Members,

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

**Bursaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row Labels</th>
<th>Total applicants to date (Total last year)</th>
<th>Rejected due to opt-out</th>
<th>Total $ Disbursed</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Average Bursary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>5 (19)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>557.05</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>557.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>16 (31)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3,375</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
<td>375.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International*</td>
<td>31 (50)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2,600</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports/Activity</td>
<td>11 (49)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>60 (149)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7,432</td>
<td>25,000.00</td>
<td>256.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As we can see, the total bursary program uptake is slightly off track than last year: 60 applicants vs a target of 75 applicants. This is due to the sports/activity bursary seeing lower uptake than last year.

* = the International Study Bursary is technically fully utilized because we have 29 applicants who are eligible for the bursary but who are waiting for their Queen’s General Bursary application to be processed this year. The bursary can only support 25 applicants (25 x $200 = $5000).

**Grants**

Our executive mandate this year is to encourage utilization of our grants program this year. This year, the SGPS has introduced the Health and Wellbeing Grant to support student-led initiatives that support health and wellbeing at Queen’s. Every year, the Grant program sees the significant majority of applications come in the winter semester. I think that the below numbers are also on track.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Row Labels</th>
<th>Total applicants to date (Total last year)</th>
<th>Rejected</th>
<th>Total $ Disbursed</th>
<th>Budgeted</th>
<th>Average Grant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>2 (1)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>847.00</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>847.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Departmental Student Council*</td>
<td>4 (19)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>470.00</td>
<td>10,000.00</td>
<td>235.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity &amp; Inclusion</td>
<td>1 (6)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>1,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability</td>
<td>0 (0) **</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and wellbeing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>7 (26)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2,817</td>
<td>29,000.00</td>
<td>563.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = I am expecting that the DSC grant will see an increase over last year’s utilization with the addition of the Queen’s Medicine students into the SGPS (n = 400).
** = the last time this grant was utilized was the 2017-2018 year, two years ago with one grant. If this year sees no uptake, I will recommend that this grant be reviewed with the next year’s executive.

The Finance Committee is in good standing.

Always happy to take your questions.

Abel Hazon
VPFS
Hello SGPS Members,

I have very much enjoyed serving as VP Professional over the course of the past summer term and this current fall term. Please find below a quick summary of some of the work I have been doing.

**Transition**
My transition into the role went very smoothly, and I learned a lot about my responsibilities from the outgoing VP Professional Lauren Peacock, and the outgoing President Tyler Morrison. I attended a number of workshops to prepare me for the role, including workshops relating to human resource management.

**Responding to the Student Choice Initiative**
The executive has had to make a number of decisions to address changes brought by the Student Choice Initiative. I have advised on decisions regarding how the Society chose to respond to these changes, as well as the manner in which these changes were communicated to members and potential members of the SGPS.

**Change in Health and Dental Insurance Coverage**
I have been involved in discussions and provided input and opinions in regard to our new health and dental insurance coverage. We changed plans, and changed our provider (from Student VIP to Studentcare).

**Human Resource Matters**
Given that the portfolio of VP Professional includes human resources, I have dealt with a variety of inward-focused human resource matters. I was also on the hiring panel that interviewed and assessed the applications of all applicants for the volunteer positions within the Graduate Peer Support Centre. I am pleased to report that there has been great interest in filling these roles, and a strong team has been assembled.

**Boat Cruise**
The executive organized two boat cruises during orientation week this year. One of them was branded predominantly for students in smaller professional programs. Indeed, I reached out to the program coordinators of the MIR, MPA, and SURP programs—among others—in order advertise the cruise. Ticket sales were staggered with tickets first being available for purchase by students in these smaller professional programs. Ticket sales eventually opened up to students in the Faculty of Law and Faculty of Medicine, and then opened up to students in other faculties. We received extremely positive feedback from the participants of this event.

**Committee Work**
I am currently sitting on a wide variety of committees which entail frequent meetings. I enjoy advocating for SGPS members to the university administration during these committee meetings.

**Upcoming Work**
My future projects include working on the following:

1) The Peer Tutoring program at Queen’s Law has lost its funding. Traditionally, upper year students were paid by the university to act as peer tutors to first year law students. It is now an entirely volunteer-based program. This affected the number of available tutors and led to a reduction in the amount of time tutors are willing to spend with their tutees. Last year’s SGPS President Tyler Morrison noted that there is an alternative to simply accepting that the peer tutoring program will be entirely volunteer-based. Indeed, the other option is to create a fee that would be on the Law Students’ Society fee slate through the SGPS. The Student Choice Initiative allows tutoring services to have a mandatory fee for funding. A referendum on imposing this fee carried out by the Law Students’ Society would be required. If the fee were to be approved, it would not be effective until the next academic year. I plan on working with the Law Students’ Society to gauge interest in this proposal and to eventually help carry out a referendum on the matter through the Law Students’ Society.
2) I am working on proposing structural changes to the next SGPS executive team. More information about this will follow in future reports.

I am looking forward to continuing my work into the upcoming spring term. Please reach out to me at vp.professional@spgs.ca if you have any questions or feedback.

