



It is with great excitement and an overwhelming sense of responsibility that I create the first report for my term as President. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to transition into this role and the guidance provided to me by Jeremy and the entire outgoing executive team. I am very excited to work with Council throughout the 2020-21 year, and look forward to engaging with each of you this year.

COVID-19

I continue to be a part of the conversation at weekly COVID-19 stakeholder meetings held by the university. The past month has seen discussions surrounding alternative course delivery, grading and accommodations, community engagement, and student needs. The most recent meeting discussed the need for a working group to be established to provide guidance on Convocation. I have sat on this working group and will continue to ensure the voices of Graduate and Professional students are a part of this conversation. Additional discussions have also taken place surrounding safely re-opening some infrastructure at Queen's (libraries, etc.) to allow research students access to physical research materials.

Incoming Executive

The new Executive Team has been working extremely hard to ensure we are as prepared as possible. I am very impressed with our team and cannot wait to see what work we will be able to get done this year. Each Executive has taken on several roles within various committees and we have released a strategic plan for our term. This can be found on all of our social media and on our website and will be used as a template for our team moving forward. Please see the attached document which outlines the committees each executive is sitting on.

I am always open to any questions or concerns you may have and am available by email president@sgps.ca or we can arrange Zoom or phone alternatives.

Yours in Health and Wellness,

Justine Aman
SPGS President

SGPS Committee List (Non-Exhaustive)

Board/Senate

Joint Board-Senate Principal Search Committee* Justine

CFRC Board of Directors - John

Senate

Senate Committee on Academic Development (President or VPG)- Courtney

Senate Agenda and Summer Advisory Committee* Justine

Senate Advisory Research Committee (Exec) -Courtney

Senate Governance and Nominating Committee* Justine

Senate Educational Equity Committee (Exec Member of Commissioner) Fifi

- jjc@queensu.ca (Jill Christie)

Senate Residence Committee (Any SGPS Employee)- Rose

Senate Scholarships and Student Aid* Tamara

Senate Honorary Degrees Committee* Justine

Health and Wellness Steering Committee

Alcohol Working Group (Exec) -Courtney, Tamara

Mental Health Working Group (Exec) - Anthony

- tierney@queensu.ca (Ann Tierney)

Campus Safety Working Group (Exec) Anthony (Fifi?)

Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group (Two seats. Exec + 1) -Justine, Tamara(Fifi)

Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force -Justine (Fifi)

- tierney@queensu.ca (Ann Tierney)

Provost's Advisory Committee on Mental Health* Justine

Teaching and Learning

Provost's Advisory Committee on Teaching and Learning (Exec) -Courtney

Teaching and Learning Space Planning Committee (Exec) -Anthony

Experiential Learning Steering Committee (Exec) – May be Defunct- Courtney (if this group still lives)

Course Related Fees Advisory Group (Exec)-Tamara

Graduate Studies Executive Council* Courtney (Justine)

Queen's National Scholar Advisory Committee (Exec – Should be a Grad student)-Courtney

Academic Integrity Subcommittee (President or designate (one law, one grad)) - Anthony Tamara

Academic Integrity Roundtable (Exec) - Anthony Tamara

Digital Scholarly Record Working Group (defunct?)- Advisory Committee on Academic Accommodations (Exec or Commissioner) - Courtney (John)

- tierney@queensu.ca (Ann Tierney)

Provost's Advisory Committee for the Promotion of the Arts (Exec or Commissioner) - Anthony (I sat on this last year)

SGS Fellowship Committee* Justine

Diversity and Inclusion

Aboriginal Council (Indigenous Affairs) Anthony (Paige?)

Aboriginal Student Access Working Group (Indigenous Affairs) Anthony (Paige?)

