



Agenda
January 14th, 2020 - 5:30pm
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

The Society of Graduate and Professional Students recognizes the traditional and ancestral territories of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Nations on whose lands we gather on today.

I. Announcements

A. Moment of Silence

The SGPS would like to take a moment of silence to remember Queen's student Amir Moradi and other victims of the plane crash in Iran.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 01/14/20:01

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the January 14th, 2019 Council Meeting.

III. Minutes

A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

MOTION 01/14/20:02

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the December 10th, 2019 General Council Meeting.

IV. Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Jeremy Ambraska (report attached)

- b. VP Graduate – Leo Erlikhman (report attached)

Dean's meeting:

- Review of funding for the SHRC
- Ryan will co-chair bylaw and policy review committee
 - We will make a final recommendation to council
 - Please email Leo or Ryan to help out

JDUC: next year or this year, architects will be planning space



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- c. VP Professional – Ryan Adlem (report attached)
- Discussed Microsoft Excel workshops: dates/ times to be announced
- Discussed professional headshots: January 30th afternoon
- Discussed update on Academic Integrity Subcommittee

- d. VP Finance & Services – Abel Hazon (oral report)
(no report)
- e. VP Community – Uchitta Vashist (report attached)
- Commissioners:
 - Some positions that are vacant, but also diverse applicants
 - Working with SGS and other stakeholders on campus for an integrated orientation in the fall

B. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Laura Culleton (no report)

C. Approval

MOTION 01/14/20:03

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Motion Passed Unanimously



Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports

- A. Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Courtney Bannerman (oral report)
- Funding packages for master and PHD students
- Explain what reading week entails

Question about reading week <Whether graduate students get the week “off”>

- Courtney: should have no assignments due during Reading Week; However, professors may have things due immediately after reading week
- Leo: reading week is designed as an academic time period for you to do work

B. Trustee Report – Graduate Student Trustee – Leena Yahia (no report)

C. Commissioner Reports

- a. Athletics Commissioner – Quentin Tsang (oral report)
- b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Penny Zhang (report attached)



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c. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Claudia Hirtenfelder (report attached)

- Everything is going well; the podcast is going well
- Next podcast is on French espionage
- Reach out to me if you/ your friends want to be on podcast, even if domestic student doing some international work
- Registration will be open soon Beyond Boundaries; capacity for 80-100 people
- Lots of signature for our petition regarding international student fees

d. Social Commissioner – Anthony Lomax (oral report)

- Jan 23: tour of art gallery – displays by some photographers
- Day trip to Ottawa at 8am on a Saturday and then go to Parliament together – pass this on to people in your departments
- February 4: reduced priced tickets to a show at the Isabel Theatre: concert devoted to music of resistance

D. Committee Reports

E. Department Reports

F. Other Reports

- a. University Rector – Alex da Silva (no report)
- b. Chief Returning Officer – Matt Ireno (oral report)

- Change in election timeline <due to some position vacancies>
- All candidates meeting moved to Friday
- Campaign period starts 12:01am Jan 18
 - c. Supervisor – position vacant (no report)

G. Approval

MOTION 01/14/20:04

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

Moved: Courtney
Seconded: Jeremy
Passes unanimously



VI.

Question Period and Departmental Issues



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Business Arising from the Minutes



Main Motions & Discussion

A. Referendum Questions

MOTION 01/14/20:05

BIRT the SGPS approves the placement of the following question on the 2020 General Election ballot to establish a mandatory fee for the SGPS Graduate Peer Support Centre.

“Do you agree to the establishment of a mandatory student fee of \$3.00 for the SGPS Graduate Peer Support Centre?”

MOTION 01/14/20:06

Moved by Jeremy
Seconded by Mike
Passes unanimously

BIRT the SGPS approves the placement of the following questions on the 2020 General Election ballot to continue the mandatory student fee for the list of service providers below

- Ban Righ Centre
- Campus Observation Room
- Student Wellness Services

“Do you agree to the continuation of a mandatory student fee of \$3.00 for Ban Righ Centre? This fee is subject to triennial review.”



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“Do you agree to the continuation of a mandatory student fee of \$0.50 for Campus Observation Room? This fee is subject to triennial review.”

