Introduction
I am excited to be providing my first written report for SGPS Council. For those who I have not had a chance to meet yet, my name is Beth. I just finished my second year of law school, and I am currently working at the Queen’s Family Law Clinic for the summer. Outside of my work at the clinic and for the SGPS, I love spending time with my fiancé James and my dog Oscar.

Board of Trustees
By the time we have our council meeting, I will have attended the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday May 13. The Board of Trustees “is one of three governing bodies of the university, along with the Senate and the University Council, all of which are administered by the University Secretariat” (https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/board-trustees). Here is more information about the board I have excerpted from the Queen’s website:

“The Board of Trustees is responsible for the overall operations of the University, including:
- overseeing financial matters
- property
- the appointment of Vice- Principals
- and, in conjunction with the Senate, the appointment of the Principal

The Board of Trustees has 25 members: 3 ex-officio and 22 elected”

There are also people who are invited to observe the Board of Trustees, the President of the SGPS being one of them. The SGPS is in need of a Graduate Student Trustee which is important because they are a voting member on the board (while I am not). What I can do for SGPS members, this council included, is advocate for student concerns at these meetings. I am given a short time to give a speech each meeting, and I also provide a written report. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with a concern that you think may be suited for being heard at this meeting. I can also bring your concerns to other administrators I meet outside of the board.

Planning for the Upcoming Year
The beginning of the summer will mainly consist of planning for the school year to come. Although I will be an advocate and support for SGPS students, a major focus of mine will be ensuring we are set up for success once August and September roll around. I have 3 pillars I will be shaping my plans around: 1) Building Community, 2) Revamping SGPS Communications, and 3) Improving Mental Health Resources.

1) Building Community: I want students to feel connected to Queen’s, their departments/faculties, and each other. I think that next year will be about rebuilding and reinventing the community Queen’s is known for. I think even before 2020, graduate and professional students can feel siloed in their programs. I want people to meet students outside of their programs and feel part of the larger university community. I think this involves small and big measures. Please reach out to me if there is an idea you want to see come to life this coming school year, and I can see if I can help make it happen.

2) Revamping SGPS Communications: I think the SGPS does a great job with their marketing, but even something great be better. I think encouraging more collaboration with the faculties that fall under the SGPS will be a big part of this. For example, I want to see that the SGPS is introduced at the various faculty orientations that SGPS students will attend for their individual programs (e.g., law, medicine, consecutive education, etc.). I also want to hear from the students and get their input on how best to share information with them and how we can improve.

3) Improving Mental Health Resources: We are trialing an exciting new student counselling/therapy service this coming school year, and I want to ensure that this transition is smooth. I want students to know what is available to them and how to access it. I want to hear from students and see where we can improve the ease of access for our services. I also
want to look into a possible solution for students who want to start online therapy but do not have a good place in their home to do this. Please reach out to me if you have ideas or thoughts about mental health services that you think I should consider in my planning.

Overall, I am open to student feedback at any point during my planning, or the school year. There is always room for improvement, and I recognize the importance of listening to different voices. I hope to lead collaboratively not only with my executive team, but with the student body as a whole.

If you ever want to reach out to me, my email is president@sgps.ca. Looking forward to a great year ahead, and I will see everyone again in August!

Sincerely,
Beth Langdon
SGPS President
Hey everyone!

Welcome to all of the incoming Commissioners, my fellow Executives, our new Speaker, and any new faces that are joining us! I’m excited to have my first couple of weeks as Vice-President Graduate underway and have been working to get my feet under me in this new role. Things move quickly and September is sure to be another exciting year with some new challenges of its own. So, I want to first highlight a few things from meetings that I have already attended and then lay out some of my plans for the upcoming year.

