



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

*A note on the minutes: I tried to capture everything, where near-verbatim text is unavailable, I have filled in with italicized text the main points and/or missing information. –Nick*

5:33 pm – Meeting starting with a note about how we will proceed over Zoom

Laura:

- Welcome all to the meeting
- Unfortunately we cannot meet on campus
- I hope you are all safe and doing well
- I encourage you to reach out to any professors if you are having any difficulties, I am sure they are willing to work with you
- I would appreciate your patience, we are still learning to work with Zoom and we want to make sure the voting is done right
  - o There may be some pauses that will let us make sure that all the votes are counted properly
  
- Just wanted to lay out some ground rules
- We will be taking attendance to make sure you are an Ordinary member of the SGPS (meaning you have paid your fees)
- To do this, if you look in the chat, I will be sending a link, we have a Form that we are going to ask everyone to fill it out so we have the attendance
  
- If you are planning on having other friends attend, please let us know, we will be closing the meeting at 6 pm and after that you cannot get in (*currently 5:38*)
- Please fill out, we have people in the background working to make sure everyone attend is in the SGPS
  
- With regards to speaking terms, I currently have the Exec as panelists, so when they give their reports they will turn on audio and/or video to answer questions
- As an attendee, I can “allow to talk”, so each person who has a point of information or question or wants to speak, I will give them the opportunity to talk. Again, please be patient, I will do my best to make sure everyone gets to speak and share their opinions on a motion
  
- When we get to voting, we have decided for Reports, this will be done through a vote by the raise your hand function
  - o Not sure how familiar you are with Zoom yet, there is an option to “raise your hand” for the adoption of the agenda, various reports etc.
- However, we have a Microsoft form for all the motions (*i.e. a recorded ballot for when needed*)
  - o The special motion and all the other motions will use this method
- We will complete the process for each motion before moving onto the next



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

- Calling the meeting to order at 5:44 pm
  - o 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. Open Positions Speaker and Deputy Speaker**

**Speaker**

The role of the Speaker is to ensure the orderly flow of business, defend the rights of the Councilors through implementing and interpreting Robert's rules of order, while always maintaining impartiality and never participating in the debates. This is a salaried position that pays \$4,000 per year.

**Interested candidates must send a written statement 500 word biography to the SGPS Speaker before 4:00 pm on Tuesday April 7th. Candidates will also be required to attend April Council on Tuesday April 14th at 5:30pm in the McLaughlin Room on the 2nd floor of the JDUC.**

The candidates will be required to make a brief statement explaining their qualifications for the role, Council will then vote to determine the next Speaker.

**Deputy Speaker**

The Deputy Speaker is supervised by the Speaker and is responsible for chairing Council and General Meetings in the absence of the Speaker; taking minutes at each Council meeting (typically one per month) and each General Meeting (typically 2 per year); maintaining an official list of current Council members; distributing and familiarizing them with Robert's Rules of Order and ensuring they attend meetings. This is a salaried position which pays \$500 per year.

**Interested candidates must contact the SGPS Speaker before 4:00 pm on Tuesday April 7th. Candidates will also be required to attend April Council on Tuesday April 14th at 5:30pm in the McLaughlin Room on the 2nd floor of the JDUC.**



**II. Special Motion**

---

**B. Motion to Proceed Despite P.5.2.3**

Whereas P.5.2.3 (g) reads:

g .All General Meetings shall be held on the main campus of Queen's University.

Whereas public gatherings of five or more people have been cancelled to combat COVID-19

**MOTION 03/31/20:01**

**BIRT the SGPS proceed with the Annual General Meeting despite the meeting not being held on the main campus and recognize the meeting as binding.**



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

**Unanimous Consent**



**Adoption of the Agenda**

---

**A. Adoption of the Agenda**

**MOTION 03/31/20:02**

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Annual General Council Meeting.

**Amendment Motion to move up the PSAC motion in the agenda**

- In the interest of time
- And many people seem to be most interested in this motion

**Moved Jeremy**

**Seconded**

Laura

- This will still be after the reports (*clarification*)

**Majority has raised their hands**

**No dissent**

**Amendment accepted**

**PSAC motion has been moved up**

**(Voting by "hand raising" in Zoom)**

**Passes with majority, as amended**

**(1 noted abstention)**



**Minutes**

---

**A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION 03/31/20:03**

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council Meeting.

**Passes with no dissent**



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom



Executive & Speaker Reports

---

**A. Executive Reports**

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

**B. Speaker Report**

- a. Speaker – Laura Culleton (oral report)

**C. Approval**

**MOTION 03/31/20:04**

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

**Jeremy:**

- Hoping to touch on my written report
- I will generally be speaking and answering for the exec during the PSAC motion (later)
- Turning to my report
  - o Congratulations to PSCA and members for their campaign with 800+ signatures
  - o The SGPS is still at the stakeholders meeting, I know that Abel and Leo are going to highlight more of the actions we're taking
- I also want to thank Andria, Laura and Nick
  - o We know this is complex, and a shame the AGM happened before the council and we were unable to troubleshoot Zoom (*with a smaller group*)
- One thing to note, because I think we will have a sustained debate,
  - o Unfortunately, the Government has filed and been accepted for appeal on the Student Choice Initiative (SCI)
  - o What it means for us is nothing, the SCI is not coming back soon (*in the near future, i.e. next year*)
  - o Could be more delayed with the courts being closed
  - o In the long-term we could see a return to the opt-in / out thing that we dealt with this year
  - o So I guess it is an unpleasant bookend to start (*the year*) with SCI and end with pandemic
  - o The SGPS learned a lot in the first opt-out, and we will be prepared for "opt-out 2.0" if needed
    - The new SGPS (*executive and council*) will be ready to deal with it
  - o Hopefully the province will understand more of the importance of government and student fees, or perhaps they will not be successful with their challenge
- Happy to take questions



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

#### Leo

- Hoping to circulate my (*written*) report after the fact
- To glaze over it
- Would like to congratulate again Courtney and the incoming (*SGPS*) Exec on their election and like to thank all the members at this meeting for giving me the opportunity to be here for 2 years
- (*In that time, we have gotten a*) Commitment to a reduction in tuition
  - o (*also,*) Graduate support and representation was upped
  
- Covid-19 stuff:
- Admissions and incoming grad. students
  - o University is working on a plan for those who are supposed to come in for the summer
  - o Working for international students
- There are many things that the SGPS will be working on for students out of province and moving on
- For GREB, HSCB – students who are affected by the research-related activities suspension, the university has committed to not extending their time of completion
  - o Those who can do other things should, those who can't will be reviewed case by case
- For course based students,
  - o The dean's letter yesterday said pass-fail is a last resort and they will be looking at these features as well
  - o we are still working with the admin to figure this out
  - o we will be reopening, with Zoom or another platform, the Grad Peer Support Center
- for students with academic concerns, please reach out at [advisors@sgps.ca](mailto:advisors@sgps.ca) for any university related things from defense postponements to other issues
  
- like to congratulate Courtney and Jeremy, we were looking to revise the senate composition to have more graduate student senators on campus, it was referred (*for analysis*) without even debate, which is great
  - o hopefully next term we increase from 1 to 3 senators!