“Do you agree to the continuation of a mandatory student fee of \$63.35 for Student Wellness Services? This fee is subject to triennial review.”

MOTION 01/14/20:07

Moved by William
Seconded by Carrie

Question by Claudia:

- I feel like it is part of my responsibility to advocate on behalf of a referendum campaign, can I do this as an SGPS employee?

Matt:

- You can campaign on either side; might be some restrictions, talk to me after

Tamara:

- What is Ban Right Centre?

Matt:

- Advocates on behalf of mature students and in particular female students who weren't able to continue schooling and now want to get back into it

Question: what does Campus Conservation Room do?

- Place to go for students who have consumed alcohol and need a supervised place to rest and get sober with volunteers (note, for those not requiring hospitalization).

Passes unanimously

BIRT the SGPS approves the placement of the following questions on the 2020 General Election ballot to continue the optional student fee for the list of service providers below.

- Camp Outlook
- HIV and AIDS Regional Services
- Levana Gender Advocacy Centre
- Oxfam Queen's
- Queen's Daycare



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- Reelout Arts Project
- Sexual Assault Centre Kingston
- Telephone Aid Line Kingston
- Union Gallery

“Do you agree to the continuation of an optional student fee of \$1.00 for Camp Outlook? This fee is subject to triennial review.”

“Do you agree to the continuation of an optional student fee of \$1.00 for HIV and AIDS Regional Services? This fee is subject to triennial review.”

“Do you agree to the continuation of an optional student fee of \$1.00 for Queen's Daycare? This fee is subject to triennial review.”

“Do you agree to the continuation of an optional student fee of \$1.80 for Reelout Arts Project? This fee is subject to triennial review.”

“Do you agree to the continuation of an optional student fee of \$1.25 for Sexual Assault Centre Kingston? This fee is subject to triennial review.”

“Do you agree to the continuation of an optional student fee of \$0.75 for Telephone Aid Line Kingston? This fee is subject to triennial review.”

“Do you agree to the continuation of an optional student fee of \$3.00 for Union Gallery? This fee is subject to triennial review.”

MOTION 01/14/20:08

Jeremy moves to amend: Oxfam and Levana did not submit forms <and so will be removed>
Amendment accepted without objection

Moved by Mindy
Seconded by Samantha
Passes unanimously

BIRT the SGPS approves the placement of the following questions on the 2020 General Election ballot to continue the student fee* for the list of service providers below.

- Centre for Teaching and Learning
- Legal Aid



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“Do you agree to the continuation of a student fee* of \$1.40 for Centre for Teaching & Learning? This fee is subject to triennial review. *Note: the status of the student fee may be optional or mandatory to be compliant with the results of the government appeal in the Student Choice Initiative. If you agree to this fee, the fee will continue to apply notwithstanding the results of the appeal.”

“Do you agree to the continuation of a student fee* of \$5.00 for Queen’s Legal Aid? This fee is subject to triennial review. *Note: the status of the student fee may be optional or mandatory to be compliant with the results of the government appeal in the Student Choice Initiative. If you agree to this fee, the fee will continue to apply notwithstanding the results of the appeal.”

MOTION 01/14/20:09

Moved by Leo
Seconded by Caroline
Debate:

- Jeremy clarifies these fees should be mandatory, but will depend on the results of the Student Choice Initiative currently in the courts. We are passing just in case SCI is defeated in the appeals courts.

Passes unanimously

BIRT the SGPS approves the placement of the following questions on the 2020 General Election ballot for executive candidates.

“Do you agree to the acclamation of Justine Aman to the position of President of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students at Queen’s University?”

“Please select the individual you wish to elect as Vice-President Graduate of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students at Queen’s University:

Courtney Bannerman

Rohit Shukla”

“Do you agree to the acclamation of John Jeyaratnam to the position of VP Professional of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students at Queen’s University?”

Moved by Leo
Seconded by Shaun



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Passes unanimously

~~B. Modification of Election Timeline~~ ~~MOTION 01/14/20:10~~

~~WHEREAS~~ the SGPS previously agreed upon the 2020 General Election Timeline.

~~WHEREAS~~ the VP Community and VP Finance and Services positions have no candidates nominated.

