



## Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Called to order 5:40 pm - *delayed for attendance because tent cards with names were not ready*

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.



### I. Adoption of the Agenda

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#### A. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION 12/11/19:01**

**BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Council Meeting.**

Jeremy proposes that motions 12/11/19:04, and :08 be withdrawn, and also that :09 be amended to a call / discussion item, *<Note: this was a clerical error and the motions should never have been included>*

also, to amend the order of the agenda to move the Graduate Senator report to the top of the reports. *<the senator has to leave early today>*

*Leo seconds*

*No noted abstention in the vote*



### II. Presentation on Climate Change Initiative

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#### A. Presentation By Nick Lorroway of the Queen's Backing Action on Climate Change Group

Nick and Sam are presenting on behalf of QBACC group.

Nick is president of QBACC

QBACC has lots of initiatives on campus for environmental causes

Sam Green works on the divestment campaign *<For Queen's to divest from fossil fuel companies>*



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

They are here to promote the divestment campaign

Divestment is removing financial assets in your portfolio for moral or financial reasons

Sam and Nick are looking for the SGPS's support for their divestment campaign

Queens has divested *<from certain assets>* 3 times in Queen's history

There are moral and financial reasons for divestment

The 2 degree mark *<of global average temperature rise>* is the point at which we will not be able to get back down *<i.e. return to previous global average temperatures>*

Coral bleaching, crop failure, decreased fresh water, more natural disasters, starving refugees, people dying of thirst are all potential affects of global warming / climate change.

Climate change affects the global south and marginalized groups more

In the Paris climate accord, many countries including Canada agreed to target a maximum 2 degree increase *<in global temperature rise>* with a goal of 1.5 degrees maximum warming *<of average global temperatures>*

Africa and pacific islands are having a worse time then us here in Canada

A report from University College of London says that they expect that we *<Canada>* can only afford to burn 15% of what we have in our reserves *<of fossil fuels in order to meet the 2 degree targets>*

Divestment comes in because fossil fuel companies are valued based on fossil fuel reserves: If you believe climate change is real, then fossil fuel companies are therefore over-valued



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

In addition, there is no evidence of reduced financial returns in non-carbon *<fossil fuel>* assets.

Many organizations have divested from high-carbon assets including Bill and Melinda Gates, the Rockefellers, and the country of Ireland

QBACC used a “decarbonization” tool to look at Queen’s assets from 2012-2015 and found that by redistributing the carbon-based assets over the rest of the portfolio, Queens could have made an additional \$137 million

University of California, University College London, and Concordia, have all divested in the last few weeks

On top of financial argument, there is a moral precedent

Fossil fuel companies have a mandate to explore and build in *<fossil fuel>* reserves

There have also been some dubious acts recently, for example lobbying that the Paris *<Climate Conference>* would not mention fossil fuels by name

Exon knew in the 70s *<of rising global temperatures / danger from carbon emissions>* and hid the evidence

Shell spends more money on public relations talking about environmentalism more than it spent on environmentalism itself

Also lobbying in the US congress is dubious

End of day is we need to *<verbatim transcript lost, I believe it was something like “move away from carbon emissions”>*



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Divestment is a symbolic action, Queen's is not expected to make a direct difference *<to fossil fuel company capital>* with the money they divest, however, some of the goals are:

to pressure the government into taking more fossil fuels into account

If a mining company comes in and mines gold and then leaves a mess, we don't want to deal with that

And third, trying to get the government to look into transition programs so we are protected in a downturn *<of oil / fossil fuel prices / economy>*

Not about turning off the taps *<i.e. shutting down Canadian oil production immediately>*, but about turning away *<from fossil fuels>*

The idea is to stop investing in this and figure out a solution

QBACC is not against extraction or mining, just against the environment being pushed to the side

We want the conversation in Canada

Three times in the last several *<decades?>* years has Queen's divested:

Queens asked for evidence of workers' treatment in textiles industries, did not get a response from the company, and so divested

Africa National Congress (ANC) during apartheid *<in South Africa; the verbatim story is lost, however I believe it was something to do with asking the ANC to remove money they had invested in Queen's>*

In Sudan, Queen's divested from companies that went in during the civil war *<and made money off of arms deals etc.>*. Most interestingly about Sudan was that it didn't seem like a long campaign *<for divestment>*, Queen's reacted to some people *<i.e. a few people campaigning>* because it was in Queen's values *<to divest>*



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Symbolic action means everything

As an institution of higher learning, we should go in *<with divestment>*:

- Climate emergency
- Transition to low-carbon economy asap
- Pressure on government and industry to do this together

Not that many Universities in Canada have divested (Concordia has), so Queens has a chance to be the first in Ontario

20 departments *<at Queen's>* from econ to bio, law society and AMS, all support divestment

1400 came to the *<Kingston>* climate strike to show they care (in September)

QBACC is asking the SGPS today to endorse the divestment of fossil fuels

The AMS has already done this *<i.e. endorsed the divestment>*

Also, we are asking the SGPS to do a negative screen for fossil fuel companies

The university is creating ESG factors (Queen's definitions), we ask that the negative screen be in place ASAP so that we can incentivize companies to come back if they meet these criteria

*<Note, the exact wording here was lost, but essentially a negative screen was described as criteria that a company can meet, and once they have met those criteria they can be re-admitted into (in this case Queen's) portfolio. This is to ensure that companies are not "locked out forever" and have incentives to change their actions>*

So right now, full no, as we develop the system to welcome that back in

Questions:

Do we have more info about the SGPS investment in fossil fuels etc.?



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Jeremy:

We don't have the level of investment where we have an investment manager. For now, we are projected to be able to put in these screens by 2021 (two council terms from now) *<because we are projected to have enough assets to get out own investment manager>*

But we can definitely start this now

Leo:

Right now, we use financial products from the bank *<as opposed to our own investment manager>*

Follow-up:

We can use the bank's programs? *<i.e. of non-carbon financial products>*

Jeremy:

No, TD does not give the option now

Nick;

Well in that case you can put in an intention now *<i.e. as a motion of council for conditional implementation>* and then a future council *<would not have to take any additional action>*

Jeremy:

We are nearing the point where we can have a financial advisor and so not get a penalty for changing the funds *<i.e. right now by changing the funds we would incur a financial penalty>*

Nick:

We are proposing until 2025 for Queens *<to be fully divested>* so that we can do things like not pull out of bonds ahead of time and incur penalties

We are looking for the "we are moving away"

Follow-up:

It would be interesting to know if we had the decisions



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Question from Chem:

Do you know how this could affect students who have funding from these companies who are working on greener mechanisms? *<i.e. of energy production>*

Nick:

I don't know and it would be up to the companies anyways *<to decide on student funding>*.

