

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

II. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 11/15/22:01

BIRT SGPS Council adopts the Agenda for the November 15, 2022 Council meeting.

Devin Fowlie moves, Lizzie Bygott seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously.

III. Minutes

A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

MOTION 11/15/22:02

BIRT SGPS adopts the minutes from the October 18, 2022 general meeting.

Lizzie Bygott moves, Beth Langdon seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously.

IV. Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports

a. President – Beth Langdon (report attached)

- i. Dialogue Service Discussion – issues were raised last AGM and Beth had noted that she would provide an update at this current meeting on these issues. In communication with student care- which helps administer and negotiate the plan, and will be meeting with Dialogue directly next week. Hope is that next AGM, Beth will have a more concrete update and until then answers for the concerns raised are still being sought.
- ii. New Role for SGPS (Black Student Liaison) – SGPS is looking to create a new commissioner role to ensure that all student groups are represented. Need to further define this role with consultation from black students, but just wanted to bring this forward to provide everyone the opportunity to think about this addition. If anyone has questions, comments, feedback, they can reach Beth at president@sgps.ca.

b. VP Graduate – Devin Fowlie (oral report)

- i. Funding Report – part coming from the townhall meetings and others from letters and reports from some at council and from departments. Report is

- completed and has been circulated amongst the executive for feedback. Tomorrow morning (Nov 16th) it will be sent to SGSPA for them to review- we missed the cut off for this GSEC (Graduate Studies Executive Council); missed adding as agenda item but hopefully it will still be included as a discussion item. Next the report would be passed back to everyone who contributed and then it can also be distributed to all council members.
- ii. Physical and Mental Health Townhall – great feedback provided (thank you Emilia Ganslandt for assisting with organizing). Heard students’ feelings related to access to healthcare on campus, student wellness and embedded counsellor support. Will bring this information to the respective areas where they can be addressed or at least begin discussions. An omnibus report will be formulated to summarize the various student concerns.
 - iii. Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) Conference – Devin attended on behalf of the SGPS in the first week of November. Good opportunity to meet Deans and grad student reps from across Canada, who are doing interesting things in terms of their approaches to similar problems we’re experiencing (funding, student work). Some discussions on mental health approaches but seems that a lot of universities are still struggling and working through them. St. Mary’s University in Halifax has done their own report on the EDII landscape at the university. Seeing what faculty and student experiences are with EDII initiatives that have been ongoing, how much of the goals they’ve put forward have come to fruition, and what that looks like in terms of day-to-day practices. Translating EDII principles and policies into practice is not always simple, so the report will most likely comprise strategies for how to continue to address these concerns. St. Mary’s will share their report with the SGPS once completed and then hopefully we can discuss it as a group.
 - iv. Daycare Support – Devin is still seeking letters in support of the day care to expand their services. Does impact graduate students – many students have children, and many others would like to start families but can’t due to the limited available services.
 1. Beth Langdon’s question: If Beth or the executive could create a draft that people could add their signatures too would that be beneficial? Could then circulate it to this group and then anyone else as needed and hopefully that would garner more support.
 2. Devin’s response: A great suggestion, thank you. If anyone still feels compelled to write their own letter then please do so, otherwise we will circulate this letter to receive signatures.
 - v. If there are any comments or questions, Devin can be reached at:
graduate@sgps.ca
- c. VP Professional – Chloe Stone (report attached)

- i. Report commented on healthcare coverage and that the university is currently in process of hiring a new provost. An SGPS representative will be sitting in on that process so just wanted to make everyone aware of that.
 - ii. Bringing back the Med/Law games- the ARC reached out this Fall saying they would be interested in partnering with the SGPS to promote health and wellness within the graduate student society. If anyone is interested to host any events or get people involved in athletic events, the ARC is very interested in partnering in any way they can. Coming from that conversation we decided to host the Med/Law games at the ARC in February. This event existed pre-COVID and so we are looking to reinstate it. Aiming to foster community within the graduate space. Met about it last week and have continued meetings to plan this event, so we are very excited.
 - iii. If there are any questions or concerns, Chloe can be reached at professional@sgps.ca.
 - d. VP Finance and Services – Sandra Wright (no report)
 - i. Aileen Editha speaking on Sandra’s behalf:
 - 1. Continue to work through financial applications.
 - 2. Looking to make a mid-year update to see where expenses are and where the budget is - looking to do this in our January council meeting.
 - ii. If there are any questions related to finances and services, please contact Sandra at: finance@sgps.ca
 - e. VP Community – Emilia Ganslandt (report attached)
 - i. Welcoming our new social commissioner, Gabby.
 - ii. Final Townhall Series – this last one will be fully online (Tuesday Nov 22nd from 4:30-6pm). If there are any discussion points/feedback looking to be discussed anonymously then you can share that with Devin or Emilia and they can bring it forward on your behalf. It should be noted that all members of the SGPS executive operate under strict confidentiality, thus anything shared with them will not be shared without your consent to other partners or stakeholders.
 - iii. Emilia can be reached at community@sgps.ca.

B. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Aileen Editha (oral report)
 - i. Providing further support for the townhall events – is a forum for communicating concerns in a safe space and it can be very cathartic to voice those concerns.
 - ii. Looking for suggestions on how to make council more accessible, engaging, and efficient manner. We want AGM to be a valuable and comfortable space to inspire growth. If anyone has suggestions, then please forward them to Aileen at speaker@sgps.ca.
 - 1. Beth Langdon comments:

- a. As a council representative, you can make the experience what it is. As a representative you can share any information brought forward at these AGMs or that you think is beneficial that you hear about on campus to your peers through any available communication platforms (can share job opportunities, resources, etc). If you ever want to have a discussion you can message Aileen to have it added to the agenda and then it can be discussed at a general meeting.

C. Approval

MOTION 11/15/22:03

BIRT SGPS Councils approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Devin Fowlie moves, Beth Langdon seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously.

V. Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports

A. Senator Report – Graduate Student Senator – Emils Matiss (no report)

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

- a. Board of Trustees are concerned with universities overall strategy. Would be worthwhile to take a look at the strategy- notably the first pillar “increase the quantity of world leading research that is happening at Queen’s” (<https://www.queensu.ca/principal/strategy>). As graduate students are the ones that contribute to this, be mindful of ways that this could be used by the graduate student population as leverage in arguing for student issues.
- b. Tony can be reached at trustee@sgps.ca.

C. Commissioner Reports

- a. Athletics & Wellness Commissioner – Clare Gaherty (report attached)
- b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Jane Mao (report attached)
 - i. Accessibility committee is really moving right now- trying to get all gender washroom and accessibility washroom signs posted around campus.
- c. Indigenous Graduate Liason – Noah Favel (report attached)
- d. International Students’ Affairs Commissioner – Sabrina Masud (no report)
 - i. Sabrina will be stepping down on December 19th and as such the SGPS is recruiting a new international commissioner. If anyone knows someone who would be a great fit for the role, or they themselves want to apply, please remain on the lookout for that posting.
 - ii. Emilia Ganslandt will be taking over in the transition period, so if any concerns arise, please still forward them to the international@sgps.ca
 - iii. Note: Holiday break begins December 19th. Friday Dec 16 is the last day before the winter break and then Monday Jan 9 is our day back, so you can

email the SGPS in that period but there may not be a response until we are back.

e. Social Commissioner – Gabby Torretto (oral report)

i. Provided an introduction

1. Having completed her undergraduate degree in Kingston, she understands the value of building connections and community within the university environment. Gabby is focusing on planning the SGPS Winter Orientation Week. Hoping to have students become more acquainted with the school space and resources available.
2. Looking to collaborate with other commissioners as well to best display their skills to the incoming student community during the Orientation Events.

D. Committee Reports

E. Department Reports

F. Other Reports

- a. University Rector – Owen Crawford-Lem (no report)

G. Approval

MOTION 11/15/22:04

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

Beth Langdon moves, Chloe Stone seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously.

VI. Question Period and Departmental Issues

VII. Business Arising from the Minutes

VIII. Main Motions & Discussion

A. Appointment of Chief Returning Officer

MOTION 11/15/22:05

Candidates running (in no particular order):

- Kareen Hewitt,
- Fatema Kamalia,

BIRT SGPS Council approves the appointment of Kareen Hewitt as SGPS Chief Returning Officer for the 2022-23 academic year

Beth Langdon moves, Lizzie Bygott seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously

B. Approval of Election Timeline

MOTION 11/15/22:06

a. Beth Speaks to the Timeline

- i. Opening on Wednesday January 11th. If someone is looking to get nominated for an executive role there is a certain number of votes that are needed (an electronic page is set up for this that you can send to those interested in supporting you). The minimum number of nominations is 25, so ensure that you provide yourself enough time for people to fill out the form. If you could share within your faculties that this is coming up (can provide a reminder at December AGM), then individuals interested can start to reach out to others and get things sorted before the January timeline.

b. Aileen Comments:

- i. Further information about the election and timeline will be made more available through the SGPS website and through direct email however if there are questions, please feel free to reach out.

Important Dates – Subject to SGPS Council Approval		
Wednesday, January 11, 2023 12:01 AM	Nomination Period Opens	Nomination packages available via Qualtrics
Wednesday, January 25, 2023 4:00 PM	Nomination Period Closes	
Thursday, January 26, 2023 TBD	SGPS Council Nomination Ratification	Via Email
Thursday, January 26, 2023 TBD	All Candidates Meeting	On Zoom
Friday, January 27, 2023 12:01 AM	Campaign Period Begins	
TBD	All Candidates Debate	Zoom
Sunday, February 5, 2023 11:59 PM	Campaign Period Ends	
Monday, February 6, 2023 12:01 AM	Voting Days	Ballots will be sent to SGPS members via SimplyVoting

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 11:59 AM		
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 9:00 AM (approx.)	Announcement / Notification	Via Phone and Email
Wednesday, February 15, 2023 12:00 PM	Campaign Expenses Due	Via email to director@sgps.ca

BIRT SGPS Council approves the proposed 2023 election timeline.

Chloe Stone moves, Emilia Ganslandt seconds. No points of discussion on this motion.
No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously.

IX. Other Business

X. Notices of Motion & Announcements

XI. Adjournment

Adjournment

MOTION 11/15/22:07

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

Annika Fuernsinn moves, Beth Langdon seconds. No points of discussion on this motion.
No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously.