



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland 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.

5:39 pm meeting called to order

Meeting started late because those who did not fill out the online survey needed to re-register/check-in



I. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 19/10/04:1

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the October 8th, 2019 Council Meeting.

Leo motions to open the agenda because he has to leave and needs to give information on his reports

Unanimous pass

Leo report:

Large report for VP grad here

- Strategic initiative / plan for Faculty of arts and science
- Merging arts undergrad and grad councils
- Plan attached as report (sat on committee for 8 months)
- All initiatives have a focus

- Soon the Grad Student Working Group final report is to be approved
- Highlights:
 - o International tuition awards going to equate up to the domestic rate by 2022
 - Very exciting, \$600,000
 - o Student supervisory framework has been approved



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm

Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

- University one of the last 15 (Ontario universities) to join in having a supervisor policy
- Months of work went into this
 - Ambitious future goal is to plan for a Grad college like Massey college (UofT) by 2024
- Would like to thank the dean
- 63 recommendations

- Grad Peer Support Center opened last week!

Questions:

Claudia:

- Questions about the ITA (international tuition awards)
- Does that mean that there will still be full tuition charged to the account?
- Some other feedback that I have been given is just that there is no award...

Leo:

- No institution does this by dropping fees, instead they just change the money internally (through internal accounts)
- By changing the money internally, Queen's is like the other universities

Claudia:

- Is this still called an "award" (semantic question)?
- Will it still form part of the tuition package?

Leo:

- Tuition award will never go into your student account, it is just an internal method or accounting
 - So the student will only pay the domestic fee equivalent
- Same funding package as (?domestic?—word was not heard properly)

No other questions



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

Discussion:

- Problematic issue with council:
 - o Previously had issues with engagement in council (i.e. number of people showing up / answering the emails / departments providing people)
- For now, council should be 98 members (although we have never gotten that)
- Three options were provided:
 - o Penalty for not showing up to council (department becomes ineligible for SGPS funding)
 - o Proportional representation by year of entry numbers
 - o Representation by school of entry (preferred option in the consultations that were performed)
 - This would be representation by the faculty that you entered through a single member plurality, with multiple members that will sit at council
- For the consultations:
 - o 93 students in person, 80 online
 - o 44 abstained or wanted the penalty option
 - o 89 selected proportional representation (generally in-person votes here)
 - in person is assumed to be more informed than online because their questions could be answered
- Unfortunately, the SCI came in and messed things up for membership etc.
- Some people didn't like the proportional idea because masters students in science/art is different from professional students
- We scanned 26 schools and school governments on grad and undergrad levels and looked at this model
- The impact of Student Choice Initiative (SCI) means that the SGPS now has members and non-members
 - o Department GSAs (grad student associations) and Faculty Groups are also under this
 - o Almost impossible to track who is member and who not
 - Privacy from the school (can't give us who has and has not paid by faculty)
 - We would currently have 67 different groups to check
 - o Bylaw 4.2C states that each group has the responsibility to show that they have sufficient members to warrant more than 1 seat held by ordinary members
- We only get program information from Queen's that can tell us what enrolment/membership a school of entry has, but we cannot know which department
- The SCI has tied our hands
- We can determine 35 different schools within the following groups,
 - o Professional
 - o Health and SK



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

- Rehab
- Law
- Medicine
- Sciences
- Engineering
- Arts and Social Sciences
- Having an opt-in number (which applies for each council) doesn't seem to make sense because we couldn't do council in Aug-Sept (because some students in 1-year programs will have graduated)
- Leo shows the new breakdown of the proposed 35-seat council
- International student, mature, indigenous, and part-time students would no longer have a vote
 - One motion today (below) is to create an indigenous commissioner position
 - Last person to hold the roll advocated for this
 - We cannot elect indigenous students because we have no way of recognizing indigeneity
 - This level of position would give more access to other places and groups on campus
 - We have no way of selecting these members or verifying who they are, and thus the positions have been unfilled for 2 years because we currently have no method of finding everyone who fills those positions in order to send out a ballot (and to find all students who fit the criteria to vote on that ballot)
- Last year's VP community and Equity Comm. sought out feedback from many places, and in the current way that we are doing things, commissioners have more advocacy and power than the elected person would
 - We have struck an Equity committee
 - We already have an international committee

Q:

- Who gets the engineering positions because we have 11 engineering departments and would only have 5 reps (under the new system)?

