



**Agenda**  
April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - 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.



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## Adoption of the Agenda

**Adoption of the Agenda**

**MOTION 23/04/19:1**

**BIRT the SGPS adopt the Agenda for April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Annual General Meeting.**

Meeting called at 5:35pm

Agenda adopted unanimously



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## Executive & Speaker Reports

**A. Executive Reports**

- a. President – Tyler Morrison (Oral report to be delivered)

**B. Speaker Report**

- a. Speaker – Simon Gollish (Oral report to be delivered)

**C. Approval**

**MOTION 23/04/19:2**

**BIRT the SGPS approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.**

Carried unanimously



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## Senator's Report

**A. Report by Senator – Alexandru Sonoc (report attached)**

**B. Approval**

**MOTION 23/04/19:3**

**BIRT the SGPS approve the Senator's Report.**

- Happy to take questions

Carried unanimously

- Speaker reminded council that we don't have quorum and that all motions adopted will be taken up in May's Council.



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## Main Motions



**Agenda**

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

**A. Peer Support Centre Amendment**

**MOTION 23/04/19:4**

**BIRT the SGPS read for a second time and create B. 26, entitled "Peer Support Centre"**

**BIFRT the SGPS read for a second time and B.26 state the following:**



### **Agenda**

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

#### Graduate Peer Support Centre Mandate

- a. The Graduate Peer Support Centre is a staffed and volunteer service for members of the SGPS to provide a confidential peer-based support service;
- b. the Centre is not a substitute for the provision of professional counseling by Queen's Health, Counseling and Disability Services. The Peer Support Centre is a paraprofessional service – it does not diagnose or treat mental illness. The Centre provides short-term support to students in need of assistance and to appraise students of services available on campus and in the Kingston community
- c. The Centre will adhere to a peer support model. The philosophy behind this model is that for some individuals, and for some areas of individual concern, the assistance provided by a peer trained in active listening, will be the most effective form of support. This model is founded on: self-determination and equality, mutuality and empathy and active listening skills;

#### Personnel

- a. The VP Graduate is an individual elected by the membership of the SGPS to manage the Peer Academic Advisor Program including:
  - (1) acting as Chair of the Graduate Peer Support Centre Hiring Committee;
  - (2) following the guidelines in the Memorandum of Agreement;
  - (3) consulting with the Graduate Peer Support Centre staff in the daily functioning of the Program;
  - (4) advertising the Graduate Peer Support Centre to SGPS member and the Queen's community;
  - (5) acting as the final oversight of the Graduate Peer Support Centre; and
  - (6) reviewing program statistics to advocate for Queen's University level policy changes to benefit SGPS members.
- b. Graduate Peer Support Centre Staff are individuals hired by the SGPS that are responsible for:
  - (1) Scheduling for all Peer Support Centre volunteers;
  - (2) supervising the volunteers of the service and ensuring the filing of the confidentiality forms from peer meetings;
  - (3) taking on-call shifts;
  - (4) providing support during emergency situations while on-call;
  - (5) being available for debriefing for volunteers after a peer visit while on-call;
  - (6) empowering and supporting volunteers and;
  - (7) completing all training deemed mandatory by the VP Graduate and Program Administrator.
  - (8) make recommendations to the VP Graduates on potential University wide policy changes to benefit SGPS members;



### Agenda

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

- (9) compiling regular reports for Health Counseling and Disability Services and the VP Graduate on visit numbers;
- (10) other tasks as assigned by the Program Administrator or VP Graduate
- c. Volunteer responsibilities shall include but are not limited to:
  - (1) providing confidential support to students by informing them of pertinent rules, regulations and guidelines of the services provided by the Graduate Peer Support Centre;
  - (2) attend all training sessions deemed necessary
  - (3) attend shifts assigned to them. In the event that they are unable to attend a shift, a volunteer must attempt to ensure that the shift is covered;
  - (4) complete volunteer projects as assigned by Graduate Peer Support Centre Staff and the VP Graduate;
  - (5) maintain high level of expertise in the Centre's services;
  - (6) have clear knowledge of on and off-campus services;
  - (7) report to Graduate Peer Support Centre paid staff and;
  - (8) adhere to the Centre's confidentiality policies;
- d. All Other matters regarding the Peer Support Centre can be found in SGPS Policy \_\_\_\_\_

**BIFRT the SGPS add a Peer Support Advisor Stipend, listed as number 6 in B.10.1 at \$6000.**

**Mover: Leo Erlikhman (not present and will be moved by President)**

**Seconded by Nick**

**President:** gave additional background information on this service

- There is a need to copy the undergraduate model for a peer-support centre because graduate students are being turned away from this service. The SGPS has got funding from the university to start this service at a small capacity this year and then increasing it afterwards.

Point of information: Nick: said that under 10.1:

- **\*\*Discussion occurred between Speaker, Leo, President, and Nick about correcting a typo on one of the motions\*-**
- **President put forward a friendly motion to amend the "BIRT title" to correct an error to a "shift leader stipend"**

**Alexandru:** where is the money coming from for this service?

President: From a private donor

**Carries unanimously**

**B. Peer Academic Advisors**

**MOTION 23/04/19:5**



### **Agenda**

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

**BIRT the SGPS read a second time and amend all references in Bylaw & Policy of Student Advisor to Peer Academic Advisor.**

**Mover: Leo Erlikhman (now present)**

**Seconded.**

- Leo introduced this and told council that this was necessary because of the provincial Gov't mandate regarding the collection of fees by student governments. This change would put the SGPS in compliance with the new fee protocol.

