



**Agenda**  
September 15<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.



**I. Announcements**

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Speaker: Deputy speaker has a short announcement. Basically, we need student numbers to confirm that you are a dues-paid SGPS member.

Deputy speaker: Thanks. Yeah, we just need a record of everyone so please send me your student numbers when you have a chance. This way, we can check to make sure that you are a paid member to be eligible to be on this council.



**II. Adoption of the Agenda**

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**A. Adoption of the Agenda MOTION 09/15/20:01**

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

Tamara Mitterer moves, Ross Denny-Jiles seconds. None opposed, passes unanimously.



**III. Minutes**

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**A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION 09/15/20:02**

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

Delaney Ryan moves, Tamara Mitterer seconds. None opposed, passes unanimously.



**IV. Executive & Speaker Reports**

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**A. Executive Reports**

- a. President – Justine Aman (report attached)

Justine



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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 <these conversations are> 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

Most is in report, want to highlight some things. Covid tuition reduction for ppl affected. Any intl student regardless of funding, we are reducing tuition down to domestic level. Can get ahold of tuition reduction by emailing graduate commissioner and if issue email Courtney. Also contacted by Kingston Health Sciences, in need of microbiology to help with covid testing. If someone looking for extra work who knows how to run PCR or has lab experience, welcome to sign up. Happy to take questions about report.

Sean Marrs: With tuition reduction, what are contours? Only for international or also people who've had their research destroyed and need to stay?

A: Good question. Lot of students can't do their research, but at that time the SGS will probably deal with those issues on case-to-case basis. Might carry tuition reduction to next semester if needed, but there are a few hoops to jump through, though make sure to contact graduate assistant <if this is needed>.

Claudia: News in regards to reducing fees in general, not just in this context.

A: Last heard, presented financial breakdown for how it would work with reduction of tuition. For the policy to pass, need certain amount of buy-in. Can check if there has been updates. Idea was we would roll it out first, because there was some hesitation for PhD vs Masters. Idea is to start with PhD and in the years after that roll out the reduction.

No questions.

c. VP Professional – John Jeyarantnam (report attached)



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John not in attendance. No questions.

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

Not much new since last time, keeping up with day to day. Bursaries and grants were on hold beginning of Sept but they are back up and running now. Big thing now is prepping presentation of the budget for October council meeting. Open to questions.

No further questions.

e. VP Community – Anthony Lomax (report attached)

Anthony

Orientation last few weeks. Many videos from that available online as recordings so if you couldn't go, those videos are on our website, posted in the chat (sgps.ca) and go to left panel where it says orientation timeline or schedule, there are some videos there. I really want to thank all commissioners for running a really good event. Been a weird year so a lot of changes, etc. Also thankful to those who came out to events this year. One event was catchup event, online. Had 5 with curated spaces on campus and their favorite places around Kingston, as well as projects they're working on. Worked with Kingston Association of Museums. Prizes associated with campaign, giving away membership to KAoM, just post hobby or pass time that you have done during Covid. Post on social media with #sgpsathome and we will be giving away those memberships.

Also, advocacy site. We have started the site where there are reports and committees formed by Queen's; idea is to show that there is a legacy of racism at Queen's. Part of that is that Queen's Archives are interested in working on maybe publishing or making links to archives that would relate to this goal as well.

Also based on this Canadian Federation of Students is interested in taking the campaign to the international level. So, we will be talking about if they would take on that work as well.

Finally, consultation process is in progress for Sir John A MacDonald building, due on Sept. 18, posted link in chat ([law.queensu.ca/about/consultation](http://law.queensu.ca/about/consultation))

No questions.

### **B. Speaker Report**



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- a. Speaker – Mary Rita Holland (oral report)

Mary Rita Holland

Similar to Aug, continuing to work BP review committee. Will be working on the changes from the prior years, including those that are a reflection of what we do. That's it, really. I can also add my email to the chat, in case anyone has any questions ([speaker@sgps.ca](mailto:speaker@sgps.ca)). Have heard from few with return to school and thoughts about what might come forward at meetings, so put email in there if anyone has anything.

No questions.

#### **C. Approval**

**MOTION 09/15/20:03**

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

William Khoury moves, Carolyn Bonta seconds. None opposed, passes unanimously.



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

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

Courtney

Nothing has happened since the last time you saw me, unless anyone has any questions.

No questions

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

- C. Commissioner Reports**

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

Madison

Hi, one update regarding orientation. Held during scholar strike, continued. This was recorded and posted, per Anthony, participation lower than expected but overall good. Had info about Arc new procedures and how to workout and stay active this semester. All else in the report, as always ask if questions.

No questions.



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

Fikir

Hello, hi folks hope all are settling in. Only update is my orientation event, scavenger hunt, enthusiastic engagement. Will be posting winners during the week and will announce those as well. Nothing else to add, but happy to take questions.

No questions.

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

Paige

Hello, I have nothing else to include. Want to reiterate what Anthony said about law school building renaming process and really encourage all to share their voice. This is whether name should stay, not what it should be named to. And yeah that's it, email with any questions.

No questions.

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

Claudia

Hi everyone, welcome back. I gave a detailed report, but I'll highlight some things. I had a "know your services" orientation event, really encourage to share with students. Gives general overview of services available to you as a student. Those were great events, so thanks. Also add: International student check-ins where international students can take about whatever, those were monthly and will continue. International grad student network is a group of international grad student reps from various departments. I'm giving updates that I'm available. If you want to be part, just send me an email. If you're keen on making that position, I think it's important. Also a bunch of resources added to the website that I think are helpful and were added to the website.

No questions.

