



Dear Council and Members!

I would first like to begin with notifying you all that Justine Aman has resigned from the position of SGPS President, effective September 30, 2021. I am really thankful to Justine for providing me the smooth transition into this role. Moreover, I am also grateful for all the hard work that Justine has done for the SGPS membership over the past seventeen months. She played an integral role in the organization, and I wish her the best of success in all future endeavors.

Effective October 1, 2021, with a huge sense of responsibility amid school year, I have taken the Office of the President on an interim basis. More information about this process will be made available to the council in the coming weeks. I am really excited and at the same time privileged to serve council as president. I am using the below report to outline some of the work I have carried under this role.

Late/Partially Vaccinated Individuals

Queens has approved partially vaccinated individuals, delayed in receiving their final dose after October 15, to continue to access campus under the enhanced precautions until their vaccination process is complete. The vaccine declaration form can be found here: <https://www.queensu.ca/safereturn/vaccination> Information surrounding accommodations from the mandatory vaccination protocol can be found here <https://www.queensu.ca/safereturn/faq>. The links for further information on accommodations can be found in the FAQ. The completion of the vaccination process would be further tracked by the faculty/school for students and by the supervisor for employees, with assistance from HR as needed.

In-person club events

Return of student in person club events remains of the utmost importance to me and I will be continuing the conversation on this. The possibility of in person events for the remainder of the academic year are still being negotiated with upper-level admin. As of now All in-person student led events are required to be reviewed and approved through the [Co-Curricular Restart Advisory Group \(CRAG\)](#).

Bus Subsidy

The bus-it subsidy is closed now! I am happy to share that we received 700 applications for the subsidy. We are in the process of processing the applications and soon the amount would reflect on your solus. I am also going to be in contact with the AMS team who will also be re-initiating discussions surrounding the 'bus-it contract' which are scheduled later this month. It is our hope that we will be able to renegotiate with the City of Kingston to restart the program, allowing us to provide accessible and affordable bus access to all graduate and professional student

In Person Thesis Defence Examinations

The SGS has established a cross campus protocol for in person thesis defense. Please visit the School of Graduate Studies site to review the [SGS Memo dated October 7th, 2021](#) regarding in-person on-campus thesis defence examinations. The site also has guidance on [remote thesis examinations](#).

Homecoming

I would also like to inform the council that "Homecoming" parties are expected to occur on the weekends of October 15 and October 22 which may involve mass gatherings in the University district. Campus Security will be fully staffed and the Kingston Police and OPP will be present along. Concerns are necessarily focused on Queen's students but more around the large numbers of individuals who come from schools and communities outside of Kingston just to party for Homecoming.

As president I sit on a number of committees and working groups consisting of covid and non-covid agendas. I am not providing their descriptions here but if you would like more information, please reach out to me and I would be happy to share the further information. Also, if you have any concerns/issues you would like me to discuss at upper-level admin, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

I am always open to any comments, questions, or suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at president@sgps.ca

Best
Rohit Shukla



Hello everyone,

I hope that everyone had a wonderful start to the fall term and that you all are settled in for this school year.

I wanted to first introduce and welcome the 2021-2022 Deputy Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, Keira Frosst. Keira has some amazing ideas, and I am very excited to work with her and see what we can accomplish together.

I want to thank everyone who came out to our Orientation events over the month of September. We hosted several successful events and look forward to continuing to connect with students over the course of the year. Below are some of the upcoming initiatives and events I have been working on.

Upcoming Events:

Cooking with Grandma's:

- I am excited to continue the partnership with the Queen's Women's Association here at Queen's through our Cooking with Grandma's event. The next event for this series will be held virtually on Wednesday October 20th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Registration for this event is now open and can be found using the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aPKMM2T7HUi15ZMx4X6StTgtrtjTaNxKgg6Wm6i4kLdUN1daWVZQSTRXWklyMkVOTVVINVVKM09PQy4u>

Food Collective Group:

- I have been sitting on the Food Collective Group as a representative for the SGPS.
- The Queen's University Food Collective is a new initiative which began in 2020 to support the implementation of recommendations from the Queen's University Food Insecurity Report, published in 2019.
- Some of the recommendations from this report include:
 - o Supporting a student food insecurity committee
 - o Creating centralized databank of available resources and programs leading to an enhanced communication strategy
 - o Supporting programs that provide students with opportunity to prepare healthy, affordable meals
 - o Advocating for student food insecurity in all policies and programs
- The FCG sends out a monthly newsletter to promote events and resources around campus to support students and provide information. Please email me (athletics@sgps.ca) if you wish to be added to this newsletter

Non-Traditional Sports Session:

- I am looking to host a non-traditional sports session for the month of November. Please reach out to me if you have any suggestions or recommendations of events that you would be interested in.

