



Agenda
April 13th, 2021 - 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.



I. Announcements

Speaker: Survey link that went out in first email with agenda package, it is a wellness survey. Take a look. I know it seems like we're being surveyed endlessly but it's an important initiative so encourage taking a look.



II. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Agenda MOTION 04/13/21:01

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the April 13th, 2021 Council Meeting.

Justine Aman moves, Sandra Smeltzer seconds.

No dissent, passes unanimously.



III. Minutes

A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

MOTION 04/13/21:02

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the March 9th, 2021 Council Meeting.

Attempted to have spring AGM but did not have quorum so went ahead informally, thus no minutes if you're wondering.

Kel Martin moves, Delaney Ryan seconds.

No dissent, passes unanimously.



IV. Executive & Speaker Reports



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A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Justine Aman (report attached)

Justine

Hello, sorry about that. I hope you're doing well, just got out of Senate meeting. Hope everyone's time...trying to get document open...okay. Sorry we didn't reach quorum last month, glad we did this month. Only thing not in report: Executive working to hire employment law firm to ensure that contracts for commissioners, other employees are robust. Also working on bylaw and policy revamp. Lot of teams have made small, relevant changes over time so choppy and inconsistent. I think a really important step to protect us to make sure we have a firm that we trust, committed to working with non-profit student organization (training, contracts, having support from HR front).

No questions.

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

Courtney

Hello everyone! Like Justine mentioned just finished Senate. One thing to highlight: GPSC hiring next coordinator for the centre, blessed to have Catelynn Stone so we are hiring a new coordinator. Posted on website under 'Jobs' tab, paid position of \$500/month so if you have any friends or classmates interested in mental health encourage them to apply.

No questions.

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

I will be brief because most stated by Justine. Exec working to make sure we're all protected, required interviews and being on board to give us coverage we need, including training, contracts, etc. Not much more to say about that. Take moment to thank Justine, very instrumental in bringing this to fruition. I'm not returning, as much as I'd like to, but will be replaced by Jennifer who I've been working closely with. She will hit the ground running, which is good for everyone. That's it for me, this will be my last time here, enjoyed my time and enjoyed initiatives I could establish, etc.

No questions.

- d. VP Finance and Services – Tamara Mitterer (report attached)
Not in attendance.



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e. VP Community – Anthony Lomax (oral report)

Hello. Hi everyone, hope you're doing okay, been a week of things so hope you're doing alright. I will touch on few things: Lead now campaign for extended funding is going on (548ish signatures). QFA signed onto the campaign, which is great support, and reaching out to AMS for support. Commissioner hiring will be happening next week, very excited so many applications from so many people, made me very excited, happening next week (taking over May 1). Brief thank you to commissioner team whether working in committee, groups, etc. So much work to shout out but thanks to all of you for your work...can be thankless work but it has been a pleasure working with all of you. Rohit might not be here but will be coming in as VPG next year so lots of time. Also earlier this afternoon, letter sent to me by Canadian Federation of Students in support of Laurentian University. Most probably aware, but if you're not then I encourage you to look into it. Letter asks to put a stop to the process that has been forced on the University, the process is usually used for private corporations, so stopping that and proposed program cuts, guaranteeing that students will be able to complete their degrees, and stopping faculty cuts. Also addresses that since Laurentian is big for indigenous and francophone it's important. Since we just got it this afternoon it will be discussed at exec meeting tomorrow but wanted to bring it up here in case anyone has thoughts. Please email me if you have thoughts.

No questions.

B. Speaker Report

a. Speaker – Mary Rita Holland (oral report)

Mary Rita Holland

This will be my final meeting, moving on from speaker and hopefully Queen's with defense date in June. Sad that time with SGPS was brief, but nonetheless it was great. Haven't met anyone in person, but enjoyed getting to know you and getting to work with you. On that note, to wrap up, Justine mentioned one responsibility of speaker is to chair bylaw and policy committee so we have input that I need to finalize and make sure it is ready to go for next speaker and next committee. Thanks to members of committee who were supportive of that work. Finally mention thank you to all of executive who do amazing work, including Andria formally for her consistent quality work in challenging circumstances, with outgoing executive there was a major part everyone played in that. Even though participation was during this period, it was incredible to see the work that happens behind the scenes. Hope that this and future councils continue to support that amazing advocacy work. Incoming speaker will be deputy



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speaker Devin Fowlie, so we will be in touch and used to working together so transition will be relatively smooth.

No questions.

C. Approval

MOTION 04/13/21:03

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Sandra Smeltzer moves, Carolyn Bonta seconds.
No dissent, passes unanimously.



V.

Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports

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

Courtney

OK so the informants targets have been set there's been no create significant changes for a woman targets Brad and professional programs there was however a very large increase the undergraduate person program but their numbers jumping from 99 students to 100 forward students. The required few senators who were not pleased with this choice because it could be hard to accommodate this increase in students yeah yeah. Queens also give it a budget update there expecting an increase in revenue for the 2021-2022 year . Normally they see a 4% increase but this year it is slightly smaller . 1.4 million is going to ITN infrastructure renewal and they're looking at increased software licensing for research purposes . Yeah there have been two temporary suspensions in the moment in graduate programs the first one being the graduate program in legal services and management and ADMI in the Masters of engineering. This is because they want seem going over hitters so they are going to leave at the program in the back into a form that students hopefully want to take. I am very pleased to announce that Emil be then we graduate student senator I know he will be amazing . Happy to take any questions yeah

No questions.

