



Hi Everyone,

I have a few quick updates.

International Student Town Hall Follow-Up

Recently the SGPS held a town hall to discuss International Student Issues. We have heard what students had to say and we are taking action. First, we are creating a working group chaired by an at large international student, with no cap on the number of members. This working group will be tasked with writing a report that the SGPS Executive will then present to the University Administration. This report can outline the issues international students face, while also suggesting strategies to solve them. This will be an entirely student run working group, with the SGPS supporting it in any way we can.

The Executive has also come up with several other action items. From ensuring there are better supports for International students upon arrival in Kingston, to making sure these students understand their legal rights as tenants, students, members of the Queens community etc.

Principal Search Committee

As I am sure many of you have heard the Principal Search has concluded and the next Principal of Queen's will be Patrick Deane. Patrick Deane is the current President of McMaster University. He has intensive knowledge of the Ontario Post-Secondary sector, making him the perfect fit to tackle the changes they may be made at the provincial government level.

Dr. Deane has a history at Queen's. From 2005-2010 – before going to McMaster – he was the Vice Principal (Academic) at Queen's. This was at a time before Queen's adopted the provost model, his position is better described now as the modern provost. This gives Dr. Deane great insight into Queen's and I am confident he can hit the ground running.

Canadian Association of Graduate Studies

Leo and I have spent the last week in Winnipeg for the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies Annual Conference. Students, staff, deans, and more got together to discuss issues facing their institution and collaborate with other institutions to solve these problems. I have learned so much from my colleagues at other institutions and I look forward to using many of these strategies here at Queen's. For more information on this conference I encourage you to review VP (Graduate), Leo Erlichman's report.

President
Tyler Morrison



Hello from snowy Winnipeg Manitoba,

CAGS Conference

This past week I have been myself and Tyler have been at the Canadian Association of Graduate School's Conference (CAGS) here in Winnipeg. This conference has provided us the opportunity to sit down and discuss with students, administrators and deans from across the nation. Session highlights from this conference saw Tyler and I learn about new ways to Support Indigenous graduate students through new learning opportunities, new technological supports for graduate education and tri-council funding updates.

The conference provided students with an opportunity to host a townhall with graduate deans in attendance and we are pleased to announce that an environmental scan of institutional progress on the TRC will be done by CAGS. This scan will highlight best practice across the country and will allow future student leaders to advocate with evidence-based policies from across Canada at their host institutions. We were also able to advocate successfully for more student-based content at future conferences. These action items will allow for our executive and the incoming executive of 2019-2020 to follow up with our fellow student leaders and continue national advocacy work.

Council Review

Our student advisors have nearly completed their council review as directed by council earlier this term. Each department has been offered a session to attend hosted by our student advisors to discuss one of the three options for a future council structure. I would like to thank our advisors for their hard work and impartiality during this process. Our advisors will be writing a report to council and the general membership when this review is completed for our society to discuss. Our previous timeline will be adjusted to ensure that we do not rush this process and can truly provide the membership a new structure that will be beneficial to all students.

As the semester winds down, I wish students luck on their final term projects and with marking during the exam season. The SGPS will be providing space for marking parties for students to come and motivate one another.

Cheers,

Leo



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Professional
November 2016

No report received.



Council,

There is nothing to report other than that my work has been internally facing since my last report. The Finance Committee has approved \$800, or \$400 per semester, for the Wellness Survey that is being conducted by graduate students in the Education faculty.

The Finance Committee is in good standing.

Fee Reporting Obligations

We are about to commence the annual request for financial reporting as per bylaw P.1.2.5 Continuous Reporting Obligation. There are more than 35 fees that the SGPS collects on behalf of the University, clubs, and external organizations. We review these reports for all of the following:

- Usage and participation of graduate and professional students;
- Spending and financial information of how the fee was spent for past year;
- Proposed budget for the upcoming year; and
- Any other information that may be relevant to ensuring that the fee is spent in an appropriate manner.

Abel Hazon
VPFS



Dear SGPS Council,

I'm out of the country on a research trip for two weeks this November so I apologize for not being able to be at November Council in person. I will still be reachable by email though so please feel free to contact me at vp.community@sgps.ca if you have any questions. And now for my updates!

SGPS International Student Community Supports

Several weeks ago we held a Town Hall on issues International graduate and professional students are facing. We really appreciated hearing from all the students who came out and shared their personal stories and brought a number of important issues up to the executive. We've taken your concerns very seriously and as an executive team we've been working on exploring what tangible things we can each do to support and advocate for international students.

In my role as VP Community, I will be working on some of the more community-related issues that were identified, which include the following projects –

- (1) Ensuring that there is a support system in place for international students before and during their arrival in Kingston.
- (2) Working on finding ways to assist International students find adequate housing arrangements in advance of arriving in Kingston.
- (3) Working towards unifying communication that goes to all incoming students so they are not bombarded with information from various offices.

These projects will involve reaching out to our campus partners (including the School of Graduate Students, the Queen's University International Centre, Student Community Relations, Queen's Community Housing, among other offices), as well as our current international graduate and professional student population and with the International Commissioner. We will also be striking a working group on International Students' Issues (the motion will be in the agenda) and I will work to help facilitate that so we can continue to have more community consultation and continue to come up with much needed solutions.

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!

Queen's Reads Event

Finally, I hope you've all picked up your free copy of this year's Queen's Reads book *Scarborough* from the SGPS office (if not we've got some left!). The author of the book, Catherine Hernandez, will be on campus this Friday November 16th at the Isabel Bader Centre for Performing Arts to discuss her book, and will do a book signing afterwards! This event is free for Queen's students, staff and faculty members but seats are limited so make sure to register in advance - <https://www.facebook.com/events/341107623323922/>.

