



Welcome Back to Campus!

After the first half of the remote winter term, I am pleased to welcome you all for an in-person experience. I would also like to thank you all for your flexibility, resilience, and cooperation during an unprecedented time. I hope everyone has transitioned and was able to settle for their remaining term by now.

INCOMING EXECUTIVE TEAM

President- Beth Langdon

VP Graduate- Devin Fowlie

VP Professional- Chloe Stone

VP Community - Emilia Ganslandt

VP Finance & Services- Sandra Wright

Bus-It

As we shifted to on-campus activities and in-person services are available now, we were very eager to re-negotiate the “bus-it” contract. This contract is an incredibly good deal for graduate and professional students with YEAR-ROUND bussing included in the fee. The city makes a ton of money off of this and students benefit enormously so this needed to be re-negotiated to what it was before. So, during our 2022-23 referendum package we included the re-establishment of a mandatory student fee of \$122.00 (indexed to CPI) for Bus-It. We got good support from our members and 60.7% of the total members voted, agreed to include in our mandatory fee. This fee would be subject to triennial review.

Mental Health Bursary

Mental health claims on our insurance plan increased by a staggering 40% in the 2020-21 school year, and of the 667 people who answered our Fall 2021-member survey, 480 (71.96%) asked for private mental health care subsidies from the university. Considering these numbers, we launched a Mental Health bursary for our members. Our hope is that this bursary will help remove the barrier for students seeking help.

Event Sanctioning

The last couple of years had deprived us from on-campus experience and students went through so many challenges. Our goal is to provide fun and social engagement in a way that will benefit the health of our members. In order to improve the overall experience of our members, we have resumed our event sanctioning process. The process provides event organizers with a guide to follow to ensure they are in full compliance with both SGPS risk management best practices and with university policies.

PSAC-901

I would like to congratulate PSAC 901’s bargaining team for reaching on successful ratification of the tentative collection agreement. We also showed our solidarity with them by providing a letter of support to their efforts and demands. Adding to it thanks to all the individuals who took their time to be part of this process.

Rohit Shukla
SGPS President



Dear SGPS Members,

I am honoured to be writing to you as the Vice President Graduate. I have really enjoyed my short time in this role and look forward to helping transition the incoming VPG Devin Fowlie who will officially be taking over this role as of May 2022. I would like to provide an update on the committee work that I have been involved in over the past three months.

Committee Work

SGS Minimum Funding Working Group

The work done by this committee has secured an increase for the minimum funding threshold from \$18,000 to \$20,000 for doctoral students for the 2022/23 academic year. To account for the rising cost of living there are plans to increase the minimum funding threshold to \$22,000 for the 2023/24 academic year, \$23,00 for the 2024/25 academic year and \$24,00 for the 2025/26 academic year.

SGS Graduate Professional Development Advisory Group

The School of Graduate Studies (SGS) is committed to providing students with a well-rounded academic experience which includes professional development. This group serves to advise on valuable opportunities for professional development. If there is something you would like to see offered at the school please feel free to reach out as I am happy to bring any and all ideas to the table. For more information about opportunities currently offered by SGS please see their Expanding Horizons [website](#).

Senate Advisory Research Committee

The Senate Advisory Research Committee most recently brought forward the Intellectual Property and Commercialization Policy which will be being updated. Consultations have taken place with the SGPS executive and will also involve other stakeholders across the Queen's community including the Office of Indigenous Initiatives.

Senate Residence Committee

The Senate Residence Committee most recently announced that the new residence building (which remains nameless) will be opening its doors to students Fall 2022. There will be major renovations taking place to either repair or replace Gordon-Brockington Hall – information is still being collected to inform this decision.

Senate Honorary Degree Committee

The Senate Honorary Degree Committee most recently passed a motion to restrict the removal of Honorary Degrees awarded to persons who are now deceased. This decision came after thorough consultation with Indigenous representatives and was in response to petitions to revoke the Honorary Degree awarded to Duncan Campbell Scott, a former deputy superintendent of Indian Affairs whose efforts “to get rid of the Indian problem” were reflected in his work to expand the residential school system. The Honorary Degree Committee meets again on March 28th to discuss this year's Honorary Degree nominees.

Principal's Teaching and Learning Awards Adjudication Committee

The adjudication committee met in February to discuss this year's nominees. A consensus has been reached and the award winners have been chosen. A celebration for the award winners will take place at the Isabel Bader Centre April 13, 2022.