#### Ryan

- been in close contact with members of the university administration, especially concerning status quo and the optional pass-fail
- making that people understood there was quite a big preference for mandatory pass-fail from at least some students
- been sitting on the hiring panel for commissioner, been going well so far, lots of great applicants, just a few interviews left
- lastly, like to congratulate all the new exec members including Jon taking over VP professional



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Abel

- I have the utilization rates of bursaries and grants until they were recently consolidated
  - o long story short we closed all the other grants and bursaries for the remainder of the year (*and put the money*) into the emergency (*bursary*)
- (*a total of*) \$30,000 is available to students
  - o the maximum allowed bursary is 450\$, which means we can help approximately 65 students if the max goes to each application
  - o we have since received approx. 25 applications
- At first glance, every student has its own unique situation
  - o the finance committee has been instructed to be compassionate, and so we expect the majority (*to be awarded*)
  
- we have also received an application (*for money*) from Queen's Meds students, who are also SGPS students. They are using 3D printers to make PPE for Kingston and the surrounding area
  - o we have approved them for a sponsorship, and they have also asked me to share their gofundme page (*currently at*) \$13k
  - o I encourage you to share it or contribute if you have the opportunity (*to be able to do so*)
  
- If you need information on how to apply (*to the bursary*), please email me in confidence (vp.finance@sgps.ca)

Uchitta,

- Unfortunately we had to cancel some of the events
- We are looking at what we can do
- We are experimenting with virtual events
- I will let Anthony talk in detail about that
- You can always email me, especially with ideas,
- Other than that, I am transitioning Anthony for new VP community
- All the details are in my report
- Ask me here or email me later with questions

Question for Abel (*about the earlier report*):

- "Are there any plans to reassess the need for requirements such as OSAP or equivalents"

Abel

- the execs and staff have discussed this excessively, we have determined that we should maintain the proof of need requirements as they currently stand
- for now, it is a low threshold



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

- we require just an OSAP application, not necessarily to have received (*OSAP*) funding, to be allowable
- the second major reason is that if we remove the need, it opens the bursaries to all SPGS members, and that is just not feasible to us at the moment. As I explained, there are only 65 spots, and we are trying to ration these for those who need it most
- that being said, I am willing to discuss removing the requirements if needed, please send me an email in the moment

*Q: (Question about what qualifies as proof)*

Abel

- could be OSAP
- could be international student bursary
- could even be a bank loan or student line of credit, we can accept that as proof of need too

Abel

- unfortunately that is our current standpoint, we do require you to have asked for financial support from the Government or the university before asking the SGPS, yes

Q: what was the impact of student revenues by the SCI. I checked the audits on the website, but the last was April 2019

Abel

- we collected 20% less fees because of the SCI rate

*(follow-up question from above RE. what qualifies)*

- if you are an international student eligible for international work, international bursary, or have any loan from any bank in the world you are eligible

Abel:

- I will read out the questions (*supplied via the Zoom chat function*) before answering them
- The question is: bank loan or student line of credit are not on the current loan website
  - o I was under the impression that our bursary guide (pdf on the website) states under proof of need that student lines of credits and loans will be considered proof of need for both domestic and international students



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

Q: Claudia: I wanted to ask about the number of bursaries going to international students. It seems like most of the applications are from international students, are that correct?

Abel: I have not looked at the status of our applicants for the most recent one, but yes, in general in our bursary program international students are over-represented and it is likely but not confirmed that this may again be the case

Q: Anthony: checking the pdf right now and there is nothing about a bank loan

Abel: It is on page 2 of the guide under proof of need and it states in bold the fourth point that “student lines of credit and loans will be considered as proof of need”

- Thank you Anthony

Abel:

- Question about the rationale for the covid-19 crisis (*requirements for bursaries*)
  - o The question is what is the rationale for denying students who did not apply to OSAP for financial support,
- And honestly, the rationale is not perfect, the system tries to filter in those who are most in need
- We are definitely open to consider alternative ways of improving this process, and yeah, it’s an imperfect way, I completely agree

Abel is reading questions:

- o What if we e-transfer the rent and do not have a receipt of proof of payment?
- Perhaps a copy of your bank statement that shows the amount of rent paid as an outgoing expense and your landlord-tenant or rent agreement
- Again, we have instructed the committee to be less scrutinizing and more liberal for Covid, so we will take a more compassionate approach for need
  
- Question: is this about the bursary available via Queens (*is it the same as the SGPS bursary*)
- No, this is the SGPS emergency bursary, which is on our website
  
- Question: what does the SGPS mean by “please provide monetary value of expenses provided in the (*bursary pdf*)”
- This is a code from our bursary guide, basically it means please state how much you are claiming under the emergency bursary



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

- Question: Can those bursary criteria be changed, if so, when and how?
  - o It can definitely be changed,
  - o They are an operational policy of the SGPS and so it is under the VP finance
  - o We can change it rather quickly from a vote of the executive, I am very open to changing if the change is actually better than what we current have it
  - o Please reach out to me and potentially my successor, Tamara, to be on the finance committee next year or just propose new things
  
- Question: proposing to hold a Q& A about the bursary
  - o As always, my email vp.finance@sgps.ca
  - o I am available and I do respond quickly (but not on weekends for study purposes) to any concerns
  
- Follow-up: Can things move faster than this?
  - o We don't have to wait until next year to revise requirements
  - o Please email me and we can definitely have a conversation

**Approval for executive and speaker reports:**

**Noted abstentions recorded (4)**

**Motion passes**



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

---

- A. Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Courtney Bannerman (oral report)
- B. Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – (no report)
- C. Commissioner Reports**
  - a. Athletics Commissioner – Quentin Tsang (oral report)
  - b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Penny Zhang (oral report)
  - c. Indigenous Graduate Liaison – Paige Van Tassel (report attached)
  - d. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Claudia Hirtenfelder (report attached)
  - e. Social Commissioner – Anthony Lomax (report attached)
- D. Committee Reports**
- E. Department Reports**
- F. Other Reports**
  - a. University Rector – Alex da Silva (no report)
  - b. Chief Returning Officer - (no report)
  - c. Supervisor – position vacant (no report)
  - d. Financial Report – Presented by Abel
- G. Approval** **MOTION 03/31/20:05**  
**BIRT SGPS Council approve the Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports.**



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

#### Courtney

- My report was linked in the chat (*In the Zoom chat, for those who did not see it before*)
- To summarize it for everybody
- The two big things
  - o We added on the fall term break to the Thanksgiving break
  - o We are hoping that with a cohesive break, we are hoping grad and professional student take this break rather than having to decide
- The other exciting thing, as Leo pointed out, is that I submitted to the senate committee to consider 2 more graduate student Senators so that we are proportional to what we see on campus
- I am happy to answer any questions about this
- And happy to answer questions about (*anything in the report*)

#### Paige

- Hi everyone, thank you for coming
- And being in attendance
  
- I'm not going to speak to anything specifically in my report, just to highlight some things that I didn't mention
- Four Directions continues to operate online, for any indigenous students who need are encouraged to reach out
- One of the elders is available via email and if you wanted to set up phone counselling or otherwise feeling low
  - o he is a really good guy to talk to!
  