That's it from me! I'll see you all at the Fall General Meeting on November 27th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Isabel Luce". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Isabel Luce
SGPS VP Community



Council,

Presentations

There will be two presentations at November's Council meeting: one regarding Robert's Rules of Order, presented by the Deputy Speaker, and one regarding Fee Referenda, presented by the Chief Returning Officer. I will be sending the presentations out in advance (probably Monday evening) so that you can refer to them during their respective presentations. I encourage you to engage and ask questions.

Bylaw & Policy

Following a call out to students in Public Administration, a number of individuals have reached out indicating that they would like to be part of the Committee. Once again, I would ask that anyone on Council who is interested contact me. Our first meeting will be this Thursday.

General Meeting

The next GM is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27th. Please send me any motions or requests for the GM.

Listserv & Voting Cards

Things should be in good shape now, but as always, please communicate any issues to me.

Looking forward to seeing everyone Tuesday,

Simon

Simon Gollish
Speaker of the SGPS
speaker@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Graduate Student Senator
November 2016

No report received.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Trustee
November 2016

No report received.



Dear Council,

During the past month I have created events ongoing for the semester, ran successful events for October, and have confirmed events for November. Thesis Therapy and the start of our ongoing semester events have continued to show success. Keep your eye out for the continuing semester events including, another sports hour, cooking class, and thesis therapy as well as a yoga event.

November Events:

Yoga: November 12th from 830-930pm we have partnered with Studio 330 to host a SGPS yoga class. Tickets will be \$8.50. Studio 330 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.

Cooking Class: On November 28 the Student Wellness Group will be hosting SGPS members again for a cooking class. The tentative menu is “Make your own Sushi”. Tickets will be \$5.

Ongoing Semester Events to Promote

Sports Hour: We have shifted sports hour to be “Soccer Hour”. On Mondays from 5-6 pm at the MacBrown gym all SGPS members are welcome to come out to join the game. The next one will be November 19th. Based on the response from changing to indoor soccer we may continue this into second semester.

Thesis Therapy: In partnership with VP Graduate’s Thesis Thursday, Thesis Therapy will also occur again on November 28th. We had a ton of people join us on November 1st.

I will not be hosting any major event during December due to exam season and people departing for holidays.

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,

I would first like to start with introducing the newly hired Deputy Equity and Diversity Commissioners, Katie and Fifi. I am fortunate to have their expertise and passion as part of the larger commissioner team.

On October 31, the Built Environment Advisory Group (BEAG) held the Accessibility Café in Robert Sutherland Hall. We discussed the recent Queen's and Kingston successes in relation to accessibility: Break Water Park, Mitchell Hall. We also discussed the 5-year plan for the Advisory Group: including plans for barrier removal, and the relocation of certain blue lights to accessible locations. The plan for incremental budget increases was shared as well. There was a great turn out of faculty, staff, students and community members to the café, and many interesting discussion points were raised. There is also a call for membership to the BEAG. It is a great way to get to know what is going on at Queen's in terms of accessibility, and an opportunity to join a conversation about how university spaces are used and what areas for improvement exist. Email me if you're interested or have questions about BEAG membership!

Isabel (VP Community) and I will meet with representatives from 4 Directions Indigenous Student Centre to discuss the role of the Indigenous student representative at council. Updates will be provided at council.

On Nov. 19 the Intervention and Awareness training will be held for SGPS members. It will be run by the AMS Social Issues Commissioner. It will take place at 6PM in SGPS Lounge. The Social Issues Commissioner developed this training herself this summer and it will be the first time it has been delivered to a graduate student audience. Drop ins are welcome! Please email me with any accessibility needs. Pizza will be served.

As always, I welcome any questions, comments, or concerns.

Catrina Mavrigianakis
Equity and Diversity Commissioner
2018-2019



Dear Council,

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. This was a nice opportunity for many of our international SGPS members to learn about unique aspects of Irish and Indian 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.). Dr. Arunima Khanna lead the session and students found it very 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,

I've had a great first month of duty in October. It was lovely meeting so many of you in the SGPS community at our events. We hosted a number of successful events including our monthly board game night, Fort Fright Night, and touring the Kingston Penitentiary on their last day on operations for 2018. Thank you for coming out and making these events so enjoyable.

Additionally, we've hired our 2018-2019 Deputy Social Commissioner. We're both excited to work on providing events and opportunities to bring together the SGPS community. Here are some events we have planned for the month of November:

November Events:

SGPS Board Game Night: We're hosting our monthly board game night at the Grad Club on Thursday, November 15 from 5:30-8:30. This is a great opportunity to meet other graduate and professional students, play some games and maybe even form your Grad Club trivia team. Next semester, we plan to host our board game nights in the SGPS lounge so we may expand our game options and utilize the ping pong, foosball, and air hockey tables!

Recharge in the Phytotron: Have you ever wondered if you could venture to the green house atop the Biosciences Complex? We're taking you on a trip to their tropical plant room and beyond. The natural light up there makes for some great photos! Afterwards, we're planting some seeds and painting our plant pots. Come join us on Tuesday, November 20 from 3:30-5.

Look out for more event announcements on our Facebook page.

I welcome any suggestions, questions, or comments regarding SGPS social events. You can contact me at social@sgps.ca.

Kind Regards,

Beatrice Suero

Social Commissioner 2018-19

SGPS



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the University Rector
November 2016

No report received.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Chief Returning Officer
November 2016

No report received.