Part of this is to get them *<the companies>* to transition away *<from fossil fuels>*; if they pull funding *<from students>* trying to help them do this *<it might look bad>*

Sam:

The CEO of Shell has said they won't do this *<i.e. pull funding>* because it would look bad to pull *<funding>* from schools who don't invest in them *<Shell>*

Question:

I could be wrong, but there was a similar campaign earlier that did not succeed?

What did the SGPS say then?

Nick:

QBACC did this *<campaign for divestment>* in maybe 2014?

Now we are working with more experience looking at these longer trends etc.

The culture *<i.e. around climate change>* has also changed, and the climate has changed

It was not as viable then (with the previous team) as now financially

Last time, the team collected only just enough signatures and went to the board *<of trustees at Queen's>*

We have gone beyond *<the minimum number of signatures>* for 1700 signatures, etc.



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Questions from Leo:

Are we including LNG <*Liquid Natural Gas*> to transition out of coal when we say fossil fuels, or is it just oil? Because that's a natural progression <*to move away from coal before LNG*>

Because the government is trying to transition away <*note: unclear from what they are transitioning away*>

Nick:

I don't know too much on this

LNG has great potential as a transitional product

My personal belief is to just move straight to renewables

Leo:

44% coal for several provinces, and LNG is just the only thing that would work in transition

Nick:

I think something like 70% of Canada's electricity is already made by renewables

LNG should be a conversation for the entire University to have

Laura:

I will send out an email tomorrow to council from QBACC regarding this

*Conclusion of the presentation and questions.*



III.

## Minutes

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### A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

MOTION 12/11/19:02

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Council Meeting.



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

*Moved Jeremy*

*Seconded Leo*

*Pass unanimously*



## IV. Election of Chief Returning Officer

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### A. Election of the CRO

**MOTION 12/11/19:03**

**Whereas** bylaw P.5.1.3.c requires that we elect a CRO by October council  
**And whereas** we were unable to do this in October and should resolve ASAP  
**And whereas** B.14.a requires a secret ballot of council for the CRO election

**BIRT** the SGPS Council elect by secret ballot a Chief Returning Officer for this year  
**BIFRT** that the SGPS allow for a short debate between candidates moderated by the Speaker.

Discussion:

The CRO runs the elections for the SGPS. They will also probably be consulted on any proposed changes to elections bylaws and policies. They must be physically present in Kingston over the course of the election, as per any amendments above. The CRO rules on all elections matters, subject to appeal to the Elections Appeals Committee.

*Only one candidate appears to raise their hand and comes to the front*

Candidate Matt:

In the MIR program here <*i.e. at Queens; MIR = masters of industrial relations*>

Running for the CRO position because Queen's has a long history of student engagement and I want to carry on that position

I also want to make a fair and equal playing field for the election

In 2017 I was the AMS CRO, and I ran the Rector and executive election that year  
Happy to answer questions about that

He has worked with the SGPS CRO during the AMS election too



**SGPS**

Society of Graduate &  
Professional Students

**Agenda**

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Questions:

*None seen*

*Leo moves to acclaim*

*No objections*

*Acclamation passes unanimously, Matt joins the Speaker's table*

**~~B. Deputy Chief Returning Officer~~**

~~**Whereas** bylaw B.9.1.d allows council to appoint different Officer of Council positions for "specific purposes"~~

~~**And whereas** we have had low voter turnout at our last election which might benefit from more promotion~~

~~**And whereas** many recent elections have been uncontested which is bad for democracy and could be helped by more promotion~~

~~**And whereas** elections can be hard to run as a single person~~

~~**BIRT the SGPS Council elect by secret ballot a Deputy Chief Returning Officer to assist the CRO in running the elections and/or referenda for the year.**~~

**MOTION 12/11/19:04**

~~Discussion / Information:~~

~~DROs could help alleviate some of the pressure on the CRO. DROs can also be used to promote the election for candidates and for voter turnout. The DROs would help the CRO as needed. The DROs would not be allowed to be on the Election Appeal Committee (conflict of interest); but would (as currently worded) be allowed to vote regularly in the election.~~

~~The number of DROs needed is open to debate. Also open to debate is whether a nominal stipend be made to the DROs to thank them for their time (my suggestion would be around \$30-\$60 or so based on Speaker to Deputy Speaker stipend).~~

~~Note that impeachment of a DRO would require a simple majority of council (as Speaker is the only officer to require a 2/3 majority). Note also that in the event of the CRO resigning, the Deputy Speaker would temporarily assume their place, under our current rules, not any DROs.~~

*Motion repealed as per the agenda amendments above*



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC



v.

## Executive & Speaker Reports

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### B. Executive Reports

- a. President – Jeremy Ambraska (report attached)
- b. VP Graduate – Leo Erlikhman (oral report)
- c. VP Professional – Ryan Adlem (report attached)
- d. VP Finance & Services – Abel Hazon (report attached)
- e. VP Community – Uchitta Vashist (oral report)

### C. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Laura Culleton (no report)

### D. Approval

**MOTION 12/11/19:05**

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

*Graduate senator report to come before other reports as per the agenda amendments above*

Courtney (Grad senator):

I have some:

Maybe bad news

Really good news

And something that I want your opinions on

The government of Ontario previously would award funding to universities based on number of students enrolled

How that will change in the future, with the Strategic Management Agreement 3, Universities will now be given funding based on performance metrics

Some <performance metrics> are well-defined: e.g. Graduate rates and employment rates

Some less-so: e.g. Skills and competencies



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Queen's can decide how to weigh each of the 10 *<performance metrics>* between 5% and 30%

The better Queen's meet the metrics, the more money Queen's get *<as provincial funding>*

The problem with this is that it makes us build on the strengths that we have, and put less effort on programs that are not as strong. For example, ArtSci and Engineering are fairly strong, so Queen's would weigh more heavily for these.

