



**Council Meeting - Agenda**  
January 18<sup>th</sup>, 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

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Due to a lack of nominees for the positions of SGPS President, Vice President Finance and Services, and Graduate Student Trustee, the SGPS Elections team will be extending the nomination period until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 19, at 4:00 pm. Nominees will be required to meet the required signature threshold and supply their nominations referendum packages to elections@sgps.ca. If nominees are not received by this time, the SGPS will hold a by-election sometime after the current election cycle completes.

This extension will also be applied to the referendum fee groups who will have until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 19, at 4:00 pm to reach the required signature threshold and supply their fee referendum packages to elections@sgps.ca. If the referendum fee groups fail to meet the threshold of signatures needed and/or fail to deliver their fee referendum packages by this time, their fee will not go up for the 2022 - 2023 referendum.

Ratification of the ballot questions will occur via email. SGPS Council members will receive the ballot questions via email for their approval at 5:00 pm tomorrow, Wednesday, January 19. Councilors will be required to respond to this email with their vote for ratification by 9:00 am on Thursday, January 20. Please make sure to check your emails and send along your vote.



## II. Adoption of the Agenda

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### A. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION 01/18/22:01**

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting

Monica Garvie moves and Emils Matiss seconds. No points of discussions on this motion, no dissenting votes – the motion passes unanimously.



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**III. Minutes**

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**A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION 01/18/22:02**

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 General Meeting

Courtney Bannerman moves and Ross Denny-Jiles seconds. No points of discussion, no dissenting votes – the motion passes unanimously.

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**IV. Executive & Speaker Reports**

**A. Executive Reports**

- a. President – Rohit Shukla (report attached) – nothing substantive to add.
- b. VP Graduate – Brittany McBeath (oral report)  
Not a lot to report on but the Senate Residents Committee – Queen’s University will be guaranteeing a spot in residence for all future graduate students incoming 2022/23.
- c. VP Professional – Jennifer Li (oral report) – no report, Jennifer Li unable to attend
- d. VP Finance and Services – Courtney Bannerman (report attached)  
There is a table attached to Courtney’s report attached in the email. International Bursary has been quite well used, along with the Dental Bursary. What will potentially be happening is moving around funds around the Emergency Bursary to the International and Dental Bursary but this will not be until later on in the term (once applications have gotten the chance to settle in). As of 18 January, the first Mental Health bursary was given out. Courtney shared her screen and presented about the SGPS budget (*readers can view the budget in Courtney’s report*). Several important points to note: (1) rental cost is not a fixed amount, hence why there is a \$30,000 leeway for extra needs such as shoveling snow; (2) costs re employment have been higher this year due to administrative fees associated with Justine and the Financial Director leaving the SGPS mid-term; (3) \$5,000 contract with AMS is for club funding, and is a long-standing contract. The budget puts us at a deficit at the end of the year. Some factors that may be considered are: (1) not collecting administrative fee for Health and Dental Plans, (2) Justine and Financial Director



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leaving mid-term which has increased administrative and legal fees, (3) transitioning Andria's (Exec Director) contract (HR and legal fees). There is, however, a big surplus (around \$500,000) as we have known from KPMG's position.

Question: What is the mental health bursary?

Answer: From PSAC and SGPS' own interactions with students, what we know is that students do not want yoga workshops or peer-to-peer services. Unfortunately, there is quite a backlog to get a counselling appointment at Queen's so this is a bursary that students can tap into if they need to reach out to private professional help. This can also be used once students maximized their \$500/year budget in the Health and Dental Plan.

- e. VP Community – Anthony Lomax (no report)  
Student Experience Survey – working on posting some actions based on the results of the survey, in the near future.

**B. Speaker Report**

- a. Speaker – Devin Fowlie (oral report)

**C. Approval**

**MOTION 01/18/22:04**

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Emils Matiss moves and Ross Denny-Jiles seconds. No points of discussion. No dissenting votes, the motion passes unanimously.



V.

**Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports**

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- A. Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Emils Matiss (no report)
- B. Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – Ali Saghari (no report) – not present
- C. Commissioner Reports**
  - a. Athletics & Wellness Commissioner – Cassandra Coyle (oral report)  
The Cooking with Grandma event for January has opened. Cassandra also has been contacted by Student Health Network based in Toronto, to learn more about food insecurity and how to help those in the University community regarding this.
  - b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Monica Garvie (report attached)
  - c. Indigenous Graduate Liason – Duncan (no report)
  - d. Social Commissioner – Emilia Ganslandt (report attached)



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- e. International Students' Affairs Commissioner – Sabrina Masud (report attached) – no present  
There was a racially motivated accident that happened near An Clahlan Graduate Residents and the Committee has been working with the University in regards to ensuring that graduate students in resident.

WalkHome will walk you back home to An Clahlan. Please take advantage of this service as we do pay the fee and we also want all students to feel safe!

**D. Committee Reports**

**E. Department Reports**

**F. Other Reports**

- a. University Rector – (no report)

**G. Approval**

**MOTION 01/18/22:05**

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

Ross Denny-Jiles moves and Monica Garvie seconds. No points of discussion. No dissenting votes, the motion passes unanimously.



**VI. Question Period and Departmental Issues**

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**VII. Business Arising from the Minutes**

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**VII. Main Motions & Discussion**

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Courtney and Anthony explained the Graduate Peer Support Centre (GPSC). GPSC was a program created to give mental health support. The GPSC had a coordinator, which was a paid position for a graduate/professional student, but otherwise it was overall run by volunteers. This, however, was largely under-utilised over the past 2 years. Statistics re GPSC: 668 people responded to the survey and the data overwhelmingly demonstrated that SGPS members (or respondents) would prefer subsidies so they can access private & professional mental health care (488 people responded in favour of this). As a result, the Mental Health Bursary (launched in Jan 2022). In the qualitative survey, 42% of respondents have no opinion of the GPSC whereas



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16% of respondents said that they were unaware of the service/had no opinion/had not use it – this made up 60% of all the responses. A lot of responses showed an overwhelming desire to have a variety of mental health services. Ultimately, it was found that this was a financial commitment whose value students were not reaping.

The PAA program will absorb the functions of the GPSC. Although the name implies that they only deal with academic matters, they are already trained to deal with non-academic matters and, importantly, to make referrals and communicate with students in a professional capacity—to the best of their abilities. We will also be taking a rebranding strategy to ensure that there is consistency in branding and the naming of these services, namely that PAA would not only be for academic issues

- A. Graduate Peer Support Centre Fund** **MOTION 12/14/21:06**  
**BIRT The Graduate Peer Support Centre be closed and permanently discontinued. [The \$3.00 paid by students in September 2021 will be refunded to their Solus accounts and no further money will be collected under the GPSC fee, whereas the SGPS Executive is planning to have the responsibilities of the GPSC absorbed back into the Peer Academic Advisors (PAA) program.]**

Ross Denny-Jiles moves and Sandra Smeltzer seconds. No points of discussion. No dissenting votes, the motion passes unanimously.



**Other Business**

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**Notices of Motion & Announcements**

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**Adjournment**

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**Adjournment**

**MOTION 01/18/22:10**

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

Sandra Smeltzer moves, Courtney Bannerman seconds. No points of discussion, no dissenting votes – the motion passes unanimously.