University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity (Exec or Commissioner) - Anthony, Fifi

- ucare@queensu.ca

QUIC Council (International Commissioner) Claudia

● ita.mcconnell@queensu.ca (Ita McConnell- Administrator); sultan.almajil@queensu.ca (Sultan Almajil- Committee Leader)

Space and Infrastructure

Campus Planning Advisory Committee* (President or Alternate) Tamara
SLC Management Board* Justine
JDUC Steering Committee (President or Designate)-Justine, Courtney
JDUC Design Committee (President or Designate)-Justine, Courtney
Sustainability Working Group - Anthony

Boards of Directors

Sexual Health and Resource Centre (VPFS and Exec)-Justine Tamara

Hiring

Front Desk Staff Hiring Committee (Bylaws?) - John, Andria and Sandy, Anthony
Graduate Peer Support Centre Hiring Committee (VPP, VPC, +exec) - Anthony, John
Commissioner Hiring Committee (VPP, VPC, +exec) - Anthony, John

Student Life and Support

Homecoming Student Leaders Group (Exec)-Justine Tamara
Queen's Reads Committee (Any SGPS Staff)- Courtney
Ombudsman Advisory Committee (VPG)- Courtney
Food Committee (Exec) - Anthony
University Council on Athletics and Recreation (Exec or Designate) -Courtney, Anthony
University Council on Athletics and Recreation Budget Committee- Courtney (same as above - Anthony)
Graduate Student Life Advisory Group - Anthony

Awards

Staff Awards Committee (Exec) - Anthony
Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision Committee (Exec)-Justine
Tricolour Award Reception Planning Committee (Exec)- Courtney
Committee for Joint Awards Ceremony (VPC or Social Commissioner) - Anthony, Rose

Miscellaneous

Harassment/Discrimination Policy Review Working Group* Justine
Strategic Enrolment Management Group* Justine
Community Partners Working Group (Exec)-Anthony
Community Partners Internal Roundtable (Exec)-Anthony
Information Technology Services Student Advisory Committee (Exec) -John
Built Environmental Action Group - Anthony, Fifi
 • ashby@queensu.ca (Andrew Ashby)
Grad Club - John, Anthony (Rose?)



Hello Council!

I would first like to thank you for entrusting me with this position. COVID has made this a very difficult time for many professional and graduate students, but this executive is working hard to explore many avenues for assisting our students. This past week has been a busy one meeting many of the groups, committees, and administration that I will be working with this year.

GPSC and the Peer Academic Advisors

I am excited to announce that we have hired our new GPSC Coordinator: Caitlin Stone. Our previous Coordinator Arthi did a phenomenal job in the creation and opening of the GPSC and I have no doubt that Caitlin will continue her work. At this time the GPSC is not currently open, but we are exploring ways to allow the center to reopen virtually through Zoom. Our Peer Academic Advisors are continuing to support students through online appointments. I would encourage anyone who is in need to reach out to these services.

COVID and Tuition

Our executive is committed to providing students financial relief during the quarantine. We are currently accessing the fees students have or will be charged and looking at if the service is still open (for example the ARC is not currently open), and if the fee can then be pro-rated or partially refunded. We are continuing to work with the Ministry of Universities and Colleges as well as the federal and provincial government to ensure that graduate students don't get forgotten. I would encourage anyone that has not used the SGPS letter writing tool to contact their MPP and the MCU to please do that. The information can all be found under the COVID tab on our website.

Supervisory Contracts

Something started by past VPGs was the idea of a supervisory contract or agreement. This would basically outline what is expected between supervisor and student and could help prevent negative behavior from supervisors. Duke University has a very effective version of this. With COVID affecting our normal operations I believe this is a document that could be very helpful for students. More details to come as I get to work on this!

We have also created a strategic plan for the year which can be found under the news tab as well as a form to anonymously submit comments and questions to the exec!

Looking forward to working with you all in this somewhat crazy time!

Courtney Bannerman



Hello Council!

I would like to express my excitement to begin my position as VP Professional for the SGPS. I am eager to work with the incoming team, led by our president Justine who has been very adept at assuming her role during these unprecedented times. Obviously, COVID-19 has placed increased burdens on the entire Queen's community, and my immediate attention has been towards making the necessary adjustment so that we are ensured in our continued success. I intend on working hard these coming months, on behalf of professional students, to provide the necessary support we have had in place in the past. If you need any health and dental plan assistance, please contact healthdental@sgps.ca. Please direct all other general inquiries to director@sgps.ca. Thank you.

