



Hey Everyone,

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday season! I just have a few quick updates. As always feel free to reach out if you have any comments or questions!

Executive and Graduate Senator Elections

On December 31st the nomination period for SGPS elections officially open. All 5 executive positions; VP Graduate, VP Professional, VP Finance and Services, and VP Community will be open for nominations. The two-year position of Graduate Student Senator will also be open for nominations. If you or someone you know may be interested in these amazing opportunities keep posted to our social media for profiles on each of the positions. Also feel free to reach out to the individuals who currently hold these positions to discuss what each entail.

On a personal note being a part of the SGPS has been an incredible experience. From VP Community to President I have learned so much and met so many amazing people. Before I began, I never thought of myself as someone who could be in this type of role, it took the push of a close friend to get me to run, and I couldn't be happier that I did. All this to say that I highly encourage anyone who is thinking of running to reach out and seriously consider taking a leap of faith!

Helen Howard Graduate Reading Room

For those of who haven't heard the Helen Howard Graduate Reading Room in Stauffer Library is now open! Through the generous support of alumnus Dr. Helen Howard Graduate students now have an incredible room to collaborate in. The room features a lounge area for reading or quiet chatting, a large room for work or presentations, and two small break out rooms that can be booked through the libraries website. The room will be accessible via a passcode to ensure it is only used by Graduate students. So stay tuned to your email for the passcode which I am told should come in the next few days!

Smoke Free Campus Policy

As I mentioned at the Fall General Meeting, the University is currently drafting a policy that will make campus smoke/vape free. The current proposed policy would not have any designated areas. I am looking for feedback to bring forward on behalf of Graduate students. If you would like to discuss this further please reach out!

President
Tyler Morrison



Hello Council,

I hope that you are all having an excellent December and that you all have an excellent holiday season. As this term is ending, I have a few details that I would like to add from my oral report at the general meeting. This term has gone very well, and I would like to thank all the members that have reached out to me with suggestions on how to improve the society.

Arts and Science Strategic Working Group

The faculty of Arts and Science has created their working group to determine the strategic plan for the next five years of the faculty. As the Vice President Graduate and current Arts student, I am the SGPS's delegate on this body. Please let me know if you have any thoughts on where you think the faculty should be in the next five years to be successful.

On Campus Jobs

At our International student issues townhall a serious concern was brought forward about the access to jobs on campus for international students. I have reached out to Stephanie Simpson our VP Equity at the university who is now looking into what are the policies and practices on campus for hiring students. I have also discussed this at length with the Dean of Graduate studies who is looking into the policy surrounding teaching assistant and research assistant hiring. The dual investigations are being conducted to remove any current barriers that prevent graduate students who want to work on campus from having the opportunity to do so.

As always if you have anything that you would like me to bring up in the future please do not hesitate to reach out to me at vp.graduate@sgps.ca

Cheers,

Leo



Dear Council,

The end of the semester is almost here and for many of this is often a particularly stressful part of the year! It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of exam season and thesis writing but try and take time for self-care. Most importantly, take some time over the winter break to rest and recharge – you deserve it!

A few quick updates:

We held another professional headshot session this past Thursday (December 6th) but if you haven't yet had a chance to get a photo, we will be hosting two additional sessions in the coming Winter semester – stay tuned for the times and locations!

I will also be planning some stand-alone career development workshops to take place during the course of the Winter semester – if you have an idea for a workshop please send your ideas to vp.professional@sgps.ca!

See you in January!

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
December 2018

No report provided.



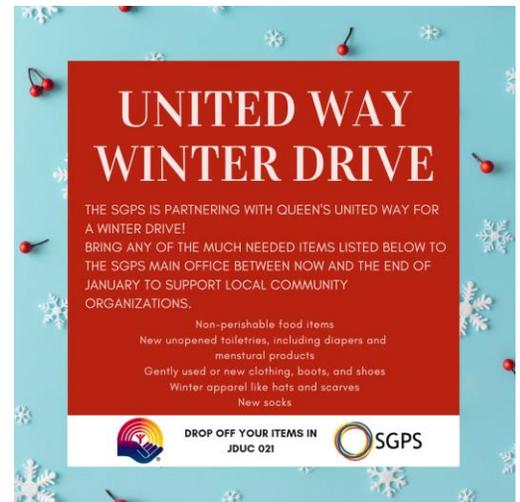
Dear SGPS Council,

It's been a busy month as I've been working with the commissioners on upcoming initiatives, conference organizing and campaigns. If you were at our last General Meeting, I invited Bhavana Varma (President and CEO of United Way: Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington) and Shawn Quigley (Executive Director of Youth Diversion, a partner agency of United Way) to come speak to us about the work that they're doing and how we as SGPS members can get involved in their organizations. If you missed the presentation and are interested in hearing more, or are curious about other community organizations that you could get involved with, send me an email at vp.community@sgps.ca and I'll be happy to connect you!

SGPS and AMS Winter Donation Drive for United Way

As you may have seen on social media, we've launched our SGPS and Queen's United Way Winter Drive! We're currently looking for non-perishable food items, new unopened toiletries including diapers and menstrual products, gently used or new clothing, boots and shoes, and winter apparel like hats and scarves, and finally socks!

What you donate will go towards directly supporting local Kingston organizations like All That Kids Can Be, From Poverty to Possibility and Healthy People, Strong Communities and more. For more information about these organizations or if you would like to give a monetary donation, please check out the United Way's website: <https://www.unitedwayfla.ca/>. Make sure to pass this information on to your department!