A:

- There are not 11 reps here
- We can run these elections
- We will make this barrier free



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

Q:

- Issue with Job Security and being able to speak freely for the indigenous commissioner—Also a problem for international commissioner
- Also, was there a difference in the survey between abstain and wanting to stay the same?

A:

- No, “abstain” and “remain” were the same question
- While your concern is valid, we went to 4 directions and we went to SAGE and those indigenous students asked for this (Commissioner) position
- Yes, they were informed (to answer the follow-up question)

Q:

- Previously there were 90+ roles (members on council), now there would be 35. Is every single department going to be represented still? Or are we cutting out depts. that never had reps?

A:

- Again, we have departments that have 7 students and others with 160 students
- Some departments just have more ability to engage (and elect members) than others

Q:

- Disagree with cutting out (representation from) groups with 7 students, especially because they are part of a smaller group
- Ok with reducing size of council but should not be cutting out representatives

A:

- That is exactly what we are doing
- We are proposing the creation of other societies similar to Medicine (society), Law (society), etc.
- The reason is because there are departments that physically cannot send or are apathetic to sending members to council



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

- Having students who are engaged (which does exist on council) will be more able to go out and tell people what is up
- Some departments can't be informed (under the current system) because students are too busy or there are not enough (people to have someone in a counsellor role)

Q: - *unintelligible*

A:

- We hope to help the students in these departments to set up an association—only Arts and Social Science, Engineering, and the Physical Sciences do not already have these representations (i.e. these associations)

Q:

- How does this now curtail the concern of departments not being engaged?
- Now having to engage in a two-tier model

A:

- The example of the AMS assembly:
 - o Students are elected at large to represent the needs of those students
 - o They are responsible for communicating within those departments
- Currently, departments that do not have people have to show that they were elected by ordinary members (i.e. those in the department who have paid their SGPS fees) etc.
 - o This way we do not need to worry about (verifying) member and non-member (for voting purposes)

Q:

- Who would come from these departments?

A:

- We will want to work within the departments
- Only students in each department will be able to (represent and vote for that department)



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

Q:

- All the departments are on their own for Engineering in the graduate department

A:

- The reason we said at large (i.e. members at large from engineering), one of the feedback that we got was that we will be able to help create the communities (that are currently lacking)

Q:

- Process for the commissioner to be hired?

A:

- Indigenous will be hired by indigenous students
- Director of Four Direction, a Representative of SAGE, and the President of SGPS will hire the commissioner
- *explains current hiring process for other commissioners*

Q:

- the number for student (representatives) in education will change

A:

- For now this is what we have for students numbers
- Right now the representation is about 100:1 (counsellors to students)

Q:

- By having fewer representatives representing more people, does the workload go up?

A:

- Right now we have about 16 people per council and there are students who want to be involved who cannot because they lost in their department, but similar departments (who under the new system would be grouped together) are not sending representatives



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

Q:

- Are we worried that this will not be representative of the diversity of places (e.g. in arts and sciences)?
- Are we not worried that the large departments will just out-vote the smaller departments (for the group representatives)?

A:

- When you have an elected councilor, that person represents you, just like in the AMS
- The new system also gives a contact point for smaller departments (who currently do not have a counsellor)
- The art depts. Go from 8-101, but many have 40-50, so if you go out and campaign you should be able to get (a nomination / not be voted out by one overwhelmingly large department)

Q:

- How are we going to mitigate the problem of small departments not being able to campaign as easily as others?