Moving Forward Regarding COVID-19

Queen's is still indeterminant about whether classes will be in-person or administered remotely. From the communications with administration, it appears a lot still hinges on the decision made at the government level. I will keep you updated on new information we receive, and provide any resources professional students can access to deal with any changes.

Committee Roles

As the incoming executive we have made some changes to the committees each member sits on. The following list is what the VP Professional will sit on. Please feel free to contact me at vp.professional@sgps.ca if you have any questions or concerns.

[Advisory Committee on Academic Accommodation](#)

[Front Desk Staff Hiring Committee](#)

[Graduate Peer Support Centre Hiring Committee](#)

[Commissioner Hiring Committee](#)

[Information Technology Services Student Advisory Committee](#)

[Grad Club](#)

[CFRC Board of Directors](#)

Staffing

Due to the JDUC closure caused by COVID-19 we have temporarily laid off our front desk staff. This decision was not made lightly, but we, and the outgoing executive, found necessary to ensure our resources were allocated appropriately in these uncertain times. We anticipate giving our staff right of first refusal when operations resume. Moreover, we have completed the hiring of our commissioners, and would like to extend a warm welcome to them as they join our team. We anticipate further hiring in the coming months to fulfill the currently vacant roles. If interested in any available SGPS position, please go to the SGPS website, where information will be made available.

Warm Regards,

John Jeyaratnam



Dear SGPS Council,

It is my pleasure to present to Council the first report as the VP Finance and Services for the 2020-2021 year. I am excited to be working with the Executive this year despite the many unprecedented challenges that have already arisen. The Executive is not only looking to facing these head on, but to strengthen the community of SGPS members at Queen's. We have been transitioning over the last couple months and have already implemented several exciting changes including the release of our Strategic Plan and the announcement of a Townhall meeting. I hope to accomplish a lot more during my term, but it has been a slow start due to the unique challenges that COVID-19 has presented. With that in mind, I want to flag a few items I would like to update you on.

Bursaries and Grants

The SGPS normally offers several bursary and grant options to students and departments which include the dental bursary, emergency bursary, and international student bursary. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic most of the applications for these bursaries were closed, with the exception of the emergency bursary. Due to the widespread impact of COVID-19, the goal is to keep the emergency bursary open over the summer in an effort to distribute funds to as many students in need as possible. Bursary and grant applications will be reassessed in the Fall with the goal to open all applications up. As a reminder, students and those that have lost their jobs from COVID-19 are encouraged to apply for the government support being offered.

2020 Budget

I am currently working on a preliminary budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Due to many unknowns, particularly around Fall enrollment, creating a budget for this year is particularly challenging. I suspect there will be less room to maneuver this year than previous years. That being said, I have already received a few requests for additional funding from various services and I will strive to accommodate as many requests as possible. An official budget will be released at a Fall Council Meeting.

SGPS By-Laws and Operational Review

In collaboration with the rest of the Executive, a comprehensive review of existing SGPS By-Laws and Policies will occur over the summer. I will personally be reviewing our internal financial and operational controls. The goal is to ensure we are operating in the most transparent and efficient way possible.

Finance Committee

I am currently reviewing applications for the Finance Committee. The primary mandate of the Committee is to assist me in reviewing bursary and grant applications, and mandatory fees. The deadline for this committee has been extended so I encourage you to apply. Please visit the SGPS Facebook page for a link to the application.

Queen's University Committees

As part of my role I will be sitting on several Queen's University Committee's this year and will strive to keep the Executive and Council as up to date as possible.

As always, I am free to take your questions in person or by email.

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitterer".

Tamara Mitterer

Vice President (Finance and Services)

Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS)

vp.finance@sgps.ca



Dear Council,

I'm very excited to be reporting to you for the first time in my new role as Vice President Community. With weekly executive meetings, biweekly training sessions for commissioners, individual meetings with commissioners, meetings with student leaders across Canada organizing around the COVID pandemic, and meeting with the international commission's scholarship committee, I've been off to a busy start.

