



Agenda
January 12th, 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 01/12/21:01

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the January 12th, 2020 Council Meeting.

Hussain Raza moves, Carolyn Bonta seconds.

Roozman has a question about NSERC scholarships

Is that something that should be discussed at this meeting or is that something that should go somewhere else?

Speaker: Yes, executive can speak to that in their reports.

Roozman: Thank you.

No dissent, passes unanimously.



III. Minutes

A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

MOTION 01/12/21:02

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

Hussain Raza moves, Courtney Bannerman seconds. No dissent, passes unanimously.



IV. Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Justine Aman (report attached)

Justine



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Hello everybody, welcome back welcome to 2021 very exciting. I put in a report if you want to take a look. All the meetings started this week so some things not in report. First thing is that we're going into additional lockdown on Thursday, confirmed with provost and dean of research that research student lockdown won't happen like it happened last year. Last year there was a blanket closure for everyone, didn't make sense because labs needed discretion. A note will come out tomorrow from senior leadership, but won't force anyone to do anything, but will come from the bottom up this time. Keep an eye out and if you have anyone coming with concerns, they have to check in with their lab supervisors. Another thing that's half exciting, half unfortunate. Expecting 150 international students to arrive, we have about half, but on the good side there is a dedicated Pearson airport to Kingston dedicated shuttle directly to their quarantining spots. They've also extended bursary regarding financial support since it's a large financial undertaking to prove and have all of the paperwork ready. If anyone has intl students who run into barriers and you have concerns, send them to me, or our intl commissioner might be a great resource or Sandra Denaughter, they would be a good contact. For courses, we're doing a hybrid model so if we don't require in-person, but some like nursing mandate in-person labs. For those that were hybrid, they will be online only until after the reading week. If there were any courses impacted, you should have been contacted by your dept. also an additional testing unit in Mitchell Hall, opening during the days now instead of the evenings. They will be switching to asymptomatic testing, but right now they are still following guidelines per the Ontario government. Sorry, I feel like I'm throwing so many things at you but so many meetings. Another thing: possibly, guardedly, we might be getting another refund for ARC fees but they've been resistant. Student affairs and the ARC are talking about what refunds they can offer since the gyms are closed. As of right now, not much coming down the pipeline, but Queen's is looking into a vaccine policy regarding the rules, expectations, etc. This was in my report, but if you have questions about joining the executive, I would love to talk to you about it.

No questions.

b. VP Graduate – Courtney Bannerman (report attached)

Courtney

Hi everyone, my report was short because not much was happening when I wrote it. Had meetings this week. Sitting on working fgroup about doctoral defenses, hoping to clear up some of the policies so students know who should attend their defense and put into policy what happens for a remote defense. I recently got questions about cost of parking at John Ore tower and why students paid for parking there but not at Craken (?). They didn't seem to know that students were paying for parking at John Ore



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tower, so that should change. The NSERC Masters scholarship is set by the Canadian govt, so Queen's doesn't have the ability to control how much money is given out. I do sit on a lobbying group, though, of students from all across Canada so we could talk about why the amount of money hasn't changed in the past...almost 2 decades.

No questions.

- c. VP Professional – John Jeyarantnam (report attached)

John

Audio issues so can't talk, questions in the chat.

No questions.

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

Tamara

I'll go over the highlights of the report. Bursary applications opened Jan 4, so up and running now. Talked fee rebates last year. As far as SGPS goes, in budget meeting, we are doing a fee rebate ourselves; this will be a \$25 rebate on students' medical and dental fees. Other things in the next few weeks is reinvestment of investments. Currently we have \$1.1 million that will likely be put into GIC or T bills, and the bulk will be put into longer term investments. In the coming weeks, will also be looking at all of the financial reports I've gotten.

No questions.

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

Anthony

Hi everybody, sorry I didn't submit a report. MY comp was at school at the SGPS offices and partner was resident in COVID ward so I've been too scared to go in and get it. But a few things to update on: Conference. For those who don't know: SGPS scholarships beyond boundaries conference on Jan 21st, developed with Claudia and a few others. Panels are interdisciplinary and are sponsored by organizations at Queen's and in the Kingston region. We have secured panel with 5 deans from faculty of arts and science, theoretical chemistry prof, dean of medical school, some others. Might have missed some, but we do have 5 deans coming and will be asking them about the pandemic we're in. Good opportunity to learn and ask questions from prominent admin. Also secured some funding, presenting at



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next meeting. Still accepting applications on a rolling basis, so if you're looking for anyone who is looking for opportunity to present work, I will put info in the chat (sgps.ca/sbbc). Other thing is revamping awards program: Currently, staff member, student member, TA, fellow. This year, I want to offer more awards for students, since we work for students, and want to attach money to those awards. Want to acknowledge those that we don't often appreciate or miss, especially through decolonial lens. If anyone has suggestions, would love to hear from you, or if there's anything you think would be useful. Lastly, related to NSERC kind of, I will attend Canadian Federation of Students who has a lobby week coming up Feb 16-19, and I will be representing us there. Exciting because we can meet members of parliament and bring student issues to them. So...if you have any issues that you want to bring to the govt, please tell me. So, if you want them to increase amounts of tricouncil awards due to the pandemic, forward me emails, send me those requests. Some things asked in the past: equitable access to education. If you want to talk to your dept, please do give me those requests. I will put my email in the chat, and I'm excited to hear from you guys.

