



Hey Everyone,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a relaxing break! A couple quick updates

Executive and Graduate Senator Elections

The nomination period for Executive and Senator elections is currently open. If you are interested in learning more about one of these positions, I highly encourage you to reach out to myself or the individual who holds the position you are interested in. As I mentioned before this experience has truly been an honor and I have learned so much. Even if you don't see yourself in a position like this, I encourage you to step out of your comfort zone like I did – you won't regret it.

JDUC Referendum

As I write this the campaign period for the AMS JDUC Referendum is beginning, and the vote will take place on January 17 and 18. For those of you who don't know, last year SGPS members overwhelmingly voted for the renovation of the JDUC which would see the creation of an SGPS Lounge. I have worked closely with the AMS, the University, and outside architects to create renderings to be shown for the upcoming referendum. Hopefully the AMS will pass their referendum and we will begin consultations on what the SGPS Lounge will look like!

For more information visit <http://myjduc.com/> Here you can find images and floor plans for the building. At this point nothing is set in stone so if you have feedback, I would love to hear it and can forward it on to the team of architects.

That's all for now, as always please reach out with any questions!

President
Tyler Morrison



Hello Council,

I hope that you all had an excellent holiday break and new year. Welcome back to campus for the Winter 2019 term and for those joining us this term welcome to Queen's. Over the break a few exciting developments have come forward that I want to share with you.

Faculty of Arts and Science Working Group

As the society's appointed member to this working group we will be starting our drafting session for the Faculty's strategic plan for the next five years next week. Consultations took place in December and the committee will now be incorporating the feedback into the drafted plan. Tyler will be leading the SGPS's independent consultation and be submitting a report on behalf of all members expressing our collective interest in what graduate students want changed at the faculty level. For any questions about the committee's mandate or the consultation process please feel free to reach out to me.

Graduate Student Working Group

Coming from the hard work done by the previous and current executive to make the graduate student experience and graduate student success. I am pleased to announce that the Working Group for Graduate Student Success will be launching this week and working throughout the term to produce a report on how to improve graduate life at Queen's. The committee has an excellent mandate and will be looking at all aspects of graduate student life inside and outside the classroom. Again, if you have any questions about the Working Group's mandate or the consultation process please feel free to reach out to me.

International Graduate Student Issues

I am happy to report that from the last meeting with Dr. Quadir, Dean of Graduate Studies that the International Graduate Student working group set up by the SGPS will have its report submitted to the dean once completed. I look forward to work with international students to discuss topics that they want brought forward to the upper administrative level to continue to keep international graduate student issues at the forefront of administrative minds.

JDUC

The undergraduates will be running their referendum on the JDUC re-development this month and we wish them the best. If this referendum is successful, our quest for graduate student space and the 77% of students who voted in support of new space last year will have been achieved.

Have an excellent January!

Leo Erlikhman
VP Graduate



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Professional
January 2019

No report received.



Council,

I want to wish you a happy new year and I hope you've had a restful break. The year has begun with a roaring start with bursaries and grants, continuous reporting obligations as per Bylaw 1.2.5, and reviewing the referendum packages for feeing going up for renewal.

Continuous Reporting Obligations

The deadline for organizations to submit their required financial information was Monday January 7th. However, a significant number of organizations have failed to meet this date for various reasons. I am currently working with those that haven't been able to meet the date to ensure that their clubs remain in good standing.

Bursaries and Grants

Since our last update at the November AGM, there has been some significant uptake on the grant applications from various parties. The bursaries have also seen a spike in applicants given that the Queen's General Bursary (QGB) decisions have been released and many of our students use the QGB as proof of need for the bursary applications. I am currently working with our Finance Director to accommodate the influx of applicants and figure out ways to reallocate our bursary budgets to ensure that as many applicants are served as possible.

Referendum Packages

The drop-box for submitting referendum packages for review by the Finance Committee has opened on January 7th. We are currently receiving packages on a rolling basis and I am working with the Chief Returning Officer to ensure an efficient process in handling those time-sensitive documents.

The Finance Committee is in good standing as always.

Happy to take your questions.

Abel Hazon
VPFS
Jan, 2019



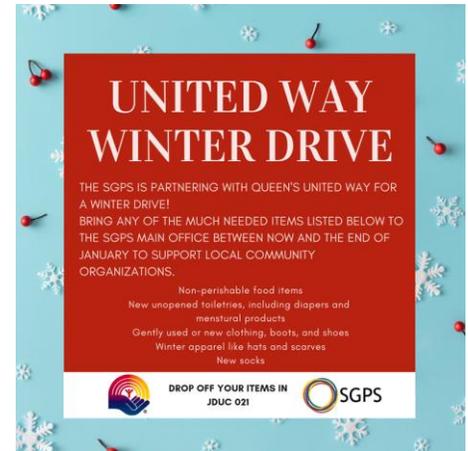
Dear SGPS Council,

I hope you're all rested from your holidays and ready to dive back into the school year! Here are my latest updates.

