

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

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## II. Adoption of the Agenda

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### A. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION 04/11/23:01**

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the April 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 Council Meeting.

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

## III. Minutes

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### A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

**MOTION 04/11/23:02**

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the March 13<sup>th</sup> 2023 Council Meeting

Miruthula Queen Anbu moves, Emily Steele seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously.

## IV. Executive & Speaker Reports

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### A. Executive Reports

- a. President – Beth Langdon (report attached)
  - i. Thanks everyone for their involvement and participation in SGPS events. This year has been a really good council and since COVID everyone has reintegrated themselves, so I thank you.
  - ii. Can be reached at: [president@sgps.ca](mailto:president@sgps.ca).
- b. VP Graduate – Devin Fowlie (report attached)
  - i. Meeting at Faculty of Arts and Science grad council- SGSPA announced that they are doubling their temporary contribution to graduate student funding- was previously \$250 will now be \$500 for the upcoming year.
  - ii. Increase to Queens Graduate Award (QGA) – QGA is where many graduate students get their base funding from if you don't have external funding. Committed to an increase year over year for the next 3 years beginning in 2024.
  - iii. Support our Sciences is having a nation-wide walk-out in protest to the federal budget which did not have any provisions for graduate student funding.

1. Jane Mao asked: When is the walk out?
  2. Devin responds: Walk out is May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1pm and further information can be found at- <https://www.supportoursience.ca/nationwide-walkout>.
    - iv. Can be reached at: [graduate@sgps.ca](mailto:graduate@sgps.ca).
  - c. VP Professional – Chloe Stone (no report)
    - i. Can be reached at: [vp.professional@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.professional@sgps.ca).
  - d. VP Finance and Services – Sandra Wright (no report)
    - i. Can be reached at: [vp.finance@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.finance@sgps.ca).
  - e. VP Community – Emilia Ganslandt (report attached)
    - i. Extends a thank you to all council members, executive and commissioners.
    - ii. Can be reached at: [vp.community@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.community@sgps.ca)
- B. Speaker Report**
- a. Speaker – Aileen Editha (report attached)
    - i. Trying to implement some additional website changes to make it more user friendly, but this will most likely occur during the summer when the website traffic is reduced. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.
- C. Approval** **MOTION 04/11/23:03**
- BIRT SGPS Council approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

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

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

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- A. Senator Report** – Graduate Student Senator – Emils Matiss (no report)
- B. Trustee Report** – Graduate Student Trustee – Tony Hu (no report)
- a. Last cycle of Board of Trustee meetings will be happening in May (May 12<sup>th</sup>). If anyone is interested in attending, please reach out to Tony and he will connect you with the secretariat office.
  - b. Can be contacted at: [trustee@sgps.ca](mailto:trustee@sgps.ca).
- C. Commissioner Reports**
- a. Athletics & Wellness Commissioner – Clare Gaherty (no report)
  - b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Jane Mao (report attached)
  - c. Indigenous Graduate Liason – *Position vacant*
  - d. International Students' Affairs Commissioner – Vina Li (no report)
  - e. Social Commissioner – Gaby Toretto (report attached)
- D. Committee Reports**
- E. Department Reports**
- F. Other Reports**
- a. University Rector – Owen Crawford-Lem (no report)

**G. Approval**

**MOTION 04/11/23:04**

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

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

## VI. Question Period and Departmental Issues

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## VII. Business Arising from the Minutes

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## VIII. Main Motions & Discussion

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**A. Approval of 2023-24 Council Schedule**

**MOTION 04/11/23:05**

BIRT SGPS Council approves the schedule for 2023-24 Council and General Meetings (attached at end of document).

- a. Aileen Editha comments: Normally plan this in advance to ensure that all dates are known (remains consistent with 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month). Will keep meetings via Zoom for several reasons; JDUC is still under renovation thus don't really have a home base, as well, COVID-19 is still around so we want to be conscientious. Finally, at the least a hybrid platform would be most preferred for accessibility and engagement from council members- as discussed in previous meetings. We will have 1 Fall General Meeting in October – will also be updated on the website.

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

**B. First Reading of Revised Bylaw and Policy Document.**

**MOTION 04/11/23:06**

BIRT SGPS Council approves the proposed changes to the SGPS Bylaw and Policy Document. This is the first of two readings for Bylaw provisions, and the first and only reading for Policy provisions.