~~BIRT~~ the SGPS approves the extension of the nomination period for these TWO POSITIONS ONLY and thus, ~~BIFRT~~ the SGPS approves the modification of the original election timeline to allow for this extension.

~~The all candidates meeting will be this Friday instead of Wednesday and campaigning period would start at 12:01am on January 18th 2020.~~

C. SGPS Supports QBACC MOTION 01/14/20:11

WHEREAS QBACC is preparing to ask the University to undertake divestment of its Endowment and Investment funds.

BIRT the SGPS supports QBACC's initiative to divest from fossil fuels.

Moved by Jeremy

Seconded by Catherine

Debate:

- Jeremy: Last time we had a good debate; exec will listen first to council's views on the matter
- Caroline: There was a contested debate back in December; I appreciate hearing both QBAC's side, as well as the other side; it would have been nice to have shared some info we got in December
- Mia: we don't disagree with divestment; we just disagree with the way QBAC is presenting things; we want to have the motion next month
- <Mia: Motion to table proposed>
 - Leo – point of personal privilege: would the person let this motion be discussed at the end of the speakers list?
 - Mia: sure



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- Mandeep: We would also like to table it for the next meeting; we also need more information; what is the timeline for divestment? When is the money going to be able to be pulled out?
- Jeremy: just a clarification: this debate is just about supporting QBAC <i.e. not about SGPS divestment>
- Catherine: Can you please clarify why you don't support QBACC?
- Mia: One of the speeches QBACC made, was targeting Exxon mobile and it was a smear; Exxon Mobile is one of my clients; they are targeting emotions
- Leo: I am removing my title of executive for this motion and just speaking as an individual; Clean fuel standard requires all fossil fuel companies to do 3 things...; so, QBACC's statement that these companies spend more on advertising than research is wrong; Canada is transitioning to LNG and it is the most efficient way of delivering electricity in certain communities because green energy not sufficient for certain communities (e.g. northern and central Canada) – thus QBACC wanting to divest from LNG is mistaken; There are still a few questions that still need to be addressed – perhaps we can bring QBACC back; at this current time I'm not comfortable going to board of trustees with this request; Major CEOs of energy companies in Canada support carbon tax, other green policies, etc.
- Claudia: Its important to recognize these companies stretch beyond Canadian borders and oftentimes factories etc. located outside Canada; so must not just look at what these CEOs agreed to here, but also what they are doing elsewhere; look at substance, not just at what QBACC says
- Catherine: A lot of the problems we have is with what QBACC says, so go ahead and ask them those questions; however, we need to say something about need for green future
- Jeremy: The persuasive argument for me is the theory behind divestment as opposed to the technical details; other student societies have moved forward; I'm supportive of moving the motion to next week, but I do want a vote on this next time; in terms of advocacy, it is important to put pressure on the university
- Courtney: I agree there were issues with what QBACC raised however I think that the SGPS should put out their own independent stance on the issue
- Person: We need a vote on QBACC resolution; step 2 might be independent SGPS statement
- Leo: I have no ties to fossil fuel industry; just a passion project; I would support Mia's suggestion to bring back QBACC and move motion until later; I have concerns with statements QBACC made that I believe are false (see "Energy Facts"); however the second conversation I believe we can vote on today
- Catherine: Given that the board is in active conversation with QBACC at the moment, we need to vote soon
- Leo: Point of information: the next meeting of the BOT <Board of Trustees> is March



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- Jeremy: It will never be a perfectly informed decision, but we've already debated this for four councils; I don't want to see this postponed beyond next meeting
- Nick: presented options for vote <options to table, defer to a later date, or decide tonight>