SGPS and AMS Winter Donation Drive for United Way, ending this January

Our Winter Donation Drive with the United Way is still on-going! We're 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.unitedwaykfla.ca/>. Make sure to pass this information on to your department and get your donations in by the end of the month!



Petition for a Traffic Control Light and a Pedestrian Crossing on Sir John A. MacDonald Boulevard

A group of Kingston citizens have formed the Sir John A. MacDonald Boulevard (SJA) Safety Working Group to work with City Councilors and City Staff to address the danger of speeding cars going down Sir John A. From January 2004 to 2014 there have been 438 accidents on this street. For those living at An Clachan and John Orr, getting the bus to campus everyday means trying to directly cross the busy street (there is an intersection further down the road but is often considered too far out of the way). Drivers are unaware of the number of people who cross this road every day and consider it as a main city artery, so they speed along to highway. This is a road that is regularly crossed by graduate students, their families, parents with strollers, as well as high schoolers and elementary children.

The SJA Safety Working Group is putting forward a motion at City Council on **January 22nd** for a traffic control light and a pedestrian crossing. This issue directly affects the SGPS due to the number of graduate students who live on the other side of Sir John A. MacDonald and who cross it regularly. Please make sure to sign the petition by **January 20th** so that the Working Group can show City Council that their motion has support from the community: https://www.change.org/p/bridget-doherty-install-a-traffic-control-light-and-crosswalk-at-norman-rogers-and-sir-john-a-macdonald?recruiter=547295&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink&utm_campaign=share_petition&fbclid=IwAR1UIYTnfqsXOP_069OMHwjWZDe4uKukLY50kBnkk2_F7G1iiNXrQ4LYLU.

Also if you have any personal experiences or anecdotes about crossing that street that you would like to share with the City Council in person or in text, please email me at vp.community@sgps.ca. The more interaction we can get from the community, the more likely we can make a greater impact.

Sincerely,

Isabel Luce
SGPS VP Community



Hello all,

First off – let me wish everyone the best for the New Year! I hope you enjoyed the break and have come back excited for all that the new year holds.

1) Elections

The elections are upon us and alongside Nick Stefan, we are doing our utmost to ensure that the 2019 SGPS General Election runs smoothly and fairly. As you will have noted, we must approve the ballot questions at Council and I encourage you to look at the packages which I have circulated.

2) **IMPORTANT – ELECTION APPEALS COMMITTEE**

I need two Council members to join me on the Election Appeals Committee. The Committee is responsible for reviewing any appeals from a decision of the CRO which resulted in a sanction. This responsibility is only for the election period. Please let me know if you are interested!!!

3) Bylaw & Policy

The Committee has been making progress in attempting to clean up the Bylaw section of our governing document. We hope to be able to report substantial progress, with possible recommendations to Council/General Membership by mid-February.

4) On multiple individuals representing a department

I have received several queries as to the following issue: Can multiple individuals represent a same Councillor position on a rotating basis?

I have decided that it is inappropriate for me to allow this. I have considered the three following factors in making this decision:

1. While there is no specific language prohibiting this practice, the Bylaw on Recognized Groups notes that a certain number of representatives are allocated according to the number of members in that Recognized Group. The use of the term “representative” indicates, to my mind, that the role is the responsibility of one individual, not a collection. I think this becomes clearer when we consider other positions, such as Aboriginal Student Representative or International Student Representative.
2. As we have discussed as a Council, despite my best efforts, there remains a certain imprecision in the Council list. This is partly due to the structure of Council, the rapidly evolving nature of Graduate Studies (e.g. individuals joining and leaving at unconventional times), and my own organizational challenges. Allowing this practice to be normalized will likely further complicate this task of establishing clear lists.
3. Lastly, the underlying current of my responsibilities is engagement and participation, and finding ways to develop them among our Members. Any decision I make must be considered in this light. I do not believe however, that by refusing to allow this practice, we are dissuading individuals from participating. Council remains an open forum. Whether it be allowing individuals (Council members or not) to speak on issues that affect them, or circulating Council information to those who wish to obtain it, I think it is

possible to ensure Council remains an inclusive and participatory, while ensuring that there is certainty regarding those who are voting members of Council.