A;

- Right now we have 70 departments that do not show up (*98 representatives minus average council attendance*)
- There are barriers already for small depts.
- Many students from smaller depts. wanted to be involved (but could not because they were only allowed one representative)
- Right now, we have disproportionate amounts (of representation from departments because people do not show up)
- 16 is not that democratic, but 35 would be better (current members who show up vs. expected members who would show up for the new system)
- We have not had full council in 5 years
- We will also be able to enforce our rules by enforcing councilors to show up better than we can now



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

Q:

- is there a way to ensure the person is going back and sharing information to the depts. They represent?

A:

- that is currently the roles of counselors
- You can challenge a counselor at council and have them be removed (according to our current bylaws), this mechanism will remain
- (Leo) I need to go now for (religious reasons)
 - o Please email me with further questions, or commissioners can book a meeting (with me)
- People don't like to change (in general)
- Our quorum is 12 and that can be hard to get in the room (for some council meetings)
- More engagement in elections (might occur under the new system)
- Happy to have more conversations about this
- Today it was only a discussion, but there needs to be some sort of change for this structure (in the near future)

Rest of the agenda for approval

Unanimous pass



Minutes

- A. BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from September 10th, 2019 Council Meeting. MOTION 19/10/04:2**

Passes with large majority in favor



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC



Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Jeremy Ambraska (see report attached)
- b. VP Graduate – Leo Erlikhman (oral report-*given above*)
- c. VP Professional – Ryan Adlem (see report attached)
- d. VP Finance & Services – Abel Hazon (see report attached)
- e. VP Community – Uchitta Vashist (pending council approval of the by-election—oral report)

B. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Laura Culleton (oral report)

C. Approval

MOTION 19/10/04:3

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Jeremy:

- If I miss anything feel free to ask questions
- Alcohol policy consultations (from the University's Working Group) closed today at 4pm
 - o Hope that some of you were able to express your concerns
- We have had a number of concerns that we have given to the working group, Principal, and board of trustees
- Appreciate the time for everyone who did mention their concerns and open letters
- Best of luck for us

- SCI (student choice initiative) members are now at around 20% opt-out
- This means anything that is optional that is funded by student dollars they no longer can access those funds
- You can appeal until the 11th of October
 - o We will not have final numbers until then
- We are fine financially because we budgeted very conservatively (in anticipation of larger cuts)
- We did our best to inform students of opting-in or opting-out benefits



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

- I did not consider the employment relationship concern with the indigenous commissioner position
- We talked to four directions throughout the summer
- We will hopefully hire someone in this position who can inform us of what the issues are (e.g. the above)
- We hope that there would not be an issue with an Exec ever, but I do see this (as a possible future issue)
- Also, we will work with Four Directions, SAGE and the AMS (which already has a position for this)
- The process (and new commissioner) is hopefully going to provide representation and information for this position

Q:

- I know that as a commissioner previously, I filtered what was put into my reports because I was thinking about the employment power relation

A:

- *Unintelligible*

Ryan:

- Nothing to add

Able:

- We opened the bursaries because we know our final numbers
- Same levels as last year
- Added a new Health and Wellness grant fund of \$4,000 to help with initiatives towards health and wellness
 - o Happy to take applications this year



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

Q:

- Non-SGPS members will not be able to apply?
- What do you see to the barrier that students are opting out because of money and then not be able to apply for these grants?

A:

- We did consider this
- A single email to me (VP Finance) explaining the situation would allow students to waive the SGPS fee and be a member still

Uchitta:

- Started last week
- Excited to start this position
- Not much to share right now
- Engagement issues is ongoing, for now
 - o Monthly newsletter via email for information
 - o Any input in the planning process for community engagement?
 - o Please feel free to reach out to me
- We are also hiring an Athletics Commissioner
 - o We are seeking more applications

Laura:

- Speaking to the election
- Unfortunately, only about 15% of the total student population voted
- Maybe early in September, maybe marketing issues
- There is the CRO position available
 - o Having a dedicated individual would take care of some of these issues

Courtney moves

Chem eng seconds

Unanimously passes



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC



IV. 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 – position vacant (no report)
 - b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Penny Zhang (oral report)
 - c. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Claudia Hirtenfelder (see report attached)
 - d. Social Commissioner – Anthony Lomax (see 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 (Interim report)**
 - c. Supervisor – position vacant (no report)
- G. **Approval** **MOTION 19/10/04:4**
BIRT SGPS Council approve the Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports.