Also, each of the faculty's money that they earn on *<these metrics>* must stay within the schools *<i.e. faculties>*. The concern is that it will make Universities strong in one sector, but not necessarily *<strong>* overall

Senate has not gotten down

*<the performance metric weighting>* needs to be in by March

There is a council advising the principal right now

Kind of a sit and see situation

I am sitting on a working group for Grad Student funding

Last week we met to improve international student funding

Lots of different ways were tossed back and forth

Came down to lots of tuition is paid, so to stay in in Kingston we need to pay a lot of money



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

One idea that council has put forward is to abolish PhD tuition by 2021, and also masters that are research-based later

May be an overall drop somewhat (\$2000-3000) in funding, but if tuition is eliminated

How it would work:

1. See if possible for different faculties
2. Then in May go to the Senate and then the Budget Office
3. Would be put in place for 2021 budget

For one:

The government of Ontario gives money for grad students. This would no longer be mixed in the pot with undergrad students which is what now happens

The other idea that came up was allowing self-funded graduate students at Queen's

In the past, there has been a complete ban on this *<allowing self-funded graduate students>*

In the past, Queen's is then required to offer tuition funding

Ban is partly in place because it could make for difficulty between supervisor and student

An old dean of the SGS thought it might become an "if you can pay you stay" system

These would be grad student who pay upwards of \$1600 in tuition *<note: might be 16,000 not 1600>*

Do you have any opinions?

Questions:

*<question was unintelligible>*



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Answer:

We aren't completely sure, because in the past they were just told you can't do this

Some people on the <Senate> sub-group can remember 1-2 students each in this situation <i.e. some of the faculty members on the sub-group can recall 1-2 students each who were self-funded before the ban was put in place>

Questions:

<question not recorded>

Answer:

Yes, this is why we might cap it <the number of self-funded students who would be allowed>

VP Grad (Leo):

It is a "complicated I am in favour for this"

The government of Ontario has a bottom and top barrier for Ontario students <i.e. the number of Ontario students admitted into the school> and then they <the school/department> can supplement with international <students>

There is an interesting set of self-funded domestically and internationally

Usually having a funded project

There are concerns:

One being is that <these self-funded> students will also have more so there is an equity balance, they are also usually receiving a living stipend

On the flip side, there would be more funding for students who are not self-funded

<how it works now:> The department puts forward the number of students they want to the SGS



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Sponsored students does allow for more innovated and applied research

International Commissioner question:

Point of clarity on this: would Queen's be abolishing tuition for all PhD students?

Courtney:

Seemed like Queen's and departments were in a "make-work cycle" for trying to find tuition internally.

<No tuition would mean> No ITA or QGA <International Tuition Awards and Queen's Graduate Awards> awards, because in theory these awards are supposed to help with tuition

Follow-up

TA-ships and other parts of the funding package are still in?

A:

Yes

Follow-up:

I have some concerns <with self-funded students>:

e.g. if any company can sponsor any student then the research may come in and get "passed off as science," e.g. Guelph may be having issues with Monsanto and dairy etc.

Maybe there is some potential for scholarship funding or whatever from donors?

But I do see some need for controls

Courtney:

Yes, I think that was the idea with the self-funded students, a lot of it would be on a case-by-case basis



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

We don't want to be pushing out qualified domestic or international students to make up for the corridors *<i.e. to push out qualified students in favour of funded students>*

More of a we make space

Q:

Is there any way to *<did not hear rest of question>*

Leo:

The SGS would

No the American model?

In the US they do the work at the company, the company pays the school, and then the student gets a degree from the school

*<I believe Leo's response is that the SGS does not want to have this type of student who does research at the company's campus instead of the university's campus and then is granted a degree from the university>*

Q:

What would the impact be on professional programs?

A:

For now, this is more of a research-based only *<i.e. only applies to research and not professional degrees>*

So no, there would be no increase in any other tuitions made specially from these being abolished

More just making sure that money we get from the government goes to the grad students, plus money coming specifically for professors *<for funding grad projects>*

*End of Senator's report / discussion*



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Jeremy's report (president):

*<regarding motions in today's council>*

Starting to try and implement some policy and bylaws, especially from the SCI—this is for mandatory fees

Housekeeping, i.e. opening up “the CRO” to say “chief returning officer” *<throughout policy>*

Chown Hall incident:

Want to have a position that we condemn this because it was specifically disappointing

When I speak with the DSA and the principal, we are coming up with a response, perhaps a flagpole on Richardson. I will be updating council with any of these changes

I would be happy to take any remaining questions on QBACC

Will bring forward the stance at next council *<for SGPS to do with QBACC's request>*

Maybe for next council having a presentation about what our own options are: I would personally prefer not to incur a financial penalty

Shameless plug for the principal's conversation *<Monday Nov 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm>*

Will be family friendly, in this room *<McLaughlin Hall>*

If you have any issues to bring up, this is where the conversation for reimagining what Queen's will be like under Principal Deane



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Leo's Report (VP Grad):

Grad peer support center is open, continuous call for volunteers. Trying to make the program as barrier-free as possible

Just attended the Canadian conference of CAGS <*Canadian association of graduate schools*>

Unfortunately, was not at the town hall <*at the conference*>, but chaired the task force <*that created the town hall*>

Some <*pre-emptive answers*> to questions:

CAGS is the overarching body that deals with all schools in Canada:

Student on board of directors and an annual student-led town hall <*are things that we working on getting from CAGS*>

Lots of conversation on mental health

Lots of best practices <*recommended at the conference*> have already been implemented or are in planning <*to be implemented*> at Queen's; They <*CAGS*> have invited us <*Queen's*> to speak next year about how we are moving forward <*with these initiatives/recommendations/best practices*>

I would like to thank the head manager of the peer support center for all her work

We are moving forward in the JDUC process

Last meeting <*about the JDUC*> I got the notes but I did not attend

Meeting before that was what physical features we <*the SGPS*> need <*in the renovations*>

This space here will be the new main space <*referring to McLaughlin Hall in the JDUC*>

Some nice AV <*audio-visual equipment*> and cool stuff, a new lounge



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

I will be soliciting feedback on what to include next, including bright lights, barrier free things

There will be a community kitchen

I am pretty proud of this, it is really exciting,

... Key fob access ...

Happy to answer questions because the meeting happened Friday *<i.e. after written reports were submitted to the Speaker>*

Q: do you mean the SGPS fees or not? *<asking about whether the JDUC renovation fee can be mandatory for all students under the Student Choice Initiative (SCI), and if not how SGPS member students will only have access vs. all graduate students>*

A:

It will be a mandatory fee as per the government (SCI) because it will be a student building fee

Might be that bookable time is grad only, might be other things,

I am not big on exclusionary space, because I think public access is important

This would be for a future council to decide

Grad student support working group report

If you have questions, please ask

It is a testament to the advocacy that we can do at this university about how we can make our community better

The report came out 3 weeks ago and Courtney has already brought the tuition to senate

It is really cool, you should read it



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Ryan's report (VP Professional)

Helped in hiring volunteers for grad student support center

Lots of committee work

Abel's report (VP Finance and Services):

Processing the grants and bursaries on the report

The opt-out appeal period has ended so our numbers are final

Just under 20% opt-out *<of SGPS membership for those eligible>*

We have all members

46 bursary applications, most processed and approved, since last meeting

Happy to answer questions discreetly or publically

Uchitta's Report (VP Community):