Commissioner training has been going very well. Last week, we met to discuss everyone's rough ideas in their year plans. I came out of that meeting energized; the session was really collaborative and saw us start to develop some interesting ideas including a movement workshop series, a potential Indigenous-led orientation event, and strategizing around soft-infrastructure within faculties/programs/departments for Indigenous, international, and equity/diversity issues. We will meet again next week to see how these plans have developed, with the ultimate goal of finalizing our year plans by the end of May. I will present an overview of our collaborative plan at August Council.

There are some other meetings I would like to highlight for you. First, Claudia and I will be meeting with Colette at SGS on Thursday, May 7 to discuss a potential SGPS/SGS collaboration during orientation. I am hopeful that we as students will be able to take a more active role in the SGS orientation sessions. Second, on May 5 Justine, Courtney, Claudia and I met with international student leaders to discuss our strategy for collaborating as different student advocacy organizations. Various possibilities around how we can work together were discussed, and I think that we will be better able to serve international students as a result. I would like to thank everyone for their participation.

I have been going over the Bylaws and Policies in anticipation of our executive review of this document during the summer. Some ideas that I have been considering bringing into those discussions include:

- Commissioners having the potential for renewal for a second term prior to jobs being posted
- Explicit job protection for commissioners regarding their rights at Council
- Increased transparency between the SGPS Executive, Commissions, Council, and members
- More guidance on anti-oppression and the inclusion of mandatory cultural safety training
- Increased policies around awards/scholarship committee decisions

I will be formulating wording around these issues over the next few months, and we hope to complete our review with the help of an external expert by the end of summer.

As always, I'm happy to hear from anyone with suggestions, concerns, or questions. Feel free to reach me via email: vp.community@sgps.ca.

Thanks for all your continued efforts!

Anthony Lomax



Hello Council!

We have not had a Senate meeting since April 14th, which I reported about at last council. Just to recap the main items:

- Enrollment: Currently the number of students accepting admission offer are similar compared to last year, but there is some uncertainty about the number of students who will actually enroll
- The graduate student enrollment targets have dropped for this year
 - Masters down from 1216 to 1199
 - PhD down from 332 to 326
 - This is due to decreased supervisory capacity and amount of funding being offered may not be a competitive
 - The funding working group has recommended to increase stipend amounts for students
- Fall break review: Due to many students returning back home the fall break review has been pushed back to Fall of 2020, most likely subject to change though
- Library services are looking for ways to allow students some access to their collections either through scanned materials or potentially allowing material pick up

It has also been decided that a May senate meeting will take place on the 19th.

Stay safe everyone!

Courtney Bannerman



Dear Council,

I am grateful and excited to be your incoming Athletics and Wellness Commissioner for the 2020-21 year. I am currently completing the first year of my PhD in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies in the Socio-Cultural stream, studying hockey culture in Canada. I am eager to bring my previous experience as a physical education teacher and sport programmer into planning initiatives and events that are inclusive and accessible for graduate and professional students at Queen's.

I am continuing to develop the SGPS Virtual Running Club started by Jeremey, which has 21 members so far. Similar to the Running Club, I plan on creating an Active Club on Strava, inviting all individuals who may walk, wheel, bike, or rollerblade to join a virtual club. I plan on engaging members in the virtual clubs by creating challenges, highlight the leader board, invite members to share running/active routes they recommend that are not busy during the time of social distancing and a create place to share personal fitness and active achievements. I am also in the process of developing a plan for the year, that is planning for both in-person or virtual events to account for the current pandemic. My aim is to emphasize community building through accessible, inclusive and non-traditional sport and physical activities. To assist in achieving these aims, I hope to establish an Athletics and Wellness Commission Committee to ensure the events are equitable and well-rounded.

If anyone has any suggestions or feedback at any time, please let me know at athletics@sgps.ca.

I am grateful for the opportunity and I look forward to hearing your input, as well as working with you to execute a successful year.

