



Agenda
November 13th, 2018 - 5:30pm
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

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.

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm.



Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes

A. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 13/11/18:1

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the November 13th, 2018 Council Meeting.

**Moved by Vice-President Graduate (Leo Erlikhman)
Seconded by President (Tyler Morrison)**

MOTION 13/11/18:9

Motion to move the discussion on Agenda Item VIII A. to follow the Adoption of the Minutes.

**Moved by Vice-President Graduate (Leo Erlikhman)
Seconded by President (Tyler Morrison)**

The Motion carries unanimously.

The Agenda is adopted unanimously.

B. Adoption of the Minutes for October 09, 2018

MOTION 13/11/18:2

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Minutes of the October 09th, 2018 Council Meeting.

**Moved by Vice-President Graduate (Leo Erlikhman)
Seconded by President (Tyler Morrison)**

The Motion carries unanimously.



Other Business

A. Discussion item on the Council Restructure.



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Logan Barr (“Logan”), Student Advisor presented a report. This was followed up by a discussion about possible reforms.

Logan explained the three models that were brought to the student consultations on the reformation of council.

Question by Councillor Christina Frendo: what is the DSC and who are the AMS?

Speaker answers that the DSC is a grant offered by the SGPS to student departments and the AMS is the undergraduate student society.

Question by Councillor Ky Pearce: Is there a no-change option?

Vice-President Graduate responds that if the motion is put to a vote and it doesn't pass then it would amount to a no-change.

Question by Councillor Cameron Wathey: Do the by-laws currently say something about removing the voting rights of a departments that is frequently absent?

Speaker responds that the Bylaws state that three absences will result in the loss of voting-rights.

Vice-President Graduate notes that the main motivation behind this motion is to create a more representative Council composition. Law department and Education department students constitute more than 25% of the student body but currently hold less than 10% of Council.

Question by Councillor Matt Nelms: how many people were consulted in this process?

Vice-President Graduate responds that there has been approximately 150 people that have been consulted either through in-person attendance or through the online survey.

Question by Councillor Stéfy McKnight: What is the rationale or removing the voting rights of the indigenous non-departmental representatives?

Equity Commissioner responds that consultations with the Four-Directions directors have suggested that the SGPS should hire an Indigenous Commissioner just like the AMS does.

Councillor Ky Pearce notes that it is insulting to remove the Indigenous or other equity seeking group's voting rights, there should be broader consultations.

Vice-President Graduate responds that indeed more consultations will take place in order to have a homogenous voice of the equity-seeking groups.

President further notes that they agree that more consultations need to take place in order to provide a motion before council that is more concrete with exact solutions. The rationale here is that we need to look around the room and see why the turnout is extremely low. President



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emphasised that he wanted to hear more from Council saying that if someone doesn't agree with this, they should provide him with feedback and if someone thinks this is a good idea then he also wants to hear back from him.

Equity Commissioner further responds that the current Indigenous student representative was consulted here and they agreed that they should be given more duties than the simple volunteer duties of attending Council.

Question by Councillor Cameron Wathey: is there an executive that is responsible for reaching out to departments to get Councillors to show up?

Speaker responds that it is the Speaker's responsibility to reach out to departments to determine the representatives. However, the issue here is that some departments do not have a contact for their student bodies. The LSS and the Education Society have robust departmental societies that will elect students for these positions through their own processes. However other, smaller departments do not have these structures and go year after year without sending a representative.

Question by Councillor Linda Mussell: I heard that there may have been a recent attempt to restructure council which failed, can you speak to that?

Vice-President Graduate responds that they spoke to Presidents from the past three years and they did not mention any of this.

Question by Councillor Cameron Wathey: Were all the graduate student association structures in Canada brought forward in these options?

Vice-President Graduate responds that only the ones that were feasible to be implemented in our society.

Question by Councillor Matt Nelms: How will these changes be adopted? I would like some information about the logistics of the changes in terms of how the motion to change council will look like?

Speaker responds that any motion that is brought forward to council must have a detailed mechanism of how elections will look like, the number of departments, etc..

President further responds that the main purpose of bringing of the discussion item is to see what do councillors think.

Comment by Councillor Ky Pearce: Expresses concerns about the homogeneity comment about the equity-seeking groups. If the equity seeking group's representatives risk being too homogenous, then all the current Councillors do not effectively represent their departments.

Comment by Councillor Christina Frendo: Also concerned about the equity-seeking groups not



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being represented properly in model #2.

Comment by President: They also agrees that model #2 was not a good idea and it will not be considered any longer. President further raises the issue of international students that have an international commissioner that does not have a voting right – maybe this is something that should be considered. He also raised the issue of part-time graduate and professional students that are not assessed the SGPS fee and are therefore not even considered SGPS members let alone have a seat on council. They then discussed the lack of representation for mature students that have highly diverse and different needs from the general memberships as well as between themselves.

Question by Councillor Brendan Egan: What does the SGPS do to inform part-time students that they are able to opt-in into the SGPS?

President responds that Part-time students tend not to want to opt-into the SGPS because they not assessed any ancillary fees.

Question by Councillor Britney Lester: How do we find the survey and what is the deadline to fill it out?

Vice-President Graduate responds that there is no deadline and the Speaker will circulate a link to the survey which you are encouraged to share with your own departments.