- 4 direction will have a team (*I think I misheard this word, it might have been "meeting"?*) Friday at 11, indigenous and non-indigenous, we have an option to just sit down and chat
  
- Another Turtle Island thing, there is a social distance powwow Facebook group, so if any indigenous or non-indigenous students who have never been to a powwow, the Facebook group is public group where indigenous dances such as jingle dances are shown via videos
  - o this (*self-isolation/physical distancing*) has been very hard for indigenous as we don't usually do social distancing, so this is something you can do online
- if you have any questions about my report specifically, please feel free to email me or ask me here
- Thank you, Meegwetch



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Claudia:

- We had a conference as everyone knows, I just want to say congrats to Sean Maws and \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ and Johnathon London for winning awards
- I also want to shout out to the international student working group for all the work they've done this semester, including financial difficulties lists (*may have misheard that*)
- Thank them for taking the initiative and doing it
  
- The graduate international student network
- More details are asked about
- We are looking at creating two academic scholarship awards, but for now we are focusing on emergency funds
- In my report, I spend some time highlighting links that everyone can access in need (including one for students currently stuck abroad)
  - o in case you need information on emergency funds
- I am happy to hear the exec speaking about international stuff
  
- And if there is any info for international student that needs to be available it will be on the Facebook group
- If you have questions, or need help, let me know

Q: thank you for all the work you've been doing. I'd like to know the updates on the international student funding deductions, are there any updates?

Claudia, I'm going to pass this on to Leo who has been more in the conversation

Leo:

- Currently, the international student tuition group, which Courtney works on, is still looking at the report
- Still no firm timeline as of now on funding requirements and how it will be designed, but the committee is working on the budgetary process
- With a rapid expansion of international (?300) > 300, students, the university wants to continue this growth
- There is a tuition assistance working group that will be making recommendations to what the framework for international tuition, e.g. the international funding formulaes
- Right now, it looks like international research PhD students will have domestic rates
- The timeline was to be prepared by the end of the year, but might be delayed by Covid
- There are two international student groups



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Claudia:

- I agree with you that international students are extremely vulnerable, and we will keep working as hard as we can to ensure that keeps happening
- Thank you for all your comments, are there any more questions
- Leo and Courtney, could you just take notes of international vulnerability

Leo:

- Yes, so all of those things are regularly highlighted
- Non-research international students (course-based who pay higher fees), we are working to help them, including the M.A.Sc. (*Misspoken, should have been M.Eng students, i.e. course-based engineering, M.A.Sc. students are thesis students with no co-op*) students who have had their co-op delayed
  
- The reports, as with any working group, are internal and confidential
- They should be published in a month or two
- The university financially plans 3 years ahead, so it should be the 2021-2022 year

Claudia:

- Thank you again for your engagement
- Send me an email if you have any comments or questions

Anthony

- I'm going to keep this very short because I am very excited for all the engagement and I think that some of these motions are very important and that we are going to have a really good discussion
- Most of our events have been cancelled, but I am trying to put on social distancing events
- If you have ideas, please let me know!
- I would just say, if you have ideas for social distancing events, please reach out to me. I am super excited for the commissioners that we have hired for this year, excited to be working with them
  
- Also excited about community interest with me as (*incoming*) VP Community, including Tone Deaf Kingston, we have really a lot to look forward to next year and starting in May with the incoming executive

Laura:

- We will have another round (*of questions*) for the financial report
- We will then take questions, please put them in the (*Zoom*) chat



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Question: How about M.Eng. student course offerings for this summer?

Leo

- The university is working to ensure that you do not have to extend (*the program*) and that course offerings will be available online
- We are working with the dean (*of SGS*) who is working with engineering to work out an alternative solution
- If you want to email me at [vp.graudate@spgs.ca](mailto:vp.graudate@spgs.ca) I can refer it one more time, but I know at the moment they are figuring out a way

(*Question posed about international student representation to the university*)

- The working group, which I am not already even on, generally the university wants diverse opinions and solicits student to join, we have full faith that those students are doing their best (*to represent the student interests*)
  - o (meaning the 2 international students on the international student working group)

Question (Laura reading)

- Will the situation persist in upcoming fall semester due to covid?

Jeremy:

- For all those who are at senate, ultimately it is a decision of the process
- The school is currently planning for 6 months or into December
- It is likely that some version of this or social distancing will occur into the fall
- Kind of a non-answer but as far as we know this is what is happening

(*Question about the utilization of bursaries and grants*)

Able:

- By financial report, I do have the utilization rates for the bursaries and grants, which is somewhat irrelevant now
- Two points
  - o This year we maximized the dental bursary with 15 applications, average of 662\$, which is an increase from last year
  - o The international student bursary has been maxed out despite adding 2500\$ from the sustainability fund
    - it was maxed out in one day when we reopened it with 25 applicants which exhausted it completed
- If you have questions about rates, how we use them etc. please email me and I will pass on your concerns



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Laura:

- I will leave the chat open for a minute or two and then we will move on to approving the senator, trustee, commissioner reports

*(Question about something to do with the Rector, possibly?)*

Laura:

- I was not aware, I don't believe the university Rector is here

Moving for approval of the reports:

Passes

(Note: abstentions (4 noted) and non-approvals (none noted) were sent to Laura)



Question Period and Departmental Issues

---

---



Business Arising from the Minutes

---

---



## Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom



### VI. Main Motions & Discussion

---

**D. Motion to Support PSAC's Campaign** *(Note that the motion has been amended, and the amended text is included in the discussion below)*

Whereas the local graduate student labour union (PSAC 901) has formed a letter writing campaign petitioning administration to suspend summer tuition in light of the recent public health crisis (COVID-19).

Whereas PSAC claims that graduate students now have a lack of access to essential services, supervisors, and facilities as well as increased costs, stress, and delays.

Whereas the SGPS executive has made it clear that they will not endorse this petition due to problems that they have with the practicality of its implications.

Whereas the undersigned believe that this issue is more important than the particularities of wording, and that the best way to help vulnerable graduate students is to help all graduate students through a collaborative response.

**MOTION 03/31/20:09**

**BIRT the SGPS council will endorse, and consider how to support PSAC 901 in their campaign to have summer tuition suspended due to the COVID-19 public health crisis.**

**MOVED: Matthew Senyshen**

**Seconded:**

Matthew:

- So the motion just to clarify again is just for the SGPS to formally support the petition that PSAC put forward
- The petition previously had 800 petitioners (*signatures*), and roughly 50 people supported this motion to the SGPS (*by undersigning*)
- Basically supporting the motion just means that the SGPS formally supports changing the SGPS position to supporting the PSAC position
- That's all I wanted to say
- Thank you, Laura



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Laura:

- Thank you Matthew

Ky: it should be noted that 50+ people, many of us wrote to the exec independently, and we did this on short notice, and the exec gave a simple “no” response

Jeremy:

- This is going to be somewhat lengthy points
- We will try to circle back to question after, I will try and provide information as fast as I can
  
- Our overarching SGPS executive approach this year and past year, the motion, the reservations themselves, some of the SGPS positions and work we have done on Covid, and hopefully highlight some silvers linings with what we've done on the current approach
  
- I was able to have a conversation with Stéfy, the PSAC president
- Some background, Stéfy reached out, I thought it was a productive meeting
- We are trying to set up monthly meetings with ~~[setfy and the president]~~ (*The PSAC and SGPS presidents*) going forward
- In the past couple of years, we believed it was important to cultivate an amiable relationship with the university (*administration?*)
- I want to say that everyone here is probably all on the same side which is that we want to push the issues, and time is of the essence now with Covid
- We are guided by the approach that the best way is to work with the University
- We know that this is not everyone's approach having received many emails from PSAC and others
- I think there is also a bit of a disconnect with us seeing the nuts and bolts of what is moving too slow or too fast (*in the university administration*), and we need to be better as the executive to communicate that information to students
- This is the role of the exec and councilors to do this
  
