

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

We are looking for five SGPS Council members to join our **SGPS Awards Committee** to help choose winners for our 6 SGPS awards! Committee members will receive an honorarium for 6-12 hours of committee work, ranging from March 15th-27th. Please fill out the link below if you're interested in joining the committee. If you have any questions or concerns, please email social@sgps.ca.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aPKMM2T7HUi15ZMx4X6StV0WMyGEVZFEsitP_is0hShUMTY3TVRZnkJSWk9TWWVLUE0wMDVJNVhBVy4u

II. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Agenda

MOTION 03/14/23:01

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the March 14th 2023 Council meeting.

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

III. Minutes

A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

MOTION 03/14/23:02

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the February 14th 2023 General Meeting

Emilia Ganslandt moves, Elizabeth Cameron 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. Update on gender affirming care financial assistance- just launched yesterday, so this service is officially live and starting its trial period.
 - ii. Been continuing discussions with the university around cost of living/housing/graduate funding. We aren't giving up on these discussions and progress/collaborations are being made to advocate potentially to provincial and federal governments in the future. Small improvements are being made, such as in psychology department, collective efforts of students at Queen's is making headway.
 - iii. Beth can be contacted at: president@sgps.ca.
- b. VP Graduate – Devin Fowlie (report attached)

- i. Progress with daycare – we (SGPS) can have a seat on the Board of Directors if we want, as well, we can have a spot on the advocacy committee which is how the daycare communicates with and outside of Queens- representation should start in the Fall.
- ii. SGSPA and student affairs housing survey - want to collaborate on a survey to give to graduate students to attain demographics on students with children, mental health needs, cost of housing for example. If you have anything that you think would be good to know to be included in the survey, contact Devin
- iii. Faculty of Arts and Sciences Graduate Summit – graduate chairs as well as faculty from Arts and Sciences will be meeting to discuss specifically graduate students’ issues. Funding and housing will be discussed but if there are any specific points to add regarding those two or separate from them, contact Devin.
- iv. Devin can be contacted at: vp.graduate@sgps.ca.
- c. VP Professional – Chloe Stone (no report)
 - i. Chloe can be contacted at: vp.professional@sgps.ca.
- d. VP Finance and Services – Sandra Wright (no report)
 - i. Bursary Updates - activity assistance fund has been depleted for this year, but the rest of the pools do have funds available. The financial assistance guide is being adjusted and will launch this week- will be provided in newsletter and on website. More relaxed guidelines on emergency bursary qualifications and hopefully more assistance towards cost of housing issues, which aligns with SGPS’s goals for this year.
 - ii. Sandra can be contacted at: vp.finance@sgps.ca.
- e. VP Community – Emilia Ganslandt (report attached)
 - i. Supports the SGPS Awards Committee membership.
 - ii. Emilia can be contacted at: vp.community@sgps.ca.

B. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Aileen Editha (oral report)
 - i. Continuing to modify and address the by-laws and policies, as well as seeking input from council members to make council more accessible and inclusive. Looking at how to best incorporate that information into the by-laws and policies to ensure that the SGPS is embracing and integrating these practices into action.
 - ii. Any comments or ideas on this matter can be addressed to Aileen at speaker@sgps.ca.

C. Approval

MOTION 03/14/23:03

BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Devin Fowlie moves, Elizabeth Cameron 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 (report attached)

C. Commissioner Reports

a. Athletics & Wellness Commissioner – Clare Gaherty (report attached)

b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Jane Mao (no report)

i. Past February and March, assisting with Black Liason commissioner startup to ensure sustainability of this role. The Black Liason research assistant has been hired to assist with defining the commissioner role/portfolio to assist in this process.

ii. Gender affirming bursary is now up and rolling to support students where there are gaps in the current SGPS health plan.

iii. Finished an intersectional conversation event and wrapping up committee roles to try and best transition the next equity and diversity commissioner.

