



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the President
General Meeting November 2018

Hello Everyone,

As has been the practice since the introduction of the single Executive strategic plan I will give an oral report on the Executive's progress. I will also be updating on other initiatives that the Executive has begun since the original development of the strategic plan.

I encourage all SGPS members to attend this General Meeting, we will be having several very important discussions including a presentation and discussion on council restructuring and the Faculty of Arts and Science's strategic planning initiative.

Thank you,

President
Tyler Morrison



Hello members,

It has been my pleasure to serve you all this past two terms as the Vice-President Graduate for this academic year. As I enter the last phase of my term I have learned quite a lot and am excited to assist in the transition to ensure the great work done this year will be completed. My platform goal of a Graduate only Peer Support Center will be presented to upper administration in the coming months and be brought forward to this body in the winter term for approval. With this new service the society will be better suited to aiding our students in need in a safe and non-judgmental space.

Faculty of Arts and Science Strategic Plan

The faculty of Arts and Science is beginning the process of creating a strategic plan to guide the faculty moving forward over the next 5 years. From our first meeting, I was able to secure an additional focus group session just for graduate students to attend and discuss what they would like to see from the faculty in the future. The session will occur on December 3rd from 6pm to 8pm online hosted by the faculty, graduate students are able to attend the other sessions that are currently posted are as follows:

- Thursday 29th November – 1pm – 2pm
- Friday 30 November 9am – 10am
- Monday 3rd Dec – 9am – 10am
- Tuesday 4th Dec – 1pm – 2pm

The purpose of these sessions is to provide additional feedback on our research-based programs, for us to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the graduate student experience at Queen's, and to explore common themes and perceptions. We will use this feedback to inform recommendations and future development. Those interested in learning more

International Student Concerns and Hiring

From our meeting with international students earlier this term we walked away as an executive with quite a few action items. I will be presenting an Oral report at council on my upcoming meetings with upper administration on some of these topics. One of the pressing issues that came forward was access to graduate employment for course-based students. I have reached out to Stephanie Simpson the new AVP Equity to discuss this subject. We feel that a strong case can be made to ensure that more jobs on campus are reserved for international students on campus in a similar fashion to how positions are reserved for undergraduate students.

I'm happy to answer any other questions.

Leo Erlikhman
VP Graduate



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Professional
General Meeting November 2018

Dear SGPS Members,

My main goal for this year was targeted at graduate and professional student career planning. This year we partnered with the SGS for a joint career's week held in October. While we were thrilled to partner with the SGS this came with the challenge of jumping on to a pretty jam-packed week! Since we didn't want to overwhelm students with too many activities, we kept it simple with two additional sessions (an introductory and advanced excel workshop) and a professional headshots photo session.

Overall, the excel sessions were well received although not as well attended as we would have hoped – we will be doing some general outreach and solicitation of feedback to see how and when these services can be better offered in the future.

As always, the professional headshot sessions were a hit with approximately 60 students receiving photos. We will be offering another session in early December as well as sessions in the Winter semester, stay tuned for more information!

Although the SGPS-SGS joint careers week is behind us, our work here is not done! We will be planning standalone careers-related events throughout the coming winter semester. Have an idea for an event? Please reach out to vp.professional@spgs.ca with your idea!

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
 General Meeting November 2018

Council,

The following is the general summary of the bursaries and grants utilization as of Monday, November 19th.

Bursaries

Row Labels	Sum of Qty	Sum of Amount Approved	Budgeted	Average Bursary
DBA (5235)	6	2,308.45	5,000.00	384.74
ESA (5415)	2	673.42	10,000.00	336.71
ISB (5240)	14	2,800.00	5,000.00	200.00
Sports/Activity (5202) *	18	2,314.24	5,000.00	128.57
Grand Total	40	8,096.11	25,000.00	202.40

* = There are 13 applications with the Finance Committee that are ongoing.

Grants

Row Labels	Sum of Qty	Sum of Amount Approved	Budgeted
Accessibility Grant (5355)	0		5,000.00
Dept Std Council Grant (5355)**	8	\$2,411.00	10,000.00
Diversity & Inclusion Grant (5355)	0		5,000.00
Sustainability Grant (5355)	0		5,000.00
Grand Total	8	2,411.00	25,000.00

** = There are two applications with the Finance Committee that are ongoing.

The Finance Committee is in good standing.

Happy to take your questions.