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

C. Commissioner Reports

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

Madison



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I don't have anything tonight and just echoing some of my help bullet colleagues have had the opportunity to plan and work on some really great events this year fostered a great community within those events So this is a really great year and thank you so much for the opportunity that will be all about have a great summer

No questions.

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

Fikir

I don't have anything further to add but want to echo what others have said, wish everyone good health and stay safe and well as we see the light at the end of the tunnel.

No questions.

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

Paige

Thank you everyone, want to echo this is my last council and grateful and thankful for experiences gained and looking forward to transitioning new liaison.

No questions.

- d. International Students Affairs Commissioner – Kel Martin (report attached)

Kel

Two upcoming events: Thursday show and tell gardens, talking about how to set up first garden and show and tell where you can show off your garden or plants. We will have 3 rounds of bingo with plant themed prizes. Also upcoming water color painting, no free kits but if you have your own or your own project you can join and either paint or join and just hang out. Also my last council as commissioner, want to thank Andria, Justine, and exec for their amazing support. Look forward to seeing everyone at these last two events, know incoming social commissioner will be amazing.

No questions.



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e. Social Commissioner – Rohit Shukla (oral report)

Rohit

Queen's has offered international travel bursary for travel from TO to Queen's or hotel quarantine, you can reach out to the relevant person (isa@queensu.ca). Apologies for delay in scholarship, but it will be available later on in April or in May, delayed due to by-elections. Anyone who wants to apply, it will be available soon. Also want to thank colleagues for the great work that we had this year. This is my last meeting as international commissioner, but hopefully you will see me again.

No questions.

D. Committee Reports

E. Department Reports

F. Other Reports

G. Approval

MOTION 04/13/21:04

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

Kel Martin moves, Ryan Stack seconds.

No dissent, passes unanimously.



VI. Question Period and Departmental Issues



VII. Business Arising from the Minutes



VIII. Main Motions & Discussion

A. Election Results Ratification – Referendum

MOTION 04/13/21:05

Speaker: Did not have quorum at AGM so we need to vote to approve the referendum results.

OPIRG – Ross Denny-Jiles moves, Ryan Stack seconds. No dissent, passes unanimously.

B. Election Results Ratification – Executive

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



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C. Selection of Deputy Speaker

Speaker: As was mentioned, Devin will be taking on the role of speaker which I will need to include. Should be motion, but we will get to that soon. We have 4 candidates for deputy speaker and will have no more than 3 minutes to tell who they are, their background, why they would be good for the position. I will give 30 second warning.

Adaku Echendu

First year PhD student in environmental studies, looked for opportunity to be engaged, I am very passionate and dedicated and put in my best. There are no shortcuts, good team player, importance of working together for a common good. I would be very happy to join the team if you deem me fit.

Brandon Becher Nienhaus

Hello, 3rd year PhD student in chemistry dept. Interested in getting involved in SGPS, thought I might be a good fit for deputy speaker as I have experience on chemistry graduate society where we have similar kinds of meetings.

Martina Pelohemo

2nd year PhD student, hopefully candidate, doing indigenous community research in geography, very mixed background. Prior to PhD I was a community mediator, so have lots of communication skills, also involved in various roles in geography student union and PSAC so would love to know more and would love to be involved.

Sindia

I am currently 1st year law student, serve as deputy speaker on law student society and have tremendous experience in this role, transitioned into this role in December. I know how it is to get to learn. Others have described me as a great asset to the law society, always make sure that minutes are submitted within half an hour of meetings so I am quick, and look forward to taking this over if voted. I would love to be a part of the great work that the SGPS is doing with bus subsidies and other emails.

Votes:

Adaku
Brandon
Martina
Sindia – 80%



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Ratification – Motion as included in Agenda, but will add name to it for the minutes. BIRT the SGPS approve the selection of Sindia Vinjayarajan as Deputy Speaker.

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

Speaker: Asking for motion to ratify Devin as speaker, asking someone to bring forward that motion. Justine brings motion: BIRT the SGPS approve the selection of Devin Fowlie as Speaker.

Ryan Stack seconds

No dissent, passes unanimously.



Other Business

Justine

Want to thank everyone: commissioner, speaker, deputy speaker, everyone who attends, coordinators, executive director, finance director, student senator, all who have emailed about issues and big thank you to the executive both incoming and outgoing. I hope this summer is new normal that are more tolerable. On mental health: spike in empowerMe and student wellness services, so want to note that you are not alone. If you need support, please reach out to anyone including me and we will get you the resources that we need. Staying home means more restrictions, but please get outside for fresh air and reach out to peers or me if you need help. Thank you everyone, please enjoy yourselves, and enjoy the summer of hopefully the end of Covid.

Speaker

Thank you for carrying this role and wonderful to see you carry on next year so that people can benefit from your knowledge and experience.



Notices of Motion & Announcements



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Adjournment

A. Adjournment

MOTION 04/13/21:07

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

Sandra Smeltzer moves, Natasha Lomonossoff seconds.
No dissent, passes unanimously.