



Agenda
November 10th, 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



II. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Agenda MOTION 11/10/20:01

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the November 10th, 2020 Council Meeting.

Speaker: As noted in email sent out, hoped to get to draft elections policy. Policy exists but needs updating. Working on that, very close, but going to bring forward at AGM in a couple of weeks instead. Therefore, the business item is not something we will be discussing tonight. I will move that we amend the agenda, I will ask for a seconder.

Ross Denny-Jiles seconds.

Speaker: Any questions at this point? Raise hand or put in chat. Bylaw and Policy review committee will be working on it and will send out well in advance of Nov. 24th AGM.

Speaker: Seeing no questions, I will call motion to approve agenda with the proposed changes.

No dissent, passes unanimously.



III. Minutes

A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

MOTION 11/10/20:02

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the October 13th, 2020 Council Meeting.

Philip Simpson moves, Nicholas Michieli seconds. No dissenting, passes unanimously.



IV. Executive & Speaker Reports



Agenda

November 10th, 2020 - 5:30pm
Zoom

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Justine Aman (report attached)

Justine

Hey everybody, I know in <my> report I said I was giving just verbal. Couple updates weren't solidified when I had to submit. First is feel good. Bus subsidy program; when contract cancelled by AMS, goal was to not have students suffer. Fortunate enough that city of Kingston provided half a million dollar subsidy. We gave students opportunity to apply for reimbursement of money lost for the term. We have had 937 people apply at \$119 per term. On subsidy side, we have had just over 300 applications. If you apply, you will have \$90 paid which was initial price of allotment per term. Of those 300, nearly 300 are SGPS members. This is doing incredible things for SGPS members and providing financial relief after this contract was cancelled. We will do this for the winter again, depends for the summer. Summer will be different because no AMS, but for the summer it will be almost all SGPS.

On the other hand, important to mention that I had a meeting with the main admin who deal with building of JDUC. As of now, want SGPS message for students as a whole, but as pandemic continues there will be issues with funding and student space. If they start reno on JDUC, we will lose space. For now, the operations are halted until May 2022, preiouvly 2021. There were discussions about how much to charge students; once those convos get more underway, we will have messaging for students and I will keep you appraised. Those are the op-ed news that I had; I appreciate you taking my report verbally today.

Question in chat: Where can application be found for subsidy?

Justine: Via email and via our website. It will be shared in the same way in the winter.

No questions.

- b. VP Graduate – Courtney Bannerman (report attached)

Courtney

Hey everyone, big thing in admin is COVID-19 protocol. Many <of you are> aware that in March research shut down for public health safety, lot of work put into place for new protocols for new wave of COVID. Pleased to say that shutdown won't be in the same way, not as dramatic. So, for example, human research probably first to shut down, people working in large groups, etc. Another thing: SGS and SGPS working on contract for new grad students entering Queen's who would sign the contract with their



Agenda

November 10th, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

supervisor. Outlines expectations for grad students and for supervisors so that all are on the same page. Third and final, took on a few new volunteers at graduate peer support centre. Still active, uptick in people accessing the service. The GPSC will be open over the winter break if someone needs people to listen to their concerns, etc. I'm happy to take any questions.

Q in chat: For contract, will co-supervisors also be involved in signing contract?

A: Yes, all co-supervisors will be on. Committee members won't but anyone in a direct role would have to sign.

Q: Is there any sort of renewal each year?

A: Something that is signed for duration of grad student time. If situation where you are part time, contract would be altered at that time.

Q: Ongoing students have to sign?

A: Not entirely sure. Probably situation where it would be encouraged. Will say that this is probably not something that SGS will mandate this to be signed. This is becoming common practice in the university community. SGS will not make it a mandatory requirement in order to take on students, but will be something that is pushed onto the supervisors as something that is beneficial to all.

No questions.

c. VP Professional – John Jeyarantnam (report attached)

John

Submitted written report a bit late. Anthony and I very busy, filling vacant positions for social commissioner. Want to thank Anthony for all of his hard work towards that; need to interview very qualified and suitable candidates. Decided to go with Len and Rohit. Distinguished by passion for SGPS but also their depth of knowledge of the SGPS that can help them hit the ground running. Also in discussions about some admin issues and a new position as HR in the SGPS. Nothing concrete, but contemplating making institution a bit stronger to facilitate transition a bit easier and allows SGPS to continue on a bit stronger. If you have any questions read my report or let me know.

No questions.

d. VP Finance & Services – Tamara Mitterer (no report)

Tamara

First, SGPS bursaries were down but are now open along with the bursary guide. Both are available online. Also, the fees; hoping to have those distributed by the end of October; received money from Queen's and ready to distribute that money, just waiting on banking information from some people.



Agenda

November 10th, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

Also email sent requiring depts to sign declaration letter to make sure that fees are being used for what they are said they are being used for. Also looking into second letter in regards to possible rebates.

No questions.

- e. VP Community – Anthony Lomax (report attached)

Anthony

Hi, can you hear me? Not in usual spot. So it has been per John pretty busy. In written report I also thank join for helping with hiring commissioners. Really good, strong pool of candidates. Really thankful for Kell who is coming in, has worked front desk for SGPS before, experience planning events, other valuable experience. And Rohit; I'm impressed with her knowledge of international issues that we have brought up. She has great connections to international groups on campus and has already expanded FB group to additional 50 people. Welcome them and please also give them time; I'm meeting with them about plans for events next week. Also student engagement survey about events, asking availability, what kinds of events are of interest. We have 46 responses so far, which is great. There are prizes available, including tickets to Screening Room. Please share it around because the more responses we get the better we are able to help people. Excited to help Courtney and Kaitlin with hiring SGPS volunteers this weekend. Also want to let everyone know that exec has approved position, with description and call out now, for a conference coordinator for this year. Offer someone to take on SGPS beyond boundaries confere,ce. We have \$2850 in conference sponsorship. I have been doing sponsor coordination; we have 14 sponsored panels. If you know anyone or are interested go to sgps.ca/jobs. Also communicate with people in your units. I think those are the big points, everything else in my written report.

Speaker: thanks for organizing Anthony. Those are good skills for academia. Any questions?

No questions.

B. Speaker Report

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

Mary Rita Holland

Some work happening with B&P review work. One aspect is elections policy happening soon, so my thanks to the members of that committee who are helping with that as we keep historical accuracy



Agenda

November 10th, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

while adapting to new situation being not on campus. Also note that Fall AGM is on November 24th. I think call went out today if you have anything that you want to discuss; essentially, get in touch with me and I will put you in touch on how to put forward what you want to bring forward. There are some policies, but just put it forward to me and we will go from there. There is a deadline, I don't recall when, email went out today about it. I think that's all, just see if anyone has anything they want to bring up on those items. Bear with me as this is my first fall AGM so hopefully all goes smoothly.

No questions.

C. Approval

MOTION 11/10/20:03

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Anthony Lomax moves, Courtney Bannerman seconds.

No dissenting, passes unanimously.



V.

Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports

A. Senator Report – Graduate Student Senator – Courtney Bannerman (oral report)

Courtney

Hi everyone, again. Senate was uneventful in terms of grad students. Not much to report, two big things. Discussion to merge two academic senate committees bc there is a lot of redundancy. Those committees don't have enough to fill their agendas so there is a motion to merge. Other thing is Conversations document with Principal which is his take on Queen's since he occupied his role. One thing for him to observe the things he sees at Queen's, another thing to take action. That's all that happened; happy to take any questions.

No questions.

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

C. Commissioner Reports

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

Madison



Agenda

November 10th, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

Promotional not in report. From survey Anthony mentioned, got feedback on wants and needs for fitness classes like yoga. Want to note ARC website; they host in-person but also virtual classes where you can keep camera off and join on anything from yoga to higher intensity workouts. Also keep an eye on SGPS website for events; cooks with grandmas next week. Grandma Hellen will walk us through tofu or chicken and apple chunks for dessert.

No questions.