**Carried unanimously**

**\*\*\*Laura C. (new speaker) introduced the motion because Simon wanted to move this motion**

**C. A. Updates to Bylaw (Text Contained in an accompanying document) MOTION 23/04/19:6**

**WHEREAS** the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee is tasked with considering the SGPS' Bylaws and Policies;

**WHEREAS** the Committee has sought to make the document consistent, whether that be in formatting or terminology used;.

**WHEREAS** the Committee has sought to provide definitions that should allow for greater facility in interpretation;

**BIRT the SGPS read for a second time numerous amendments to Bylaw proposed by the Bylaw and Policy Review Committee.**

**Mover: Simon (Speaker)**

**Secunder: President**

**Simon:** I chaired the bylaw review committee this year which looked at non-substantive issues that are present in the SGPS bylaw document. This includes boldening defined terms and ensuring the consistent usage of those terms throughout the bylaw

- For example: the definition of "member", "paying member" and "SGPS member" was made consistent
- Another example: formatting the document and ensuring that bullet points, periods, commas, and paragraphs were all consistent
- Another example of a change: Bylaw 19 that was struck from the council. However, the committee has recommended that Bylaw 20 shouldn't become the new Bylaw 19 because the entire Bylaw document may become incoherent since the document refers to itself and says things such as "Bylaw 20" which would become inaccurate if the number changes.
- Simon reminded council and stressed that this was just a procedural thing and not anything substantive.

Questions:



### Agenda

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Jeremy: Do you have a master document that contains a good copy of the bylaw?

Simon: Yes

Nick: raised an issue where there are comments in the bylaw document sent to council that are inconsistent with what should be the policy.

- Discussion ensued between Nick, Simon, and Tyler about what the document should look like”
- The discussion concluded that everything was appropriate and the only issue was that it was the incorrect version of the document had been sent to council for their review.

Alexandru: If your intent was to make it a legally binding document, did you have a lawyer review the document?

Simon: we weren't changing anything about the effect of the document, we were just applying best practise in corporate document

President: we did NOT get a lawyer to review this document because it will cost between 18-25thousand dollar for a lawyer to review over 120 pages of a bylaw.

Motion carries unanimously

Speaker (Simon): reminded council again that every motion that is being passed right now will still have to go through May council for approval

#### **D. Health and Dental Plan**

**MOTION 23/04/19:7**

**WHEREAS** as a result of the student choice initiative the SGPS will offer a Health and Dental plan to graduate and professional students at Queen's University who are not Ordinary Members of the SGPS,

**WHEREAS** the SGPS is changing the provider of the Health and Dental plan this summer,

**WHEREAS** recent graduate and professional students who graduate from Queen's but have not yet found employment may be unable to afford Health and Dental Plans available to them, such as the Queen's Alumni plan which costs at least \$85.30 per month, but may be able to afford the SGPS Health and Dental Plan,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the SGPS executive research the possibility of offering the soon to be created SGPS Health and Dental for non-members to recent alumni (those who have been alumni for less than 12 months) who were enrolled in a SGPS Health and Dental Plan in their last year of study.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the executive report their findings to SGPS Council, either in writing or at a meeting, before a contract is signed and with enough notice such that if Council choses to give the executive direction in this matter it has the opportunity to do so.

**Mover: Alexandru Sonoa**



### Agenda

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

#### Seconded: Marshal (Chemistry)

**Alexandru:** we should put forward an option to allow new graduates to sign up for the SGPS health and dental.

**Tyler:** explained that this thing existed two years ago that allowed Law students to opt-in during their article year (after law school) but since they weren't students anymore, this wasn't allowed anymore because the insurance provider at the time told us that this was not possible from an insurance law issues.

**Nick:** We could still just ask the health insurance provider if this is possible?

**Tyler:** Yes

**Leo:** I don't think we should pursue this because it risks the plan economics since people opt-in to this plan who adversely select themselves to opt-in to our plan only when it makes sense for themselves

#### Noted opposition, Motion carries



#### New Business

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##### A. Motion to allow Nick to become Deputy Speaker for Council

- Laura explained that she thinks that Nick is a good person to be Deputy Speaker

**Moved by Leo**

**Seconded by Tyler**

Nick explained that he is in a graduate program in Engineering, did his undergrad here, ran in an election, attended councils and is familiar with Robert Rules.

**Alexandru:** isn't this point moot because it has to be ratified by regular council in May?

**Tyler:** No, this is actually not the case because the motion becomes effective now and is ratified in May

Motioned was carried Unanimously

##### B. Motion to approve/ratify the "Stipend Amount Amendment" from last Council

Tyler: we are unable to promise councillors money that we might not get because of the Student Choice Initiative allows students to opt-out of the Society. And we are currently hiring those councillors and we need to give them a salary

Alexandru; do you expect them to do half the work since you are cutting half their salary?



### **Agenda**

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Tyler: Yes.

Matt: is the student choice slate default opt-in or opt-out?

Tyler: it will be opt-out.

**\*\*Discussion around whether the new hours should be included in the motion or not?\*\*\***

- Conclusion: we can just tell our new hires that the hours are actually reduced and not as advertised (since the number of hours are currently dictated by internal policy documents and not in the SGPS bylaws and policies).

**Carries unanimously**

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Leo: updated council that a new Supervisor-student template contract will be finalized at GSC council

Jeremy: told council that he is available to talk if anyone has questions about the SGPS

Leo: Motion to adjourn

Council adjourned at 6:26pm



**Agenda**

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC



**Adjournment**

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**A. Adjournment**

**MOTION 23/04/19:8**

**BIRT this General Meeting of the SGPS be adjourned.**