- e. Social Commissioner – Rose Conlin (report attached)

Rose



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I hope you had a good week back at school, I know I did. Most in my reports, but some updates with speed meet and grad student accommodation. Small turnout, bit longer event, but great. Grad student bash was fun, thanks for Paige joining me. Also survey going out for availability for games night during the fall semester, hoping to have updates

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 (report attached)

Not present.

- c. Supervisor – position vacant (no report)

**G. Approval**

**MOTION 09/15/20:04**

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

Igor moves, Emily seconds. None opposed, passes unanimously.



## Question Period and Departmental Issues

Sean Marrs: Few Qs cause we had first dept check-in yesterday and it was brutal. Number of students saying they're considering abandoning their projects in general. Looking to see if someone in the SGPS, or if they can be heard. Summary: First point is that for library research access, research has been crippled bc we often use archives. However, talking to dept about travel funds, obv can't travel to archives in US, etc. but to dept understanding those are for travel, not general research. Courtney, is this something moveable? Can funds for travel be used for digitization?

Courtney Bannerman: I see no reason why we can't move funds that would have been earmarked for travel to get students the equivalent. Just to be sure: Dept funds or history student funds to dept?

SM: Not sure. Grad chair said funds were earmarked by SGS for travel



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Anthony Lomax: Not like conference travel awards or anything? Maybe could be brought in.

CB: Let me get in contact with SGS to ask about this. Been dealing with cases where students have complex financial issues; please have them reach out to me. Happy to try to help them sort things out and if that's couple emails, happy to do so.

SM: Other thing is access to research spaces. Don't have access. Some labs opening up, for us in history, geography, etc our offices are our labs. I know all are different. Some depts have plans for who can go in and when, but we aren't allowed. I recognize ways there are circumstances that can allow for office space, but need to send biweekly report. No one is reading those reports, seems like attempt to scare away students. Access to research is one of the major issues for us; offices are labs, research spaces, not something we can do from our couch, kitchen table, etc.

CB: If anyone in chat has similar biweekly paperwork, can you mention in chat? I've heard about getting people into offices, could submit report. I also don't see the point; someone else in English has similar policy (Jesyka Traynor). Multiple other notes in chat.

Igor Cunha: We do have access to lab, no report needed, there is requisition form. Reasons why, changing, <not able to hear anything else>

Fifi Haile: I'm in poli, have similar policy. Also required to submit biweekly reports, but this is process that will be phased out according to this dept. Seems like a measure to avoid liability; not sure if that's it, but seems similar

CB: I'm going to send all of this to SGS when I meet with them next. I understand needing to book space, but don't think necessary for reports. Will definitely touch base and will either hear in letter or report.

Tess Marusyk: In public health sciences, told work from home but supervisor trying to get campus access and no progress at all. Access to go to Stauffer now, but SGS hasn't considered that we can't access spaces on campus so we are using library when other ppl might need it or being told to go to public library or coffee shop. Seems higher risk than just allowing access to offices/spaces that are already separated, it is pushing ppl to go elsewhere, which seems more hazardous.

CB: Agreed, also prob with admins who can go to campus but grad students who often need to go to campus, even for internet, so that's something I'll also bring to SGS. Bc depts are given flexibility with what they do with the office space, it goes to them, and should come to SGS but doesn't always.

Ryan Stack: New report for msc-phd Smith school of business. I was wondering, Courtney, what the consequences are for not submitting that paperwork. If you haven't been submitting, what happens? Sounds like admin throwing stuff at wall. Have been chatting with some who have their office space; space for PhD students have accomm for multiple people but no health risks if we are able to book time.



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I expect that the idea of having paperwork is that there are a large number who need spots but know only some will apply for the spots.

CB: First time I've heard of paperwork side of things. Sometimes applying for desk space, but nothing about filing reports, etc. Now that Arc is open, ppl travelling to spaces, admin back in offices, it's an issue that students who are paying and not being paid.

AL: I wanted to bring something semi-related, should have had in report. Relevant to travel, the university has implemented policy such that if you're out of the country you can't take on TA or RA work. This is policy that was implemented this summer that hasn't been communicated well, hearing from some about this. There are similar policies to this across North America. We're talking about this bc this is discriminatory policy given the current climate. Interested to hear if others have had or heard of problems for expected TA or RA work.

Claudia Hirtenfelder: This is affecting mostly international students. Everything is unclear; international students needed to say they'd be here for a year, which was to screen for their eligibility to be a TA or RA. I personally as Claudia, not rep, have filed discrimination complaint.

Ryan Stack: (in chat) Any events happening in Kingston, social?

AL: No, no in-person events but there are a few on the sgps website coming up. Coming up, Madison doing cooking with grandmas in spiritual life, getting grocery list soon. Offering to subsidize. Also it's just cooking with grandmas in their home, this could be cool event to connect, etc. If you look at the website, we are always hosting events and you can see them on the website. There is a lot of information in some of the vids as well. We're also hosting social media campaign where people can share their pass times.

Madison Danford: Virtual cooking classes with grandmas Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> with dietary restrictions, also offering subsidies if you need help affording groceries or anything. Something that a lot of us are missing, you can check it out on the SGPS website.



VII.

Business Arising from the Minutes

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VIII.

Main Motions & Discussion

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#### VI. Other Business

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Speaker: <There have been a> few requests to reconsider the dates or times for the meetings, based on the fact that our work lives and such have changed. Obviously if could make it tonight, moot point, but we are going to poll people to see if it's something that should be changed. No guarantees, but one of us, perhaps Devin the Deputy Speaker will work with us to distribute poll about possibly changing time.



#### X. Notices of Motion & Announcements

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#### XI. Adjournment

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##### A. Adjournment

**MOTION 09/15/20:07**

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

Speaker: Next meeting is...not sure, so wait to hear from me because I don't have it handy. Take care all and stay safe, have a great night

Ryan Stack moves, Emily seconds. None opposed, passes unanimously.