- This is our regular mode of operating and we are going with this but obviously covid has changed things
- We started out on our usual mode (*for advocating on behalf of SGPS*) of collecting information and then going to (*SGPS*) council, and obviously this is a bit slow (*of an approach*), but this is the approach (*we have adopted*)



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

- The rationale (*to do this way*) is out of an abundance of caution, we are not against PSAC or anything
- It is because we have on occasion brought up things, or are perceived to bring up PSAC issues, we are sometimes told (*by the University*) that these are bargaining issues and they (*the university*) use that as an opportunity to shut down the conversation
  
- (*While*) We have a conversation that supporting the tuition support, we didn't want to be seen as seeing as supporting the PSAC campaign
- This is not a slight against PSAC, it is just the (*bargaining*) relationship is set up by law with the administration by law to be adversarial, and that is not the relationship we (*the SGPS executive*) want with the admin
- Again this is a judgment call and we thought this would be the best form for grad students
- Again I would like to applaud and point out that the PSAC has 800+ students
  
- I did also inform Stéfy, but obviously not to the same degree as Mark Green (*Unclear what about—possibly about the exec's actions on this covid matter with the university*)
- As I put in my report last week, when we got a response from the school, they were not in a position at the time (on the 24<sup>th</sup>), which was also almost word for word what was in the email from mark green that we (*all graduate students*) got after
  
- So again, this is a similar judgement call as the QBACC (*QBACC came to council this year with a petition to support their campaign*) --- on the QBACC position, we invited them to come to council and we had several debates,
  - o Obviously this (*covid*) is different because it is time-sensitive
  - o But this is similar in how we go about
  
- The reservations about the tuition itself is that calling for all graduate summer tuition would be a blunt tool that might limit the students in being more
- Not everyone's experience has been affected in the same way, some students have been able to continue with research
- We know this is not with everyone
- There is also time to completion issues, access to labs and libraries, as well the SGPS itself is not just graduate and professional students and we have medical students and professional students and we are not aware of any reduction in tuition for them



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

- Again to clarify on the work done so far
- Since the reaction of the campaign, which I don't know the ins and outs of, we have brought it up and mentioned the letter and we are going to continue to raise the issue regardless of the outcome of this motion
  
- We have received in writing from the SGS that students will receive the funding they were promised
- The school has also created an emergency fund at \$600,000 right now and is committed to helping working with students in need
  
- As for the overall context of Queen's being the first mover, we have not seen other schools at this time (*move for tuition remittance*), although we know this is not a persuasive (*argument in all cases*)
- Another thing is that the school usually budgets for 3 years, so this wasn't budgeted for which isn't to say anything other than this is just to provide some context
  
- Another final point is that the executive is going to abstain from (*voting on*) this motion
- So if council (*misspoke, meant the General Meeting*) directs us to do things we will do that
  
- Again, I have tried to highlight the context for the judgment call and positions

Laura:

- Questions?

Question: Jeremy, not to disregard the position taken by the SGPS, but the privileged position with the SGPS is unique but the SGPS should be bringing issues to the university on behalf of students

Jeremy:

- I agree that things can be taken more direct
- I forgot to mention this, we didn't think that not sharing or endorsing the psac campaign would do anything to limit the campaign, and we don't think it has



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

- We like to keep the maneuverability, and I'm not saying it's the best way, just trying to connect the dots and give our position
- We understand this can be frustrating for students
- I can assure you we are working on the issues
- As soon as we heard from students, we are going to continue advocating and endorsing the position so I just wanted to clarify again that we have brought it up and will continue to do so

#### Question

- Please explain how grad students losing their part-time jobs and access to campus are psac issues?

#### Jeremy:

- I'm not saying it is a psac issue, and Stéfy can jump in and feel free to correct me
- We do not see this as a bargaining issue, we do see it as a grad issue, I agree on this
- Obviously psac has taken the position to advocate from grad students at large
- I think we were advocating for grad students and for assistance, but we are after the same thing and again to touch on again, we didn't want to be in a position that would prevent us from having conversations with decision makers at Queen's, again a stylistic issue, we just wanted to limit the potential that signing the petition might limit our ability to *(talk)*

#### Comment:

- I think that speaks to independent support

#### Question, Claudia:

- I think the SGPS could have shared this *(campaign)* without endorsing it

#### Comment:

- Think there needs to be at least a reduction in tuition, it is not fair to charge us the same tuition fees
- What about when summer courses were not finished e.g. practicums
  - o A lot of us are getting make-work project and are worried about paying full tuition

#### Jeremy:

- Just going to answer the questions for me or the sgps
- If there are other people who want to add context *(go ahead)*



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Laura:

- Just and the one question then Stéfy can speak

<the make-work instead of paracticum question>

Jeremy:

- I agree fully that that is an issue and an issue that we share. I think that the school's conversations are that the school is open
- I more than agree that there should be a movement
- The petition as we the exec understood it was to remove all tuition form all students, and our preference was to support the individual departments that are affected

Stéfy

- Thank you so much for allowing me to speak, because although I am a member (*of the SGPS*) I would like to speak on behalf of PASC
- I wasn't to say thank to Jeremy for meeting and all the members who signed
- There are a few things about knowing what psac 901 does
- The initial letter writing campaign was made by the executive, thanks for that, and the letter writing campaign continuation has been done by members at their own initiative
- Actually this is PSAC members campaign, and in turn SGPS members campaign (*logic is that the members of psac are largely also members of sgps*)
- This is why PSAC and SPGS have campaigned
- I think that historically there are been .... (oopsition / sgps avversairal) (*I believe this was talking about how the SGPS only saw the PSAC as adversarial*)
  - o I want to emphasize that the adversarial is only when bargaining happens which is about every 3 years
  - o We usually do have good conversations with the school about vod (*unsure what it is*)
  - o I have asked for a seat on the board via email today as workers, but also so we can support the sgps
  - o So I do want to say that this is crowd-led by members, not the executive.. it is crowd-led
  - o The media, faculty members have picked it up
  - o This is not an sgps vs pasc, it is members represented by both organizations asking
- In terms of this idea of earning seats
  - o It is very sad that we have this assumption that queens would take a seat (*at a communication table away*) if we were to stand up in this way
  - o I think the university would look a lot worse than the sgps if that were to happen



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

- I think it is important to know that we have 800+ members who should advocate that this is *(would be)* a problem *(were it to happen)*
- I talked to a previous president for the sgps that it would be incredibly political that this might be for the university to do
- So moving forward, I want us to recognize that this is members *(initiative)*
- In terms of actual solidarity
  - I just want to know that even if that were to happen (lose a seat) we have members
- We know this is huge battle, and we know the university will talk and talk but it is not until we show action and mobilization until we do action
  - If they don't want to talk finance, I don't think that should be something that is scaring us
  - I think we have a responsibility to our members that they will support us
  - If you lose your seat we lose our seat *(for psac members, since the representation for joint members is currently only through the sgps seat)*, we are going to be there if you do lose that seat,
    - That is also why I am advocating 901 for a seat
- I want to thank everyone, it has been incredibly inspiring, for this campaign
- I also want to thank Jeremy for this
- And the speaker for allowing us all to talk