Discussion ended at 6:20pm



Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Tyler Morrison (report attached)
 - Talked about his experience attending convocation and commended Councillors for being so involved in extracurricular despite being in demanding programs.
- b. VP Graduate – Leo Erlikhman (report attached)
- c. VP Professional – Lauren Peacock (report attached)
 - Updated council orally on Careers' Week:
 - The SGPS ran excel sessions which saw a lot of sign-ups but much less attendance.
 - Approximately 60 students showed up to take their professional headshots
 - Question by Councillor Cameron Wathey: Can you do headshots in December because some of us will have some ridiculous mustaches in November?



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- Answer: Yeah, definitely
 - d. VP Finance & Services – Abel Hazon (report attached)
 - e. VP Community – Isabel Luce (report attached)
- B. Speaker Report**
- a. Speaker – Simon Gollish (report attached)

- C. Approval** **MOTION 13/11/18:3**
BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Moved by Councillor Alexander Ness

Seconded by Councillor (unnamed)

The Motion carries unanimously.



Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports

- A. Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Alexandru Sonoc [not present, no report]
- B. Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – Leena Yahia [not present, no report]
- C. Commissioner Reports**
- a. Athletics Commissioner – Larkin Davenport Huyer (report attached)
 - Reminded council that there is a cooking class on 29th and thesis therapy on the 28th.
 - There will not be a winter SGPS intramural team because last year, the attendance was at zero
 - b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Catrina Mavrigianakis (Oral Report)
 - Question by Councillor Cameron, do we have to sign-up for the training scheduled in your report?
 - No, it is run by the AMS and they would love to hear about your feedback on how the training was to graduate students.
 - c. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Atul Jaiswal (report attached)
 - d. Social Commissioner – Beatrice Suero (report attached)
- D. Committee Reports**

Department Reports

- A. Other Reports**
- a. University Rector – Alex da Silva (No report)
 - b. Chief Returning Officer – Noor Shafka
- B. Approval** **MOTION 13/11/18:4**
BIRT SGPS Council approve the Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports.



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Moved by Vice-President Graduate (Leo Erlichman)
Seconded by President (Tyler Morrison)

The Motion carries unanimously.



V. Question Period & Departmental Issues



VI. Business Arising from the Minutes



VII. Presentations

- A. Presentation on Robert’s Rules of Order – Deputy Speaker, Fiona Purkis**
- B. Presentation on Fee Referenda Process – Chief Returning Officer, Noor Shafka**



VIII. Main Motions & Discussion

- A. Ratification of Election Dates MOTION 13/11/18:5**

NOTE: Deputy-Speaker assumes the role of Chair

BIRT SGPS Council ratify the following dates for the 2019 Election.

Proposed Dates:

Nomination Period Opens	December 31, 2018 – 8:00 AM
Nomination Period Closes	January 14, 2019 - 4:00 PM
SGPS Council	January 15, 2019 – 5:30 PM
All Candidates Meeting	January 17, 2019 – 5:30 PM



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Campaign Period Opens	January 18, 2019 – 12:01 AM
Campaign Period Closes	January 27, 2019 – 11:59 PM
Voting Opens	January 28, 2019 – 12:01 AM
Voting Closes	January 29, 2019 – 8:00 PM
Expenses Due	February 01, 2019 – 4:00 PM

Moved by Chief Returning Officer (Noor Shafka)

Seconded by Speaker (Simon Gollish)

Question by Councillor Britney Lester: Why does Voting close on 8pm instead of 11:59pm of that day?
Speaker responds that this allows the team to announce the winner that evening or the next day.

Question by Councillor Cameron Wathey: The Bylaws say that the nomination period should be two weeks, does it matter that this nomination period runs during a time when the university is closed?

Speaker responds that the Bylaw does not suggest any limitations about those days.

President notes that this was the timeline last year and it worked really well.

The Motion carries unanimously.

B. Motion: The International Student Issues Working Group

MOTION 13/11/18:6

WHEREAS the SGPS recently held a Town Hall on International Student issues.

WHEREAS many students expressed their views on specific advocacy initiatives the SGPS should bring to the University and other stakeholders.

WHEREAS the SGPS wants to ensure the voices of all international students are heard.

BIRT the SGPS strike The International Student Issues Working Group tasked with writing a report addressing which advocacy initiatives they would like to see addressed by the University. This report will be presented to University Stakeholders by the SGPS Executive.

BIFRT that the working group have no cap on the number of members.

BIFRT the working group will elect their Chair who must be an at large international SGPS member.

BIFRT the SGPS supply all the necessary resources and administrative support needed to facilitate the working group and the writing of the report.

Moved: President (Tyler Morrison)

Seconded: Vice-President Graduate (Leo Erlichman)

President introduces the motion, noting that after the International Student Townhall, the students expressed concerns over the lack of representation of the voice of international students with the upper administration of the university. This solution was requested by some of the members as a good avenue for students to voice their concerns and the report is brought forward to various



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stakeholders and university departments.

Question by Councillor (Unnamed): Is the working group membership open to non-councillors?
President responds yes.

Question by Councillor Linda Mossell: We should allow the working group to represent their findings directly to upper administration.
President responds that we cannot bind an external group to listen to this working group and we should leave the decision to this working group how they want to present their findings. If they want to do it orally and in person then the President will do their best to give them air time with the administration.

The Motion carries unanimously.



Notices of Motion & Announcements

Vice-President Graduate: Last Thesis Thursday workshop will occur this week and next week.

The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 11th at 5:30 PM (McLaughlin Hall, JDUC).

The next General meeting will be Tuesday, November 27th at 5:30 PM (McLaughlin Hall, JDUC).



Adjournment

A. Adjournment
BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

MOTION 13/11/18:8

Moved By Vice-President Graduate (Leo Erlikhman)

The Motion carries unanimously.

Meeting is adjourned at 7:11 pm.