Would add on Penny's work, managed to get 6 volunteers on \_\_\_\_ committee *<note: I think this is the ethics and diversity committee>*

First meeting this week or next

Hoping for a full brief for December council report

Unfortunately had to cancel Forest Therapy because of the weather

Claudia can sum up the international work stuff



### **Agenda**

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Lot of complaints about CRA scams etc. We are trying to push on social media on how to avoid those scams. Also working with QUIC on a document of how to report and prevent scams

*Motion to approve the reports*

*Moved Leo*

*Seconded Mandeep*

*Passes without objection*



## **VI. Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports**

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- A. Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Courtney Bannerman (oral report)
- B. Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – Leena Yahia (no report)
- C. Commissioner Reports**
  - a. Athletics Commissioner – Charlie Cleary (no report)
  - b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Penny Zhang (no report)
  - c. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Claudia Hirtenfelder (report attached)
  - d. Social Commissioner – Anthony Lomax (no report)
- 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 – position vacant (no report)
- G. Approval**

**MOTION 12/11/19:06**

**BIRT SGPS Council approve the Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports.**

*Senator report given ahead of executive reports, as per the amendment to the agenda above*



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

Claudia (International):

Thank to those of you who have reached out with an international representative in your departments, we have gone from 2 to 10 this month, and several others are electing representatives

if this is the first time you have heard of this, this is my thing: I am trying to make representatives in all departments that represent your international students to create the “soft infrastructure” *<of international representatives able to share ideas>*

please consider creating a position *<for international representative on your department council>*

if you need an idea of what the position could look like, please let me know and I can send you a template

hoping to create training through QUIC for these positions

this would be a small change in your department, huge change in the university

the international student working group had a town hall

myself, international student working group, and a union rep were talking about different financial issues and how they are affecting students

pretty startling numbers from Leo’s report that he referred to:

One number was 22\$ per month left before buying food or books for international students

I think the international students appreciated the chance to voice their concerns

The podcast has come out

If you have international students or international research, we are doing Beyond Candidates podcast!

Also a series of research seminars

Feel free to reach out if you are interested



**Agenda**

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

The international conference applications have now closed  
We are going through the apps and are very happy  
16 volunteers now and another 22 working behind the scenes  
16+ sponsors form around the university  
  
more to come!

*Motion to approve reports*

*Leo*

*Emily*

*Pass unanimously*



VII. Question Period & Departmental Issues



VIII. Business Arising from the Minutes



IX. Main Motions & Discussion



**SGPS**

Society of Graduate &  
Professional Students

**Agenda**

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

**A. SECOND READING – Addition of Commissioner Level Position for Indigenous students.**

**MOTION 12/11/19:07**

**BIRT the SGPS add a Commissioner Level Position for Indigenous students according to the following:**

- The position will be titled by Indigenous students at Queen's and be open to a self-identified Indigenous SGPS member.
- Once titled, the position will be entered into bylaw.
- the following is **added** under B.9.2 Commissioners, Officers and Deputy Commissioners:
  - (6) Indigenous Position (name to be later determined)
- 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."

*Moved: Jeremy*

*Second: Leo*

*Passes unanimous*

**~~B. CRO and Delegation of Powers/Requirement to Stay in Kingston~~**

~~**Whereas** the CRO job currently requires the CRO to be physically in Kingston over the entire election process~~

~~**And whereas** this can be dissuasive to potential candidates and lower the quality of the office of the CRO~~

~~**And whereas** it is still important that someone be physically present in Kingston during the entire process to deal with issues in person~~

~~**And whereas** the internet now allows for easy and fast remote communication~~

~~**And whereas** there is no method to deal with the CRO having to leave Kingston in an emergency~~

~~**BIRT policy P.5.1.3.b. be changed from:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MOTION 12/11/19:08**~~

~~*b. In the event that the Chief Returning Officer is in a position of conflict of interest with respect to a particular election or referendum, that person must resign his or her position, and be replaced by the Deputy Speaker until such time as a replacement can be elected according to B.13.1.*~~

~~*The CRO shall be physically present in Kingston during an election and/or referenda, as prescribed in the table in P.9.1.c.*~~



## Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

To (including re-numbering):

*b. In the event that the Chief Returning Officer is in a position of conflict of interest with respect to a particular election or referendum, that person must resign his or her position, and be replaced by the Deputy Speaker until such time as a replacement can be elected according to B.13.1.*

*d. The CRO shall be physically present in Kingston during most of an election and/or referenda, as prescribed in the table in P.9.1.e., and shall:*

*(1) remain in communication with the Returning Team (defined as any Deputy Returning Officers (DROs) appointed by council and the Deputy Speaker) when physically absent*

*(2) temporarily delegate inspection and ruling powers as applicable to a member of the Returning Team physically present in Kingston for the duration of the absence*

*(3) be present for significant events in the election process, including*

*(i) validation of candidates*

*(ii) presenting the candidates and questions to council*

*(iii) the all candidate debate*

*(iv) first 12 (twelve) hours of the campaign*

*(v) last 12 (twelve) hours of the campaign*

*(vi) voting days*

*(vii) any other dates deemed important by council prior to the election process beginning*

Discussion:

There are no changes to "b" except that we lost a letter at some point. The new letter is "d" because "c" already exists.

Motion repealed as per the agenda amendments above



## Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

### ~~C. Elections Appeals Committee~~

~~Whereas~~ we need an election appeals committee (EAC) to rule on any election appeals  
~~And whereas~~ it has been hard in the past to have council members join because of the threat of having to be present in Kingston over the whole election cycle

~~BIRT the SGPS Council allow members of the EAC to leave temporarily during the elections process so long as at least 2 members plus the Speaker (who chairs the committee) are present in Kingston at any time during the elections process.~~

~~BIFRT that all members of the EAC must attend the All Candidates debate as per policy~~

~~BIFRT council now appoint counsellors to the committee~~

---

~~MOTION 12/11/19:09~~

---

~~Discussion:~~

~~Ideally we have 5-6 + the Speaker so that there is plenty of opportunity for coverage. The exact process is the committee has 48 hours to meet and process any appeals. Appeals can be given within 24 hours of the CRO giving a demerit.~~

~~The all candidates debate is often scheduled in conjunction with the January council meeting.~~

~~This is important for democracy, please consider joining! It is a relatively small commitment.~~

*Motion repealed and changed to an announcement as per the agenda amendments above*

