



## Agenda

August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – 5:30pm

Zoom

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. This land acknowledgement reminds us that rich Indigenous governances still exist, and will go into the future. This should also serve as a reminder that we are benefitting by living on this land that is a traditional territory of indigenous people.

5:30pm

*Note: Comments in triangle braces (<>) were made during the editing of the minutes and try to represent best what was said. If there is uncertainty, a ? is included in the comment, e.g., <uncertain comment?>*

## Announcements

### Adoption of the Agenda

#### **A. Adoption of the Agenda MOTION 08/11/20:01**

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council Meeting.

Courtney Bannerman moves, Ross Denny-Jiles seconds. None opposed, passes unanimously.

## Minutes

#### **A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes MOTION 08/11/20:02**

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Council Meeting.

Justine Aman moves, Courtney Bannerman seconds. None opposed, passes unanimously.

## Executive & Speaker Reports

### **A. Executive Reports**

a. President – Justine Aman (report attached)



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Justine

Hey, nice to be in the same Zoom room as you. Welcome back. Report noted in attached file. Want to touch base about busit and student fees, ongoing conversations. If there are questions, reach out. Often not complete enough to be put in the notes, so if you want some insight or to read temperature of that let me know and I will get in touch about that.

No questions.

b. VP Graduate – Courtney Bannerman (report attached)

Courtney

Hi, I've attached report with summer updates. Ask Qs about those things if you have any. Attention to SGS and school has released additional funds if you need additional funding; if you or anyone needs extension on stipend, reach out to Dept. coordinator. Also alcohol policy...Leo started and completed shortly after I started; draw your attention to...for grad orientation weeks, needs to be dry, exceptions in limited cases. Not clear what kind of exceptions will be given, but if you're from a Dept that plans to have events with alcohol component, reach out to me and I can help with exemption. I'm on committee voting for vice provost; don't use library that much, but putting together survey for what students want in a vice-provost. Give feedback and we can let them know what wanted in a librarian.

No questions.

c. VP Professional – John Jeyarantnam (report attached)

John not in attendance. No questions.

d. VP Finance & Services – Tamara Mitterer (report attached)



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Tamara

Apologize for no written report. Going to go over high level highlights about portfolio and have more detailed report in Sept. First, investments were due when I started. Reinvested into short term GICs keeping divest and interest rates in mind. Those will be reinvested right about now as well. Second, bursary (ESA) has been open all summer, opening dental bursary now, in Sept all bursaries and grants will be reopened. Getting about 10-15 per month. AFA health and dental goes, given fees and covid, didn't change what plan offers but reduced fee by about \$10/student. AFA budget, I will be presenting one in the fall, we're working on it, but we were able to reduce society fee by about \$10/student.

Carolyn Bonta – Last year when covid hit, a lot of funds were redistributed into the bursaries. Will that continue into the fall? Since no events, it would be more emergency and supporting students in need?

A: You're right, they were diverted. Right now, bursary is a separate thing, but we are tinkering with budget and will have more concrete numbers in the fall. Does that answer?

CB: Yes, thanks

No further questions.

e. VP Community – Anthony Lomax (report attached)

Anthony

First thing is orientation. Going to be quite different, but I think the commissioner team has come up with really engaging events; each will talk individually in their reports so won't elaborate, but in general I can make umbrella comments. These events are for everyone, not just first year students. We've been trying to make them engaging and would appreciate you making efforts to communicate about these within your units and departments.

Right now, orient events are listed on [sgps.ca](http://sgps.ca); there is an orientation week tab which will show you the events in detail. Going to offer cool prizes to increase engagement. So, will notice when looking through



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that times are quite different than they had been in previous years to accommodate for other timezones and for folks joining around the world. Where some are information-based, we will also be recording and posting on the website later. If any more suggestions about making run well, we'd love to hear.

I'm running an event called museum mashup from museums near campus, will be their personal experience with their museums and will launch series where you bring the thing from your personal archives and chat about it. Second thing to bring up, prob brought up in other places, is the advocacy campaign we're working on. Important gap where we'll be publishing statements Uni has made in response to racism events on campus and resources for people working on campaigns surrounding this sort of work, as well as historical timeline about what has or has not happened. Finally, Canadian Federation of Students is national body we belong to, great resource, campaign to gov officials, so if there are issues that should be brought up, let me know because I'm your rep to that body.