- Leo: Motion to amend: move the vote to next month
- Debate:
 - Person: I agree with Jeremy lets vote on this next meeting at the latest
 - Leo: I appreciate more debate
- Motion to table previous motion (Mia, Tamara(?))
- Jeremy: QBACC has been here twice; lets not get stuck in the cycle of pushing this down the road
- Leo: its true we've had QBACC here twice, but we have not had challenge to them in person
- Anthony: I agree if we keep on pushing it back, lack of continuity will occur
- Tamara Motions to call the question
 - Passes unanimously
- Motion for amendment to table
 - 15 in favour of tabling the motion
 - 16 opposed to tabling the motion
 - Motion to table is defeated, debate on main motion continues
- Leo: Not comfortable with endorsing QBACC with factual errors
- Claudia: Focusing on small mistakes is a red herring
- Leo: Point of information: our name is still signed to that document so the nuance matters
- Uchitta: I don't see a point in having similar campaigns for the same thing; we have to look to student voices who have actually been doing something; we want to push these companies to change their behavior; we need to put public pressure on campaigns
- Tamara: You can recognize climate change and be supportive of changing behaviour without supporting divestment; think of the consequences of your voices; what if Canada moves away from fossil fuels; Canada has some of the cleanest fossil fuel production
- Leo: Not in favour of signing our name on something when you know that there are problems with the organization you are endorsing; agree with Tamara that Canadian economy not ready to divest right now
- Person: at this point, it is mostly symbolic; part of what QBACC is picking up momentum on this campus; perhaps this will allow us to help collaborate with them and change some of what they're advocating
- William: It doesn't make sense to vote for divestment to BOT, but to vote against supporting QBACC with SGPS divestment



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- Catherine: This is part of the process of moving to a green economy
- Luke: QBACC gave somewhat disingenuous presentation and have a lack of academic integrity – although they are great people
- Alexandra: In terms of momentum, this is not part of momentum BOT <Board of Trustees> is picking up on; everything talked about here would be picked up on by BOT; lots of concerns by racialized and indigenous students on campus that QBACC is not picking up on; if SGPS divests but does not sign onto QBACCs motion to divest then that would be read favorably by the BOT
- Jeremy: It is true that there are issues with QBACC group; I would defer to Alexandra on BOT; I will be supportive of the direction of council
- Leo: can we close the speaker's list in the interest of time?
 - No opposition
 - Speaker's list is closed
- Claudia: important to look at 3 points put forward by QBACC
- Person: I'm in a PhD in Civil Engineering; there are some issues with what QBACC has shown but I do agree we need to act on the climate change issue; even the City of Kingston is considering how to reduce the impact; I suggest you all do some research
- Call to question
 - 23 for
 - 9 against
 - Motion passes
 - Noted opposition:
 - Mia Wang (Chem Eng)
 - Noted Abstention
 - Leo Erlikhman (VP Grad)

- Leo motions to extend council by 30 minutes
- Seconded by Mandeep
- Motion passes

D. SGPS Commits to Divestment

MOTION 01/14/20:12

BIRT the SGPS is committed to divesting from companies whose main focus is the extraction, transportation, or refinement of fossil fuels.

Moved by Catherine



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Seconded by Lauren

Question: what is the timeline?

Jeremy: November 2020 we could move our investments without penalty; I cannot speak to your definitional questions, we'd have to ask the financial advisor

Leo: We only have \$1m to invest; there are "green" companies to invest in fossil fuels

Abel: We don't have \$1m to invest; it is less than this

Question: is there a way we can get information on this before the vote?

<Answer unknown>

Motion passes with large majority



VI. Other Business



X. Notices of Motion & Announcements

A. Tricolour Award Selection Committee

The Rector is looking for someone to sit on the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award Selection Committee.

Here is a brief outline of what someone can expect by volunteering to assist in this capacity:

- They will be volunteering for the weekend of February 1 – 2, the specific hours will be finalized once nomination period closes on the 20th so the volunteer must be someone available all day Saturday and all day Sunday



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- We will have a brief prep meeting the week leading up to interviews where the committee will decide on this year's interview questions and discuss the procedures for the weekend
- They will be sitting in on interviews for every person who has accepted a nomination and at the conclusion of these interviews deliberating and selecting this year's recipients
- I will feed them! Good food! All weekend! Free food!
- They'll get to make a new friend from every single faculty on campus! We love interfaculty relations!
- They become acquainted with and inspired by some of the most impactful and dedicated student leaders on our campus!

If you would like to volunteer to be a member of the selection committee, please notify the rector at rector@queens.ca



Adjournment

A. Adjournment

MOTION 01/14/20:13

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

7:31pm adjourned