I am excited for all the upcoming events and as always, please feel free to contact me (athletics@sgps.ca) with any suggestions, questions, or comments about these or other events.

Sincerely,

Kassandra Coyle
Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, SGPS



Good Evening Council Members,

I hope you are all enjoying the cool fall air and vibrant colours! If you have any questions on any of the materials presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me at equity@sgps.ca.

New Deputy Hire

First, I would like to welcome Jane Mao (they/them) to the Commissioner Team as of this week! Once onboarding is complete Jane and I will work to update the Equity and Diversity Commission year plan.

1. Advocacy

Drafted a public statement in response to the sexual and gender-based violence reported at Western University during orientation week (found [here](#)) and worked on the initial stages of planning for the solidarity with Western University walkout against S&GBV (reported [here](#)).

2. Committee Work

- **BEAG** (Built Environment Advisory Group) – working on the AOAD compliance report and annual accessibility update. Received two grants, 1- to build an accessible ramp on King street W, and 2 – increase campus safety (better lighting, convex corner mirrors, distress buttons in individual bathrooms). Both projects should be done by spring 2022. The Accessibility Café will be some time in early November, we will recruit new membership then.
- **UCARE and sub-councils** – No meetings to report
- **PSAC901 Anti-Oppression Working Group** – Disorientation was a success (reported [here](#)). We are still looking to fill gaps, some marginalized groups are not currently represented, if interested, please contact me at equity@sgps.ca. We intend to release workshops and materials over the course of the academic year aimed at supporting various marginalized groups.
- **BIPOC Supports Working Group** with HREO and AMS – Finalized the design for some materials which will be distributed on campus. This includes pocket sized cards with resources for BIPOCs and allies as well as a poster and pamphlet.
- **Student Mental Health Network** – Discussed and brainstormed ideas and goals to improve student mental health over this academic year. Also discussed: Mental Health Week which will occur Jan24th-28th 2022 (inspired by Bell Let's Talk), three surveys which will go out to students (dispersed so that no student will receive more than one survey), and Student Wellness Services has created the Student Advisory Committee.

3. Projects: Soft Infrastructure Network

Steadily compiling a list of graduate and professional student EDII representatives from across campus. The first meeting will be some time mid-month.

4. Projects: Resource Vlog

Currently no updates on this project.

Monica Garvie HBSc, MSc

equity@sgps.ca

Equity and Diversity Commissioner

Society of Graduate and Professional Students



Dear Council,

This month I am pleased to welcome our Deputy Indigenous Student Liaison, Duncan Stewart, to the team! I look forward to working together this year for the benefit of Indigenous students within the Queen's and Kingston community. I am also pleased to report that the orientation week events including the Pow Wow Dance Fitness Classes and Beading Skill Share Event were both successful. The fitness class hosted around 5 participants each day where we learned about and practiced jingle dress and fancy shawl dancing styles all while getting our heart rates up! The Beading Skill Share Event created space for 23 registered students to create a keychain using deer hide and to engage in meditation. A much-needed time for relaxation and the arts. Please see below for further updates regarding the committee work and events I have been involved in over the past month.

Committee Work

PSAC901 Anti-Racist/Anti-Oppression Working Group

This month the PSAC901 Anti-Racist/Anti-Oppression hosted our first Disorientation event on September 24th. An article was written by the Queen's Journal about this event and can be found [here](#) if you are interested in reading more!

Student Experiences Survey – Student Advisory Group

The Student Advisory Group met last month to further discuss ways to bring Student Experience Survey results to students for further insights. I have committed to lead a circle with Indigenous students in partnership with Four Directions in the coming months.

UCARE Academic and Curricular Diversity Sub-Council

This month the Academic and Curricular Diversity Sub-Council met to discuss the implementation of Curriculum Diversity Plans across all faculties/schools within the University. I brought forward questions asking who would be reviewing the plans and providing feedback, how would they be evaluated and encouraged that the plans be explicit in not only listing aspirations but strategically outlining who would be doing the proposed work (i.e. staff, faculty & students).

BIPOC Supports Working Group

This month the BIPOC Supports working group touched base to finalize the infographics that will be distributed by the Human Rights and Equity Office across the University. These infographics will serve as excellent resources for students who are experiencing or have experienced discrimination at Queen's AND for students who are witnessing discrimination at Queen's.

Student Events

Indigenous Reads Talking Circle

The Indigenous Reads Talking Circle has returned for bi-weekly virtual circles where participants will read and engage in guided discussions about *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. So far, we have 11 students registered for this circle series and we look forward to our first meeting October 8th 2:30pm – 4:00pm.

