



Minutes

August 27th, 2019 - 5:30pm
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Called to order at 5:33 pm

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.



0. Presentation Career Services Peers

- A. Emma Thompson is a representative from the Career Services Peer Program. She will describe the program and give a brief explanation of the role and application process. Applications are due September 2nd, 2019.

Career Services Peer Program is a volunteer program, whose title changed from “career services peers” to “career services resume coaches”

Emma is a lead resume coach with the program.

Extra forms with information about the program will be put in the SGPS office.

The program consists of peer to peer volunteers working with grad and undergrad students on their resume, cv and/or cover letters

The program focuses on writing strategies and active listening skills

It is not an editing service, but more a lesson on how to showcase / what to include on a resume

The commitment is 6 x 30 minute pre-scheduled appointments per week, based on your schedule. There is also a 20-30 minute breakfast meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

Three reasons Emma likes being a part of the program:

1. Active listening skills and training
 - a. Good for Med school competencies
 - b. Good for coaching/mentoring rolls (e.g. consulting, law, academia, teaching)
2. Useful for your own resume skills too!
 - a. Knowledge transfers into being/writing references



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- b. Also helps with LinkedIn profiles
- 3. Rewarding and energizing to sit for half an hour and leave the student feeling very confident
 - a. Different perspective than a TA helping a student
 - b. Good ego boost when a student re-books with you
 - c. Also the benefit of feeling valued as a volunteer

Applications are due SEPT 2nd 2019 at MIDNIGHT!

Cover letter and resume are required (but don't fuss the cover letter or resume), no one is passed over for it being not perfect, just them in!

Question: do you do headshots?

A: no, but we do encourage them to take advantage of the linked in booths at the career fair

Note: the SGPS Also takes headshots 6x per year (-Leo)

Thanks Emma!



I. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 19/08/21:1

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the August 27th, 2019 Council Meeting.

Leo Moves

Jeremy Seconds

Passes unanimously



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- A. BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from May 14th, 2019 Council Meeting.**

Leo moves

Ghani seconds

Passes unanimously



Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Jeremy Ambraska (report attached)
- b. VP Graduate – Leo Erlikhman (report attached)
- c. VP Professional – Ryan Adlem (report attached)
- d. VP Finance & Services – Abel Hazon (report attached)
- e. VP Community – vacant (no report)

B. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Laura Culleton (no report)

C. Approval

MOTION 19/08/21:2

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Jeremy (President):

Thanks Anthony and Nadia, and Claudia for helping this summer as well as the other exec's

Three big things:

- Student choice initiative: we will have members and non-members in the SGPS this year
 - o Members have always been “those who pay their dues” according to our bylaws, so we will interpret the bylaws as is
 - o We are going to inform students of the benefits, services available, etc. of being a member



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- Peer support and Dental fees, as well as some others etc. are mandatory fees for all students
- New Health and dental plan
 - The previous plan had some issues with it
 - We have a new provided and broker
 - There is now a new cost with OHIP+ being rolled back
 - We were not previously getting good advice, e.g. regarding the dentist in JDUC
 - This new rate is now set in stone for 3 years
- VP community
 - Jeremy's opinion is to hold a by-election ASAP for VP Community
 - We would love to see a contested election, as it is better for democracy in the society
 - We would also love to see impressive candidates! There is a large pool here and we should be able to find some people for this!
 - Encourage people, yourselves, people you know
 - Reach out to those on the exec for information regarding the position, as they are a neutral party
 - The earliest that can be called is Sept 10th
 - Ideally, we will vote before the opt-out period, as one is deemed to be a member until they opt out, so this is a good chance to get engagement from students who are unsure about opting out

Jeremy's door is always open, or else feel free to come and knock on it!

Leo (VP Graduate):

Three main things from the graduate side:

1. Graduate writing lab is successful!
 - a. SASS is now paying for the room in Stauffer for 3 hours each on Monday and Thursday mornings!
 - b. Help available for academic journals, email, linkedin, etc.
 - c. Free, and all students can access this resource
2. The Peer Support Center starts Sept. 16 if all goes to plan
3. Grad student success working group final report expected this fall
 - a. There are commitments in the university to create a "graduate college"



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- b. Commitment to improvements in graduate space in the new JDUC with controlled access, including a new student lounge area
- c. New supervisor-student Conversation starter (SSS) is being rolled out

Any questions on things:

Student choice initiative (SCI) are less restricted to talk about fees

Equity groups on campus: we are trying to get more support from the university for funding because of the SCI

The space for the JDUC has been allocated (with 45 m² in space gained)!

