Hello Council,

I will keep this report brief and I will provide more clarity as needed during my oral report. Here are things that council should be made aware of:

1. **Policy and By-Law changes required by the Student Choice Initiative**

   In the interest of remaining compliant with the Student Choice Initiative I have put forward a couple of proposed revisions to Policy and By-Law. They will be attached to this Report.

   Student Fees and Referenda have proposed updates to reflect the demands of SCI. Most notably we no longer have the autonomy to classify fees as mandatory so that is reflected in edited P.1.2.2 (d). Other changes are largely housekeeping.

   Health and Dental has also changed to reflect the SCI. The major change is the acknowledgment that full time students must be enrolled in health and dental unless they provide proof of coverage.

2. **Policy and By-Law updates**

   Along with the SCI By-Law changes I have also put forward an update to the SGPS election timeline. The updated timeline is meant to line up with the AMS so that the process is easier for students. I would also like to put council on notice that in the new year I would like to continue to amend and have discussion on the Policy and By-Law as whole. I think the document could be improved.

3. **Chown Hall Incident and SGPS Response**

   Again, I’m sure that everyone heard of the incident. I would like to make a motion that council condemn the incident in the strongest possible terms. I would also like to ensure that we keep students updated on the investigation and keep pressure on the University to respond to the incident.

4. **QBACC Discussion**

   The executive had the chance to discuss the Queen’s Backing Action on Climate Change call for divestment. We would like to invite QBACC to present to council on the divestment issue and movement at Queen’s as well as have a discussion the SGPS’s position on the issue.

5. **Principal’s Discussion**

   I would like to make council aware that the SGPS, SGS, and the Principal’s office will be hosting a graduate specific conversation with Principal Deane. I encourage all councilors to attend and make sure to spread the word about the event. The event is November 18, 2019 at 4:00 pm. The event will also be family friendly for students with children.

6. **Indigenous Commissioner Hiring**

   We have put out the call for the new position discussed at last meeting. I will hopefully have an oral update on that process ready for council.
Hello Council,

I hope everyone has been having a great term so far and congratulations to our members who graduated this term, I wish you success in all your future endeavors. This report will be brief and will include some additions orally as I am writing from the CAGS conference here in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**Graduate Peer Support Centre**

Our GPSC is now open and fully operational. I want to take this time to thank Arthi our manager for all of her hard work this term to make our piloted launch a success. Additionally, thank you to all of the volunteers on the GPSC outreach team and those who work in the center on a daily basis without you this dream would not be a reality. The GPSC is open Monday to Thursday and you can learn more about the service on the SGPS website or their Facebook page.

**CAGS Update**

The CAGS student townhall is on Friday, November 8th 2019. This year Queen’s took a leadership role in planning the student townhall for Deans which covered a variety of topics. Supervisory Best Practices in the sector, Professional Development for non-Academic Pathways, Indigenizing Graduate Education, and Increased Student-led Content were topics for discussion during the meeting. I will provide an oral report about what else has been going on here since the conference is not over while I am writing.

**Graduate Student Success Working Group**

The Graduate Student Success Working Group final report is live and attached to the agenda package. I would like to again thank, Fahim Quadir, Betsy Donald, Heather Merla and all of the committee for their hard work in developing this thorough and thoughtful report. This report should lead a shift in the culture of graduate studies and life at Queen’s in a way that has not been seen before. With concrete timelines and action plans already in place to implement some of the programs in the report it is very exciting to see the future of grad studies unfold before our eyes.

**Scholar’s at Risk Lecture**

There is a SAR lecture coming up please see the attached poster to the agenda for more information. Queen’s is a member of the broader scholar’s at risk community and hopes to support scholarship globally.

Cheers

Leo Erlikhman
Dear Council,

The Finance Committee is up and running with no outstanding issues. The grants and bursaries program is seeing very strong uptake from our membership and we are seeing strong turnaround times for application processing.

Happy to take any questions you may have.

Best,
Abel Hazon
VPFS
Hi Council,

I have a few quick updates, however, my work has been mostly internally facing since my last report.

Committee Updates

I have attended a wide variety of committee meetings this past month and have tried to represent the consensus views of graduate and professional students to the university administration. The grad club renovation is still being planned.

Human Resource Matters

I continue to take part in the recruitment of volunteers for the Graduate Peer Support Centre.

Independent Projects

I am investigating a potential proposal for structural changes to next year’s executive. This will likely involve incentivizing executive members to remain in Kingston over the summer months.

Ryan Adlem
Vice President Professional
Hello everyone,

It’s November and things are getting chilly!!! Brrr. I hope you are all enjoying the change of season and hopefully a slowly down of pace at university 😊. Here is an update on my portfolio

1. IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

One of my core goals has been to improve communication for and with international students. The below are the steps taken toward achieving that as well as some information on events, etc that might help communicate information about international happenings.

**International Student Representatives**

I am slowly starting to get an uptake of International Student Representatives. I am now aware of 10 representatives (from 8 different departments). I have also had a number of folks contact me to say that they are currently getting the position into their respective by-laws. This is wonderful news and I hope that we continue to make progress on this. As always I encourage you to please create these positions within your own Graduate Student Councils. These reps are not SGPS Reps but are reps for your respective departments who can stay abreast of a variety of changes, issues, and events that are specifically targeted to international students. It is my hope that we can create a dynamic (and structural) pool of representatives that take into consideration the needs of the own department’s students while also being aware of what is happening at broader scales.