*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).*

- a. Aileen Editha provides an overview:
  - i. Cover letter indicates what changes are being proposed.
  - ii. Appendix B is the clean copy of the Bylaws and Policy document- we are still sorting out the numbering of this document so please don't pay attention to the numbering, its more the content that we are seeking feedback for.
  - iii. Appendix C is a tracked changes version of the proposed changes.
  - iv. In regard to how these changes came about, the SGPS executive (Beth Langdon, Emilia Ganslandt, Sandra Wright, Devin Fowlie, and Chloe Stone) brought forth a motion to amend the SGPS Bylaws and Policy. If a Speaker receives such a request from 5 voting members (which the Executive are) to change Bylaws then the Speaker brings forward the motion. This is the first time that this is being brought to council. For Bylaws to be amended they need to go through 2 readings- the 1<sup>st</sup> at council and the 2<sup>nd</sup> at a general or special meeting. However, Policy provisions- as they are not binding- only need one stage of reading, either a council or general meeting (found in B16 in the Bylaw document).
  - v. Aileen reads the cover letter to outline major and minor changes.
    1. As Speaker I have interpreted that the minor changes are for the upkeep of the Bylaws and Policy document and thus don't need to be brought forward but can be changed on our own accord as they don't have weight on the BPs themselves.
  - vi. Aileen asks Devin to work through/provide rationale for the major document changes.
- b. Devin Fowlie:
  - i. Removal of the CRO position
    1. Has been implemented as the CRO is only hired for a short amount of time and the transition period is too short to enable adequate performance of their job- ultimately it can hinder their ability to help the election process. They are also hired at a certain time but then not asked to perform the job for a number of months- makes bargaining of paid hours challenging within the role. Challenges within the CRO role fall to the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, as they largely contribute to the elections process. As the Deputy Speaker is more familiar with the BPs and Council workings their assumption of the role would allow for a more seamless transition within the election period.
    2. Aileen: Any questions about the proposal to remove the CRO position?  
\*none brought forward\*
  - ii. Updating the Role of Council Reps
    1. The current requirement is that Council reps can't miss 3 meetings within the year, this changes it to 2. This has been a problem of executives and officers of council for a while. It's good to encourage people to attend council- we cannot have a voice if someone isn't

representing. Idea is that council representatives would be identifiable- would be more clear about the names we are logging onto meetings with. It's reasonable that people can miss meetings, but this should support communication between council members and the Officers of Council to inform if people will be absent.

2. Council appointments- officers of council need to ensure that council reps are elected within each department by November of each year. Officers can check in with departments and their assistants to ensure that their departments are being represented. We don't know how people are being elected within each department as it depends on their structures and without that knowledge officers of council cannot meaningfully enforce any of these guidelines.
3. Sarah Waldron: When you say that Officers of Council can check up on representatives, who are the Officers of Council?
4. Aileen: Officers of Council are Speaker and Deputy Speaker
5. Lizzie Bygott: We are deciding now what our schedule will be and we are setting this in stone from now on, yet we are transitioning in roles. Is it unfair to make scheduling changes in advance- should we be scheduling them closer too in advance, as we're trying to avoid the number of meetings through which we are not meeting quorum.
6. Aileen responds: Bylaws state that council meetings must be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month so that's where it came from. To clarify it's missing two council meetings without notice to the Speaker.
7. Sarah Waldron: Would be good to include within the requirements for the selection of the role within the department that people must be able to attend these meetings. If this is something that is set in my schedule, then I can adjust my schedule accordingly rather than trying to make meetings scheduled closer too.
8. Aileen responds: There is meant to be a council package to ensure that new individuals are aware of the schedule and role requirements, so thank you for informing us of this and we can continue to update these packages.
9. Beth Langdon: Scheduling can also be commented on in the August meeting to adjust the time of the meeting to potentially better accommodate for people's schedules within the Tuesday time slot.
10. Lizzie Bygott: If we were able to adjust for a more semester basis that could be beneficial to take some form of flexibility to try and be more accommodating as there are numerous factors that we can't always take into consideration.
11. Aileen: Thank you everyone for contributing to this topics conversation. We will continue to see logistically what we can do in the August council

meeting. If there are any further ideas, please feel free to reach out to [speaker@sgps.ca](mailto:speaker@sgps.ca).

iii. Student Senate Caucus and Rector Elections

1. Need to be regularly updated to align with the AMS governance policy. This is redundant and there is a lag time as we get updates from the governing policy website, thus this consolidates those to refer to the AMS policy to reduce lag time and potential inconsistencies within the polices. For clarification student senate caucus = a meeting of all student senators for the university's senate including undergraduate, graduate, and professional student senators.

iv. University Staff Re-Hiring Process

1. Staff would have the option to be re-hired after a performance review as the way it's currently set out, once your term ends you would have to leave the position, re-apply and re-interview. Think it's beneficial if the individual is performing well in the role and are interested thus would make it easier for someone to continue on rather than have to completely go through the whole re-hire process. Performance review is done by numerous executives to provide an insightful report.

v. Reducing the number of signatures for someone to run for elected position

1. This is a particular barrier for individuals in smaller programs. This past year we had good uptake in elections but that's not the case for every year. If a department has under 10 graduate students for ex, it can be hard for a candidate to even get on the ballot. We thought that lowering that barrier would reduce any potential hesitations for individuals to contribute.
2. Sarah Waldron: When I was elected through my department council they needed the 25 signatures, however do you think that this will also be changed with this amendment.
3. Devin: Makes sense as a general way of proceeding. SGPS doesn't have any say within each department's representative election procedure. Could communicate these new changes to the department if they would adopt them as well based on the SGPSs revised bylaws.
4. Aileen: Yes, definitely share these changes to your respective departments, councils, and students.

vi. Honoraria Cap and SGPS Committee Volunteers Honoraria

1. Functions a bit differently depending on the committee they're sitting on, but the major take-away is that volunteers could receive an honorarium up to \$200 to support their contributions (10.2 honoraria explains more in depth- pg 17 of Appendix B). Provision for other ad hoc committees to receive this on a case-by-case basis. Volunteers can only be compensated for one committee seat.