### D. Amendments to Policy 1.2 Student Fees and Referenda

**BIRT the SGPS Council approves the proposed amendments to Policy 1.2 Student Fees and Referenda**

**MOTION 12/11/19:10**

*Moved by Jeremy:*

This is the changes from the SCI <Student Choice Initiative>

Because we can no longer make our own changes to designate mandatory or not <for student fees>

I've talked about this before



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

#### P.1.2.2 General

- a. From time to time, the SGPS shall establish, increase or cancel Student Activity Fees (“**Fee**”), paid by members, related directly to the upkeep and maintenance of campus student life and the SGPS at large.
- b. The SGPS may only establish a new Fee, or increase an existing fee, if there has been an open, honest, and fair referendum on the establishment, or increase, of that Fee.
- c. The payment expectation for a given Fee is either:
  - a. **Mandatory**, in which all members must pay the fee, or
  - b. **Optional**, where members have a choice to Opt-out of the fee during the designated opt-out period.
- d. **The classification of Student Fees into the categories of Mandatory and Optional is governed by the Government of Ontario’s Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities “Tuition Fee Framework and Ancillary Fee Guidelines for Publicly-Assisted Universities”.**

#### P.1.2.3 Eligibility

- a. Only eligible groups are entitled to establish or receive a Fee.
- b. The eligibility of a group to receive a Fee is determined by the Finance and Services Committee (“**Committee**”) and is assessed each year for both prospective Fees and pre-existing Fees.
- c. The following conditions restrict eligibility:
  - i. No athletic team is eligible to receive a Fee;
  - ii. No SGPS, AMS or University committee is eligible to receive a Fee;
  - iii. No group, except for the SGPS itself, shall be eligible for more than one Fee;
  - iv. No group, except for the SGPS itself, shall be eligible to obtain a fee for the purposes of a single, one-time capital purchase;
  - v. No commercial or otherwise for-profit group or organization may be eligible for a Fee.
- d. Where a group does not meet eligibility requirements as determined by the Committee, the VP Finance & Services shall notify the group with reasons for the decision and offer the group forty-eight (48) hours to amend and resubmit its fee proposal for reconsideration by the Committee.
  - a. This shall not permit any group from extending a deadline for elections or referendums as set out by the SGPS CRO.

#### P.1.2.4 Establishing and Increasing Student Activity Fees

- a. A referendum on a Fee is required in order to:
  - a. Establish a new Fee; or,



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

- b. Increase the dollar value of an existing Fee.
- b. **Fee referendums must** be held at the same time and on the same system as the annual SGPS executive election as outlined in B.10
- c. **Optional** fees require a simple majority to pass; mandatory fees require a simple majority to pass, unless quorum, which shall be fifteen percent (15%) of the ordinary members of the SGPS, is not met. If quorum is not met, **mandatory** fees require a 2/3 majority to pass.
  - a. A fee that fails to achieve the requisite threshold in a referendum is cancelled **effective the following academic year**, with any uncollected or withheld funding reallocated to the SGPS Bursaries and Grants Program.
  - b. For further clarification, the length of the campaign, validation and nomination period are subject to the regulation of the SGPS Chief Returning Officer (“CRO”).
- d. Fees **for University services, AMS services, clubs ratified by the Queen’s Clubs Office, and organizations external to Queen’s** shall expire after three (3) academic years following a successful referendum result.
  - a. During any academic year of a Fee’s collection, the group may apply under either P.1.2.4.f or P.1.2.4.g to establish a new Fee or increase an existing Fee for the next three (3) academic years following that referendum.
  - b. For further clarity, should a group with an existing student fee apply under either P.1.2.4.f or P.1.2.4.g, to establish a new Fee or increase an existing Fee, but fail to achieve the required votes in a referendum, the existing Fee shall continue uninterrupted until the conclusion of the original three (3) academic years.
  - c. **Fees for University services, AMS services, clubs ratified by the Queen’s Clubs Office, and organizations external to Queen’s do not renew. They must undergo the process to outlined in P.1.2.4.f – “Establishing New Student Activity Fees”.**
- e. Fees **that are strictly limited to the upkeep and operation of the SGPS, SGPS programming, and capital projects shall be known as SGPS Fees and shall** have unique rules that govern the expiry of Fees, establishment of new Fees, and increases in existing Fees.
  - a. **Non-Expiration of SGPS Fees** – SGPS Fees shall not expire and shall not be subject to renewal by referendum.
  - b. **Establishment of New SGPS Fees** – The process for establishing a new SGPS Fee shall be conducted in accordance with P.1.2.4.c and follow the ratification procedures as set out by P.1.2.4.f.
  - c. **Increases to Existing SGPS Fees** – The VP Finance and Services may unilaterally increase the amount for an existing SGPS Fee on the coming year’s fee slate only if:
    - i. **The increased fee** is for the purpose of funding membership to a provincial or national student advocacy group and the increase is less than or equal to five per cent (5%);
    - ii. **The increase to the fee is less than or equal to five per cent (5%)**



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. The only exception to the five per cent (5%) limit is when the fee is for the purpose of funding the SGPS Health and Dental Plan. Increases to Health and Dental plan fees are governed by plan usage and cannot be limited.
- iii. All other increases to existing SGPS Fees not enumerated under the conditions set by P.1.2.4.e.c.i shall conform with P.1.2.4.c and follow the ratification procedures as set out by P.1.2.4.f.

#### P.1.2.5 Continuous Reporting Obligations, Cancellation, and Reallocation of Fees

- a. All Groups required to report materials including annual reports, financial statements, yearly budgets, etc. under P.1.2.5.b to the Committee must do so no later than January 10<sup>th</sup> of each year. (LC: WAS PREVIOUSLY MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>).

#### P.1.2.6 Collection of Fee Cheques

- a. Only individuals authorized by their organization to collect their fee cheque are allowed to do so.
- b. Any changes to the individuals who are authorized by their organization to collect their fee cheque must be reported to the SGPS Executive Director within two weeks of their occurrence.
- c. Individuals who are authorized by their organization to collect their fee cheque are required to provide government-issued photo ID when picking up their fee cheque.
- d. Individuals who are authorized by their organization to collect their fee cheque are required to sign a document, provided by the SGPS, when picking up their fee cheque that affirms the following:
  - i. The fees collected will be used for the purpose to which a group has applied for their creation;
  - ii. The fees collected will be used within the year they are collected.
- e. Any fee groups that allow their cheques to remain uncollected to the point that they become stale-dated will be reported to the Finance and Services Committee with the recommendation that the fee be suspended.

