



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the President
General Meeting - February 2019

Oral report to be delivered.



Hello Council,

I hope everyone is having a good winter term so far and to thank you all for re-electing me to be your Vice President Graduate for another year. I look forward to serving you all in this position for the next year and seeing through some of the important projects that have begun over the last 12 months.

School of Graduate Studies Commitment to Graduate Funding

I would like to thank Principal Woolf, Provost Harris, and Dean Qadir on their cooperation and work to ensure that the School of Graduate Studies' funding allotment would not be altered for this upcoming year. This is excellent news for our membership as it will ensure that graduate students will be entitled to the same minimum funding packages that they received this year. It is now time to work with our departments and look to ensure that all funding packages remain the same for the next year for all students.

A special thank you to Tyler and my fellow executive members for your hard work this year this announcement shows the great work that student government does. Our partners in the university's administration show their continued willingness to work with our leadership team to improve the lives of graduate students.

Student – Supervisor Agreement

We continue to work with the school of graduate studies to implement the new student-supervisor agreement drafted last year for the upcoming academic year. Currently, we have faced opposition from the University's faculty association who did not like some of the language in the agreement. The feeling from the faculty has been that the agreement had language that was too strong in some points and felt more like a binding agreement than a guiding document. We will continue our work with the SGS and the faculty to deliver the best document to our members moving forward.

Working Group on Graduate Student Success

Throughout January the executive has had multiple meetings for the Working Group on Graduate Student Success. The working group will now be going out into our community to begin consultations to hear from the membership on what they feel are barriers to student success at Queen's.

Faculty of Arts and Science Working Group

This past month the Faculty of Arts and Science has been meeting to draft the vision and the priorities moving forward for the new strategic plan for the faculty. Once this has been completed the working group will be sending these strategies and vision out to our stakeholders. This should be happening over the next few weeks and we look forward to hearing from graduate students once our draft is complete.

Student Advisor Recommendations

Our student advisors are completing their terms and have been asked to provide recommendations to myself which I will share below. These recommendations are made anonymously as case information and the advisors who deal with them are sensitive matters.

Advisor 1

I believe that the SGPS Student Advisor Program is an important, effective program that should be available to graduate and professional students at all Universities. Graduate students face many different issues in their educational careers, and it is important to have a safe, confidential space to share these concerns. I enjoyed having the opportunity to listen, learn and assist with some of these issues while helping students achieve their desired outcomes. Moving forward, I think training could be streamlined to get Student Advisors ready for and adjusted to their roles in a more timely fashion, and I know that SGPS Council is already making plans to see this through. I also think that the program could benefit from better marketing throughout the University, and moving forward it will be important to connect again with Graduate Coordinators and departments again to ensure that graduate and professional students know that this amazing resource is available to them. Thanks for a great year!

Advisor 2

At this time, I only have one major recommendation, which is less about the support and services that we provide as advisors, and more about the onboarding process as an advisor. The SGPS staff has been great throughout the process. The one thing that would have helped immensely, and made the new advisors able to see clients sooner, would have been a more centralized training program. It would have been helpful if the SGPS staff had had the ability to coordinate and centralize all of the required training for the new advisors, especially if this had been completed in the week or so prior to the start of the fall term when our schedules were relatively open. As a research student, I had flexibility in my schedule and attending trainings was not a huge issue, other than having to wait for those trainings to occur. My other colleagues, I know, have struggled because of balancing class requirements with advisor training requirements.

Advisor 3

Advisor 4

Advisor 5

Key themes have come up through my conversations with the advisors:

The first: is that we need to work as a society to better on-board of our staff and to ensure that training is done promptly. With a large number of qualified returning advisors we will not be running a hiring session this fall and will instead be hiring in the fall to allow for incoming students to apply to the program.

The second: Is to increase the brand awareness and scope of the program. It is for this reason that the motion has been presented to change the name of the student advisor program to the Peer Academic Advisor Program. The student advisor program is unique and current and incoming students need to know that there is academic support that exists beyond their department or faculty.

Third: The creation of a Graduate Peer Support Centre. Currently the program

Cheers



Leo Erlikhman



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Professional
General Meeting - February 2019

Dear Members,

I am pleased to welcome Ryan Adlem as the incoming Vice-President Professional! I know Ryan is excited to be starting this role in May and I look forward to transitioning him into this role over the next few months as well as the fresh perspective he will bring to the role for next year.

A few quick updates:

We will be planning another Professional Headshots session for the end of February, once everyone has returned from reading week. Stay tuned for the exact time and location.

We will be looking to host similar Excel Workshops to those that were held as part of the SGPS/SGS careers week back in October as standalone workshops sometime in March. Stay tuned for the exact times and location.

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 - February 2019

Council,

The following is the general summary of the bursaries and grants utilization as of Tuesday, February 19th, 2019 .

