Senate following scrutiny by other groups, in particular by Senate Committees and by Faculties. Even when an initiative is taken in the Senate the details have to be worked out elsewhere and brought back for approval and implementation. If we are correct in seeing the Senate as the overall planning body, then a larger size may permit more adequate expression of varying points of view."

As you can see from the report the graduate student senator's role is one of a participant rather than a representative and has been for some time. An important practical application of this is to realize that he does not speak for students but rather speaks from the experience and point of view of a student. Given that this knowledge is not widely known in the SGPS and that it is required both for the senator to work most effectively and for members of council to work most effectively with him, I recommend that the SGPS consider and study amending relevant policy and bylaws to include this report, or its essence, as part of the job description of the graduate student senator.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Trustee
October 2018

No report provided.



Dear Council,

During the past month I have created events ongoing for the semester, ran successful events for September, and have confirmed events for October. Thesis Therapy and the start of our ongoing semester events have been very successful. Keep your eye out for the continuing semester events including, a soccer intramural team, Cooking Classes, Thesis Therapy, and Sports Hour.

I have read applications and will begin interviewing for a Deputy Athletics and Wellness Commissioner. There were many great applications and we will have a difficult time deciding; thank you to all who applied.

October Events:

CrossFit: On October 11th from 3-4pm we have partnered with the CrossFit Queens Street to host an intro to CrossFit event. Tickets will be \$5 and everyone will get the chance to try out the sport. CrossFit Queen Street is a great location and welcomes skill and ability of all levels – please come out and try the event, it will be a lot of fun.

SHRC Chat: On October 18th the SHRC and SGPS will be in McLaughlin hall from 630-8 for a short information session about sexual health and what the SHRC offers followed by a Q & A session. There will be cookies for snacking.

Ongoing Semester Events to Promote

Intramurals: I have created a soccer team. This team welcomes SGPS members to join (yourselves all included).

Sports Hour: I have penciled in the timeslot of 5-6 pm on Mondays for a continuation of last year's Sports Hour. This event will occur bi-weekly; the next date will be October 22nd. Sports will change weekly – open to requests for some of the later weeks.

Cooking Class: We are in the process of starting monthly cooking classes in collaboration with the Healthy Cooking Club on campus; next two dates are October 31 and November 27.

Thesis Therapy: In partnership with VP Graduate's Thesis Thursday, Thesis Therapy will also occur November 2nd and November 28th.

Events to look out for next month will include rock climbing, yoga, 40-Minute focus; also watch for another Free For All Week, and a Graduate Student Game Day at the ARC.

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



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity & Diversity Commissioner
October 2018

To be delivered orally.



Dear Council,

Compliments of the season to you all.

This month, we have some amazing events and workshops being organized in collaboration with QUIC for our international members. The first in the series is the Thanksgiving celebration dinner with Pumpkin pie desserts happening on Oct 7, 5:30 to 8 pm at QUIC. It is our joint event together with QUIC like we did past year. Though it is for international students to learn the Canadian Thanksgiving celebration and its significance, if you are around in Kingston, please feel free to join us for the Turkey dinner with a movie "*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*".

Given we have a Thanksgiving celebration, we have shifted our "*SGPS Bowling Social event*" from Oct 9 to Oct 11 (Thursday) from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Meet us at The Cloverleaf Bowling Alley, 10 Bath Road, Kingston, Ontario. Please book tickets as it is first come first serve basis. Friends and Families are also invited. Food will be served.

Last academic year, we had celebrated diversity and inclusion on campus by organizing "*SGPS Diversity and Inclusion Film festival (DIFF)*" where we screened movies from different parts of the world and had facilitators to share their insights on their culture. This year we are kicking off the event on Oct 15 where we will be screening a movie from Ireland to promote understanding of Irish culture on campus. This will be a nice opportunity for many of our international SGPS members to learn about unique aspects of Irish culture. A full detail of the movies to be screened under the DIFF will be shared on our SGPS communication material soon.

In collaboration with Student Wellness and QUIC, we have organized a workshop on "*Building Presentation Skills and Confidence*" for international students where focus would be to overcome the anxiety and self-doubts while making presentation or speaking in class or seminars due to the added layer of cross-cultural factors (different academic and cultural environment, language, presentation style etc.). Join us on October 17th at 4:30 p.m. at QUIC for a workshop on how to build your confidence and presentation skills. No registration required.

With the support from SASS and SGS, Thesis Thursday workshops are going great. I was involved in planning it with Leo so that topics could be chosen focusing on the needs of domestic as well as international students. Last week was Thesis Therapy where a good number of students (domestic and international) joined us. Based on multiple meetings with SASS team to include the topics relevant to international students, they have come up with a two full days workshop "*Becoming a Better Writer: Practical Strategies for Grad Students*" on Oct 25-26, Kingston Hall Room 313 where the professional staff from Student Academic Success Services and the University of Tübingen (Germany) will lead the sessions and share practical strategies for working on graduate-level writing across cultures and languages. Please register and attend. It is going to be very helpful.

We have received a good number of applications for the post of Deputy Commissioner - International and will be interviewing them soon. We will be able to introduce the selected candidate to you in our next meeting. 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



Dear Council,

My name is Beatrice Suero and I'm excited to be the new Social Commissioner for this school year. I'm currently pursuing a Masters of Epidemiology with a Specialization in Biostatistics. Outside of school, I enjoy travel, baking and dance. In my position, I aim to bring together the SGPS community, providing valuable experiences and fostering connections to enhance the student experience at Queen's. I've been busy working on my year plan and coming up with a wide range of events that might cater to our wonderfully diverse student body. Here are some upcoming events for October:

October Events:

- Rock Dunder Fall Hike: We're headed to Rock Dunder on October 13 to enjoy some beautiful fall views. This event is sold out. There may be a wait list available soon.
- Board Game Night: On October 18, we'll be hosting our second games night at the Grad Club. Join us in a thrilling game of Monopoly or hilarious Cards Against Humanity round. This event starts at 5:30.
- Fort Fright Night: We're challenging students to face their fears and walk through Fort Fright with us on October 24. We're meeting at the front entrance of Fort Henry by 7:30. Tickets are \$14.
- Kingston Pen Tours: If you're curious about what happened at Canada's most notorious maximum-security prison located only steps away from West Campus, we're offering a tour on October 28. We're meeting at the Kingston Penitentiary at noon.

I look forward to working with you throughout this school year. I welcome any suggestions, comments, or questions regarding social events for this year. Please contact me at social@sgps.ca.

Warm Regards,

Beatrice Suero

Social Commissioner 2018-19

SGPS



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the University Rector
October 2018

No report provided.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Chief Returning Officer
October 2018

Position currently vacant.