Laura

- There was a point of order raised
  - I read the email from Matthew, <reads email with statement>
- And then there is just a pasting of what it looks like in a google Drive that Ky has put into the chat, so I will have that point of order sustained
  - So the motion should not read "and/or" it should be "and consider"
- My apologies on that, I interpreted the initial introductory statement as being what the motion was intending
  - <reads updated motion wording>
- Again my apologies on that, that was my fault, and thank you Kai for posting the google drive document again
  
- Sorry everyone that I couldn't get to all your questions initially, I am going to try and review and see if there are any that we missed
  
- If anyone wants to speak, message me now and I will be happy to give people the floor to speak



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Tamara:

- I would like to hear from some of the people in the chat
- So Ky or Morgan or anyone who feels they want to voice their opinions

Katie:

- So I just have a couple of concerns of what was said
- It might just be easier to voice them hear
- One of the biggest concerns that I have is that the SPGS is an independent body, so even that if endorses PSAC, it is clear that you are abstaining from voting
- My concern is that how will we know that this support will not be superficial
- It is clear that this saving face with the administration
- It was mentioned in the chat and by Stéfy that it is absolutely unethical if that is a concern (*i.e. if "saving face" by the current approach*)
- If that is an issue, then there is a lot of other stuff that the sgps needs to work through with the administration
- I also think that the motion is problematic that PSAC "claimed" there is a loss in services, it is not a "claim", it is a "fact", and I think we all need to acknowledge that
- I think that the university justifying it by saying that we all still receive funding is problematic
  - o Ultimately they are still providing us services
  - o You wouldn't go into a store and say I want to buy this and accept hearing "you can still afford this so pay for it even though we don't have it"
- Ultimately, they are not providing services that we pay for
  - o Even though this is funding is not enough
- This should be an SGPS initiative as well in my opinion, and I know this is in the chat
- If you are so concerned with rubbing shoulders with psac and saving face, make this your own initiative
- So, I am concerned that instead of endorsing this, rather than endorsing or supporting compared to saving face, the SGPS job is to support students
- The final thing that I was going to say is that in Leo's report that time to completion is not affected
  - o If student status is extended beyond 4 years, then we still have to pay tuition, so we are still putting money in the
- You said yourself that the bursary would be 450\$ for 65 students if it is maxed out
  - o That isn't nearly enough for students to get through the summer
  - o There seems to be acknowledgement on your end that this is not sustainable
  - o This is also regarding co-ops etc.
  - o It seems like the next step is looking at tuition here



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Laura:

- Thank you Katie

Jeremy:

- Do people want me to respond?

Laura:

- If you have points to speak to I will let you

Jeremy:

- Briefly to just touch on some of the question from Katie's points that were directed to me
- Yeah, I agree that there is lots going on to the emergency bursary program
- This (*SGPS bursary*) is not a be all end all it is a band-aid
- Again for the saving face, I wanted to touch on style
  - o For example, motions at senate, etc., funding, money, the decision comes from the administration
  - o It is not that we are uncomfortable bringing up issues, it's just the style we have
  - o I know not everyone is happy
  - o I think the best way personally is having psac (*possibly meaning at the table, although I might be reading into this*) and having a diversity of opinions on campus
  - o I tried to address in my report were we made the assumptions, I'm not saying it was correct I'm saying that's the best way we thought we could get tangible results for grad students

Shane:

- I just wanted to point out that beyond the fact that obviously SPGS and PSAC have a distinct overlap in members that the SPGS is really the best organization to bring this up because I understand not all grad students are TAs and RAs, so not all students who would be affected by this are in PSAC.
- I think it's great that psac is bringing it up, but it just makes sense for SGSs to be bringing this forward
- It seems that I understand that the sgps wants to keep its seat at the table and that sort of thing,
- I don't understand how that will be prevented by supporting this resolution
  - o Bringing it up to the university
  - o At the very least this brings up negotiations from a pretty solid point
  - o At the very least you can start form that position



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

- If it is an administration, then take the emergency bursary and work with the university to make sure it is big enough to cover tuition if the admin thing stops us paying 0\$ tuition (*i.e. if they cannot make the tuition \$0 for technical reasons, and so cannot remit tuition*)
- Just because the SGPS supports the campaign does not preclude them from other options or other negotiations
  - o Just as how the union is not in a position to negotiate here, they do so anyway

Jeremy:

- I agree with many of the points
- Again this is the lacking communication issues: we are bringing up the issue, we will continue to bring up the issue, if we don't see any movement, Stéfy and I spoke about an open letter campaign
- Again, some of the issues are speed and communication
- Again we are going to use this as another tool if it is there, and I understand if people didn't agree with our thoughts

Andrew

- I have seen a lot of people comment just what does the SGPS intend to do
- Is it going to start its own campaign?
- Right now it seems like the SGSPS is not doing anything for use (e.g. contact the media, appeal to the MPP of Kingston)
  - o There seems to be no pressure or policy
- What is the SGSPS currently doing for graduate students outside the bursary which has already been established as not being perfect

Jeremy:

- In terms of the bursary, we only highlighted that because those are the funds that we can control as opposed to larger advocacy goals e.g. tuition and funding
- We have brought up the issue
- The point on the advocacy, we have been having meetings (which I know are different from letter-writing)
- Again the 45-\$ bursary is not supposed to be all the solutions, it is supposed to be some help
- We have been having meetings with the university, I know this is not satisfactory, we have been communicating the needs of graduate students at this time
- In terms of tuition, this would probably need provincial support
- Members who are part of CSS, the lobbying group, we have already begun discussions like that



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

- We are also seeing feedback about how students are
- And again, we have letters if this doesn't go anywhere
- And again just eh speed

Claudia:

- I just wanted to say one thing here I think there are 2 different thing
- One the one hand, what is the spgs going to do, which I think is something we need to think hard about
- The second is how should we the spgs respond when someone comes to us with a petition that we want to support, how does that decision-making get made
- More just getting this decision-making process behind closed doors
- Could you just answer the second one

Jeremy

- Again great question, and this is to the communication
- I think right now this is what we are doing
- I was having a discussion
- When we took the QBACC we brought it to council, this is similar in that students wanted to take a position on an issue
- I think that this at the AGM is where the decision should be made
- The problem again is speed

Nick:

- A note that we (*i.e. spgs members—I may have been incorrect, it may just be councilors for council meetings*) can petition for (*special*) meetings of council

Andrew

- In your response to me, you have been meeting with administration, can you be more specific about what needs and wants you have been expressing
- We saw that you did not want to support psac campaign
- Have you been behind closed doors supporting the summer tuition waiving campaign?
- If not, there is a huge public support for this



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Jeremy:

- For the specific ask, for all grad tuition raised, Leo actually has, and we have mentioned the petitions to Fahim and Mark Green and the principle's office
- Again, this goes back to the info gathering position
- Some of the information we have seen form the administration is we need provincial help, I know it is passing the buck
- I know now being able to access classrooms too, this is something we are bringing it up
- Again, we are raising it, which means we say graduate students need to see movement, need more support, worried about rent, time to completion, access to labs
- The response we have seen so far is that we have been supporting students on an individual need
  - o Usually we take this to council for feedback
  - o Again, if the motion is successful here and this is the position of the SGPS, then we will communicate that this is the positon of the SGPS

Andrew

- Do you think that the Executive has abstained from this motion is basically saying that you don't support this motion?