### **B. Speaker Report**

a. Speaker – Mary Rita Holland (oral report)

Mary Rita Holland

One role I have is to lead a committee that revamps the policy and bylaw committee, want to thank members, this will be a standing committee. It needs to be brought up to date to be compatible with what Queen's is doing. Dividing up work on the committee so far. Will have more of an update as time goes on; it's interesting for those policy nerds who like to see policy make sense and be user friendly, will have more work on that. Been a pleasure working with, and getting to know, each of you over the past few months.

### **C. Approval MOTION 08/11/20:03 BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.**

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Tamara Mitterer moves, Carolyn Bonta seconds. None opposed, passes unanimously.



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### **Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports**

#### **A. Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Courtney Bannerman (report attached)

Courtney

Senate doesn't happen in summer. In winter, put forward motion to add more student senators. Covid hit and nothing happened, so I followed up, should have more information in the fall about that. If it goes through, will have 3 senators instead of 2.

No questions.

#### **B. Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – (no report)

-No trustee present.

-No questions.

#### **C. Commissioner Reports**

##### **a. Athletics & Wellness Commissioner** – Madison Danford (report attached)

Madison

Report attached. Busy summer, lots with running club, partners with ARC and making it a virtual activity. Physical distancing and physical activity with Queen's in the fall about how to get active on campus or virtually this semester; will have workout session led by someone at the ARC. Please share to get lots of people to attend; if any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

No questions.

##### **b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner** – Fikir Haile (report attached)



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Fikir

I hope you managed to enjoy an unusual summer, squeeze in outdoor. Report attached, draw your attention to me, Paige, Claudia have been making graduate student equity network to come together to address equity problems that they face at Queen's. Want reps from different departments; if want to get involved, reach out. Also took part in [something about] resources available on campus, designed for incoming students but good for others. Virtual scavenger hunt called grad school in time of corona. Movement series, movie series, open forum discussions planned for later in the year. Available for questions at any time.

No questions

c. Indigenous Graduate Liason – Paige Van Tassel (report attached)

Paige

Hello, hope you had wonderful summer despite pandemic. Report attached, won't take much time. Over summer, had indigenous reads talking circle with positive reviews, start in Sept, welcome back social on 24<sup>th</sup> to chat about what we're going to do for the fall. Also bring attention to orientation event I'm hosting with fellow Anishanabee, making video for incoming students and interested students about what it means to acknowledge and respect the land that we're on. The link for that event is in the report. I'm excited and hope that others can take part in event follows "land acknowledgement" video.

Carolyn Bonta: Tried to register and link was broken. Wanted to make sure that was known.

A: Thanks, will try to fix that

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



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Thanks for having me, was cleaning and lost track of time. Everything has been busy for international students, staying on top of policy changes. Contributions to students taken interesting turn. One thing is videos, over 50 different videos; if want to see them, please share them. Can find on SGS orientation. Attached to them are 3 QA sessions to take place in Sept. Know yourself and work, looking after you and loved ones, knowing yourself as a student. Also released What to Ask on SGPS webpage; questions and answers, trying to direct students about where they should go to get answers to things such as where to get your money, etc. and when. International student checkin on the 24th, nbice informal space for international students to chat with one another and hang out.

No questions.

e. Social Commissioner – Rose Conlin (report attached)

Hello everybody, nice to see/hear you all. Report attached. Over the summer, official training CFRC 1019FM to host different themed music nights (couch disco), for those that want to go out but can't/. Weekly game nights with Kingston gaming society. Otherwise, for orientation, virtual speed meet and trivia night and will also have a couch disco on that weekend, which will be mid-2000s themed. Some meeting with folks from ARC about e sports programming, also senate residence committee plans to open two residences. I think that's all I have for you.

No questions.

### **D. Committee Reports**

#### **E. Department Reports**

#### **F. Other Reports**

a. University Rector – Sam Hiemstra (report attached)

Not present.

b. Chief Returning Officer – Matt Ireneo (no report)

Not present.

c. Supervisor – position vacant (no report)

**G. Approval MOTION 08/11/20:04 BIRT SGPS Council approve the Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports.**



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Question from chat about Arc reopening.

A: Opening on the 8<sup>th</sup>, pool opening in October at some point, not sure what they'll do for reduced capacity.

Ross Denny-Jiles moves, Justine Aman seconds. No dissent, passes unanimously.

Question Period and Departmental Issues

Business Arising from the Minutes **Agenda** May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm Zoom

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### Main Motions and Discussion

#### A. Approval MOTION 08/11/20:05

##### **BIRT SGPS Council approve the Proposed Updated Privacy Policy.**

First: Updated privacy policy motion 5 beginning on pg.2. Mover to put the motion to the floor? Justine.  
Second? Anthony.

Speaker: Justine, if you'd like to speak to this please go ahead.

Justine

Looking to revamp doc. As it stands, committee will be looking to revamp and bring back to higher quality standard. Right now, these 3 are time sensitive. Keep in mind that if there are links back to other policies or other things, those will be updated once we've updated the rest of the document. Privacy and disclosure was to clarify communication with Queen's; outlines things for voting, elections, clarifies who it can be shared with and to whom.

Speaker: Questions? Seeing none.

Vote for approval of privacy policy. No dissent, passes unanimously

#### B. Approval MOTION 08/11/20:06

##### **BIRT SGPS Council approve the Proposed Member Society Policy.**

Second: Proposed member society policy on pg. 4 of the agenda. Justine Aman moves. Anthony Lomax seconds.

Justine

Quick overview, this is also time sensitive because students are getting fees assessed soon. Part of SCI and uncovered negligence in terms of holding member societies accountable for their fees. Important to make sure that they use the fees for what they claim, reflected in annual report. Also changed is event sanctioning; the third point to approve proposed alcohol policy should be subsection 1 of the second



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motion. Thus, we will have to re-move the alcohol policy into the member society policy. Thus, the final part is the new proposed and approved alcohol policy that Courtney mentioned; if you have questions, reach out to her. If sanctioning event through SGPS, you must uphold the alcohol policy consistent with those policies as outlined by the University.

Speaker : Anyone questions?

Igor Cunha in chat: If society is part of council is it part of SGPS?

A: I think, yes. But smaller departments that don't host events for their members or departments this wouldn't apply to them.

IC speaking: I'm president of grad society for chem. We hold events. Do we have to abide by these policies?

A: I can send out a list of member societies, which might clarify this, so I can do research and send list of societies and from there we can determine if there is a gap in who is covered by the policy. If there are gaps, we can maybe clarify that further.

Speaker: Further questions?

No dissent, passes unanimously.

Rule the third motion Out of Order bc been moved to prior.

## Other Business

Courtney Bannerman: Quick note. Some students have been receiving stipends up to 2 weeks late. This is of course unacceptable, especially with tuition taken out on time, so if you or a friend or know someone who hasn't been paid or been paid late, please reach out to me so I can add that to a strongly worded letter.



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Claudia Hirtenfelder: If we're talking about being paid, at what time should the university have to let you know when and where you're going to be working? Is that a union or SGPS thing? Poor communication in general in knowing what work you should be doing.

A: Yes, it's insane that it's not been released. Partly union and partly SGPS, bc due to funding. Depending on how it's being paid, whether stipend or not, depends. Bc stipend is under graduate research fellowship, union does not negotiate with. If it's a TAship, etc. that is something the union can step in on. One thing I'm doing is partnering up with the union, since overlap, and better to be a united front. If you know students with particular issues on these things, reach out to me and I can have them quickly resolved. Part of issue is decentralized, so not much intervening from university on that behalf.

Ross Denny-Jiles: Without weighing in on substance of issue, draw attention to law school and renaming the Sir John A MacDonald building. There is a Queen's-wide discussion going in about it and I encourage all to weigh in on that because it is important for all of us.

No further questions.

## Notices of Motion & Announcements

### Adjournment

**Adjournment MOTION 08/11/20:06 BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.**

Speaker: Next meeting is Sept 15<sup>th</sup>.

Anthony Lomax suggests that we might push it back. Justine Aman says all will be in motion by then, so maybe better to stay as is. AL says that makes sense.

Anthony Lomax moves, Justine Aman seconds. No dissent, passes unanimously.