Q in chat (Polina): When do you want those requests?

A: As soon as you can, probably a week before, but if you can't get it by the day of it's worth getting in touch with me and I'll still bring it.

No questions.

B. Speaker Report

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

Mary Rita Holland

Tamara and Justine mentioned elections, but important from our last meeting where we reviewed the dates and timeline. Just a reminder that all 5 exec positions are available, so please do share widely. I realized at the last minute that I didn't but the CRO on the agenda, because the role was finished last year. If you have anything to add, Ben, I will call on you to add. I did want to thank those who helped out with the election process, including Justine, and thanks a lot to all of you and Devin.

Tamara

If anyone has questions about anything or is considering running, please feel free to reach out with any of those questions.

Speaker



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Yes, seeing lots on social media about posts that executive have made and hoping to get lots of engagement in the SGPS so please put that out there for anyone who wants to make their name known. Also the by-law and policy...my hope is that this is in the best shape possible for the next group of exec and speaker/deputy speakers who are coming in next year. That is my report...does anyone have any questions.

No questions.

C. Approval

MOTION 01/12/21:03

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Ross Denny-Jiles moves, Hussain Raza seconds.

No dissenting, passes unanimously.



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

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

Courtney

The Senate hasn't happened, it will be on the 26th. But Senate subcommittee applications have gone out, so if there is anything that depts want discussed, for example library goes to library subcommittee. You don't have to be a student senator to sit on those subcommittees, but I'll leave the link in the chat. If you google "Queen's governance portal" there is a list. There is a subcommittee for basically anything, so if you are interested I encourage you to get involved. Also...the senator position will be opening up, as well as others. I remember it was a very daunting thing to run for exec, but it really is not. I would be happy to answer any questions.

No questions.

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

C. Commissioner Reports

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

Nothing else to add, but cooking with Grandmas on January 20th and we will be making Grandma Helens shephard pie and that's everything.



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No questions.

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

Hi everybody, welcome back, we will have meetings coming up this week and into next week. Reminder about the EDII graduate student positions that we encouraged all depts to make, so if you have any questions you are encouraged to ask about that and I would be happy to help.

No questions.

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

Hello everyone. I don't have anything else to add, but as always if you questions or thoughts or concerns please feel free to email me.

No questions.

- d. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Rohit Shukla (report attached)

Hi everyone, I have tried to add all the things I have in my report, it's pretty comprehensive. I am always available, so if you have any questions I'm always available and you can email me.

No questions.

- e. Social Commissioner – Kel Martin (report attached)

Hello folks, two events: Soap felting, where you sign up for an art kit and learn how to felt soap. Also loom beading and a show and tell coming up, which is an opportunity that has a mixed focus on learning and sharing and socializing. IF you're interested in facilitating one of these events, please feel free to email and I'll be putting the link to these events in the chat

https://www.facebook.com/events/2836497443263928?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D%7D

https://www.facebook.com/events/2826031734342232?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22mechanism%22%3A%22search_results%22%2C%22surface%22%3A%22search%22%7D%7D

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)

Noticed my name was wrong a few meetings ago, but didn't want to make a fuss about it. I've been in contact about PSAs and have neglected producing those, but that should be done this week. The other thing is the nomination process, which



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will be virtual, but is still encouraging all to reach out to the membership at large. Even though it's virtual, we want all to reach out to others if possible. I have ambitious turnout of 28%, but I don't think there are too many other levers that we can pull but I'm hoping for as much engagement as possible.

No questions.

c. Supervisor – position vacant (no report)

G. Approval

MOTION 01/12/21:04

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

Elise Visentin moves, William Khoury seconds.
No dissenting, passes unanimously.



VI. Question Period and Departmental Issues

Question from Norris Roozmon:

Justine mentioned that it won't be like the first time with lockdown, asking on behalf of biology graduate students since they have to go into the labs. Who should they be bringing questions up to because I assume that it will be an issue.

Justine Aman:

I don't have emails because everyone's lab supervisor will be different, but encourage them to reach out to their supervisor. They didn't want one level making decisions on behalf of all labs. I won't suggest emailing higher-ups, but they should get into contact with whoever the person is that mostly handles the lab work. Of course, this won't handle everyone but tell them to contact me and I will tell them who to reach out to and they might just miss a step if someone is missing information. It will likely impact more than one student, if that's the case, so please reach out to me any time.

Roozmon:

Awesome, thank you.



VII. Business Arising from the Minutes



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VIII. Main Motions & Discussion



VI. Other Business



X. Notices of Motion & Announcements



XI. Adjournment

A. Adjournment

MOTION 01/12/21:07

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

Hussain Raza moves, seconded by Ryan Stack. No dissenting, passes unanimously.