Bursaries

Row Labels	Sum of Qty	Sum of Amount Approved	Budgeted	Average Bursary
DBA (5235)	9	4,517.45	5,000.00	501.94
ESA (5415)	4	1,152.42	10,000.00	288.11
ISB (5240)	24	4,800.00	5,000.00	200.00
Sports/Activity (5202)	39	5,031.36	5,000.00	129.01
Grand Total	76	15,501.23	25,000.00	203.96

Grants

Row Labels	Sum of Qty	Sum of Amount Approved	Budgeted
Accessibility Grant (5355)	2*		5,000.00
Dept Std Council Grant (5355)**	12	\$6,357.00	10,000.00
Diversity & Inclusion Grant (5355)	3	\$2,306.00	5,000.00
Sustainability Grant (5355)	1*		5,000.00
Grand Total	18	\$8,663.00	25,000.00

* = applications that are currently on hold

The Finance Committee is in good standing.

Happy to take your questions.

Abel Hazon
 VPFS



Dear SGPS Council,

A big congratulations to next year's newly elected VP Community Cameron Wathey! It will be an exciting couple of months as they transition into their new roles.

SGPS and AMS Winter Donation Drive for United Way has finished!

It's been such a pleasure working with the United Way this year and I'm pleased to let you know that our Winter Drive has finished, and we received a number of donations from SGPS and AMS members. Even though the drive is over, the need in Kingston for clothing, non-perishable food items, hygiene products and more continues. The Kingston Youth Shelter, for example, is always looking for donations to support their emergency shelter and transitional housing locations. They have an amazon wishlist with items they need that range in prices (from cleaning supplies to furniture), This is a very easy way to make sure that they get items they need and I recommend sharing the link on to your department: https://www.amazon.ca/registry/wishlist/1O50LDPOD65LB/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_ep_ws_hm8SBb82JM6S4. There is also always a need for volunteers, and during my final months in my VP Community position I will be working on trying to make these volunteering opportunities more visible to SGPS members.

Traffic Control Light/Pedestrian Crossing on Sir John A. MacDonald Boulevard

As per my previous reports, I've been sharing information on the work by the Sir John A. MacDonald Boulevard (SJA) Working Group who were advocating to City Councilors the need to have a traffic control light or pedestrian cross by An Clachan due to it being a very dangerous cross for pedestrians trying to access the bus route across the road. I'm happy to report that Councillor Bridget Doherty has received assurances from City Staff that the work to install a pedestrian activated traffic signal will be in the upcoming budget as a priority for 2019. Thank you to those of you who sent me letters to share your support for the project and to those of you who signed the petition!

International Student Working Group

Over the past couple of weeks, I have been meeting with the International Caucus at PSAC 901 to hear their concerns and see how we at the SGPS can further support the needs of international graduate students. These issues are especially pressing in the current political climate in Ontario. I encourage anyone who has an interest in issues affecting international graduate students to join us at the SGPS International Student Working Group by sending an email to ISWG@sgps.ca.

Campus Wellness Project

Queen's University has started the Campus Wellness Project, inspired by Queen's Strategic Framework. They will be performing consultations about "what a culture wellness means to you and how to advance such a culture for all who live, learn and work at Queen's." We're in talks about setting up one of these consultations for graduate students in particular, so once that's announced, please share it with your departments and consider joining us for a conversation.

That's all from me! If you have further questions, send me an email at vp.community@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,

Isabel Luce
SGPS VP Community



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Council Speaker
General Meeting - February 2019

Oral report to be delivered.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Graduate Student Senator
General Meeting - February 2019

No report was provided.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Trustee
General Meeting - February 2019

No report was provided.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Athletics Commissioner
General Meeting - February 2019

Dear Council,

Great news! Within the last month, the fee referendum passed that SGPS students will still have the opportunity to pay and utilize the ARC as we currently do.

Semester Events:

Soccer Hour: Tuesdays from 7-8pm in MacBrown gym we are holding weekly indoor soccer games. We have rebranded this from sports hour to soccer hour. We have had a great turn out this far and expect it to continue as the semester continues.

Thesis Therapy: Starting February 28th the Thesis Therapy events will begin again on a monthly basis for the rest of the semester. St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog program has been a great partnership and will continue to work with them.

One key event to look out for next month will include a Stress-Busting Workshop on the 27th. In March we are hoping to complete the organization of a mini basketball tournament as well as a collaboration event with our International Commissioner for a cricket and chess tournament.

We are happy to take any suggestions or comments about future and past SGPS athletics and wellness events as well as general questions or comments about athletics and wellness for graduate students. We can be reached at athletics@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,

Larkin Davenport Hoyer and Devon Blaskevitch
Athletics and Wellness Commissioner and Deputy Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, SGPS



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity & Diversity Commissioner
General Meeting - February 2019

Dear Council,

As a reminder, the upcoming Queen's International Women's Conference, which aims to celebrate Women's Leadership in International Graduate Research is still looking for graduate students to join our panels and talk about their research. If you are interested, please take a look at the call for papers and submit an abstract.