Last month, I sent out an email and I will send it out again after this meeting so as to keep encouraging this change. As always, please email me (international@sgps.ca) if you are a representative or have some questions about why this would be a good idea for your department. Thank you for your support with this! An example as to what this position might look like includes:

The International Student Representatives act as representatives of the department’s international graduate students providing the department with information about international students’ latest concerns and matters. These representatives also act as a connection to the university for incoming international students helping them to understand the university’s lingo, structures, and layout as well as the more specific details of the department. The position is not restricted to international students, but it would be ideal that it is held by at least one international student. The International Student Representatives should also try to be engaged with or at least knowledgeable of the workings of the SGPS’ International Commissioner, International Student Working Group, the International Student Caucus, Queen’s University’s International Centre, and other bodies related to the well-being and service of international students.

**Know your Services Workshops**

I ran the last of the three Know Your Services Workshops on the 9th of October 2019. Like the first two the workshop was well received by the students who attended but the attendance itself remained low. I will need to re-think when and how these workshops are carried out as the information is critically important but not being received effectively. In future I may look to record (either through film or audio) these events so that the information goes further than the event itself. I have not yet had time to compile all of the information from these events into snapshots for international students that can be shared but it is on my to do list.
International Student Townhall
On Monday the 4th of November the International Student working Group hosted a townhall. I was one of the presenters at this townhall and discussed the SGS’ recent report on Student Success. In the report there was a lot of reference to the needs of international students with a particular focus on a need to restructure the funding package. It has been acknowledged that the International Tuition Award is not working as intended (to mitigate the cost difference for international students) and that international graduate students have several financial constraints. A big thank you to Jeremy, Leo and Uchitta for their support with this. Also a huge thank you to Canan Sahin and Rohit Revi for their organization and dedication to international student advocacy.

Upcoming principal’s Conversation:
On the 11th of November from 4:30 to 5:30 there is a principal’s conversation on internationalization. I will not be able to attend because I am hosting an event at the same time. I encourage you to go to this event and voice any ideas, concerns, and opportunities you think the university should take into consideration.

QUIC Advisory Council Meeting
The first one is happening on the 7th of November and I will update next month

2. BEYOND CANADA: HIGHLIGHTING INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

The below outlines some of the events and activities currently being undertaken to highlight the value and quality of international scholarship amongst graduate and professional students:

Beyond Canada Podcast
The third episode for Beyond Canada: International Thought & Scholarship was released in November. This episode I spoke to the queen Elizabeth Scholars about their experience of coming to Queen’s as well as what it was like to collaborate with and learn from people from across the world.

Episodes:
1. The Blending Health Initiatives of sub-Saharan Africans living in Toronto
2. Beyond Canada: The Art of Social Infrastructure: Santiago’s Pobliques and the Afterlives of Arpilleras
3. Beyond Canada – Queen Elizabeth Scholars: Collaborations that Span Continents and Open Doors

Beyond Canada International Research Seminars
I am extremely grateful to QUIC for partnering with the planning off these seminars as well as helping with some of the costs of hosting it! The first of the three seminars is scheduled to take place on the 11th of November at QUIC from 5-7 PM. The Seminar is going to be on India and includes fascinating presentations on urban planning, family norms, nationalism, and narratives of spatialized belonging. The second Seminar will be on December 2nd on Ghana also at QUIC from 5-7PM and will have presentations on religion, renewable energy, and elderly care (You heard it here first!). The details of the seminar in January are still being confirmed. I am hoping to record these three seminars and they will also serve as episodes for the abovementioned podcast. A big thank you to Uchitta for helping make this a big success too!

3. NETWORKING AND CAPACITY BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

While all of the above contribute toward networking opportunities and to some extent capacity building, the conference is the main event (for this year) that will focus on these two components:

Beyond Boundaries Conference
This conference is going to be awesome! I wish I could leave the update there 😊 (See next page 😊)
We have done exceedingly well with this conference so far. We have 16 sponsors who have given both cash and in-kind contributions to the conference. I will update you on how much that amounts to next month. If you know of any body on campus that would like to contribute please let me know. The sponsors include:

The first round of applications has closed and the second round is open until the 10th of November. The applications for volunteers closed on the 4th of November too. More details regarding both of these will be available next month.

I would also like to thank Andria Burke for all of her help with both promoting the conference and being so patient with me when I continually ask for website updates! Thank you to Penny and Anthony for their continued support and enthusiasm for this conference.

To close
There are a lot of moving parts in my Commission but they all serve two main goals: to highlight the value of international scholarship and to ensure that international graduate students are supported through workshops, soft infrastructure, and advocacy. If you have any ideas as to how I can improve my service feel free to reach out at any time (international@sgps.ca)

Once again, having departmental graduate student representatives would be an incredible resource in this regard and I encourage you to speak to your own Graduate Student Councils and reach out to me about who in your councils I can speak to about international student affairs.

I hope to see you at some of the events and look forward to any feedback, suggestions or ideas about anything I have already put forward.

Have an excellent month

Kindest regards,

Claudia Hirtenfelder
International Student Affairs Commissioner for the SGPS