



Hey Everyone,

I just have a few quick updates. As always feel free to reach out if you have any comments or questions! This includes questions about the recent Student Choice Initiatives and the effects on the SGPS.

JDUC Redevelopment Approved by Board of Trustees

On March 1, 2019 the Board of Trustees voted to approve the redevelopment of the JDUC. This is a huge win for SGPS members who voted 77% in favor of the redevelopment. The project is now contingent on three things. 1) The University is able to raise \$10 million in donor funds 2) The AMS, SGPS and the University sign the Capital Redevelopment Framework agreement (an agreement governing the responsibilities of each party moving forward) and 3) That a fee of this type will remain eligible to be mandatory after the Student Choice Initiative. It is the SGPS' belief that all of these requirements will be met, and the project will indeed move forward.

10% Tuition Reduction

A quick line on this to clarify an earlier point of contention. The University has clarified that the 10% tuition reduction will indeed apply to PhD students past their fourth year of studies. This is great news for all PhD students!

Welcome Aesculapian Society to the SGPS!

As many of you who attended our Winter GM know, the Aesculapian Society (Queen's Medicine Students) have successfully seceded from the AMS and joined the SGPS. This change will be effective September 1, 2019.

That is all for now.

President
Tyler Morrison



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

Hello Council,

Not much to report since the General Meeting as committee work has taken a little bit of a pause. The Faculty of Arts and Science has begun its consultation sessions and will be coming back to committee to put forward the final draft of the strategic plan for the next 5 years. The plan is centered around 5 pillars each with three action items underneath, they are:

- Strengthen our Research Prominence
- Enrich the Student Experience
- Promote the Interchange of Ideas
- Support Our People
- Re-Imagine our Physical Spaces

Happy to answer in more detail about the above points and what will be coming next. The committee will be working on actionable items that will be attached to each point so goals can be monitored moving forward.

Have an excellent March,

Cheers

Leo Erlichman



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

No report provided.



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President Finance & Services
March 2019

No report provided.



Dear SGPS Council,

Over this week, the outgoing and incoming executive teams are meeting to work on transitioning the new group into their roles, and figuring out plans for the SGPS in the next year. We'll likely have some updates for you by the time March Council rolls around.

International Student Working Group

Over the past couple of weeks, 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. 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.

Queen's International Women's Conference

Please keep an eye out for this amazing event coming up on Saturday March 16th. It is being organized by our International and Diversity & Wellness Commissions, and brings together graduate researchers, alumni, staff and student groups on campus, under the theme of women's leadership internationally. Please re-share the event, and come out to support your colleagues, as well as partake in the professional development workshop - <https://www.facebook.com/events/458725367999176/>.

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



Hi All,

I hope your March is as exciting as we push through the end of winter! [see attempt at being positive]

As I noted at the last meeting, we need a new Speaker!!! My term is ending in April and I would be happy to speak with anyone who might be interested in taking up the position.

The Bylaw and Policy Committee has tabled recommendations for March's Council meeting. We are interested in hearing any feedback you might have, and look to incorporate that feedback should the motion pass to a second reading.

Finally, as always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns regarding Council, the General Meetings, or the pervasiveness of the typos in the documents I send out...

I look forward to seeing everyone,

Simon Gollish
Speaker@sgps.ca



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

No report provided.



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

No report provided.



Dear Council,

Not much to update you with from the Athletics and Wellness Commissioner and Deputy Athletic Commissioner.

Ongoing Semester Events

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

Thesis Therapy: Our next Thesis Therapy event will be held March 28th. It was a blast to have the dogs back on February 28th. We are always grateful for St. John's Ambulance Therapy Dog program and we will continue to work with them.

We had some positive reviews from our Stress-Busting Workshop on February 27th. It was great to collaborate with the organizers and provide a fun and relaxing evening event. In March we are hoping to complete the organization of a joint cricket tournament with the International Commissioner.

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 Huyer 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
March 2019

Dear Council,

Alongside International Commissioner Atul, VP Community Isabel, and Deputy International and Deputy Equity and Diversity Commissioners, I have had the pleasure of putting the final touch on the upcoming Queen's International Women's Conference, which aims to celebrate Women's Leadership in International Graduate Research. We have diverse panel of graduate student-researchers, a unique keynote, and a professional development session. The conference will take place in Robert Sutherland rm 202 on Saturday March 16 2019. Full details, and schedule can be found on the SGPS Facebook page. Please contact me with questions, concerns, or any accessibility needs. Conference registration is free, but please register online via Eventbrite; https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/queens-international-womens-conference-tickets-57622933746?fbclid=IwAR1ncUQKSemAmhSbZ9HXy6QNEEIXQ8oOef9ZiEN_U5DwygEfq_onHIUIBO

"Thriving on Campus?", an Ontario-wide LGBTQ2S+ campus climate study is running at Queen's. If you are an LGBTQ2S+ student and you have not participated yet, please consider doing so. [Take the survey now](#) at (Tinyurl.com/ThrivingOnCampus) and follow @thrivingoncampus to find out more and stay updated.

I would also like to remind you that Student Wellness Services is continuing to offer a number of wellness workshops and weekly offerings for undergraduate and graduate students. Upcoming sessions include [Stress Reduction Through Self-Compassion](#) (March 19, 2019) and [Strategies to Tackle Overwhelming Exam Stress](#)(March 26, 2019). Find the full schedule online here; <http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/workshops/calendar.php>

I hope this report finds you well, and as always please reach out with questions, concerns, or recommendations.

Respectfully,

Catrina Mavrigianakis
Equity and Diversity Commissioner
2018-2019



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the International Student's Affairs Commissioner
March 2019

No report provided.



Dear Council,

It has been an eventful winter semester so far, and many more events are to come this spring. At the end of February, we had our Observatory Tour. Students learned about astronomy and visited the dome that houses campus' observatory telescope. We also had our Ski Trip. We were fortunate to have a beautiful day out on the slopes.

March Events:

- Laser Tag: On March 14, we're reliving our favourite childhood birthday parties and inviting you to play two games of laser tag with us at Putt n Blast. The event is from 6:30-7:30PM. Tickets are only \$12.
- Recharge in the Phytotron 2.0: celebrate the highly anticipated arrival of spring with us! Back by popular demand, we're touring the greenhouse atop BioSci, planting some seeds, and decorating our plant pots.
- Game Night: We have our monthly game night on March 28. Come out to the SGPS Lounge and play some board games, ping pong, or online multiplayer party games (Jackbox)!

SGPS Awards

The nomination period for SGPS awards closes on March 13 at 11:59PM. The awards will be presented to winners at April Council.

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

Kind Regards,

Beatrice Suero

Social Commissioner 2018-19

Society of Graduate and Professional Students



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

No report provided.



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

Position vacant.