Jeremy

- To briefly touch on that, again that is a good point
- I don't think that is so much of an issue
- As the current executive, we are still comfortable with the position that we took
- We don't think that this point that we made a mistake of not sharing and endorsing it
- Again, if the position is changed we will do our best to communicate this
- We are providing answers as to why we did what we did, which is why we are abstaining from that

Canan:

- I am a member of the international grad student working group under the SGPS
- I am sure now there are a lot of international students in the meeting right now
- 4500 will go directly to the tuition fees (unclear when?) (*unsure what this refers to*)
- without having job opportunities, we are still paying bills this summer
- summer tuition release is an urgent pressing issue for international students, as with some domestic students
- we have 800+ letters because of the provost doing early response to the petition
- they are all sgps students too



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

- it looks like we have the spgs too
- we need the spgs executive to question the institutional tradition and realize that this is not something
- I think there should be a more active vote than abstention from the exec
- I am curious what kind of network is going on with the Canadian network: we see a lot of universities (York, Carleton etc.), also doing this (*e.g. tuition reduction petitions*)
- If we have others, there is a higher likelihood (*of success for us*)

Jeremy:

- CFS point (*I believe this is the Canadian Federation of Students*)
- Obviously a great idea
- Yes, reaching out to CFS to see what things we can do to ask for help from the provincial government
- We will reach out across campus for this
- Again, the speed of this is unprecedented

Michelle:

- I am part of the group of students along with Ky who helped to mobilize this to bring it to the AGM
- The reason we did this is that some of us who wrote to members of the sgps about this issue received notices that the executive has made, behind closed doors, a decision which was final to not endorse this
- We as a group with 50+ signatures brought this to the AGM
- Could the executive please explain why this decision was made
- Would this have been brought to the AGM without the motion being brought
- Or in general, what is the procedure in place for the executive to take place in this

Jeremy:

- According to the bylaws we take direction from council
- We would have discussed this issue regardless, and you should take my word on this
- Again, similarities with QBACC (*campaign*)
- In terms of decisions, the executive has to make decisions between meetings,
- We did give information as to our reasons for why this was made
- I want to say that regardless that I have tried to be as transparent and open for dialogue and debate
- The conversation would have happened anyways regardless
- The way our bylaws and policies are structured, we had to take a decision between meetings



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Nick

- Point of information, usually these things come up in the reports

Leo:

- A lot of folks have been asking about what we have done outside and I'd like to just outline step by step
- Starting with the cancellation of classes immediately we were talking with the graduate school about having grad classes online
- In various committees, we also discussed some other big things such as course-based masters students options
- The next thing we did on this was talking about issue with Licensing (OT, Education, etc.) those who require practicum hours that have been canceled
- The university is working with the province and the Colleges to find solutions
- The first question that I asked when we moved online was tuition changed
  - o The point made was that the province does pay for domestic and even more so in-provincial tuition (in part)
- This is just some of the examples

(point of order speaking out of turn was made)

Laura:

- I think many are ready to go for a vote

Rena:

- I would like to know if the vote is yes, what would change on the SPGS actions on this and what would they do that they are not doing before the vote

Jeremy:

- The advocacy piece and having these meetings, and obviously I said we made the assumptions that I did not want to limit
- In terms of what will change with this is that before we were asking what the admin was doing to support the students
- If we are signing and endorsing, we are then saying we are committing to this specific outcome
- We committed to movement generally,



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Jeremy:

- Responding to comment that abstaining is not just saving face
- Again, I want to keep an open line of communication
- We will be supporting if we
- I give you my word that if the outcome of the vote is that
- We just wanted to be clear our thinking
- We
- *(generally saying that they will be following the direction of the AGM, and therefore the SGPS membership)*

There is a vote to call the question:

*Note: the vote calling the question was re-cast since the instructions for voting and what was being voted on were not clear. The re-cast results are:*

For: 42

Against: 70

Abstain: 1

Result: Resume debate

**Note**, a small number of points on debate were made at this time regarding the exact wording of the motion. The exact discussion was not recorded since the Speaker and Deputy were spending effort to direct the conversation. Some record of the points brought up is available in the saved portion of the “zoom chat,” which can be made available; however, many of the points are brought up again below.

There was also some debate about friendly amendments, and it was concluded that friendly amendments do not currently apply under Robert’s Rules, however, the changes can be adopted by unanimous consent. This was done in the technical case of saying “General meeting” instead of “Council”, and was also adopted without dissent to include professional students as well as graduate students, which was discussed briefly.

The verbatim record continues during a debate on whether seeking a “reduction” is an alternative to full tuition remittance for the SGPS executives position.



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Andrew:

- I'd like to defer to Harshavarden
- The wording around reduction should be stricken from the amendment because it compromises *(the position of the SGPS / the position of this motion)*

Harshavarden:

- Just wanted to make the same point as Andrew
- A) we don't want to compromise
- B) something like a 5% reduction would make no difference and the ambiguity *(in the wording of "or a reduction" in tuition)* would be meaningless

Perna:

- We should look at a reduction before
- Because it would make the admin very easy to just ignore the waiver
- A reduction would be easy to just play with the demands

Matthew:

- Just wanted to include reduction because I didn't want the executive to feel limited in what they could advocate for
- This is what I felt was coming up from earlier in the meeting
- I'm ok with striking it if it's what people want *(note that the proposed wording currently included "or reduction")*

Jeremy:

- Just want to clarify again what our instructions are
- If we are reading this as we won't accept anything less than a full waiver of tuition?

Nick

- That is what we are currently debating, yes



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Charlotte:

- So I'm not sure if this is out of the purview
- I would like to make a motion that we put this document forward on what we have a vote
- Work on the whereas statements (**NOTE: The discussion above included a mention that small changes to the whereas statements for accuracy could be made after the fact, but the BIRT part is the essential part to get right**)
- This is taking so long

Raise your hands if you would like to include the words "reducing" as an option

For: 17

Opposed: 60

Jeremy:

- Clarifying the instructions
- Take the instructions and push hard to the admin?
- Do we need to not push for anything except for a full reduction?

Stéfy:

- The spirit is that we want people to bring the campaign forward
  - We have not brought percentages
  - I think if we keep going into these little things
  - We will go to that point later
  - I think now we want to go with this
- 
- In terms of my expectation is for you to come to the table, support the campaign, share the campaign, and support what we (*the psac member campaigners, I believe*) bring forward to you
    - o Perhaps a video campaign (*in the future*)
    - o This is as things go forwards
    - o We will be reactive for a seat etc.



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Jeremy:

- I agree with that
- I don't want on our end if we take a hardline stance
- We are not going to try and take this motion and negotiate in the same manner
- It is about how we approach other ideas and such on this
- It is do we say we will offer something?
- Just asking for (*clarification*)

**Note**, there was now a small debate on whether “significant reduction” would be appropriate instead of just “reduction” to the above point. The debate was allowed since this was a different point than earlier, since it addressed concerns about insignificant reduction options. The debate was relatively short.

For “significant reduction” added: 15

For not adding “significant reduction” 48

### The question was called worded as such:

Whereas the local graduate student labour union (PSAC 901) has formed a letter writing campaign petitioning administration to suspend summer tuition in light of the recent public health crisis (COVID-19).

Whereas graduate students now have a lack of access to essential services, supervisors, and facilities as well as increased costs, stress, and delays.

Whereas the SGPS membership determines that a summer tuition waiver is the rightful step towards advocating for SGPS members amid COVID-19 crisis in order to allay the financial stress unilaterally for all students.