Penny:

- Events were well-received
 - o Could have been better attended
 - o Bystander training was very well received and useful
 - o Let us know if you would be interested in doing these and we can schedule more
- Oct 22nd 4:30-6:30 positive space workshop
 - o Encourage leadership to attend
- Will be screening Get Out, date and time TBC
- Environment action group for (*unintelligible*)
- Trying to fill equity and diversity committee
 - o Let people know if they are interested!



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

Claudia:

- Trying to get together a network of international Grad students
 - o As dept. rep's, you are important
 - o If you do not already have a position for International Rep in your department, please consider the position
 - o These people can help make a soft infrastructure and help us understand what the needs of international students actually are
 - o Chem Eng and Faculty of Education have gotten back to me, thanks!
 - o If you don't but have concerns or ideas or anything, please still drop me an email at international@sgps.ca
- I ran 2 workshops this month with (*Anthony?*)
 - o 10 speaker and 10 attendees for the first
 - o only 4 attendees for the second
 - o another workshop tomorrow on access to things as a student
- Upcoming events
 - o International research seminars partnered with QUIC
 - o 2 podcasts out and another coming out soon!
- Beyond boundaries conference is officially going ahead
 - o Managed to bring on 11 sponsors
 - 3 faculties
 - the SGS
 - many (???)
 - o \$1,350 raised so far
 - o sponsorship for recording events and others
 - o It is going to be great
 - o You should apply! And get others in your department to apply
- There are load of advocacy groups on campus for international students
 - o Get in touch with me for info

Anthony:

- My report was thorough
- Covered orientation events (8 happened in September)
 - o Wanted to thank the exec for helping out
 - o It was a good team effort
 - o Penny also helped a lot



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm

Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

- I also wanted to promote Beyond Boundaries Conference
 - o Thinks it is going to be great
 - o Lots of multi-disciplinary panels, conference is multi-disciplinary in nature
 - o Hoping to get some creative scholarly solutions and such
 - o Lots of excitement from departments
 - o See the SGSP website
 - o Can submit as a panel of 3 or as an individual
- Upcoming events
 - o Fort fright is coming up
 - Always very popular
 - o Isabel Bader working with them for events
 - Additional 15% off for SGPS members
 - First one has already sold out
 - New pianist coming too
 - Later will we have tickets for the Mastcheval (indigenous music fest)
 - “all the small things” or the like is performers of all abilities
- Working on events
 - o Sessions for therapy
 - Usually 20\$ per person, but we have gotten it down to 8\$
- Really hoping to make a lot of events for lots of people
 - o If you have ideas, email me social@sgps.ca

Nick:

- Summarizes written report on the election

Courtney:

- Not too much happening at Senate
- New development of Masters of Health and Education program
- Working group on Grad Student Success has almost submitted their report
 - o New working group on funding
 - o New rep for international Grad student on funding too
- Student senator caucus met
 - o Decided what to bring forward this year to senate



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

- Issue of reading week (propose potentially to move it to align with the Thanksgiving holiday weekend)
- Potentially bringing up the alcohol policy, although we are going to wait to see how that turns out
 - The best senate could do would be to officially oppose it, but they could not directly influence the policies

Mandeep

Darian

Unanimous pass



V. Question Period & Departmental Issues



VI. Business Arising from the Minutes



VII. Main Motions & Discussion

- A. BIRT the SGPS Council approves the Vice-President Community election results. MOTION 19/10/04:5**

Mike moves

Emily seconds

Passes unanimously



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

Whereas the SGPS consulted with Indigenous Students and the Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.