Abel Hazon
 VPFS



Dear SGPS Council,

Please refer to my report to November Council for a full re-cap on what I've been up to. As I've been away doing research this month I don't have too much to add other than that we're going to be starting out Drive with the United Way soon and by this general meeting we'll have published more information about that on social media. Here's the re-cap below -

SGPS and AMS Winter Donation Drive for United Way

The SGPS is now partnering with the AMS United Way Committee to bring you the **Winter Donation Drive**. We will be sending out a list of items needed by local community organizations (from toothbrushes to diapers). Consider working with your department to collect these items and drop them off at the SGPS office.

I have also invited Bhavana Varma (President and CEO of United Way: Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington) and Judy Fyfe (Executive Director of St. Vincent de Paul Society of Kingston) to attend our upcoming Fall General Meeting at the end of November. They will speak to us about the United Way and the community organizations they support like St. Vincent de Paul, which not only offers support for individuals and families in Kingston but also have an on-site WEARhouse that we will be helping to stock with gently used clothing, books and other household items.

Other organizations the United Way supports include - 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/>. Stay tuned for more information about the drive!

That's it from me!

Sincerely,

Isabel Luce
SGPS VP Community



Bylaw & Policy Committee

The Committee met on Thursday, November 15, 2018. It will meet again on the Thursday, November 29. We hope to be able to provide Council with some updates as to our road map and what Council can expect to receive in terms of recommendations.

General

Nothing particular to report.

As always, please reach out with anything.

All the best for exam/paper season,

Simon Gollish
Speaker
Speaker@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Graduate Student Senator
General Meeting November 2018

No report submitted.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Trustee
General Meeting November 2018

No report submitted.



Dear Council,

It has been a great time being in the role of athletics and wellness commissioner. I have had the pleasure to meet a ton of people and it is always a joy to run events for students! During the past semester I have run a number of successful events.

September

This was the beginning of one of our most successful events yet, Thesis Therapy. This event has partnered with St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog Program – a wonderful partnership we have created. It also was the start of our Sports Hour that continued bi-weekly throughout the semester. We also created an outdoor soccer intramural team however, due to low numbers the team did not survive to the end of the semester.

October

October was a wonderful time as we hired our Deputy Athletics and Wellness commissioner. We also held out SGPS Talks About Sex with the SHRC to welcome discussions regarding Sexual Health. Unfortunately, we had to cancel the SGPS Crossfit event due to poor timing.

November

In November we have had a great success with events! We will have run two successful thesis therapy events and two cooking classes. The ARC agreed to have a Game designated to graduate students where any graduate student in the stands was acknowledged. We also shifted sports hour to be indoor soccer. There has been great turn out to each event. Due to overcrowding of events, the SGPS Yoga event also had to be cancelled however, it was rescheduled to January.

Ongoing Efforts

Next week the SGPS will join the UCAR meeting to discuss and develop further partnerships with the ARC. As the Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, I will now be in attendance to these meetings to ensure the graduate student body is represented fairly. I also met, along with the President, VP Graduate, and VP community with the Wellness office and there will be increased efforts to incorporate mental health awareness in the upcoming events next semester. Furthermore, there will be efforts put forward to create a new Free For All week for graduate students come the new year. New events that are in the process of being planned include: SGSP Yoga, Snow Shoeing, Stress Busting Workshop, and more.

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
General Meeting November 2018

No report submitted.



Dear Members,

Compliments of the season to you all.

First of all, let me introduce you to our new team member – **Uchitta** who has joined as Deputy Commissioner – International at SGPS. We received a good number of applications for the post of Deputy Commissioner – International. Now Uchitta is helping our team to execute the SGPS events planned by ISAC.

This month, we had some amazing events and workshops in collaboration with QUIC for our international members. The **Thanksgiving celebration dinner** (proper Turkey dinner from Ramakin) with Pumpkin pie desserts on Oct 7, 5:30 to 8 pm at QUIC. Turkey dinner was served with screening of movie **“Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”**. The event was attended by more than eighty students, and their family and friends. It was a nice opportunity for international students to learn the Canadian Thanksgiving celebration and its significance.

Then, we had our first **“SGPS Bowling Social event”** on Oct 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at The Cloverleaf Bowling Alley, where we had a good number of students participating in this physical activity. The event was appreciated and our members have suggested to organize another similar sports event soon.