Kindest regards,

Madison Danford



Dear Council,

My name is Fifi and I am pleased to say that I will be your Equity and Diversity Commissioner for the 2020-2021 school year. While I am currently a first-year PhD student in the Political Studies department, I have been a graduate student at Queen's for nearly two years, having completed my MA in Global Development Studies last year. Despite the turbulence and uncertainty of our present reality, I am happy to assume this role and to work on improving equity and diversity awareness and engagement in our community.

Currently, I am familiarizing myself with the Commissioner manual and transitioning into the role. To this end, I have had my transition meeting with Penny, the outgoing Equity and Diversity Commissioner, where I garnered some insights about the commission's various projects and events this past year. Moving forward, I hope to build on and expand some of these projects while also devising new strategies and organizing new events to improve community engagement with equity and diversity issues. I am also working on my year plan and annual budget that outlines the vision guiding the commission's work in the upcoming year. This year, I hope to oversee the creation of equity representatives in various graduate students' associations and facilitate regular open forum discussions centered on equity, diversity and the academy. Finally, I am working with the other commissioners as well as the VP Community to enhance our efforts to address equity and diversity issues impacting graduate students, given the rapidly changing and ambiguous future we are all facing. Whether this means moving to online platforms for service delivery or drawing attention to the differentiated and uneven impact of current changes to members of our community, the commission will continue to work diligently to provide support as we navigate "the new normal".

I am excited to work with all of you and I look forward to meeting and collaborating with everyone in the community as well as the other commissioners during my tenure.

Now and always, I am open to any questions, comments, or suggestions. Please do not hesitate to get in touch at equity@sgps.ca

All the best,

Fikir (Fifi) Haile
Equity and Diversity Commissioner 2020-2021



Dear Council,

Congratulations to the winners of the SGPS International graduate student scholarship awards and a warm welcome to the incoming executive and commissioners. I look forward to working with all of you for the rest of the 2020-2021 term. I hope everyone is doing well and looking forward to the warmer weather as summer approaches! Below are a few things I have been working on:

1. Indigenizing spaces on campus

Continuing discussions with the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and Four Directions on ways to improve indigenous presence on campus. Previous projects have been put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions such as the flag raising event outside Richardson Hall and the ARC AMS mural project.

2. Indigenous Reads Talking Circle

For the month of May, the group is working on introductions and getting to know each other's research interests which is an important step before diving into sensitive and heavy topics that often accompany indigenous issues and topics. It also reaffirms relationship building and role models indigenous pedagogies which is an important aspect of the ethics and principles guiding research related to and with indigenous peoples. I have been working with Josh Jones, PhD candidate in environmental studies, to develop a "syllabus" of readings and loose structure that we will follow for the summer. The first virtual meeting will take place on the week of May 18th, 2020. Once there is considerable comfort and knowledge of each other's research and personal interests, we will begin our first reading in the first week of June. If you are interested in joining, please contact me at indigenous@sgps.ca

3. Indigenous Writing Group (SELF IDENTIFIED INDIGENOUS GRADUATES ONLY)

This is a group of indigenous students who meet every week on Saturdays at 10am via ZOOM to set our intentions and goals for writing and working on our thesis/research for the week. If you are interested in joining, please contact me at indigenous@sgps.ca

4. Cultural Safety Training and Anti Oppression Training

I will be working with Laura Maracle over the summer to create a training session that will be mandatory for the SGPS staff and optional for the SGPS council members. The training session is expected to take place in August and will be 6 hours total (3 hours for the KAIROS blanket exercise, 3 hours for terminology and relationship building). IF COVID-19 restrictions are still in place, KAIROS blanket exercise may not be an option as it is more impactful as an in person participatory learning experience. A separate part of the training will include anti-oppression training which I will be working on with the new Equity and Diversity Commissioner, Fifi Haile.