*Passes Unanimously*

#### E. Amendments to Policy 1.3 SGPS Health and Dental Opt-In/Opt-Out

**BIRT the SGPS Council approves the proposed amendments to Policy 1.3 SGPS Health and Dental Opt-In/Opt-Out**

**MOTION 12/11/19:11**



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

*Moved by Jeremy:*

Similar to the previous motion

Health and dental is now mandatory, it was not before

This is now changed

*Passes Unanimously*

#### P.1.3.2 Principles of Enrolment

- a. As per the Government of Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities "Tuition Fee Framework and Ancillary Fee Guidelines for Publicly-Assisted Universities", all full-time students who are assessed the SGPS fee slate are to be enrolled in both the Health and the Dental Plans, unless they provide proof of pre-existing coverage.
- b. If a student who would be assessed the SGPS Health and Dental fee is not automatically enrolled due to late enrolment but wishes to be, they must enroll during the September Opt-In period, the January Opt-In period, or within 30 days of starting their program.
- c. If a student who is on the SGPS Health and Dental plan wishes to enroll their spouse or children (hereafter referred to as "dependents") onto the plan, they must do so during the September Opt-In period, the January Opt-In period, or within 30 days of starting their program. If their spouse or children arrive outside of these periods, they student must contact the SGPS office within 30 days of their arrival.
- d. Students with part-time or off-campus status and students who are on a University approved leave who would be assessed the SGPS Health and Dental fee if they were full-time students, must enroll during September Opt-In period, the January Opt-In period, or within up to 30 days after changing registration status unless they can provide legitimate reasons for not doing so.
- e. If a full-time student who is assessed the SGPS fee slate loses alternate coverage, e.g. aged out of their parents plan or lost benefits through their spouse's plan, they will be permitted to opt-in within 30 days of losing their alternate coverage
- f. Permanent staff members of the SGPS who are not students at the University may opt in to the SGPS health and dental plan.
- g. Members have the right to appeal their case with regard to these policies to the VP Finance and Services as outlined in Policy P.1.3.4.

#### **F. Amendments to Policy 9.1 Elections in General Council and P.9.2 Nomination Rules**

**BIRT the SGPS Council approves the proposed amendments to Policy 9.1 Elections in General Council and P.9.2 Nomination Rules**

**MOTION 12/11/19:12**



**SGPS**  
Society of Graduate &  
Professional Students

**Agenda**

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

*Moved by Jeremy:*

CRO is housekeeping so it is now defined < i.e. changing CRO to “chief returning officer”>  
Main change is aligning the election template into the same time as the AMS election template  
Also a bit of SCI (the November deadline) for knowing members <i.e. changing for when the SGPS will know it’s membership from end of Sept to beginning of November, which is how things now work with the SCI>

*Unanimous pass*

**P.9.1 Elections in General**

- a. The SGPS Elections Team shall be defined as:
  - (1) the SGPS Chief Returning Officer, who shall be responsible for the oversight and operations of the elections, and decision making with regards to penalties assessed; and
  - (2) the SGPS Speaker, who shall be responsible for interpretation of policy, oversight over the Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee, and providing support to the **Chief Returning Officer** in the running of the election.
- b. This policy is established pursuant to B.11 for the purpose of governing the conduct of SGPS elections and referenda. Pursuant to B.11 changes to this policy do not affect any election or referenda for which the dates have already been set at the time that the changes are approved.
- c. The Chief Returning Officer shall recommend dates for SGPS elections and referenda to Council, by bringing forth a motion to approve the recommended dates. This motion shall be brought no later than the **November** Council Meeting. Voting days may not take place on scheduled university holidays, during Reading Week in the School of Graduate Studies or the Faculty of Law, or during March Break or a practicum component in the Faculty of Education.
- d. The annual SGPS elections and referenda shall be completed no later than the end of **January**.
- e. The dates approved by Council for the SGPS elections and referenda shall be based on the following recommended table, **in alignment with the Executive election period for the Alma Mater Society:**

Day(s)	Day(s) of the Week	Event
1	<b>TUES</b>	Nominations Open
4	<b>TUES</b>	Advertisement of Uncontested Positions (1 or fewer valid candidates nominated)
8	<b>TUES</b>	Nominations Close (at 4:00 PM) <b>Council Approval of Candidates/Referenda Questions (at 5:30PM)</b>
9	<b>WED</b>	All Candidates Meeting Hosted (TBA)
10	<b>THURS</b>	Campaign Period Begins (at 12:00 AM)
16	<b>WED</b>	<b>All Candidates’ Debate</b>
21	<b>MON</b>	Campaign Period Ends (at 11:59 PM)
22,23	<b>TUES, WED</b>	Voting Days



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

- f. Any ordinary member of the SGPS who believes that the Chief Returning Officer may have a conflict of interest with respect to an election or referendum should make the objection known to the Speaker, prior to the **start of the Campaign Period** (Day 10 of the suggested timeline in P.9.1(e)). The Speaker shall bring the objection to the Elections and Referenda Committee who shall determine if a conflict of interest exists, subject to an appeal to Council.
- g. All SGPS elections and referenda shall allow two (2) consecutive days of voting, via an electronic ballot.
- h. All SGPS election and referenda results shall be subject to ratification at the next Council meeting following the results.
- i. An all candidates debate shall be held during the campaign period (**Day 16, suggested timeline in P.9.1(e)**). The SGPS Speaker shall moderate the debate.
- j. By-elections to fill Executive vacancies will be carried out in accordance with Bylaws and Policies on Elections, subject to the exceptions indicated in B.11 and based on the following shortened timetable:

Day(s)	Day(s) of the Week	Event
1	TUES	Nominations Open
7	MON	Nominations Close (at 4:00 PM) Council Approval of Candidates via evote (by 11:59PM)
8	TUES	All Candidates Meeting Hosted (TBA)
9	WED	Campaign Period Begins (at 12:00 AM)
11	FRI	All Candidates' Debate
14	MON	Campaign Period Ends (at 11:59 PM)
15, 16	TUES, WED	Voting Days

#### P.9.2 Nomination Rules

- a. SGPS Elections and Referenda shall be advertised through all available media for a minimum of two weeks prior to the opening of nominations, **except in the case of a By-election where the advertising period will be** between the approval of the election dates by Council and the opening of nominations. The SGPS Elections and Referenda **and By-elections** shall be advertised through all available media for the duration of the nomination period.
- b. In order to be nominated as a candidate for Executive, Graduate Student Senator or Graduate Student Trustee, a candidate must file a nomination form in the manner set out by the Chief Returning Officer, by the end of the nomination period.
- c. The nomination and **referendum packages** shall be made available on the SGPS website starting at 9:30 AM on the day nominations open. No prospective candidate **or referendum group** may collect signatures for a nomination **or a referendum** form before 9:30 AM on the day nominations open.
- d. The nomination form must include the following information:
  - (1) The candidate's name, student number, program, department/faculty and contact information;
  - (2) The position the candidate is being nominated for;
  - (3) A statement, signed by the candidate, that the candidate is an ordinary member and satisfies all eligibility requirements for the position;
  - (4) The name, student number and signature of not less than twenty-five (25) ordinary members indicating support for the nomination of the candidate;