I am happy to speak with anyone regarding this decision.

As always, please reach out with any concerns or questions.

Kind regards,

Simon Gollish
Speaker
speaker@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Graduate Student Senator
January 2019

No report received.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Trustee
January 2019

No report received.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Athletics Commissioner
January 2019

No report received.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity & Diversity Commissioner
January 2019

No report received.



Dear Council,

New year greetings to you all.

With the support of our executives, we are planning some wonderful events for the Winter term in collaboration with QUIC and our equity commissioners. We, international and equity commission, are excited to share that we are hoping to organize a two days conference on campus on celebrating research scholarship and leadership of women graduate students on campus in the mid-week of March 2019. The concept note is ready and we are hoping to get it approved by our executives soon. We will update you with its detailed information in our next report and will seek for your support to promote and participate to make it a grand success. Stay tuned.

We are also excited to share the news that ethical approval is obtained for our educational research by Queens GREB and our data collection will start soon. The purpose of the educational research project is to explore the academic writing challenges faced by graduate students who have English as their second language. This project is a joint collaboration between the Society for Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS), School of Graduate Studies (SGS), Queen's University International Centre (QUIC), Student Academic Success Services (SASS), and the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL). The study uses a mixed-method approach, wherein quantitative data is collected from students and supervisors using online surveys and qualitative data is collected using four focus group discussions (FGDs), two with students and two with faculty members. The sample includes i) doctoral students who are non-native English language speakers and in any year of their program; and ii) faculty members with experience of supervising doctoral students at Queen's University. Through our findings, we hope to highlight challenges towards successful academic writing at the graduate level. Understanding these challenges will inform the mechanisms adopted by Queen's University to strengthen the existing services and the development of an academic writing support model to support graduate students and their supervisors towards successful academic writing. The first 60 respondents will receive Starbucks gift cards. Please promote the study and stay tuned to participate in the survey.

I hope you all are aware that QUIC has moved to a new location - Mitchell Hall, 2nd floor, and has a new Director – Mr. Sultan Almajil. We had a meeting with the new director to garner his support on our collaborative events for the winter term. I represented our commission in the orientation meeting for international graduate students today at 5 pm at QUIC. I made them aware of our SGPS services and supports. On Jan 11, we have a social networking Karaoke night for our members. You are invited to join us at QUIC from 5:30 to 7 pm. We are planning some more exciting events for the winter term and will share you its information soon. Stay tuned. We also have great social events planned by our social commission and I will encourage to attend those.

We look forward to interacting with you all at the various events that will be hosted throughout this term. As always, we welcome any suggestions or comments, my email address is international@sgps.ca

Best wishes for the winter term,

Atul Jaiswal & Uchitta Vashisht

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



Dear Council,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a fun and safe winter break and are ready for all the exciting events we have planned this semester! I'm excited to take advantage of the winter season and all the new adventures that cold weather and snow can bring. Here are some of the events we have planned this semester

January Events:

Greetings! At The Grizz: As a part of our Winter Welcome Week, we're hosting a grad mixer at The Grizz. Come hang out, catch up with friends and meet some new people while playing pool and enjoying some snacks. This event is on Thursday, January 10 from 7:30-10PM.

SGPS Game Night: Our monthly Board Game Nights have expanded to include foosball, air hockey, ping pong, and Jackbox multiplayer games along with our regular selection of board games. Come on out on Thursday January 17 to the SGPS Grad Student Lounge (JDUC room 237) from 6-9PM.

The Grad Escape: the SGPS challenges you to break out of an escape room. This event will be held during the week of January 21.

Upcoming Events this semester:

Observatory Tour (February 10): We've booked a private tour of the observatory in Ellis Hall. We'll get to use the telescopes and learn more about our universe.

Winterlude Trip (February): We're organizing a day trip to Ottawa during the Winterlude festival. Skate on the Rideau Canal, visit Parliament, see ice sculptures, explore Byward Market and more!

Laser Tag: Throwback your favourite childhood birthday party. We're organizing a Grad Laser Tag party!

Hikes: Once the weather start to warm up, we're organizing hikes around the Kingston area (e.g. QUBS, Lemoine point).

Recharge in the Phytotron 2.0: Due to popular demand, we'll be organizing another chance to explore the Biosciences greenhouse and get your hands dirty with planting and painting.

Maple Madness (March): Learn how to tap trees and then sample some maple taffy on snow at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area.
and more!

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

Sincerely,

Beatrice Suero

Social Commissioner 2018-19



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the University Rector
January 2019

No report received.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Chief Returning Officer
January 2019

Oral report to be provided.