5. Indigenous Graduate Student Experience Survey

I will be working with SAGE (Supporting Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement) at Four Directions to create a survey in response to a report that was released in 2017 on SGPS services and indigenous graduate needs. The report was done by Natasha Beitman Brener and can be found here:

<https://sgps.ca/wpcontent/uploads/2017/05/Report-on-Indigenous-Professional-and-Graduate-Students.pdf>

Throughout the summer, I hope to reach out to various departments on campus to see if there are any indigenous student representatives that sit on graduate student councils to form a committee to better represent and accommodate the needs of indigenous graduates. The formation of this committee could also help to respond to other ideas brought up in previous reports such as the Pow-Wow working group and input on indigenizing spaces on campus.

Gichi miigwech, mino niibin

Many Thanks, Happy Summer

Paige Van Tassel

SGPS Indigenous Graduate Liaison

indigenous@sgps.ca



Hello everyone,

I am thrilled to once again be serving as the International Student Affairs Commissioner for the SGPS.

Right off the bat I would like to say a HUGE CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the 2019-2020 SGPS International Student Commissioner's Awards. El Zahraa Majed won the SGPS International Graduate Student Scholarship Award valued at \$1200 and Jennifer Ritonja won the SGPS Going Beyond Canada Scholarship Award. Your applications were exemplary! One of the main reasons I became a commissioner at the SGPS was to try and address the financial issues of international students, one of them being to extremely poor access we have to competitive scholarship opportunities. A big thank you to the committee members who worked through all of the applications (there were over 40) and who met to discuss the merits of all of them. You are stars!

Another big CONGRATUATIONS to the incoming executive and commissioners. Well done on being elected and hired to your positions and I look forward to collaborating with all of you in the year ahead! And a thank you to the outgoing Exec and Commissioners. I would in particular like to thank Uchitta for her support throughout the year as well as Anthony and Penny, with whom I worked closely with last year and whom show a steadfast dedication to student service and advocacy.

Ok, with that, let me get to it! In order to look ahead, I am going to look backwards first. Last year, I managed to launch a variety of new projects an initiatives, such as:

- The Know you Services Workshops;
- The International Research Seminar Series;
- The Scholarship Beyond Boundaries Conference;
- The Beyond Canada Podcast;
- The International Graduate Student Representative Network
- And the International Student Scholarship and the Beyond Canada Scholarship Awards

Through these initiatives I was not only able to highlight the significance of international students and international research but also start to contribute toward developing some soft infrastructure that helps to address the financial and communication needs of international students. While some of these initiatives are more developed than others, I hope to continue to strengthen all of them this year. I further aim to deepen my relationship with other institutions/groups on campus including, but not limited to: ISWG, QUIC, SGS, Ban Righ, PSAC901, and CFRC. Most importantly, I would like to better form the International Graduate Student Representative Network. The need for effective communication with international students at the departmental level is more important now than ever.

I remain committed to the advocacy of international students and highlighting the many concerns and institutional challenges they face, primarily: concerns around financial precarity, issues with adequate housing, problems with access to food, concerns with discrimination and issues of social isolation. I hope to provide support to other student led advocacy groups that are working towards addressing these concerns too. In this, I would like to highlight the large contributions made by both PSAC901 and the ISWG toward listening to, recognizing, and acting on the needs of international students. While we might have slightly different institutional mandates to both PSAC901 and ISWG, I have

learnt a great deal from them and their leaders (notably Rohit Revi and Canan Sahin). I look forward to working with you more this year.

Once I have finalized my year plan with Anthony and the other commissioners, I will share it with you. In the interim, I would like to ask anyone on council to contact me if:

- You have a person on their Graduate Student Councils who serves as an International Student Representative
- You would like to create a position like an International Student Representative and need help doing so
- You or someone you know would like to feature on Beyond Canada, a podcast focused on international thought and scholarship
- You or someone you know is doing research outside of Canada and has interest in being part of an international research seminar
- You or someone you know has skill with making and editing videos

I think that about sums up everything I have for you now. I look forward to hearing from and interacting with all of you in Council. Have a lovely Summer!

