May General Meeting – Agenda
May 16th 2023 – 5:30 pm
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

II. Adoption of the Agenda

A. Adoption of the Agenda
MOTION 05/16/23:01
BIRT SGPS adopt the Agenda for the May 16th 2023 General Meeting.

III. Minutes

A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes
MOTION 05/16/23:02
BIRT SGPS adopt the minutes from the April 11th 2023 Council Meeting

IV. Executive & Speaker Reports

A. Executive Reports
   a. President – Devin Fowlie (report attached)
   b. VP Graduate – Steacy Coombs (report attached)
   c. VP Professional – Maya Kawale (report attached)
   d. VP Finance and Services – Gaby Fekete (no report)
   e. VP Community – Tony Hu (as of 15 May 2023) (report attached)
B. Speaker Report
   a. Speaker – Aileen Editha (report attached)
C. Approval
   MOTION 05/16/23:03
   BIRT SGPS approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

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
C. Commissioner Reports
   a. Athletics & Wellness Commissioner – Position vacant
   b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Jane Mao (report attached)
   c. Indigenous Graduate Liaison – Position vacant
   d. International Students’ Affairs Commissioner – Vina Li (no report)
   e. Social Commissioner – Gaby Toretto (no report)
D. Committee Reports
E. Department Reports
F. Other Reports
   a. University Rector – Owen Crawford-Lem (no report)
G. Approval
   
   BIRT SGPS approve the Senator, Trustee, Commissioner, Committee & Other Reports.

VI. Question Period and Departmental Issues

A. Question: intended/planned updates for the SGPS website? *(Raised by Sarah Waldron, BGSC)*

VII. Business Arising from the Minutes

VIII. Main Motions & Discussion

A. Second Reading of Revised Bylaw Provisions.
   
   BIRT SGPS approves the proposed changes to the SGPS Bylaw provisions.

   *This is the second reading; the first reading was passed in April 2023 Council Meeting.*

   Further details on the proposed changes and revised version of the Bylaw and Policy document are outlined in the following documents (attached as appendices to this agenda):
   1. Appendix A: Proposed Changes Covering Letter;
   2. Appendix B: Revised Bylaw and Policy Document (Tracked); and
   3. Appendix C: Revised Bylaw and Policy Document (Clean).

B. FTMBA Joining the SGPS
   
   BIRT SGPS kickstarts the referendum process per B.21.1, which concerns the FTMBA’s wishes to join the SGPS.

   *As the wording suggests, the motion only concerns whether the process of joining can be kickstarted but does not guarantee that the FTMBA will join the SGPS. This is contingent upon the referendum results and subsequent approval in the AGM in Fall 2023.*

C. Discussion: enabling discourse among Council Representatives across various departments.
   *(Raised by Sarah Waldron, BGSC)*

D. Discussion: methods of governance for SGPS Council proceedings.
   
   *Per the suggestion of March 2023 Council, Officers have created a summary document detailing various characteristics, pros, and cons of each major governance system. This has been attached as an appendix to this agenda.*
IX. Other Business

A. Efforts by the BGSC to encourage discussion on Queen’s graduate students’ tuition and stipend difficulties (Raised by Sarah Waldron, BGSC)

X. Notices of Motion & Announcements

XI. Adjournment

Adjournment

BIRT this SGPS General Meeting be adjourned.