Whereas the General Meeting Attendees believe that this issue is more important than the particularities of wording, and that the best way to help vulnerable graduate students is to help all graduate students through a collaborative response.

**MOTION 03/31/20:09**



### **Agenda**

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

**BIRT the SGPS Membership determines that a summer tuition waiver is the rightful step towards advocating for SGPS members amid COVID-19 crisis in order to allay the financial stress unilaterally for all students. The SGPS will begin advocating for this goal, and cooperating with other organizations to see this come to fruition.**

*Note: this is*

- *Including professional students*
- *Not including reduction*
- *Yes saying "general meeting" not "council"*

In favour: 105

Opposed: 4

Abstained: 7

*Note, this vote was a recorded vote.*



## Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

### A. Salary Amendments

Whereas the SGPS executive changed the job expectations and de-scoped the commissions due to the Student Choice Initiative

Whereas the Student Choice Initiative will not be enforced in 2020-2012

MOTION 03/31/20:06

BIRT the SGPS amend the following salaries accordingly and return the commissions to full operational capacity

Leo (VP Graduate) MOVES

Jeremy (President) SECONDS

#### B.10.1 Stipends

a. Stipends are paid monthly, with the total amount paid over the term of responsibility being as follows:

- (1) President \$15,500.00
- (2) Vice Presidents \$12,000.00
- (3) Peer Academic Advisors \$6,000.00
- (4) Commissioners ~~\$3,000.00~~ \$6,000.00
- (5) Officers \$6,000.00
- (6) Peer Student Support Shift Leaders \$6,000.00
- (7) Deputy Commissioners \$1,500.00
- (8) Speaker \$4,000.00
- (9) Deputy Speaker ~~\$500.00~~ \$2,000
- (10) Chief Returning Officer ~~\$600.00~~ \$1,000

b. At the conclusion of their terms, an \$8000.00 fellowship provided by the School of Graduate Studies is distributed amongst all Members of the Executive who are Graduate Students.

#### B.10.2 Honoraria

a. Honoraria are paid at the conclusion of a term in office. In the instances of multiple year positions, the amount is paid annually, after each complete year and one final payment at the conclusion of the term.

b. The amounts for honoraria are as follows:

- (1) Student Senators \$200.00
- (2) Graduate Student Trustee \$200.00

c. In order to receive an honorarium all eligible persons must submit a report to each council meeting. Each report that is not submitted to council will result in a 50% forfeiture of the honorarium amount.



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Leo:

- This has already been discussed and passed unanimously at council
- We are returning to pre-student choice initiative
- We are also making changes to points to the honoraria and enforcing the honoraria
- We are hoping this is not contentious

Laura:

- For discussion or debate, let me know in the chat and I am happy to get people in

*A question was asked about why these are changing*

Leo:

- So this is \$6000 for commissioners, we are increasing the deputy speakers position (Nick's position) and the CRO
  - o Those two salaries haven't been changed in a while
  - o The 6k (*for commissioners*) was the previous salary (*before the SCI forced a reduced budget*)
- The \$8k fellowship, that is a partnership that the SGS applies to grad students after they complete their term, any grad student who is part of the exec it is divided between
  - o This is because generally it requires extending your degree for taking an exec position
  - o And no grad exec can receive more than 4k for a single person

Laura:

- Commissioners includes, equity, athletics, social, and international, and (currently) the indigenous liaison

*Note that some mentioned that the Indigenous Liaison position is actually unpaid at this time. This will need to be investigated as to what was agreed upon at the previous GM in the fall.*

**For 40**

**Against 4**

**Abstain 2**



## Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

### B. Changes to Bylaw 5.1 "Members of Council."

Whereas bylaw 4.2 outlines specific criteria for membership in recognized groups.

Whereas bylaw 4.2 further outlines the requirement of members to be elected to council from a recognized group.

Whereas the SGPS executive began a review of the structure of council in 2018-2019.

MOTION 03/31/20:07

BIRT SGPS council adopt the following changes to bylaw 5.1 "Members of Council."

Leo (VP Graduate) MOVES

Jeremy (President) SECONDS

#### B.5.1 Members of Council

a. The Members of Council [Members of Council] include:

- (1) One representative from each Recognized Group with fewer than 100 Ordinary Members;
- (2) Two representatives from each Recognized Group with 101-300 Ordinary Members;
- (3) Three representatives from each Recognized Group with 301-500 Ordinary Members;
- (4) Four representatives from each Recognized Group with more than 500 Ordinary Members;

~~(1) One Aboriginal Student Representative;~~

~~(1) One International Student Representative;~~

~~(1) One Mature Student Representative;~~

~~(1) One Part-time Student Representative;~~

(5) The Executive;

~~(1) All Senators who are members of the SGPS;~~

~~(1) The Graduate Student Trustee;~~

~~(1) The Director, who shall not vote;~~

~~(1) The Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, who shall not vote;~~

(6) The Speaker (or Deputy Speaker in the absence of the Speaker), who shall not vote except in the case of a tie;

~~(1) The Chief Returning Officer, who shall not vote; and~~

~~(1) The Queen's Clubs Officer, who shall not vote.~~

b. The Executive, Officers and Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners will fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in the SGPS Bylaws and Policies.

c. The number of representatives to which each Recognized Group is entitled will be updated annually by the Speaker based on the most recent ~~November full-time equivalent~~ Queen's University graduate and professional enrollment ~~count and reported for information to Council at the numbers to be reported by the Vice President Graduate to the~~ April Meeting of Council. The revised number of representatives shall take effect on the following September 1<sup>st</sup>.

d. Notice of receipt of election for new councillors is to be provided to The Speaker or The Chief Returning Officer (who shall report to the speaker) in accordance with By-Law 4.2 (c).

- (1) Receipts of election shall require a registered ballot roll of all Ordinary Members within the Recognized Group certifying an election of 50%+1 of Ordinary Members.



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

(2) Recognized Groups may choose to independently run elections for councillors or conduct elections through The Chief Returning Officer.

d. The ex-officio ~~honorary~~ members of Council are:

(1) The President of the Alma Mater Society, who shall only participate in debate on matters affecting the Alma Mater Society, but shall not vote;

(2) The University Rector, who shall not vote;

(3) The Graduate Student Trustee, who shall not vote;

(4) All Senators who are members of the SGPS, who shall not vote;

(5) The Commissioners, who shall not vote;

(6) Officers of the SGPS, who shall note vote; and

(7) The Chief Returning Office, who shall not vote.