Kindest regards,

Claudia Hirtenfelder,
PhD Candidate in Geography and Planning
The International Student Affairs Commissioner for the SGPS
international@sgps.ca



Dear Council,

My name is Rose Conlin and I am excited to work with you all as the Social Commissioner for the 2020-2021 academic year. I am a first year PhD student in the Art History program, and previously completed my Master's and Undergraduate degrees at the University of Guelph. From my time at UofG, I bring several years of experience in student leadership and running academic, social, and Orientation Week events. While I am still relatively new to the Queen's and SGPS community, I am eager to work with each of you and learn more about Queen's along the way. I recognize that our current climate calls for creative and accessible avenues to host events, so I am looking forward to meeting this challenge head on alongside my fellow commissioners!

At this time, I am transitioning into the Social Commissioner role with the assistance of Anthony, Andria, and the other commissioners. I am familiarizing myself with the logistics of running SGPS events, working on the draft of my year plan, and reaching out to other commissioners and representatives from the Grad Club to discuss future endeavors. I hope that throughout the year, I can provide the SGPS community with accessible and inclusive events that allow for relaxation and better integration into the Queen's and broader Kingston community. Boho nights, conservation walks and esport events are just some of the events that we may have to look forward to through the year!

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions regarding event planning, ideas, or event feedback, please e-mail me at social@sgps.ca

Sincerely,

Rose Conlin
Social Commissioner 2020-2021



Esteemed members,

For the members I have yet to meet my name is Sam Hiemstra and I have taken over for Alex Da Silva as the 37th Rector of Queen's University. I am entering my fourth year of my undergraduate degree in Sociology and Politics and am passionate about terrible reality TV and coffee. I look forward to work with you throughout the Summer and into the Fall term.

I would first like to acknowledge my positionality on this committee as a white male who is not a graduate or professional student. I will never be able to understand the hardships that many groups face on our campuses and I look forward to using this position to the best of my ability to voice the concerns this body to administration. One of the elements I most admired Alex Da Silva for was her full-embodiment of the motto of the office *Princeps Servesque Es* or "be a servant a leader," and I look forward to being there for this body in whatever capacity they deem necessary.

Admittedly, I am not a graduate student and I would argue that their voice has been muted to the ears of undergraduate students on this campus. This should not be the case, and I will continue to work in the best interest of this body to the various groups I report to. Part of this process will involve submitting reports and updating the body and promotion of any other meetings that need arise. While there are few elements I can speak to within this report, I am very excited for the work that is on the horizon.

This is a significant time for all students across the country and universities have a duty to ensure students are maintaining levels of academia and most importantly well-being. Fundamentally I have come into this office looking to change how universities view their students; we are human first and students second. From my perspective any opportunity the University has in improving student life should be underdone – and as I begin to work I am seeing many opportunities for this to take place.

I hope everyone is staying well and safe, and I would be more than happy to answer any questions or chat with any members that are interested. My email is rector@queensu.ca and my cell is 226-339-0901.

At your service,



Sam Hiemstra
37th Rector of Queen's University
John Deutsch University Centre, Queen's University
Kingston, ON K7L 3N6
rector@queensu.ca



Proposed 2020-2021 Council Schedule

Reports Due	Council Date	Notes
Tuesday August 4, 2020	Tuesday August 11, 2020	
<u>Tuesday September 1, 2020</u> OR <u>Tuesday September 8, 2020</u>	<u>Tuesday September 8, 2020</u> OR <u>Tuesday September 15, 2020</u>	Having Council occur during Orientation Week may affect turn out due to availability
Tuesday October 6, 2020	Tuesday October 13, 2020	
Tuesday November 3, 2020	Tuesday November 10, 2020	
Saturday November 14, 2020	Tuesday November 24, 2020	Fall General Meeting
Tuesday December 1, 2020	Tuesday December 8, 2020	
Tuesday January 5, 2021	Tuesday January 12, 2021	
Tuesday February 2, 2021	Tuesday February 9, 2021	
Tuesday March 2, 2021	Tuesday March 9, 2021	
Saturday March 13, 2020	Tuesday March 23, 2021	Winter General Meeting
Tuesday April 6, 2021	Tuesday April 13, 2021	
Tuesday May 4, 2021	Tuesday May 11, 2021	