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

Fikir

Apologies, many sirens in the back. Extensive report, want to highlight meeting with coordinator of Yellow house. Important for grad students to have a space to hang out but also for organizing and working. Also, as part of work on educational equity committee; raised points that a lot of efforts on community and community engagement, and what that means for communities that are often excluded. Also, internationalization, which is a priority but stands in contrast to things that have been done which inhibit current international students. Also, a letter sent to SGPS executives; working on soft infrastructure network, looking to create EDII representative and International Graduate Student Rep which will serve their communities but will also have space to sit on committees. We are trying to bring together from different departments to make sure that everyone is heard; you should find this in your reports documents, you should bring it to your departments to ratify these in your societies. Happy to take questions about this.

No questions.

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

Paige

I don't have anything to report outside of written report but happy to take any questions in regards to the written report.

No questions.

- d. International Students Affairs Commissioner –
- e. Social Commissioner –

D. Committee Reports

E. Department Reports



Agenda

November 10th, 2020 - 5:30pm
Zoom

F. Other Reports

- a. University Rector – Sam Hiemstra (report attached)

Thank you, Mary Rita, apologies for no formal report. First, new grant called equity partnership grant to put 20% of my operating budget to help BIPOC communities. That is now launched and connecting my office with research doing anti-discrimination work. If you have questions, send it to website. Also, the Agnes Benedictson Tricolour award; Justine has agreed to sit on the committee on behalf of SGPS. Named after Agnes Benedictson, awarded to students who contribute to extra curriculars except for sport. The highest award that a student can be given and will be decided later.

Q in chat: Can you share the website?

A: Yes, I will share that in there.

- b. Chief Returning Officer – Benjamin Mercado-Cruz

Not present.

- c. Supervisor – position vacant (no report)

G. Approval

MOTION 11/10/20:04

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

Nicholas moves, Philip Simpson seconds.

Anthony: Rohit wants to promote something quickly.

Rohit: I am new international commissioner and pursuing PhD. Just spread word about international student check-in; we have posted on our website, it will also be on November 13th.

This gives a space to connect with other international students and gives opportunity for me to know them. Also, international research event; it was a huge success last year, I would ask everyone to spread the word. If doing international research, reach out to me. We will likely host in the Winter, so this is great for you to reach out. I have also been active on the FB page and added 50 members; it would be great to spread the word so that we can get more there.

Q in chat: What is FB page name?

Rohit: I'll add it into the chat box.

Call vote to approve motion on reports.

No dissenting, passes unanimously.



Question Period and Departmental Issues



Agenda

November 10th, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

Speaker: Anyone have anything we need to address?

Q in chat (Nicholas): Will there be more opportunities for curbside pickup at the library soon?

Justine: Haven't heard anything, increased capacity of library space. Nicholas do you want to send me an email and I can connect with you there?

Nicholas: Thank you so much.

Q in chat: Any information about TA or RA updates?

Ryan Stack: Not on exec, but I've had discussions with our associate dean and it didn't go anywhere.

When I say that, I mean at Smith. Kept going back and forth via email, because her interpretation of my email was not what would be expected, but she kept reiterating that other schools in Ontario are doing the same thing. She noted that some schools are allowing this to happen, but they aren't our "peers." I was part of an EDII committee, but it has disbanded because we didn't think we had enough resources to be effective.

Courtney Bannerman: Every time I bring it up, the admin tells us that SGPS doesn't deal with employment issues and it's a PSAC issue. I have been in touch with other universities where the issue of folks not being able to TA is a big issue. But I think the bigger issue is that there hasn't been a lot of communication, but it is under Canada Revenue Agency laws about what employment can be given to those outside of the country. Some talk about lobbying to the government, but not much hopeful news on that end.

Speaker: Well we will keep an eye on that to see if there is anything to bring forward on that. Not seeing any other points on that.



VII. Business Arising from the Minutes



VIII. Main Motions & Discussion

Speaker: After you've had a chance to look, please bring forward any questions. We have removed the motion about the elections policy.



VI. Other Business

Q in chat: Discussion about changing the meeting time?

Speaker: <A poll will be sent out.> Since it has been the time over the years and new execs did not know about change of time. Well, we don't have any motions or announcements. Next meeting will be November 24th, with more info ahead of that meeting.



X. Notices of Motion & Announcements



Agenda
November 10th, 2020 - 5:30pm
Zoom



Adjournment

A. Adjournment

MOTION 11/10/20:07

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

Natasha Lomonossoff moves, seconded by Philip Simpson.