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

- (5) A statement identifying and providing contact information for the candidate's campaign manager, if the candidate chooses to designate a campaign manager;
  - (6) A statement signed by the candidate and campaign manager (if applicable) that all information contained in the nomination form is accurate, that the candidate and campaign manager (if applicable) are aware of the Bylaws and Policies governing conduct of the elections, and that the candidate and campaign manager (if applicable) agree to follow the Bylaws and Policies governing conduct of the elections;
  - (7) A statement of the candidate's position on issues of relevance to the position for which they have been nominated. This statement will be posted on the SGPS website at the end of the nomination period. This statement may be altered once during the election campaign. The Chief Returning Officer will set a deadline for submission of any alterations to the statement of candidate's position. Any submissions received after this deadline will not be posted to the SGPS website. If the Chief Returning Officer does not officially set a date, the submission deadline for an updated statement must be received 3 days prior to the first day of voting. Where no statement is included with the nomination form, the candidate may still submit the updated statement during the campaign period; and
  - (8) A photo to be placed on the website and accompany the statement of issues. Where no photo is included with the nomination form, the candidate may submit it later up until the deadline for updated statements referred to in subsection (1).
- e. **Submission of a nomination or a referendum package to the Chief Returning Officer may be accomplished by delivery in person to the SGPS office no later than 4:00 pm on the day nominations close. Nomination and referendum packages must also be submitted via email to both the Chief Returning Officer and the Executive Director no later than 4:00 pm on the day nominations close.**
  - f. Nominations shall be validated by the Chief Returning Officer on a rolling basis throughout the nomination period as well as immediately following the close of nominations. Where a nomination is not validated, the prospective candidate must be notified of the deficiency no later than 4:00 PM on the business day following the day the nomination was received. Where a nomination received on the last day of nominations is not validated, the prospective candidate must be notified by 11:59 PM that day.
  - g. Where a nomination is not validated because it is incomplete or contains information that is incorrect, a prospective candidate may submit a supplementary nomination form by the deadline for nominations that need contain only the additional or corrected information or the additional signatures. Upon receiving a supplementary nomination form, the Chief Returning Officer shall evaluate the original and supplementary form together as if they constituted one document, and all signatures in the original nomination form shall be applied to the supplementary form.
  - h. A decision by the Chief Returning Officer not to validate a nomination may be appealed to the Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee within 24 hours of receiving this notice.
  - i. If only one valid nomination for any position is received by the Chief Returning Officer by the close of nominations, the candidate's name for that position shall appear on the ballot in the following question: "Do you agree to the acclamation of (name of candidate) to the position of (name of position) of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students at Queen's University?"



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

#### G. Amendments to Policy 9.3 Referendum Questions

**BIRT the SGPS Council approves the proposed amendments to Policy 9.3 Referendum Questions**  
**MOTION 12/11/19:13**

*Moved by Jeremy:*  
Nothing to add

*Passes Unanimously*

#### P.9.3 Referendum Questions

- a. The SGPS may conduct referenda on any matter within the jurisdiction of the SGPS. Valid results of referenda shall be binding on the SGPS and actively enforced by the Executive.
- b. Referendum questions may be submitted to the Chief Returning Officer by Council or by a petition bearing the signatures specified in P.1.2 Student Fees and Referenda of the ordinary membership of the SGPS.
- c. Eligible referendum questions must be submitted to the Chief Returning Officer no later than the day nominations close.
- d. Referenda may only be held during the fall and winter terms and may only take place outside an ordinary election period if a special referendum date is approved by Council or to replace a previous referendum invalidated because of lack of quorum. No question may be submitted for referendum if a question on the same topic has been the subject of a referendum within the previous eleven (11) months, unless the prior referendum was invalid due to lack of quorum.
- e. No question put to referendum shall include any statement about the consequences of the referendum's outcome.
- f. The following standard wording shall be used for referenda questions:
  - (1) For SGPS fees:
    - i. "Do you agree to the establishment of a mandatory student fee of [\$x]for [group]?"
    - ii. "Do you agree to a [decrease/increase] in the [group] mandatory student fee from [\$x] to [\$y], a [decrease/increase] of [\$z]?"
    - iii. "Do you agree to the establishment of an optional student fee of [\$x]for [group]?"
    - iv. "Do you agree to a [decrease/increase] in the [group] optional student fee from [\$x] to [\$y], a [decrease/increase] of [\$z]?"
  - (2) For non-SGPS mandatory fees:
    - i. "Do you agree to the establishment of a mandatory student fee of [\$x] for [group]? This fee is subject to triennial review."
    - ii. "Do you agree to a [decrease/increase] in the [group] mandatory student fee, from [\$x] to [\$y], a [decrease/increase] of [\$z]? This fee is subject to triannual review."



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

iii. "Do you agree to the continuation of a mandatory student fee of [\$x] for [group]? This fee is subject to triennial review."

(3) For non-SGPS optional fees:

- i. "Do you agree to the establishment of an optional student fee of [\$x] for [group]? This fee is subject to triennial review"
  - ii. "Do you agree to a [decrease/increase] in the [group] optional student fee from [\$x] to [\$y], a [decrease/increase] of [\$z]? This fee is subject to triennial review."
  - iii. "Do you agree to the continuation of an optional student fee of [\$x] for [group]? This fee is subject to triennial review."
- g. In exceptional circumstances, SGPS Council may adopt language different from that prescribed in P.9.5 (e) & (f), upon a simple majority vote during the Council meeting in which the fee slate is approved. Rationale for deviation from language must be provided.

### H. Amendments to Policy 9.6, 9.7 and 9.8

**BIRT the SGPS Council approves the proposed amendments to Policy 9.6 Campaign Rules, Policy 9.7 Conducting Elections and Referenda and P.9.8 Demerit Point System & Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee**

**MOTION 12/11/19:14**

*Jeremy:*

Mostly definitional changes

Clarified where the records are going to be kept

*Seconded: Mark*

*Passes Unanimously*

#### P.9.6 Campaign Rules

- a. The campaign period shall end at 11:59 pm before the first voting day.
- b. No campaigning shall occur for any election or referendum except within the campaign period and during the two (2) day voting period. All campaign material must be removed within three days after the end of the election.
- c. Candidates may, but shall not be required to, designate a campaign manager for their campaign. Referendum committees must designate one campaign manager for their campaign.