Ryan Adlem
Vice President Professional
Hello Council,

It is my pleasure to be taking over the role as Athletics and Wellness Commissioner for the remainder of the academic year. A little about me first: I am in my first year of the new Translation Medicine Graduate Program and I work in the Gastrointestinal Diseases Research Unit (GiDRU) looking at different therapies to treat abdominal pain. I’m a former Varsity Athlete with the Queen’s Gaels as a part of the Men’s Rowing Team for my undergrad and I currently work at the ARC, so I’m very well-versed in how Athletics runs at Queen’s.

I’m always open to suggestions for new events and activities to implement and although my time in the position will be a bit shorter than everyone else’s, I hope to make the best of it.

I will be collaborating with Anthony (Social Commissioner) on an event in December that will get us all outside to enjoy the Canadian Winter before going inside to some warm drinks and therapy dogs. More information on that will come soon, so please keep an eye out for them.

I can be reached at any time by email (athletics@sgps.ca) and please feel free to come up and chat with me any time you see me. It’s my honour and privilege to serve the SGPS community and I’m looking forward to it.

Cheers,
Q
Dear Council,

I am pleased to announce that the SGPS Equity & Diversity Committee is underway and we will be having our first meeting later this week.

I am currently consulting with equity groups on how SGPS can better reach students and provide a safe space for underrepresented groups and address any lacking needs. Please reach out to me if you have any thoughts. I am also trying to compile a network for the equity groups within the faculties under the SGPS (this includes any queer/BIPOC/equity clubs and positions). This information is not readily available on the faculty websites so I’d appreciate any support in providing me with contact information for any members/groups.

A reminder that the University is seeking feedback on its Sexual Violence Prevention Report. Please take the time to share this information with your peers. It’s important that students are being heard by the university when they’re developing their strategies on sexual violence prevention.

The AMS Social Issues Commissioner is holding an Equity Caucus for groups doing equity work on November 19, 4:30pm. This meeting is open to graduate student groups as well and is a great way for equity groups across the university to build a network of support. There is space for ONE representative from each group at this meeting at this time.

I am always open to any comments, questions, or suggestions and welcome any ideas for collaborative events. Please feel free to contact me at equity@sgps.ca.

Best regards,

Penny Zhang
Equity and Diversity Commissioner 2019-2020
Hi there,

I was not sure how detailed this report needed to be but my report in November was very detailed so I thought I would list these here and can gladly extrapolate in person.

**Events:**
- Family Fun Day (July)
- 3 X Know your Services Workshops (Sept-Oct)
- 3 X International Research Seminars (Nov-January)
- Beyond Boundaries Conference (February)

**Other:**
- International Representatives (There are now 11)
- Podcast (4 episodes are up)
- ISWG – Continued advocacy
- QUIC Advisory Council
- Student Success Report

**Goals:**
- Improve communication
- Highlight international scholarship
- Create Networking and Capacity Building Opportunities

Kindest regards,

Claudia Hirtenfelder
International Student Affairs Commissioner for the SGPS
This fall semester has been a busy one with lots of changes and exciting things happening for graduate students!

In the October 1st senate meeting the new Faculty of Health Sciences Master of Health Professions Education program was approved with the proposed start date being Summer of 2020. The program was designed to address the diverse teaching needs within a clinical or health related setting and draws from the experiences and expertise within Medicine, Nursing, and Rehabilitation Therapy across the institution. Specifically, the program is targeting those individuals already employed in the health professions sector looking to fill a gap between their clinical knowledge and teaching skills within an academic health setting.

At this senate meeting the working group on graduate student success report was released. This document details strategies to help encourage and support graduate students as well as a general implementation plan. This document can be found at:


At the October 29th senate meeting the Provost reported on the implementation of the Strategic Mandate Agreement 3. In the past provincial funding has been awarded to universities based on the number of students enrolled at said university. The government of the Ontario will now be awarding funding based on 10 performance-based metrics many of which will come into effect for the 2020-2021 year. Many of these pertain to success of a school’s students after they graduate and collaborations with the local community and other industry groups. To earn top marks in each of these categories universities must be meeting goals they set before the start of the year, except for the category: Research Funding and Capacity in which Queen’s will be compared to other Ontario universities. Queen’s can choose the weighting for each category ranging from 5-30% and must set the weighting before March 2020.

The SGPS attendees did have some concerns with how weighting will be distributed, the amount of money earned by each faculties will stay in each faculty, potentially causing the strong faculties to do better year over year while those who aren’t as strong may not have as much funding available for improvements. Ultimately the SGPS is very interested to see how Queen’s will weight each category.

I am also a part of a graduate student funding working group. This month we had an excellent discussion about how we can improve funding opportunities for our international graduate students. These students pay about $16,000 in tuition and face many financial barriers as there are significantly fewer funding awards available to them. One idea that was brought forward was to remove tuition for both international and domestic PhD students! Of course, extensive consultations will be needed with all departments and with the budgeting office before anything is set into motion, but something very exciting indeed!

I’m looking forward to continuing to represent graduate students on the senate!

Wishing everyone good luck on their exams and experiments!

Courtney Bannerman