University alcohol policy is coming up: looking at potential dry orientation week, and looking at alcohol on and off campus may be changing

Okanogan charter is coming with a new holistic approach

New orientation focus / approach to grad orientation where students can meet fellow students during the week, this is going to the Senate

If this works, we have more teeth to have Mon-Wed orientation activities and to push back against the departments taking our time away from orientation week

Question about student-supervisor conversation (SSS) document (from Chemistry representatives)

A "learning outcome assessment document" was created in the Chemistry department, is this the same thing?

Answer:

The SGPS has now provided a framework for the departments

What is the students expectation in each department? Each department will mandate this sheet.

If anyone wants assistance for departments that are trying to fight back against this new form, please bring it up to the Exec (ideally via Leo), and we can have a conversation about how to move forwards.

All the "U15" associated data has come out so we know best practices for these forms from across Ontario



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Question about this being like a TA contract/relationship?

Answer:

This is about the student-supervisory relationship, not an employment relationship

Not every Grad student is a TA, so the SSS might include whether you get a TA/RA “yes/no,” but that will then become an employment conversation and covered by a different contract.

Broad consultations on the impact of RA union and what constitutes RA vs funding-eligible work will come in the next meeting

An update on the rest of the exec and commissioners (not present tonight):

Ryan (VP Professional) was doing the work with the insurance provider over the summer

Able (VP Finance) is looking for people interested in the 2019/2020 finance committee, he has a blurb in his report, please give his email to anyone interested

Penny (Equity and Diversity) has said there are 2 workshops on equity and inclusion:

Sept 12 @ 4:30 pm , and Sept 17@ 4:30 pm

They are Inclusion and Bystander Intervention

Leo has another thing to mention:

A negotiation with the university that occurred between the last two meetings:

Firm commitment that Grad funding will remain the same through the SSS initiative

International students tuition has not increased

More info to come in sept



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Q: do you think this might affect bursaries and grants?

Answer (Leo):

Different conversation for those from the negotiations:

Bursaries are based on the cost of living minus resources available (the "Delta")

If there is a demonstrated difference in the "Delta", you are still eligible for funding

The university will be re-checking their formula for how to reallocate funding given new OSAP

Usually, the domestic students "Delta" is 21k and international is 40k

Anthony (Social Commissioner):

Sept 27 Lennox and Addington dark viewing area with laser guided sky tours!

Also, he and Claudia (International Student Affairs Commissioner) are looking for sponsorship for panelists for a conference which is multidisciplinary in nature. They are hoping for people in different / diverse disciplines

If you have faculty members or departments who might be interested in sponsoring panelists here, please contact Claudia or Anthony!

Adoption of the reports:

Moved Morgan

Seconded Stephen

Passed unanimously



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Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports

- A. **Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Courtney Bannerman (no report)
- B. **Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – Leena Yahia (no report)
- C. **Commissioner Reports**
 - a. Athletics Commissioner – Larkin Davenport Huyer (no report)
 - b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Penny Zhang (report attached)
 - c. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Claudia Hirtenfelder (report attached)
 - d. Social Commissioner – Anthony Lomax (report attached)
- D. **Committee Reports**
- E. **Department Reports**
- F. **Other Reports**
 - a. University Rector – Alex da Silva (no report)
 - b. Chief Returning Officer – <Position Vacant> (no report)
 - c. Supervisor - Uchitta Vashist (report attached)
- G. **Approval** **MOTION 19/08/21:3**
BIRT SGPS Council approve the Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports.
- H.

{ Moved and seconded, Morgan and Stephen,
Passed unanimously }



Question Period & Departmental Issues



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Business Arising from the Minutes



Main Motions & Discussion

A. Ratification of Council Meetings

MOTION 19/08/21:4

BIRT the SGPS ratify the following 2019 SGPS Council Meeting Dates and Report Due Dates:

Reports Due	Council Meeting
September 3 2019	September 10 2019
October 1 2019	October 8 2019
November 5 2019	November 12 2019
November 19 2019 (General Meeting)	November 26 2019 (General Meeting)
December 3 2019	December 10 2019
January 7 2020	January 14 2020
February 4 2020	February 11 2020
March 3 2020	March 10 2020
March 24 2020 (General Meeting)	March 31 2020 (General Meeting)
April 7 2020	April 14 2020
May 5 2020	May 12 2020

Ratification of council meetings:

Moved: Leo

Seconded: Ghani

Passed Unanimously



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Other Business



Notices of Motion & Announcements



Adjournment

A. Adjournment

MOTION 19/08/21:5

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

Adjourned at 6:02 pm, thanks for showing up even though it is august!