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

- d. No person who is not a candidate, candidate's campaign manager or referendum committee's campaign manager shall authorize the spending of money on campaign expenses.
- e. No SGPS resources shall be expended or used for the purpose of supporting or opposing any candidate or referendum question, **with the exception of SGPS specific fee referendum questions**. All candidates **and referendum committees** are required to submit any campaign material to the SGPS Chief Returning Officer for approval before use.
- f. The maximum amount that can be spent on campaign activities by any candidate or by the referendum committees on one side of a referendum question is \$100. All funds spent by candidates will be reimbursed to the candidate by the SGPS at the conclusion of the campaign. No reimbursement will be given to referendum committees.
- g. The cost of any expenditure that supports or opposes more than one candidate or referendum question shall be allocated equally among the relevant candidates and referendum committees.
- h. For the purpose of this policy, without limiting its generality, the following shall be included in the meaning of "campaigning":
  - (1) Placing posters, or leaving up posters already placed, that support or oppose any candidate or referendum question; and
  - (2) Sending e-mail communications supporting or opposing any candidate or referendum question; and
  - (3) Sending social media communications. Where possible, all accounts created for campaigning must be set to public, and **the Chief Returning Officer** must be added as an administrator; and
  - (4) Any other method of encouraging support or opposition for any candidate or referendum question.
- i. The following shall not be considered "campaigning":
  - (1) Any communication encouraging members to vote in the election, so long as the communication does not encourage support or opposition for any candidate or referendum question; and
  - (2) Efforts made prior to the deadline for accepting nominations for the purpose of obtaining signatures in support of a nomination.

#### P.9.7 Conducting Elections and Referenda

- a. SGPS Elections and Referenda shall be conducted using the SGPS Online Voting system, or, when unavailable, paper ballots.
- b. The candidate's name and the position for which they are running will be listed on **the ballot**.
- c. The **Chief Returning Officer** shall vote 24 hours in advance of an election or **referendum** and place the ballot in a sealed envelope. This envelope shall **only** be opened and the ballot cast only in the event of a tie vote. Should there be more than two candidates for one position, the Chief Returning Officer shall indicate order of preference on the ballot form. The Chief Returning Officer is not otherwise allowed to vote.
- d. The candidate receiving a plurality of votes cast shall be declared the winner.
- e. The Chief Returning Officer shall attempt to advise each candidate and a representative of each referendum committee of the results before publicly releasing the results of any election or referendum.
- f. **The Executive Director** shall keep the records from an election and/or referendum. **These records shall not be destroyed** for a period of not less than four months. After that time, they shall be destroyed after issuance of a directive to do so from Council.



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

#### P.9.8 Demerit Point System & Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee

- a. All parties participating in an election or referenda are expected to be familiar with the election procedures. Candidates are strongly encouraged to engage their campaigning in a clean, positive, and good faith manner. Candidates are encouraged to contact the **Chief Returning Officer** about a practice they are unsure about, beforehand.
- b. The **Chief Returning Officer** shall have sole authority to administer the aforementioned **election policies** and reserves the right to make rulings on issues and events not covered in these policies.
- c. Allegations of election violations to the Bylaw and Policy shall be submitted to the Chief Returning Officer in writing. Such allegations must be made within 24 hours of the incident occurring, and prior to the conclusion of the end of the voting days.
- d. **All candidates and referendum committees are afforded a maximum of five (5) demerit points, taking into consideration good faith errors. Once five demerit points is exceeded, the candidate or referendum committee will be disqualified.**
- e. If a candidate or referendum committee violates aforementioned Bylaw and Policies for elections and referenda, the **Chief Returning Officer** will determine, at their discretion, the appropriate number of demerit points to allocate, given the infraction. The **Chief Returning Officer** will communicate this decision to the candidate(s) and complainant within 24 hours.
- f. Demerit points will be issued at the discretion of the **Chief Returning Officer**, with consideration to severity, frequency, and intent, of infractions upon their investigation and verification.
- g. In the event a candidate has been disqualified during the voting days, the candidate with the second-most votes will be declared the successful candidate. In the event that the disqualification leaves no valid candidates, a by-election will occur as per the timeline set out in policy P.9.1 (j).
- h. All candidates and their representatives are strongly cautioned against committing any of the following infractions, as these will result in immediate disqualification:
  - (1) Harassment of candidates, SGPS members, or community members;
  - (2) Threats to a candidate or intimidation of voters
  - (3) Blatant discrimination, enumerated in the Ontario Human Rights Code
  - (4) Libel, slander, and gross misrepresentation of other candidates
  - (5) Misrepresentation of eligibility for position, as per B.11.2
- i. Decisions by the **Chief Returning Officer** will be communicated Zonly to the individual receiving demerit(s). However, if a candidate is disqualified, this decision will be posted publicly.
- j. If a candidate is unsatisfied with a formal decision by the **Chief Returning Officer** involving a demerit point, the point can be appealed to the Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee, through an email to the SGPS Speaker, within 24 hours of the decision being issued from the **Chief Returning Officer**. Each appeal must involve a single demerit point, and not multiple points or disqualification.
- k. The Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee will be comprised of the SGPS Speaker and two Council members who will be elected at the **November** SGPS Council meeting. **SGPS Executive members and staff cannot sit on the Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee**. The committee members must be present at the all-candidates meeting and be physically present in Kingston during the election period.



### Agenda

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

- I. The Elections and Referenda Appeals Committee will meet and come to a decision within 48 hours of receipt of an appeal to the SGPS Speaker. The decision of the Committee will be provided to the **Chief Returning Officer** and candidate; however, if the decision of the committee results in disqualification, it will be posted publicly.
- m. If a complaint is received prior to the conclusion of the voting days, the results of the election will be withheld until the complaint has been processed by the **Chief Returning Officer** and the candidate permitted the allowed hours to appeal the decision



## Other Business

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### A. International Student Working Group

*Updated form last time*

Claudia:

Did not reach out to remind them *<the international student working group>* of this meeting, so I think they should be here to make their own case,  
I will speak with them now

*Claudia: motion to table to the next meeting*  
*No objections*



## Notices of Motion & Announcements

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Call for counsellors to submit themselves via email to the Speaker to be on the Elections Appeals Committee, which is needed to rule on appeals of the CRO's decision during elections and referenda

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**Agenda**

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 5:30pm  
McLaughlin Room, JDUC



**Adjourment**

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**A. Adjourment**

**MOTION 12/11/19:15**

**BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.**

*Meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm*