



SGPS
Society of Graduate &
Professional Students

Agenda

December 8th, 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.

Expectation is that this will be pretty short, but thanks for attending even though we just had a meeting. I will begin with the land acknowledgement (above).



I. Announcements



II. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Agenda MOTION 12/08/20:01

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the December 8th, 2020 Council Meeting.

Anthony Lomax moves, Carolyn Bonta seconds.

No dissent, passes unanimously.



III. Minutes

A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

MOTION 12/08/20:02

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the November 24th, 2020 Council Meeting.

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



IV. Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Justine Aman (report attached)

Justine



Agenda

December 8th, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

Hello everybody, sorry I'm coming to you from the floor. Not much to update since we have so many meetings in past few months, report touches on 36,000 from bussit that we have been able to give back to students. December 15th the application goes live. Attended Board of Trustees on Saturday, expressed that student govt and leadership working hard to support all and asked the Board of Trustees to think outside of the box and don't just stick to policy to support students. Room to think out of the box, so consult and reach out, if they have questions then take stock of the student leaders for inspiration. As always, if you have any questions feel free to reach out.

No questions.

b. VP Graduate – Courtney Bannerman (oral report)

Courtney

Not too much, mostly what is occupying time is hiring committee for University Librarian. Meetings slow down in December, but on the radar is, if surge of cases when students return, what will happen in terms of research...some talk about how research could shut down if we have an outbreak again, not a hard shutdown but more gradual and slow shutdown. First to be restricted is working with people directly, if more severe then look to shutting down other sources of research, shutting down buildings and limiting office, etc. Brings up tuition and extending funding questions, as before. That said, if you had your funding extended because of COVID, you could extend it past the first semester where you had the first extension of funding, just talk to graduate coordinator in area. Final thing is that in January we will be holding elections, one position of which are the ones that I occupy, if anyone is interested in those then I'm happy to discuss with you.

No questions.

c. VP Professional – John Jeyarantnam (report attached)

John

Nothing different than before because quick turnaround, happy to take questions.

No questions.

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

Tamara



Agenda

December 8th, 2020 - 5:30pm

Zoom

Not a ton to add, written report is not long. Other thing since the report is <I am> sitting on Senate scholarship and student aid committee; can't go into detail because a lot of confidential but some exciting scholarships coming up. And that's it.

Jordan Nensi: For the Faculty of Law, we only got our numbers in week 11/12 timeline. First Q is why the delay when SGPS and university all knew opt out rates in September, but we didn't know until later. Other thing is that the report mentions equal opportunity to rebate fees but we weren't given that until 8 months in, not much opportunity. Third, received money late into the school year; how significant are transfer fees that we were waiting to have for the SGPS that had the funding?

Tamara: First question about timelines and details; unfortunately, several things at play. WE can only have an estimate; faculty of law, enrollment will not move much; VP finance reached out to me early and I gave her an idea of what she could expect. Hard to do that for all programs' some programs have international students and that sort of thing, which makes it difficult to know the numbers. As much as we try to push, a lot of the delays are on the Queen's side of things, and we did try to push. As far as information about rebates to you, I apologize and wish there would have been more time to make a decision. Recognize that a week is not much time, but due to delays because of Queen's and delays in rebates, it's difficult. For instance, we need to have our info in December because for example OSAP, Queen's has a duty to say how much students will pay, pass the information along to the govt for calculating of student fees.

Jordan: I appreciate that, Tamara. Main concern is the lack of pushing Stewart and his team at the registrars office; I've heard the reasons from him, but everyone should have known that and should have been able to do those refunds. In addition, we knew at the end of September what the opt out numbers were.

Tamara: We didn't know.

Jordan: You didn't know until week 12?

Tamara: Yeah, not until October or November. As far as timeline... when we had discussions with Queen's, we weren't expecting them to have to make a decision until January so there was a lot of pushback from Queen's.

Jordan: I appreciate the feedback, thanks.

Tamara: Yeah, if you have any further questions, feel free to email.



Agenda
December 8th, 2020 - 5:30pm
Zoom

No questions.

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

Anthony

Hi everybody, happy December. Close to finishing the semester, exciting but pressing deadlines I'm sure. Wanted to talk about few things continuing to work on, in the hopes that if you want to share ideas I'm happy to hear from you. First, trying to do a bit of making changes to the awards that the SGPS gives out. Traditionally 4 awards: TA, student leadership, faculty, and staff. Last year, Claudia started two awards for international students that were really successful. Rohit will likely talk about how we're continuing with those awards, but based on that and ways of thinking I have, considering a model for how the University might do things differently in the future with regards to awards. Considering putting student mentorship award on the roster, and hoping to add money to these awards. Also the pickerty report to see if any requests, focuses on anti-racist work, had requested that we offer awards to groups of students who are marginalized in different ways, working on that as well. If you have any ideas or input around awards, I would love to hear from you. Conference coming in March; Nick has started and transitioned well into the role, meeting on Thursday. Now have \$2100 in sponsorship, 2850 promised so followed up with those donors. Really appreciate if you would advertise in newsletters, to faculty and depts newsletters. Put the conference webpage in the chat, please check that out and the call for presenters. New format that we use, not traditional but exciting format. Other thing is work on advocacy webpage (sgps.ca/sbbc), specifically put up a list of reports on anti-racism statements and reports from the past. Mentioned before, talking with archives, to let us know about prior archives that they can let us know about. Also, compiling list of research done by graduate and professional students on anti-racism or racism generally, at Queen's. compiling resources that way as well; if you're aware of any research on that which is done by peers, faculty, etc. let me know. Also met with folks from engineering, I think Rawan is here who is a rep. Appreciated the meeting, brought to me the idea of event planning and what's working and not working during COVID so that SGPS can work with department councils about what worked and didn't work. Going to work, over the break, on team support and regular meeting to discuss along those lines. I'm sure commissioners know it's difficult and a challenge; something to look forward to in the near future. Want to celebrate University decision to overturn their prior decision on remote TA and TF work; really encouraged that they will allow students to do that work from outside of Canada. I will be doing art kits for Kel tomorrow, but that's related to events that Kel can talk about. Do take a look at our website and social media for lots of great opportunities.