Indigenous Writing Group

In partnership with the SAGE/Indigenous Student Advisor at Four Directions, the Indigenous Writing Group has returned for bi-weekly virtual meetings where students can gather to work on their writing. So far, we have 3 students registered for this group and we look forward to our second official meeting taking place October 8th 9:00am – 12:00pm.

If you have any questions or are looking for more information on any of the committee work or upcoming events, please feel free to contact me via email at indigenous@sgps.ca.

Nyawen'kó:wa (Big thanks)!

Brittany McBeath
SGPS Indigenous Student Liaison



Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is doing good and enjoying the start of fall.

First, I want to introduce and welcome the 2021-2022 Social Commissioner Deputy, Derek Zhang. I am very excited to get to work with Derek this year and see some of his great ideas come to fruition.

During September I was busy planning and hosting Orientation together with VP Community, Anthony and Cassandra, the Athletics and Wellness Commissioner. Most events went off without any complications and we had a lot of positive feedback about the events. Due to complications with the location, we ended up having to cancel the in-person movie night and host a virtual games night that evening instead. I want to thank everyone who came and participated in the events or helped out.

Besides the orientation events, I have worked on finalizing my year plan. I hope to incorporate some of Derek's ideas into this year plan and then finalize it. As I mentioned in my September report, I have three main goals which I hope to achieve as a social commissioner: (i) create a space for SGPS members to be creative and learn from each other, (ii) promote environmental sustainability among SGPS members, and (iii) Create an inclusive event community that encourages new people to attend our events.

Two events which I am working on right now which I hope to host in late October/early November are:

- **Dungeons and Dragon night:** Capitalizing on the enthusiasm for our games night during orientation, I am working to host a dungeons and dragon night. This will be the first event in my Events for Everyone series. The hope is that this event will target a new demographic that might not normally attend our events.
- **Eco-workshop #1:** I am also working to host the first workshop in the Eco series. This will most likely be a workshop focused on mending of clothes. More information will be communicated about this event as the details are confirmed.

I am also still looking for people who either have skills in crafts which they would like to share during the Show and Tell series or who have a unique hobby they would like to share in Events for Everyone. If you think you could provide help on either of these, please reach out to me.

I am excited to start implementing my year plan and for this year to come. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions about these or any other future events, please feel free to contact me (social@sgps.ca).

Sincerely,
Emilia Ganslandt
Social Commissioner, SGPS



Hello Council,

I hope everyone is well and enjoying the fall colours.

I have working towards actualizing the actions I have listed in my year plan in the following way:

1. I would like to start by acknowledging the addition of Han Xu, the Deputy Commissioner, as part of the international commissioner team. We have been going through the process of acclimating her to the new role. As part of my portfolio, Han has shown interest in developing the newsletter aimed at showcasing international graduate student's stories and organizing the international graduate student advisory committee.
2. We successfully held the meet and greet event for the Anti-Racism Working Group (PSAC 900). Here is a link to a news done on our group's activity: https://www.queensjournal.ca/story/2021-09-27/news/psac-901-and-sgps-host-disorientation/?fbclid=IwAR1ZmWCzysEBQvKnMyKYVRIMpxWIFLdwHtZgTXgBhXqVFrg_E1S5PXUa5kA
3. With the HREO BIPOC Support group, we have revised the materials like pamphlets, posters, and small cards that address harassment and discrimination to cater to immediate student needs. We are discussing other ways the group can expand and incorporate new agendas.
4. The orientation event for the international Grad and Undergrad students planned by the Queen's International Student Working Group (ISWG) is going to be held on 22 October. The event will be hybrid with 30 participants attending in person and the rest online. QUIC and SGPS are acting in support of the event.
5. I have been unable to join the Bi-Weekly Student Arrival committee led by Dr. Sandra Den Otter due to schedule clash. Han will be representing me in the meetings if her schedule is open on the designated days.
6. Committee for International Student Success organized by QUIC has discussed the difficulties faced by students with fears around the three vaccination shots, health challenges related to the vaccination, misinformation, and orientation event. I have drawn their attention to the need for government approved ID and the vaccination certificate and how these documents are affecting student moral. I expressed concern about the fact that international students don't feel comfortable carrying their passport everywhere. I have discussed with Sultan Almajil, the director of QUIC about the possibility of creating a new role of a Graduate Representative at QUIC.
7. The hiring committee for the Faith and Spirituality Chaplain has completed its interviews and the shortlisted candidates has been finalized by the committee after a second teer interview.

If anyone have any suggestions, questions, or wishes to collaborate, please feel free to get in touch with me.

Wish you a great long weekend!

Sabrina Masud