If you have any questions or are looking for more information, please feel free to contact me via email at vp.graduate@sgps.ca.

Nyawen'kó:wa (Big thanks)!

Sincerely,

Brittany McBeath
Vice President Graduate
vp.graduate@sgps.ca



Hello everyone!

Thank you for attending the Winter GM! Since you last saw me at the Fall GM, here are the significant updates.

1. **The closing of the Graduate Peer Support Centre:** The Graduate Peer Support Centre was created to offer peer-to-peer-based support for graduate and professional students. Although the GPSC was created in good faith to support our members' mental health, the GPSC struggled with low visitation rates and high operational costs. In December 2021, the SGPS council voted to close the GPSC after extensive consultation with students. The \$3.00 GPSC fee will be refunded to students, and the fee will not be collected in future years. We encourage our members to utilize the EmpowerMe program, our Peer Academic Advisors, and our Mental Health Bursary should they need additional support. The closure of the GPSC in no way takes away or diminishes the hard work of our GPSC coordinators and volunteers. We are incredibly thankful for their service and dedication to improving the mental health of graduate and professional students.
2. **The onboarding of Envolta as our bookkeeping service:** Our Financial Director departed the SGPS in October 2021, and with their departure, we decided to use a professional bookkeeping service called Envolta. Using Envolta instead of hiring another Financial Director did offer slight savings to the SGPS. We wish our previous Financial Director the best of luck in all future endeavours. We thank them for their service over the years.
3. **The creation of the SGPS Mental Health Bursary:** We ran a membership survey in the fall semester. The members loudly and clearly told us they wanted increased access and resources to visit mental health professionals. The Mental Health bursary provides students who have maxed out their mental health coverage an additional \$250. \$5000 has been set aside this year for the Mental Health bursary. The bursary can also be used to see Clinical Counsellors, which are not currently covered under our health plan.
4. **Status of the bursaries:** As of March 13th, 2021, the status of our bursary funds are as follows:

	Activity Bursary	Dental Bursary	International Bursary	Emergency Bursary	Mental Health Bursary
Total Used	970	9500	14500	5528.88	1750
Fund starting	1500	9500	14500	9000	5000
Remaining	530	0**	0*	3471.12	3250

*The International Bursary was closed on February 14th, 2022, when all funds were exhausted. In January 2022, \$2500 was moved from the Emergency Bursary to the International Bursary to keep it open longer.

**The Dental Bursary was closed March 13th once all funds were exhausted

All bursaries for the 2021/2022 year will close on April 11th.

Thank you all!

Courtney Bannerman



Hello everyone,

I hope that you are all doing well. I am happy to announce that our first month of Feature Friday challenges were a success. Keira and I are excited to be continuing these challenges throughout the rest of the semester. Make sure to follow @queenssgps on Instagram to participate in these challenges and be entered to win a monthly prize.

Upcoming Events:

Cooking with Gramma's:

Wednesday March 16th 5:00-7:00 PM

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Cooking with Gramma's events this year. Our final event of the semester is scheduled for Wednesday March 16th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Feature Friday Contest:

We are continuing to run Feature Friday Challenges throughout our social media pages for the remainder of the semester. By participating in these challenges and interacting with our posts you will be entered into a monthly raffle for a \$25 prize.

Contest rules:

- By participating in our challenge (e.g. Go skating and tag the SGPS in a post or story showing that you are completing the challenge) you will receive 2 entries into the monthly raffle
- By interacting with our pages (e.g. liking or commenting on our posts, voting in our stories) you will receive 1 entry into the monthly raffle

For the week of Friday March 11th to Friday March 18th the challenge is to share with us how you enjoy staying active. Make sure you keep checking our social media pages to stay up to date on these challenges.

Fresh Food Box Pick Up:

Thursday March 24th

In partnership with the AMS Foodbank and the Peer Health Educators, we will be giving out free fresh food boxes on Thursday March 24th. Early bird registration for SGPS members exclusively is now closed. General Registration will open on March 16th and can be found on the @queensuniverstiybewell Instagram page or on their website [here](#). We anticipate that general registration will fill up quickly, so please register asap if you are interested in participating in this event.