**Letter of Support for SKHS Graduate Student Council Advocacy for Tri-Agency Scholarship Extensions**

Last month, the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies Graduate Student Council sent a letter to the Presidents of the Tricouncil funding agencies asking that they further extend Tricouncil funding by an additional four months to assist those that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic between March 2020 and August 2021. We felt that it was important to support this initiative because currently an extension only existed for those projects with funding ending in March of 2021. This additional extension request reflects more accurately the additional time that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted graduate students and their research. We are currently in the process of sending this letter of support to the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) and are discussing being in touch with other universities to gain additional support for this letter.

**Plans for 2022-23**

First and foremost of my goals for the coming year are to improve student communication with Executives. It is challenging to understand what everyone needs if we don’t hear from everyone. We cannot change this overnight, but beginning over the summer (to the extent that it possible) I will be connecting with student representatives from each department at the University to understand what they need from us. I want to connect with everyone to open the lines of communication, and I want them to remain open through ongoing conversations. We know the big issues if we hear about them, but there are often so many other issues that go unresolved because we don’t hear about them.

My hope is that by building this connection with the department representatives, we not only hear about the issues that matter to students but we also encourage more attendance and engagement at Council. I want to make sure that every Councilor feels heard and understands that they are able to contribute at Council as well; this was something that we did our best to have happen when we switched to online Council, but it is time to refine the process and fill in the gaps now that we can see them.

I am looking forward to each and every one of you this year. You will hear from me at some point this summer, but I know many of you are likely eager to enjoy the nice weather and take advantage of the summer. So, we will do our best to make those connections this summer but we will always be here and can connect in the Fall.

Take care,

Devin Fowlie
Vice-President Graduate, SGPS
Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is staying healthy and are enjoying their end of term or start to their summer term.

My name is Emilia Ganslandt, and I officially started the role as VP Community last week. During my time as VP Community, I hope to strengthen the community both among SGPS staff and the membership at large. I also hope to make communication between members and executives easier, and to be an advocate for student voices.

While I am relatively new to this role, I do have a few things I wanted to report on. During my transition to this role, I sat on the hiring committee for four of the commissioner roles. We have now hired four commissioners which also started last week: Clare, A&W; Sabrina, International; Jane, Equity; Madeleine, Social. During the last week they have started their transition and training and I have met with all four of them individually and as a group. Together we will continue the training for the next few weeks.

The Indigenous liaison application was reopened last Monday due to insufficient amount of applications and it will remain open until Monday the 16th of May at midnight after which I together with the hiring committee will arrange interviews for successful candidates. Please circulate this opportunity with any people you believe would be interested in this opportunity.

The SGPS awards application closed Sunday May 8th at midnight and Andria is in the process of anonymizing all nominations now. Once the applications have been anonymized, I will assemble the awards committee to decide on recipients. The aim is to have those decided before the end of the month.

Lastly, during the 11th-12th I will be attending meetings with the Canadian Federation of Students. During these two days of meetings I hope to learn more about CFS current campaigns and how they may apply to graduate and professional students at Queen’s.
Overall, I am really excited to be working in this role but at the end of the day I work for council and all SGPS members. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, or are interested in getting involved with the SGPS, please don’t hesitate to reach me at vp.community@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,

Emilia Ganslandt
Vice President Community, SGPS
Hello everyone!

I am excited to begin my work with the SGPS under the VP Finances and Services role! I would first like to thank you for entrusting me with this position. Although the pandemic has made this a very difficult time for many professional and graduate students, this year’s executive is working hard to explore many avenues for assisting students to make to return to campus a bit easier. Here are some updates I can provide along with some summer plans:

1) **2022/2023 Budget**: I am currently working with the new executive and our executive director and our accounting team to set the budget for the 2022/2023 year. The budget will be presented at the Fall Annual General Meeting.

2) **Bursaries and Grants**: I plan to have the bursaries open this summer (most likely opening in mid-June). Before the bursaries are opened, the Financial Committee needs to be formed. The Financial Committee serves as oversight in the administration of bursaries. I am looking for 5 graduate or professional students to join me on this committee! When you are reading this, a formal application will have been set up but, in the meantime, please feel free to email me at vp.finance@sgps.ca if you are interested.