This month, we continued our celebration of diversity and inclusion on campus by organizing **“SGPS Diversity and Inclusion Film festival (DIFF)”** where we are screening movies from different parts of the world and have facilitators to share their insights on their culture to raise cultural awareness. SGPS DIFF was organized in collaboration with QUIC World Link program. We have snacks and beverages unique to that specific culture. This year we had our kick-off event on Oct 15 where we screened movie from Ireland to promote understanding of Irish culture on campus. We also received support from the local Kingston based Irish group (Harp of Tara) and we had an amazing Irish dance performance. The second movie was from India and the event was attended by more than 50 students. The third movie was from Japan and fourth from Mexico. This was a nice opportunity for many of our international SGPS members to learn about unique aspects of Irish, Indian, Japanese, and Mexican culture. We encourage you to attend the rest of film festival. The movie screening schedule under the DIFF is as follows:

Event	Date & time	Name of movie
Kickoff Event and Screening # 1 “Irish culture”	Oct 15, 2018 (5:00 pm to 7:30 pm)	The Boys & Girl from County Clare
Film Screening # 2 “Indian culture”	Oct 23, 2018 (5:00 pm to 7:30 pm)	Rang De Basanti (The Colour of Sacrifice)
Film Screening # 3 “Japanese culture”	Nov 2, 2018 (5:00 pm to 7:30 pm)	I Wish
Film Screening # 4 “Mexican Culture”	Nov 16, 2018 (5:00 pm to 7:30 pm)	Coco
Conclusion and Film Screening # 5 “Indigenous Culture”	Nov 30, 2018 (5:00 pm to 7:30 pm)	Indian Horse

In collaboration with Student Wellness and QUIC, we organized a workshop on **“Building Presentation Skills and Confidence”** on October 17th for international students where focus was 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.). We also had another workshop on “**Work-Life Balance**” on Nov 4. Dr. Arunima Khanna lead the sessions and students found it helpful.

To advocate better for our membership, SGPS organized “**Town Hall Meeting for International Graduate Students (SGPS members)**” on Oct 23, 2018, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. With the support from our Executive team, we created a platform for our international student members to voice their concerns and understood some important needs and concerns to serve our membership better. This town hall meeting was to discuss and understand the main challenges that they face that affects their academic journey on Queen’s campus. We will use this learning to prepare a strategic plan to advocate effectively at various levels at the University, and design supports and services to serve the interests and needs of the membership.

With the incorporation of my insights in multiple meetings with Student Academic Success Services (SASS) team for organising services relevant to international students, there was a two full days workshop “**Becoming a Better Writer: Practical Strategies for Grad Students**” on Oct 25-26. The SASS professional staff and an expert faculty from the University of Tübingen (Germany) lead the sessions on practical strategies on graduate-level writing across cultures and languages. I hope many of you attended it and found it beneficial.

We 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 & Uchitta Vashisht

**Commissioner & Deputy Commissioner - International Student Affairs Commission
2018-2019**



Dear Council,

Thank you for participating in the various social events we have hosted this semester and making them fun and engaging with your positive energy. Please see the summary of fall events below:

Rock Dunder Hike: This event was sold out. Timing was perfect as the weather was ideal and the changing leaves provided a great backdrop for photos. Attendees had an enjoyable time hiking in nature. Due to its popularity, we may plan another hiking event later next semester.

Board Game Nights: These are great opportunities to meet new people while playing fun games. We are looking to host these nights in the SGPS Lounge in the JDUC so that we can use the ping pong, foosball, and air hockey tables and expand our game selection to video and online multiplayer games.

Fort Fright Night: This event was sold out. It was fun to see Fort Henry in a new and thrilling way to get in to the Halloween spirit.

Kingston Penitentiary Tour: We toured the penitentiary on its last day of operations for the year. This event did not sell out, likely due to high ticket price.

Recharge in the Phytotron: We are exploring an on-campus tropical escape, the BioSciences greenhouse, and planting and painting to relax and recharge as our energy wanes at this time of year. Due to its increasing popularity, we may host this event again next semester.

Holiday Hangout: Come enjoy snacks and refreshments in the SGPS Lounge in the JDUC. There will be games and activities to participate in. We welcome you to chat with us about what kinds of events you'd be interested in for next semester.

We're planning to kick off next semester with a small Winter Welcome Week to give an introduction to incoming students and to provide a warm welcome for returning students. Events will include: Pools n' Pints are The Grizz and seeing Kingston in a new light over at Fort Henry to view their Lumnia Borealis exhibit.

I welcome any suggestions, comments or questions regarding past and future SGPS social events. I can be reached at social@sgps.ca.

Kind Regards,

Beatrice Suero

Social Commissioner 2018-19

Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS)

Queen's University



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the University Rector
General Meeting November 2018

No report submitted.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Chief Returning Officer
General Meeting November 2018

No report submitted.