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verified signatures

Mr. 2d
MAY 16 2020

Hello fellow students,

The Graduate Peer Support Centre is up for referendum this term after successfully completing a trial phase this year. The SGPS was able to run this trial thanks to a generous donation by an anonymous donor and those funds are nearing their end.

The Graduate Peer Support Centre is a group of student volunteers who provide a confidential and welcoming peer-based support to Graduate and Professional students at Queen's University. The Centre adheres to a peer support model; the philosophy behind this model is that for some individuals, and for some areas of individual concern, the assistance provided by a peer will be the most effective form of support. The peer volunteers are trained in active listening, suicide intervention, and are well-versed in resource referral to suit the diverse needs of Graduate and Professional students. This model is founded on: self-determination and equality, mutuality and empathy and active listening skills.

The Centre is not a substitute for the provision of professional counseling by Queen's Health, Counseling and Disability Services. The Peer Support Centre is a paraprofessional service – it does not diagnose or treat mental illness. The Centre provides short-term support to students in need of assistance and to appraise students of services available on campus and in the Kingston community.

The centre is located in JDUC Room 205 and is operational as a drop-in service during the following hours: Monday 9am-1pm; Tuesday 1pm-5pm; Wednesday 5pm-9pm, and Thursday 1pm-5pm

With the establishment of this fee the Graduate Peer Support Centre will be able to continue its operations and expands its efforts to improve graduate mental wellness on campus. The fee will be used to continue to support a part-time staff member and mental health outreach events in the future.

1. Why is your group seeking a fee?

The Society of Graduate and Professional Students at Queen's ("SGPS") is seeking to establish a \$3.00 mandatory fee for the Graduate Peer Support Centre ("GPSC").

2. What direct benefit will SGPS members derive from granting your group a fee?

The GPSC is a group of student volunteers who provide a confidential and welcoming peer-based support to Graduate and Professional students at Queen's University. The GPSC also works in conjunction with Student Wellness Services to provide Graduate and Professional students a more integrated network of mental health supports on campus.

The peer volunteers are trained in active listening, suicide intervention, and are well-versed in resource referral to suit the diverse needs of Graduate and Professional students.

3. How is the dollar value of the fee related to the benefit you are proposing to provide?

The proposed \$3.00 fee will be used to fund the entire GPSC. This will include the cost of training, space, outreach, marketing, salaries and administrative costs.

4. When was your group established?

The GPSC was established in 2019 and has operated in the 2019-2020 school year on a trial period.

5. If you have a collected a fee in the past, what initiatives and/or opportunities have you provide the Queen's Community with the collected funds?

(N/A). Although the GPSC did not collect a fee this year, during the trial run the GPSC has operated out of JDUC Room 205. The GPSC runs four days and week, employing a Coordinator and over 40 volunteer peer advisors.