Thank you all for listening! I hope you all can enjoy the nice summer weather!

Sandra Wright
My name is Clare, and I am the new Athletics and Wellness commissioner. I am just finishing my first year of occupational therapy and I am passionate about physical activity, health and wellness. I am very excited to get planning for the upcoming year working with the SGPS. I have a couple of goals that I am hoping to achieve during the school year:

1. I want to increase engagement with social media and event participation.
2. Host in person sports tournaments.
3. Connect with members of clubs and groups on campus to create events.
4. Overall, make individuals feel more comfortable in their skin through physical activity opportunities.

I am keen to create more goals and complete the training that is going to be happening in the upcoming weeks.
Hello Council Members,

My name is Jane and I’m in the incoming ED Commissioner. I was the Deputy ED and Indigenous Liaison Commissioner last year, so I’m so excited to be continuing my work within SGPS this year. If you have any questions on any of the materials presented here, please do not hesitate to contact me at equity@sgps.ca.

This is the first month of the role, so I am currently onboarding myself to the role in the following ways:

1. Reviewing the work of my predecessor, Monica Garvie, and her transition manual.
2. Meeting and building connections within SGPS with the new executive team and commissioners. I’m also working on expanding and strengthening connections outside SGPS with student groups and other student bodies.

Best,

Jane Mao BScH, SXGD Certificate, M.Ed Candidate

equity@sgps.ca

Equity and Diversity Commissioner

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Hello Everyone,
I hope everyone is enjoying the warmer weather now that summer is here. I am glad to join the SGPS commissioner team for another year and looking forward to contributing to the well being of the student body. This year, I would like to focus on the following goals which are an extension of the work that I have been doing so far:

- Focusing on the International Student Affairs Standing Committee (ISASC) to highlight my effort to ensure student engagement and building community. The committee now has evolved into building a network among regular permanent members. I wish to incorporate in person gathering and sharing circle in future. We will also continue with our plan to spotlight ISASC members. One of the key areas I would like the committee members to focus on is how we learn about our rights and get information on resources for international students when they think of Queen’s as their home. Meaning, we will discuss topics like housing, rent, roommate relationship, food insecurity, addressing needs of students with children etc.

- HREO BIPOC Support Working Group has the materials finalized. We hope to launch our awareness campaign during the Fall orientation. My work with this group will also build on the contribution I am making with PSAC Anti-Oppression working group.

- Intercultural TA/TF support working group – with the support of Chris DeLuca, Associate Dean (SGS) and other members from CTL we hope to launch the workshops during fall. I would also like to see the group evolve into working towards addressing student and supervisor relationship issues.

I will continue to advocate for student needs with the following committees:

- Sultan Almajil (Director, 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)

   With Sandra, I hope to continue discussing ways to incorporate how to envision Queen’s as a global campus. In this capacity, the members of ISASC have already made valuable contributions and they are continuing to do so.

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.

I look forward to working with the new SGPS executives!

Best wishes
Sabrina Masud
Hi everyone! My name is Madeleine Cleland (Maddie works too), and I am the new SGPS Social Commissioner. I just finished my second year of my law degree (just one year left)! As a *bona fide* extrovert, event planning, socializing and building connections are among my favourite extra-curricular activities. I am eager to get the ball rolling on events for the upcoming year, particularly as it relates to orientation! Enumerated below are what I consider my overarching goals while planning SGPS events this year:

1. Building stronger cross-faculty/program relationships among SGPS members.
2. Host a wide array of event types so as to support our call to inclusivity.
3. Spread awareness of SGPS events and offerings via unique marketing strategies (ex: incentives or working with faculty specific clubs).
4. Collaborate with other Commissioners to build events tailored to their commission’s respective concerns.

Overall, I am excited to get the ball rolling – SGPS has much to offer its students and I’m hopeful to successfully execute its mission!