I am excited for all the upcoming events and as always, please feel free to contact me (athletics@sgps.ca) with any questions or comments about these or other events. I would also love to get any feedback on the events that I have been running this year; if you have anything you particularly liked or did not like, or anything you would have liked to see offered please do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,

Kassandra Coyle
Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, SGPS



Good Evening Council and SGPS Members,

I hope you are all having a wonderful semester and that the weather as you read this is as beautiful as it is while I write this! The following are my updates since the November General Meeting. Please be sure to contact me at equity@sgps.ca if you have any questions, comments, or general interest in any of the initiatives or projects mentioned!

1. Advocacy and Support

In December Sabrina (International Commissioner) and I, in collaboration with the [Ban Righ Center](#), hosted a virtual event (**A Conversation on Alienation and Healing Through Creativity and Art**) in which we shared stories and our experiences as mature foreign students studying at Queen's. The event was well attended by students in a wide range of disciplines and had very positive reviews. There's a possibility to make this type of event recurring.

In January, following an incident of violence against two female racialized graduate students, I did ground level work in peripheral support of the community as well as supporting the International Commissioner (Sabrina Masud) in her tireless efforts to mobilize and support the students and community through this stressful time. This work was rightfully prioritized, and Sabrina and I had to cancel our planned event for Mental Health Promotion Week.

2. Committee Work

- **BEAG** (Built Environment Advisory Group) – Meetings with general housekeeping and organizing including revising administrative reports on accessibility and the AODA, [Accessibility Cafés](#) were successful and well attended (Duncan McArthur Hall Redevelopment – January; Disclosure and Accommodations – February). The next Accessibility Café [Transitions to the Workplace](#) will be March 21st.
- **UCARE and sub-councils** – *Student Recruitment, Support, and Success* subcouncil: review of internal terms of reference, presentation from Financial Aid (mostly undergraduate funding, most funding is being fully utilized), presentation from EDII Recruitment and Admissions Initiative (some data collection gaps being addressed, 5 equity ambassadors hired as paid summer interns, 1 staff added as Manager, Diversity and Inclusion, Undergraduate Recruitment and Admission). *Inclusive Community* subcouncil: reviewed the use of the Diversity, Equity Assessment and Planning (DEAP) Tool (results of internal audit and engagement across departments/units), reviewed current EDII offerings at Queen's, discussed methods to increase visibility of equity and inclusion goals and resources across various communication tools, discussed employee engagement survey... *Governance and Nominations* subcouncil: newly vacant position filed by the sole qualified applicant.
- **PSAC901 Anti-Oppression Working Group** – Discussion around mobilization, workshops, and increasing resources available for BIPOC students, especially in situations of crisis and safety. A series of workshops was originally planned for this semester to increase financial literacy however priorities shifted due to current events and this project remains on the back burner, hopefully to be realized in coming months or in the next academic year
- **BIPOC Supports Working Group** with HREO and AMS – Creation of materials for both marginalized students seeking support and for allies as bystanders. Posters, pamphlets, and cards were designed and some printed to be strategically distributed across campus. Planning of a digital package which will include the digital version of the materials will also be distributed to various units across the University.
- **Student Mental Health Network** – Mental Health Promotion week was January 24th – 28th and comprised of several events hosted by various groups across the university. Three surveys (Canadian Postsecondary Education Alcohol and Drug Use Survey, Canadian Campus Wellbeing Survey, or National College Health Association survey) were distributed to students at the university, with each student receiving only one of the three surveys. 30 Care Packages will be provided by the Network to be distributed to SGPS members. Details are still being worked out and registration for the draw should be opening soon.
- **(Deputy EDC) Provost's Action Group for Gender and Sexual Diversity (PAGGAS)** – nothing to report

3. Projects: Soft Infrastructure Network

The group has met in 3 rounds of meetings and has been working on various projects across department and schools at Queen's. During the meetings we introduce ourselves, discuss issues of concern in our respective departments, goals we'd each like to achieve, and some take-home tasks. We have begun coordinating across various platforms to continue to support each other through encouragement and sharing of resources across the various units at Queen's. Our next round of meetings will be at the end of March, please reach out to your department's graduate/professional student EDII representative to inquire about the Network and if they have not yet participated please encourage them to contact me to join!