No questions.



Agenda

December 8th, 2020 - 5:30pm
Zoom

B. Speaker Report

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

Mary Rita Holland

Not much since last meeting, just a bit of work on updating by-law and policy.

No questions.

C. Approval

MOTION 12/08/20:03

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Chloe Robinson moves, Yaara seconds.

No dissenting, passes unanimously.



V. Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports

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

Courtney

Very short report, happened on the first. Discussion of Principals report on discussions and his thoughts since being at Queen's for the first year. It's a document that will outline his strategic plans for the coming years. Some of the pieces we talked about are the language in the document, some thought language should be stronger, also how things that he outlined and whether they will be fixed and how. He was tasked by members of Senate to speak to his action items, mostly referred to it as long term thing that will take years to be fixed. But yeah, go give the document a read and if you have any questions please ask.

No questions.

Speaker: My suggestion is that if the commissioners have anything to add or if there are any questions, we just do that, since there was such a short time for the reports. With the commissioner reports they are in writing format, no other reports for this item, which brings us to the end of that item.

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



Agenda

December 8th, 2020 - 5:30pm
Zoom

C. Commissioner Reports

- a. Athletics & Wellness Commissioner – Madison Danford (report attached)
- b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Fikir Haile (report attached)
- c. Indigenous Graduate Liason – Paige Van Tassel (report attached)
- d. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Rohit Shukla (report attached)
- e. Social Commissioner – Kel Martin (report attached)

D. Committee Reports

E. Department Reports

F. Other Reports

- a. University Rector – Sam Hiemstra (no report)
- b. Chief Returning Officer – Benjamin Mercado-Cruz (no report)
- c. Supervisor – position vacant (no report)

G. Approval

MOTION 12/08/20:04

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

Anthony moves, Yaara seconds.
No dissenting, passes unanimously.

Kel notes after the fact that there was some information that they would like to include.

Kel: December 11th <there is a> show and tell to co-host with Kel and share interesting skills they have about health plant and on the 18th there is holiday crafting; the window to get a free kit has closed, but you can still join and are welcome to join.



Question Period and Departmental Issues



Business Arising from the Minutes

A. SGPS Council Meeting time poll results discussion

Devin Fowlie

I went ahead and distributed a poll for the meeting times and the majority of people (16) preferred 5:30pm, with the next closest option of 6:30pm (14). Given that most people voted to maintain the original meeting time, we will keep that going forward.



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Agenda

December 8th, 2020 - 5:30pm
Zoom



VIII. Main Motions & Discussion

A. Approval MOTION 12/08/20:05

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Draft Election Dates Schedule

Important Dates	Purpose	Notes
January 16 th , 2021 @ 12:01 AM	Nomination Period Opens	Nomination packages available at [Qualtrics link]
January 26 th , 2021 @ 11:59 PM	Nomination Period Closes	
January 27 th , 2021 @ TBA	SGPS Council Nomination Ratification	TBA
January 27 th , 2021 @ TBA	All Candidates Meeting	Zoom
January 28 th , 2021 @ 12:01 AM	Campaign Period Begins	
February 3 rd , 2021 @ TBA	All Candidates Debate	Zoom
February 8 th , 2021 @ 11:59 PM	Campaign Period Ends	
February 9 th , 2021 @ 12:01 AM	Voting Days	
February 10 th , 2021 @ 8:00 PM		
February 10 th , 2021 @ 9:00 PM (approx.)	Announcement / Notification	Via Phone and Email
February 15 th , 2021 @ 4:00 PM	Campaign Expenses Due	Via email to director@sgps.ca

Summary

Election period length is increased from 23 to 25 days. Voting Days to be held after January to align with AMS voting period and in consideration of COVID-19 disruptions.

Benjamin Mercado-Cruz

Two main things changed are election period for more time, changed from 18th to 16th, second part to align with AMS who set voting period back in September and were inflexible. We decided to follow their lead and put the election past February, which may affect the ability for some depts to send candidates due to the time. Curious to see if any questions surrounding that.

Speaker: Anything to add here? Seeing none. Can I have a mover?

Yaara moves, Ross Denny-Jiles seconds.

No dissenting, passes unanimously.



Agenda
December 8th, 2020 - 5:30pm
Zoom



Other Business



Speaker: I was contacted to see if by CFRC to see if they could attend our meetings for the purpose of covering them. Not sure what the coverage would look like, but they cover AMS. Since it just came last week, I thought I would bring it to Council. We don't need a formal motion, but this is just an opportunity for folks to voice their opinions on this. Seems like a good thing, but others can speak. Institutional memory?

Andria: Happened in the past. Not sure how comfortable people are with the rules of council, but if there is ever anything sensitive that comes up or that shouldn't be dispersed to the public, we can hold off-camera sessions.

Speaker: When the agenda is made, yes, and there is deemed information that is confidential then we could have a separate meeting with separate set of minutes for the meeting that is in-camera. So that is the process and we have the ability to do that. So my intention is to allow them to attend, but I don't feel that we need to have a motion and, since it can be changed at any time we can change it back without a motion. If anyone has anything to bring up on that issue, just let me know.

Notices of Motion & Announcements



Adjournment

A. Adjournment

MOTION 12/08/20:07

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

Courtney Bannerman moves, seconded by Yaara. No dissenting, passes unanimously.