iv. Jane can be reached at: equity@sgps.ca.

c. Indigenous Graduate Liason – vacant position

d. International Students' Affairs Commissioner – Vina Li (report attached)

i. Contributing to global engagement strategy with VP international office, would be good for everyone to familiarize themselves with it once made available.

ii. Graduate student department representatives- looking to restructure the international student standing committee. Seeing the proportion of international students across departments it would be good to revitalize these roles and regain inter-departmental conversations, so I will be working on that.

iii. Vina can be reached at: international@sgps.ca.

e. Social Commissioner – Gaby Toretto (report attached)

i. SGPS Awards Committee – looking for 5 awards committee members from March 15th-27th that's when we'll be assigning awards for the 6 SGPS awards this year. Total commitment for committee is 6-12hrs for which an honorarium is in place.

1. Beth Langdon asks: What are the roles of the committee members within those 6-12hrs?

2. Gaby: Each nominee has an application form that is submitted, so prior to the committee meeting the members will review applications on their own time and then select the ones best fit for the award. The committee will meet a few times to discuss the applicants and who would be best fit for the award.

ii. Gaby can be contacted at: social@sgps.ca.

D. Committee Reports

E. Department Reports

F. Other Reports

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

G. Approval

MOTION 03/14/23:04

BIRT SGPS Council approve 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

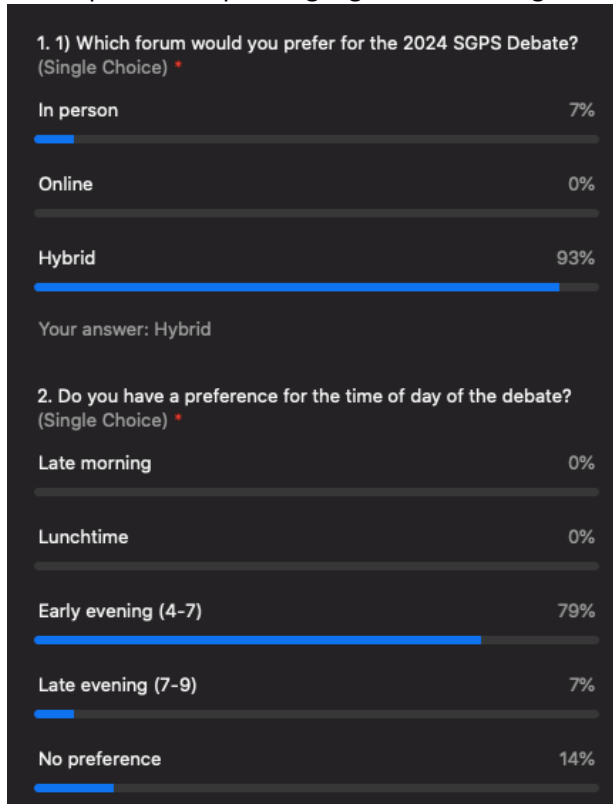
VIII. Main Motions & Discussion

Discussion

Officers of the Council seeking input on the preferred format for All-Candidates' Debate for future elections.

1. Beth Langdon addresses: To get a good turnout we want to determine the best format of the meeting (hybrid, only online) or time of day for the meeting- general timelines ie. morning or evening. To provide more information on this topic, the all candidates debate is a debate for individuals campaigning for a position as an executive or the senator in the SGPS election. It occurred this year in February.
 - a. General comments: "Hybrid + food for in person is great, also I don't know about logistics/behind the scenes but knowing the schedule for the semester ahead of time would be super helpful", "Hybrid is most helpful"
2. Beth continues: Next general election, the idea would be to provide these meeting details ahead of time so that those running in the election are aware of the timeline expected from them to hopefully help mitigate any conflicts and to hopefully increase student body attendance.

3. Aileen provided a poll to gauge council thoughts and attained the following results:



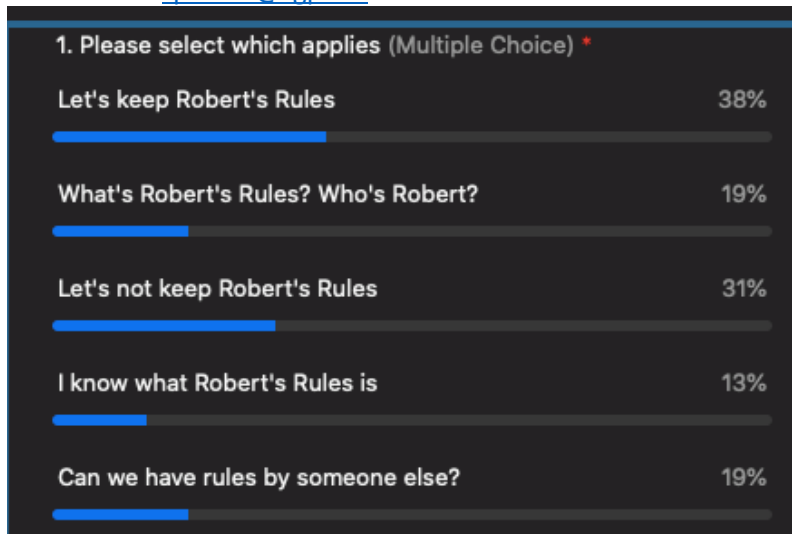
Discussion

Officers of the Council seeking input on the continued use of Robert’s Rules for governing procedural elements of SGPS Council and General Meetings.

1. Aileen: Robert’s Rules of Order (RRO) are rules of governance that are used in parliamentary or other organizing bodies, which dictate the order of council meetings, vernacular used, etc. Robert’s Rules are one of the most widely used board procedures that SGPS has been implementing for numerous years (about 10yrs). RRO have been criticized as being rigid and less fitting for less-formal organizational matters- a conversation to remove this framework has been in discussion at the SGPS for numerous years so looking to seek feedback from everyone on this topic. *Aileen launched a poll to gain understanding of council opinion- attached below*
2. Devin Fowlie asks: Is this meant to get a discussion generated or to get a read of the room through the poll responses?
 - a. Aileen: Right now, we’re looking to get a read of the room through the poll, but this is definitely not the final discussion on this topic. This is to get a sense of where we can push the discussion to in future meetings and what questions we need to ask. Based on the current poll answers, 38% voted to keep RRO. Given that that is a fairly high percent of the group vote, maybe future conversations could be geared towards ensuring that any provisions of RRO do not conflict with SGPS By-laws and

Policies, because that is the current problem we’re facing that our policies conflict with RRO.

3. Beth Langdon asks: Can I please check my interpretation of what the final question was? I interpreted it as a combination of maybe let’s not have RRO but then we would need something else to replace it.
 - a. Aileen replies: Yes, that was my intention behind that question.
4. Emilia Ganslandt asks: Would be nice to know what the alternatives are, it’s hard to decide when you don’t know what else is out there. Maybe for next time we could have some comparators for what other formats would look like.
5. Devin Fowle comments: Could be helpful to know what a council meeting looked like if we fully followed RRO - if it was a strict following or if you could follow some more relaxed form of the policies. Helpful for people being able to decide when they know what they are choosing.
 - a. Aileen comments: A strict following would mean we couldn’t even hold this meeting as the quorum standards are higher, but yes, I see where you’re coming from.
6. Aileen: Working on creating a document that outlines variable governance guidelines to help push this conversation further. Will hope to have this by April Council- which will be a larger council as we’re looking to have By-Law and Policy revisions brought forward at that time. If there are any questions/inquiries on this conversation than please feel free to reach out to me at speaker@sgps.ca.



IX. Other Business

X. Notices of Motion & Announcements

XI. Adjournment



A. Adjournment

MOTION 03/14/23:05

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

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