Monica Garvie HBSc, MSc

equity@sgps.ca

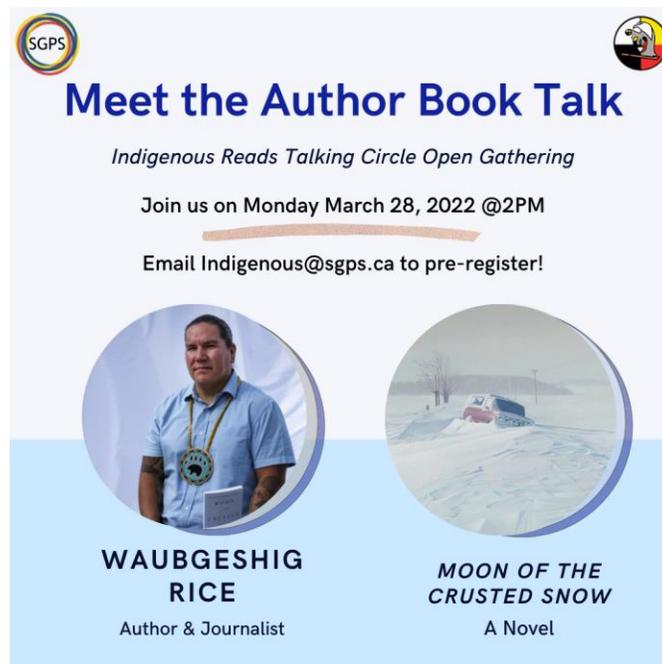
Equity and Diversity Commissioner

Society of Graduate and Professional Students

Aanii kina wiya/Hello everyone,

Since the last council meeting in February, I have the following updates to share:

- Attended the Elder Meet and Greet on February 24th and March 10th.
- Facilitated the Indigenous Student Caucus Meeting on February 28th.
- Facilitated the second and third Indigenous Reads Talking Circle gatherings on February 14th and 28th.
 - Arranged two guest speakers for roundtable discussions for the Circle's fourth gathering on March 14th.
 - Additionally, arranged a meet the author book talk on March 28th with Waubgeshig Rice. In collaboration with Four Directions, this Circle gathering will be open to the Queen's community.
 - See promotional poster below. You can email indigenous@sgps.ca to inquire about an invite to the event and please share with your networks!



The poster is titled "Meet the Author Book Talk" and is for an "Indigenous Reads Talking Circle Open Gathering". It specifies the date as Monday, March 28, 2022, at 2 PM. It asks attendees to email indigenous@sgps.ca to pre-register. The poster features two circular images: one of Waubgeshig Rice, an author and journalist, and another of a snowy landscape, which is the cover of his novel "Moon of the Crusted Snow".

Meet the Author Book Talk
Indigenous Reads Talking Circle Open Gathering
Join us on Monday March 28, 2022 @2PM
Email indigenous@sgps.ca to pre-register!

WAUBGESHIG RICE
Author & Journalist

MOON OF THE CRUSTED SNOW
A Novel

If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions please feel free to contact me (indigenous@sgps.ca).

Miigwetch/Thank you,

Duncan Stewart
SGPS Indigenous Graduate Liaison



Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice spring weather and being back in person.

Since the last general meeting, Derek and I have been busy trying to continue to provide events and navigate the changing guidelines for social activities. Since November, we have hosted the first SGPS Sustainability workshop and a virtual speed-friending event. The sustainability workshop focused on how to mend your own clothes and reduce the amount of waste we throw in the garbage. We were supposed to host the second sustainability event in February but due to our host no longer being available, the event had to be postponed. We hope to have another sustainability event in April. The Speed-friending event was focused on getting to know new people in a virtual setting and build more of a community. This was an event that was highly requested in the general survey, and we hope to be able to host a similar event in person later this semester. Derek has also started to take pictures and record videos for the recipe blog which we continue to develop in collaboration with the Athletics and Wellness team. If you have any ideas of recipes you would like to see featured, please reach out to me or Cassandra at athletics@sgps.ca.

We also have some exciting things coming up, including:

SGPS Good Time Diner Event: The SGPS has partnered up with the GTD to provide special spaces to SGPS students to the Good Time Diner's food service on March 27th. This will allow SGPS students to register for and pick up free meals at the Diner. More information about this event will be coming

Please share the information about this event as more information is posted on SGPS social medias. We also have some other events that are coming up so keep an eye on SGPS social media and emails for more information.

Furthermore, we are currently getting the SGPS awards ready for nomination. This provides a great opportunity for SGPS members to nominate themselves or any deserving colleagues or friends for one of our multiple awards. Make sure you share the information about the awards with your respective departments and other SGPS members. There will also be an opportunity to volunteer on the awards committee. In this position you will review and discuss applications for the different awards and help select the winning submission. This volunteer position will require approximately 6-7 hours of work split between reviewing applications and being in meetings. If you would like to volunteer for this committee, please reach out to me by email at social@sgps.ca

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 Everyone,

Hello Everyone,

Since my last report there has been a lot of development in the projects I have initiated. With the support of Han Xu, our Deputy Commissioner, we have been steadily working towards turning our projects into reality. I am going to refer to the aims I had reported on the last report and reflect on the stages of development.

Projects under development to facilitate student needs:

- International Student Affairs Standing Committee

I like to start by highlighting our new International Student Affairs Standing Committee (ISASC). We have eight members attending meetings at the moment. We held two meetings so far. During the meetings the members advised me on key topics like need for culturally sensitive TA training, providing community-based support, and information related to resources. In March, we are going to have Sandra den Otter (Vice-Provost International) join us and consult the needs of the international students.

- Promoting the ISASC members

One of the ways we hope to merge our idea of highlighting international student's success stories is by promoting our ISASC members on social media platform. We are hoping this step will help with student engagement.

Advocacy:

Addressing issues of racism and discrimination experienced by BIPOC students

- January began with an attempted racially motivated attack involving a vehicle and two BIPOC graduate students. The incident was brought to the attention of the authority. Subsequently the Kingston police and campus security were involved. Dean Fahim Qadir issued a tweet that became viral and the topic garnered media attention. I was involved in mitigating and providing necessary support to the effected students.
- Anti-Oppression Working Group, PSAC – This has been a collaborative project among the EDII Commissioner, Indigenous Commissioner, and I. Part of this group's involvement spilled into supporting the bargaining demand raised by PSAC. I was involved in promoting and raising awareness on the topic. Consequently, I was asked to represent PSAC 901 at the International Women's Day Kingston and District Labor Council event on March 6. I have participated as a graduate student rather than in my role as a commissioner.
- HREO BIPOC Support – The group has finalized all its resource materials. We are now at the stage of finding ways to launch the campaign. I am working with the video planning team to create content to mobilize the resources and increase awareness.
- Sultan Almajil (Director, QUIC) – My monthly meetings with Sultan and my involvement with the committees resulted in drawing attention to the need for Ontario Government ID related information to be a focal point for the international students. We have been strategizing ways to centralize resource-based information for the students. We are discussing ways to include a graduate student adviser in the QUIC. In relation to QUIC's engagement I am part of the following committees:
 - Committee for International Student Success
 - QUIC Student Council

- Sandra den Otter (Vice-Provost International) – VPI’s office currently in the process of running focus groups to understand Queen’s as a global campus. Han and I have taken part in one of these focus groups. We are planning to bring this topic to our ISAC members during our March meeting with the VPI.
 - Special committee on international student arrival in 2021-2022
This committee was formed to help the administration to discuss how to support students whose arrivals are contingent on Pandemic related barriers. Han represented our office during these meetings.
- Intercultural TA/TF support working group - I am working with Chris DeLuca, Associate Dean (SGS) and other members from CTL to conduct need assessment to provide support to TA/TF regarding intercultural understanding of teaching. We have designed a survey. We hope to launch it to gather some data to provide support accordingly.

Building Community and fostering belongingness:

We feel strongly about helping students to connect and find ways to create supportive communities. Part of our initiatives have taken the following forms:

- Monice our EDII Commissioner and I have hosted a virtual event on alienation and healing through creativity and art in collaboration with the Ban Righ Center. We had participants share their stories and how they find creative ways to navigate their struggles. It was held in December and well attended.
- I have also participated in Soft Infrastructure Network launching meetings organized by Monica. I have attended the meetings to discuss how I envision being part of the network.
- I am also working towards finding ways to create space and conversation to address the ongoing war in Ukraine to support the students affected by the war.

Do reach out to me at international@sgps.ca with any questions, support, or initiative ideas! We welcome any kind of insight you could provide us to grow and do better.

Hope everyone has a great rest of your winter!

Best wishes
Sabrina Masud
International Student Affairs Commissioner

Han Xu
Deputy Commissioner