For your information; Flip the Script, a program run out of the Queen's Human Rights Office is accepting registration for the upcoming session on March 9 and 10 from 9:30am -4:30pm. Flip the Script is an evidence-based sexual assault resistance program for self-identified university aged women. The program has been evaluated in a clinical trial and two-year outcome evaluation. Flip the Script is a free 12-hour discussion based workshop that empowers self-identified women to openly discuss relationships, sexuality, and sexual assault. Flip the Script is facilitated and implemented internationally, and has been developed, piloted, and evaluated over a period of 10 years. If you are interested in registering please follow this link <https://bit.ly/2THc7Ct>. If you are interested in learning more please email aaaaproject@queensu.ca.

I sincerely hope that Winter Semester is progressing smoothly for all of you. As always, I welcome any questions, comments, or concerns.

Respectfully,

Catrina Mavrigianakis
Equity and Diversity Commissioner
2018-2019



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the International Student's Affairs Commissioner
General Meeting - February 2019

Dear Council,

Season greetings to you all,

We, international and equity commission, are excited to share that we are organizing a two days conference "Queen's International Women's Conference" on March 15-16, 2019. The Queen's International Women's Conference is a platform to celebrate the scholarship and leadership initiatives of graduate women researchers in international graduate research at Queen's University. This conference will include a panel on graduate student research at Queen's and will provide our students an opportunity to showcase their scholarly accomplishments. We will have a second panel that will bring together alumni from Queen's to talk to graduates about their career paths and their experiences post-graduation. As part of this conference, we will be running several professional development workshops and will be bringing in a keynote speaker to talk about the intersections of internationalization, research and the experience of women performing international research. Hosted just a week after International Women's Day (March 08), our conference on March 15-16th, 2019 aims to promote empowerment and leadership on Queens's campus. Through this conference, we hope to create a dialogue for change, and contribute to fostering an inclusive and equitable Queens's campus for everyone. The concept note and call for papers are attached here. We seek your support to promote and participate in it to make it a grand success.

With regards to our educational research project, we have gathered data from 100+ graduate students and 30+ faculty members on the academic writing challenges faced by graduate students who have English as their second language. We are thankful to all of you who participated or promoted the survey information. 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.

Past week, we also had a meeting with members of international students' caucus at PSAC. Based on the findings of open letter shared by them, we hope to form a working group of international students at SGPS to advocate for the supports and services for international graduate students on campus.

We are also planning to organize a chess tournament in this month and a cricket tournament in the next month for our members. Stay tuned with our Facebook notifications. We will post the events details soon and we encourage you 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,

I hope you had a great first month of this Winter Semester! It was fantastic to see you all at our Winter Welcome Week events, meeting new students and catching up with friends. Many of you attended our 'Greetings at The Grizz' and played pool all night long! We also had our first monthly SGPS Game Night of 2019, taking place in the SGPS lounge where we played ping pong, board games, and online multiplayer party games (Jackbox). Our January events ended with both teams successfully escaping from the rooms at Improbable Escapes.

February events have already started! We recently ran a day trip to Ottawa to experience Winterlude. Students toured the Parliament buildings, skated along the Rideau canal, ate some good food in Byward Market and saw ice sculptures being made. Thanks again to everyone who spent the day with us!



Students in front of Parliament on our Winterlude Day Trip to Ottawa

Here's a few of our upcoming events:

- SGPS Observatory Tour [Feb 6]: A private and free tour for SGPS members. We'll get to take a look through the telescope in the Ellis Hall Observatory. This event is sold out!
- SGPS Game Night [Feb 28]: Meet us in the SGPS lounge, challenge your friends to a new game and enjoy some snacks! This event is from 6-9PM.
- Laser Tag [March 7]: We're inviting you to live like you're 13 and attending your friend's birthday party at Putt n' Blast. This event is at 6:30PM.
- Maple Madness [March]: Spend a day at the Sugar Bush at the Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Area!
- Anatomy Museum Tour

- Recharge in the Phytotron 2.0: we will plan another chance to tour the greenhouse atop BioSci as it was a popular event last semester!
- Hikes (QUBS, Lemoine Point)

Additionally, we're assembling the Awards Committee. If you're interested in being a part of this committee, please e-mail me at social@sgps.ca.

As always, I welcome any suggestions or questions regarding social events. Feel free to contact me at social@sgps.ca.

Kind Regards,

Beatrice Suero

Social Commissioner 2018-19

Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS)

Queen's University

social@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the University Rector
General Meeting - February 2019

No report was provided.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Chief Returning Officer
General Meeting - February 2019

SGPS Council,

Thank you all for making election period as smooth as it was and once again congratulations to the hard work everyone put forward and especially to those elected to next year's Executive team and the approved fee groups.

I'd like to extend a further thank you to Simon Golish and Andria Burke for their hard work in coordinating with me during the election period to handle the questions and comments we received by all those involved. President Tyler Morrison also helped on election night as we awaited the final votes – we had a great voter turnout!

I will continue to be monitoring the elections@sgps.ca email address and providing direction for any questions pertaining to the elections and fee referendum.

Best,

Nick Stefan