#### Leo

- Again made at council
- Most of this is bylaw / policy
- One of the problems we had with SCI was deciding who members are and where they belong
- It just clears things up and reorders people where they belong (officers, trustees, commissioners, etc.)
- There was a concern earlier about the other representatives being cut
  - o As per our bylaws you cannot be a member at two recognized groups
  - o We did discuss at council
  - o There is no way of identifying or electing them as per our bylaws
  - o Therefore the seats have been empty
- Paige's position was created in consultation (*with indigenous representatives on campus*)
- Part-time students are no longer members of the SGPS, mature students cannot be found (*i.e. cannot be identified comprehensively, and therefore cannot vote on a member*), and you (*any student*) cannot be members of 2 groups (*meaning that they cannot be represented by, e.g. a chemistry rep and a mature student rep*)
- Trying to establish what Claudia has done to establish the commissioner-positions that we have (*I believe the idea with this is that Claudia has been working this year on getting international representatives in every department, and to have a network between them. The point was that the other commissioners could follow in these ideas to create more inter-department networks*)
- We hope that the Equity commissioner can support us on this
- The commissioners don't vote, they have do have speaking rights (*on council*)
- We have no ability to elect certain individuals (*see comment above*)

(Comments regarding why the CRO will now help with elections in the departments)

- Making it easier for individual departments to have (*election?*) receipts and keeping track of people, making it easier...
- Council will stay the same size
  - o There is no reduction in council



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

- In fact, it will increase given the increase in graduate students (*since more proper elections will be held*)
- This just clears up how people are distributed
- We are just moving folks that are written in as “shall not vote” into a single “ex-officio” category
  
- It is not excluding individuals, again at council it was discussed
  - According to our bylaws, individuals cannot be part of more than 1 group
  - As is, the bylaws have:
    - 1) no way of electing
    - 2) no way for people to have
  - the commissioners are not precluded from being councilors themselves, and ...

Jeremy:

- just want to say that we are hoping this improves the voices of council in practice
- in the previous iteration, the indigenous rep (*the original, non-Liaison position*) never came (*to council*),
- Claudia and Anthony (*two current commissioners*) have spoken, and we hope to add more voice

Anthony:

- Nick said these people are now represented by commissioners

Leo:

- No, this is more that councilors should represent and commissioners should be free to speak
- The point is we have no way of selecting or creating a way to select these people

*(For clarification, Nick meant that a point was made at a previous council meeting that commissioner positions were created to help advocate interests of these populations, not that the commissioners are voting representatives for these groups—he apologizes for being unclear).*

Courtney:

- Correct me if I am wrong Paige and others who have come to council meetings
  - Four directions and other indigenous students wanted a commissioner-level position made in order to have a person to sit on their committees
  - My understanding is that that’s why the position was created

Leo

- Beyond being a member of council is that they can represent on behalf of indigenous students to administration and senior level positions which a councilor would not be able to do
  - That is why we created the position and hoped
  - That was one of the things when Isabel, a previous VP Community, had about 5 meetings with Four Directions to make this happen



### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

Paige:

- That has been laid out very clearly
- From my personal perspective on where I stand is that I am bringing in a voice of the indigenous graduate students that are here
- And to give all the members an idea of what that looks like is that indigenous students on campus represent say less than 2% of the population, the last I saw from Candice at Four Directions is that there is a total of 90 self-identified indigenous students on campus
- Part of my role is to amplify that too
- But also, I myself am an sgps member, but then I also (*don't?*) get paid by the SGPS, my understanding for not getting paid is that there is a conflict of interest there (which is why I don't get paid)

*Points regarding why commissioners do not get a vote on council*

Leo

- The idea is that a vote is elected members, which is why the Exec get a vote
  - o The commissioners are hired so they do not get the vote
- The clarification is that you can only be a member of one recognized group (as above)
- There is no way to have representation otherwise
  - o So we cannot have another position supersede the elected position

Laura puts it to a vote

For 16

9 noted opposed

8 noted abstains

(For the record, 54 members are still in the meeting, and so Quorum is still being met)



**SGPS**

Society of Graduate &  
Professional Students

### Agenda

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

#### C. Policy Amendments

MOTION 03/31/20:08

**BIRT the SGPS Council approves the following amendments to P.3.1.2 and P.2.2.2**

Ryan (VP Professional MOVES

Jeremy (President) SECONDS

##### **P. 3.1.2 Staff Hiring**

- a) The recruitment, selection and hiring of staff for positions with the SGPS shall be in accordance with this Policy.
- b) A hiring committee shall be struck consisting of ~~the Director, one other office staff member and two members of the Executive~~ **at least two but no more than five individuals. At least one person on the hiring committee must be a member of the current Executive.**
- c) One of the members of the Hiring Committee shall be explicitly responsible for ensuring that equity considerations are considered. If none of the committee members is qualified, a member of the Equity & Diversity Commission shall be added to the hiring committee.
- d) The Hiring Committee shall draft a job description. The job description shall include the requirements of each position as defined in P.2.3, as well as other requirements as the Hiring Committee shall deem necessary. An archive of past job descriptions shall be maintained by the Director and shall be made available to all members of the SGPS on request.

##### **P.2.2.2 -Selection of Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners**

- a) The Executive shall select the commissioners and coordinators through a process of application and interviews.
- b) A commissioner or deputy commissioner may re-apply for the same position, and must inform ~~the Executive~~ **in writing to the VP Professional** no later than February 28th if they intend to do so.
- c) ~~Where a commissioner or deputy commissioner re-applies, a re-hiring performance review will take place in accordance with the procedure outlined in P.3~~ **the current VP Community will submit a review of the commissioner or deputy commissioner for the hiring panel to consider in its rehiring decision.**
- d) ~~The position shall be advertised for new applicants, however it shall be up to the hiring panel to decide whether to interview any candidates for the position, or simply rehire the commissioner or deputy commissioner from the previous year.~~
- e) A hiring panel shall be convened for each position, which shall consist of:
  - 1) ~~The Vice President Community~~ **The outgoing VP Professional, who shall chair the committee;**
  - 2) ~~A Commissioner or second member of the Executive, as decided by the Executive; and~~ **At least one member of the incoming executive; and**
  - 3) ~~The Assistant Director of Logistics.~~ **At least one other member of either the incoming or outgoing executive, the Executive Director, or an outgoing commissioner—as voted for by the outgoing executive**
- f) **The hiring panel shall consist of at least three, but no more than five members.**
- g) Hiring panels for different positions may be composed of different individuals.
- h) Job descriptions shall be posted online and open positions shall be advertised online for a 2- week period, except for cases when the position is vacant due to a resignation.



**Agenda**

March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom

- i) Where there are no applications or one application for a given position, the hiring period can be extended for additional time at the discretion of the ~~VPC~~ **Vice President Professional**.
- j) The hiring panel shall review applications and interview candidates to determine suitability for each position. A hiring panel is not required to interview every applicant for a position if time constraints and volume of applications would make doing so impractical.
- k) The hiring panel shall make decisions based on consensus. Where no consensus can be reached, a decision may be made by majority vote.
- l) **In the case of a tie vote, the vote of the chair of the committee shall break the tie.**
- m) Hiring panel members must declare conflicts of interests and recuse themselves where they would be unable to make an impartial decision. Recusal should take place as soon as all of the applications for a position are received. A panelist who recuses him or herself shall be replaced by a suitable alternate selected by the Executive.
- n) In the event that a Commissioner resigns during the first four (4) months in office, candidates considered for a Commissioner position during the previous round of Commissioner hiring may be offered the position, instead of enacting the process outlined in P.2.2.2.f, and this choice is at the discretion of the hiring panel.
- o) The hiring of commissioners and deputy commissioners shall be carried out in accordance with the SGPS's policy statement on equity.

Ryan

- Just cleaning up the language because it is out of date
- HR is now under VP Professional it makes sense to have them chair the committee
- Some other simple alterations

Question is called (Leo, Tamara)

For 24  
Against 0  
Abstain 1



**Other Business**

---

---



**Notices of Motion**

---

---



**Agenda**  
March 31<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Zoom



## Adjournment

---

**A. Adjournment**

**MOTION 03/31/20:10**

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

**Thanks everyone!**

*(Lots of thanks were put around to everyone for their support, patience, etc.)*