



Society of Graduate & Professional Students
Executive Strategic Plan
2020-2021

Justine Aman, President
Anthony Lomax, Vice-President Community
Courtney Bannerman, Vice-President Graduate
John Jeyaratnam, Vice-President Professional
Tamara Mitterer, Vice-President Finance



Friday May 1st, 2020

To all SGPS Members,

It is the hope of the 2020-2021 Executive that this message finds you, your friends, and your family well although we appreciate that this is a very busy time and many of you are facing various hardships. Our Executive team is committed to mitigating and representing Graduate and Professional students on these issues.

In our previous letter to SGPS Members on April 21st, we made several statements surrounding the direction our Executive Team will be taking during our 2020-2021 term. One of which was the release of a strategic plan which would provide insight into priorities of the SGPS; it is important to note that this plan is non-exhaustive and is influenced heavily by the current situations surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Should an issue important to you or your department not appear in this document, please remember that your voice should be heard. Reach out to your department representatives to bring these concerns forward to council, further, we are holding a town hall event on Friday, May 8th where you can comment on the contents of this document directly to our team. It is our goal to make the actions and goals of the SGPS more transparent over our term and to integrate trust and consistency into our structure.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to work with and for all members of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students at Queen's University.

Yours in health and wellness,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Aman".

Justine Aman, President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lomax".

Anthony Lomax, VP Community

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bannerman".

Courtney Bannerman, VP Graduate

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeyaratnam".

John Jeyaratnam, VP Professional

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Tamara Mitterer, VP Finance



MISSION: To effectively represent and advocate for the needs and interests of graduate and professional students before the University administration, community organizations and the public.

VALUES:

- Transparency and Honesty
- Creative advocacy
- Equity, Inclusivity and Diversity

OBJECTIVES:

1. To build thriving student communities
2. To create a safe environment to promote well-being, inclusion and diversity
3. To listen carefully and advocate on behalf of all graduate and professional students
4. To enhance graduate and professional student experience through engaging programs and services
5. To empower students in their academic, personal and professional development
6. To create organizational sustainability

COVID-SPECIFIC PLANS:

- Placing continued and strategic pressure on stakeholders of the university in demand of a full waiver of summer tuition
- Support of various campaigns including: Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) National Graduate Caucus Letter and PSAC901 Waiver of summer tuition
- Continued engagement with the SGPS campaign MPPs and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.
- Presentation of needs and concerns of SGPS Memberships to University administration
 - Including the need for: support for families, internet and technology accessibility, accreditation and placement concerns, and alternative uses of university spaces for research purposes
- Representation of Graduate and Professional Student concerns at Queen's COVID Stakeholder Group



- Maintain existing services such as Peer Academic Advisors, Graduate Peer Support Centre, and Sexual Health Resource Centre
 - Commit to ensuring efficiency and quality are maintained while still adhering to Public Health guidelines
- Engage with University officials to ensure “makeup” Convocation events are managed with Graduate and Professional Students in mind

ADDITIONAL PLANS:

- Increased utilization of our Student Lounge
 - Renovation and reopening of the current space, should social distancing allow
 - Increased graduate specific workspaces
- Support construction and design of new JDUC
 - Attend and represent the needs of SGPS membership at all stakeholder meetings and include Council in decision-making processes
- Develop an engaged SGPS Council
 - Host social events to improve recognition and create bonds between counsellors
 - Reorganize physical layout of Council Meetings to allow for more productive conversation and accessible seating,
 - Engage Council in Strategic Priorities, through consultations and training
- Continue discussions surrounding tuition reductions for International research students, Phd, and MSc Thesis based students
- Creation and dissemination of a Student survey to allow Members to raise issues in an alternative format
- Investigate the implementation of a Public Relations/ Marketing staff position to help manage the growing need for communication within our community
- Increase engagement in SGPS elections
 - Work with Counsellors to promote election details, investigate the efficacy of in-person polling stations, more targeted outreach to Membership by current executives
- Increased departmental collaborations and resource sharing
- Revision of Policy and Bylaws



- Full review of SGPS policies and bylaws by Executive, followed by review by outside Counsel
- Presentation of proposed revisions by September Council