January Welcome Back/Orientation Week

A number of graduate students start their degree in the winter semester and unfortunately miss out on the Orientation week activities we run every September. We want to make sure everyone gets a chance to meet people outside of their department and feel welcomed at Queen's so this year I've been working with the commissioners to run events during the first week back in January for both returning grad students and incoming ones! Stay tuned as we start advertising this welcome back week, and we've got some exciting events in the works for the new year.

SGPS Lounge, Room 237

This is just a reminder from me that that the SGPS Lounge is open and available for SGPS members to use anytime between 9am – 5pm from Monday to Friday (when the SGPS is open). Just drop over to the SGPS office to pick up a key, and you're welcome to use it as a study space or play some foosball or table tennis with friends. This is a shared graduate gathering space – pass on to your department student societies that they can use it!

That's it from me! Have a great holiday and make sure to take some time off and relax!

Sincerely,

Isabel Luce
SGPS VP Community



Dear all,

First of all, I hope your papers/exams/regular December activities are going well. Courage, we're almost there!

A few announcements:

ELECTIONS!!!

Nominations will be posted on December 31, 2018. If you or anyone else is interested, please watch for the email and remember that you can always reach out to elections@sgps.ca.

Alexandru has asked that I remind you that Student Senator is up for election this year. Please feel free to reach out to him if you have any specific questions about the position.

Council

While we did not have Council in December, we will definitely be having one January 15th, 2019! Election issues, particularly approvals, will be on the agenda. I will be sending out relevant materials as I receive them, so please stay tuned.

Bylaw & Policy

It's moving, slowly, but moving!

All the best for the season, I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Yours truly,

Simon Gollish

Speaker
speaker@sgps.ca



Dear all,

I have little to report since my oral report at the General meeting. Though my involvement at the Graduate Studies Executive Council I have made a connection with the Manager of Residence Admissions. I have a question for the Council. Rental vacancy rates in Kingston are very low. Do our members have difficulty finding housing? Have they had difficulty accessing university residences? Do they need more sports in university residences? If the answer is yes please contact me and at a subsequent meeting we can have a discussion about this and I can take our members concerns to my contact.

Additionally, I would like to remind you that the Senate Orientation Activities Review Board is still looking for applications from students. If you would like to be part of the committee that oversees orientation activities at Queen's and makes the rules governing them please apply at <https://queensuniversity.civicweb.net/Portal/BoardApplication>

All the best,

Alexandru



No report provided.



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. There will not be any additional events in December.

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
December 2018

No report provided.



Dear Council,

Compliments of the season to you all.

This month, we had a workshop on Nov 5 on "How to manage Work-life Balance" from 4:30 pm to 6 pm at QUIC. The resource person was Dr Arunima Khanna from Student Wellness Services. This workshop was to help students navigate how to manage the academic pressure at Queens and attain work-life balance in your life. The workshop was geared towards the needs of all new international students focusing on the strategies, tips, do's and don'ts on how to mitigate the challenges and excel in academic career at Queens.

In continuation with our Diversity and Inclusion Film Festival series, we screened the movie "Coco" on Nov 16 evening in collaboration with the Kingston Latino Student Association. It was a biggest hit this year as it was very well received and room was full with students (domestic and international). There was a cultural display as well of the Mexican culture. The event was also captured in the Queen's Gazette - <https://www.queensu.ca/gazette/stories/celebrating-cultural-diversity-through-cinema>

Then we had our next movie on Nov 30 evening where we screened Indigenous movie "Indian Horse" in collaboration with ASUS Journal of Indigenous Studies to showcase Indigenous culture. Volunteers from AJIS and Prof Doxtater facilitated the discussion. It was equally well received. Based on our success, we have been approached by two more cultural groups on campus to let them share their culture. We are thinking of continuing the DIFF series in January and February coming year. Some of the pictures of the event are on the next page.

We are now planning events and workshops for the Winter term in collaboration with QUIC and our social/equity/athletics commissioners and will be soon updating you with our list of events and workshops for our SGPS members for the Winter 2019. Stay tuned.

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 have had an enjoyable first semester working as the Social Commissioner. I am grateful for the opportunity to bring students together and to explore all the fun things to do on campus and in the Kingston community. Thank you all for attending events and adding the energy needed to make them so successful. In particular, our recent events have brought to life new ideas and will likely become regular activities throughout the year due to their success. These include:

Recharge in the Phytotron: Attendees were pleased to escape the cold when visiting campus' own tropical oasis in the BioSciences greenhouse. Afterwards, we planted and painted, a great way to step back and recharge amid our busy schedules. Many have asked about the possibility of hosting another one of these events and due to its popularity, we will organize more opportunities to recharge in the phytotron next semester. Be sure to keep up to date with our events by liking our Facebook page.



Students learning about tropical plants in the Phytotron atop the BioSciences Complex from Dale Kristensen.

Games in the SGPS Lounge: We're taking full advantage of our space in the JDUC. We will host some game nights in the lounge so that you can challenge people in a game of ping pong or be social while still on your phone by playing Jackbox multiplayer games.

I'm looking forward to next semester and embracing the new realm of possible activities that winter brings. Here are some events in the works for next semester:

Winter Welcome Week: Start off the semester by playing some pool at The Grizz or checking out the Lumina Borealis exhibit at Fort Henry. Check back on our Facebook page for dates and times.

Skating in the Square

Winterlude or Ski trip

Laser Tag

Hiking trips

and much more!

I'm happy to hear any suggestions, questions, or comments about SGPS social events and activities. You can contact me at social@sgps.ca.

I hope everyone has a great winter break, see you again next semester!

Kind Regards,

Beatrice Suero

Social Commissioner 2018-19

Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS)

Queen's University



No report provided.



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

No report provided – please see Speaker.