Whereas Indigenous students have asked for better representation on campus within the structures of the SGPS

**B. BIRT that a commissioner level position is created for Indigenous students within the SGPS.
MOTION 19/10/04:6**

Q:

- Is there anything to prevent an indigenous executive if there is a commissioner

A: (from the chair/speaker)

- As far as we know, nothing in bylaw prevents this

Q:

- Clarifying that this motion is not moving to remove the indigenous voting member on council, we are just creating the commissioner position?

A: (Jeremy)

- This motion is unrelated to the council restructuring, so the indigenous councilor position is not an issue

Jeremy moves

Tamara seconds

Jeremy:

- If there are questions please let me know
- In the interest of time, I will not go on unless we need to

Q:

- This is not going to be a basis of the indigenous student representative

A:

- This is independent from the council restructuring
- There has been a weakness in the society (in this area); this is just adding not removing
- Council restructuring is a separate conversation
- To speak on what the role would entail:
 - o Hiring process would not just be SGPS, also Four Directions (and SAGE)
 - o Open to self-ID'd indigenous person
 - o For now, the president has been on working groups for indigenous people, but this is not ideal
 - The new commissioner would fill this role
 - o Also, external advocacy roles



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm

Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

- Previously, the unpaid nature of the job (i.e. council member) was a deterrent against people coming forward

Laura speaking (who also worked on it):

- There are a lot of students, but right now Queen's is very silo'd (*i.e. departments don't talk to one another very easily*)
- They will bring together different students as well
- First person really has the freedom to make the position
- Probably will look similar to the AMS position
 - E.g. SGPS representative on the aboriginal council, sub-working groups, etc.
 - Groups with staff and faculty that don't necessarily yet have student reps

Unanimous pass

C. BIRT that the position will be named and added into By-Law according to the numbered procedure below. MOTION 19/10/04:7

1. titled by Indigenous students at Queen's and be open to a self-identified Indigenous SGPS member.
2. that once Indigenous students title the position that it be entered into bylaw.
3. **the following is added under B.9.2 Commissioners, Officers and Deputy Commissioners:**
 - a. (6) Indigenous Position (name to be later determined)
4. that B.9.2.f is **amended** to read "Only ordinary members of the SGPS shall be eligible for these positions, with the exception of the Indigenous Position (name to be later determined) which will require that a student be a self-identified indigenous person."

Jeremy

Student senator

Passes unanimously



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

Whereas Queen's University is in the process of consultation for a new campus alcohol policy

Whereas the SGPS and our affiliate associations feel that the consultation process has been insufficient

Whereas previous versions of the policy did not require a 'dry' orientation week for graduate and professional students

Whereas the university may now require a 'dry' orientation week for graduate and professional students

Whereas No information was given for this change

D. BIRT SGPS council not endorse the new university policy as written on alcohol and require more consultation with graduate and professional students. MOTION 19/10/04:8

Jeremy to sponsor because Leo is gone

Jeremy:

- This is just to oppose officially against the new university policy on alcohol (complete orientation week ban for grad students)
- Right now the letter has been drafted

Courtney moves

Tamara seconds

Passes unanimously

E. Discussion Topic #1 - Council Restructuring

Presentation by VP Graduate Leo Erlikhman (*see above in the minutes*)

F. Discussion Topic #2 - Feedback on Aurora

Led by Leo Erlikhman. Please refer to the following link <https://beyondprof.com/aurora/> for PhD students.



Other Business



Agenda

October 8th, 2019 - 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

A. International Student Working Group



IX. Notices of Motion & Announcements

A. Announcements on Open Positions

There are a number of vacant positions the SPGS is hoping to fill including a Chief Elections Officer and Athletics Commissioner. Positions that are available can be accessed using the following link:
<https://sgps.ca/jobs/>.



X. Adjournment

B. Adjournment

MOTION 19/10/04:9

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

6:54 pm! Adjourned