- c. Aileen: In terms of next steps, please reach out if there any concerns. But there would be a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading if today's passes successfully.
  - i. As a second point of questioning, would we be interested in keeping these BPs in one document or rather splitting them as the AMS has done (<https://myams.sharepoint.com/policiesandprocedures/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fpoliciesandprocedures%2FShared%20Documents%2FGovernment%20Policies&p=true&ga=1>). This segmented approach means that each document isn't as long and is more targeted to the specific need that the person is seeking. As council reps, which would you prefer? This doesn't have to be decided now but something to think about.
  - ii. Beth Langdon: I like everything in one document but could also take out the sections to have them specifically accessible but not change the page numbers, so you have both needs met.

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

- d. Beth Langdon comments: To those who dissented, it does sometimes feel uncomfortable to express your concerns if you are facing a majority. So please feel free to reach out to myself or the speaker, as we are interested in hearing your concerns and want to ensure that you feel your voice is heard.

**C. Approval of Proposed Budget Reallocation**

**MOTION 04/11/23:07**

BIRT SGPS Council approves a budget reallocation of \$4,000 from the Targeted Grants budget line to the Emergency Student Financial Assistance budget line for the 2022-2023 budget year.

*Per P.1.1.8.b, changes of amounts between \$1,000 and \$5,000 must be approved by Council and require only one reading.*

- a. Sandra Wright comments: Launched the cost-of-living branch of financial assistance to support students impacted by the cost of living. Seen around 56 applications which is in comparison to 236 total votes. Reallocation of \$4000 of unused funds from the other grant budgets to help support these students in their applications. Any further information can be found on the SGPS website under the financial assistance section (<https://sgps.ca/sgpsfa/>).

Miruthula Queen Anbu moves, Lizzie Bygott seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously.

**D. Motion to Adjust the Order of the Meeting**

**MOTION 04/11/23:08**

*Devin Fowlie requested to move the re-election of the officers of the council above the methods of governance discussion to maintain quorum.*

Devin Fowlie moves, Annika Fuernsinn seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. One dissenting vote; the motion passes by majority, so the order of the meeting was adjusted accordingly (*Re-election of Officers of the Council moved from Other Business to Main Motions and Discussion*).

**E. Re-election of Officers of the Council**

**MOTION 04/11/23:09**

*This motion will be brought by members of the SGPS Executive. During this discussion, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker will temporarily leave the meeting after presenting why they are seeking re-election.*

1. *While Speaker and Deputy Speaker were absent, it was inquired about the process of re-election. Devin Fowlie and Beth Langdon answered, noting that both positions can keep their role if they wish and that there are no term limits.*

BIRT Aileen Editha be reelected Speaker of SGPS Council for the 2023 - 2024 Council year.

BIFRT Katie Zutautas be reelected Deputy Speaker of SGPS Council for the 2023 - 2024 Council year.

Miruthula Queen Anbu moves, Elizabeth Cameron seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously.

**F. Discussion on 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 appendix D to this agenda.*

- a. Aileen Editha: This document has since been updated to put the table at the front- this will be available on the website. Document has been reviewed by the SGPS commissioners- who are non-voting members of council- thus they are technically unbiased as they cannot vote on this process. Wanted to provide a descriptive overview to provide council members information about other potential governances. If you have thoughts on this right now, please feel free to share them. This is just a topic for discussion, no motions are present with it, so this is meant to inspire discussions but can continue to be revisited in the future.
  - i. Beth Langdon: If we did take on a new rule/order/structure, then would the Bylaws have to be revised for that as well? (Aileen answers: yes). Would be interesting if we could integrate some of these from different structures together- for example, having consensus decision making in certain aspects of a more structured meeting.
- b. Aileen: If there are any comments or questions, please reach out to [speaker@sgps.ca](mailto:speaker@sgps.ca).

**IX. Other Business**

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**X. Notices of Motion & Announcements**

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## XI. Adjournment

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### **Adjournment**

**MOTION 04/11/23:09**

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

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

### **Proposed 2023 – 2024 SGPS Council Schedule**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Reports Due</b>	<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Location of Meeting</b>
<b>May</b>	May 9, 2023	May 16, 2023 5:30 pm	Zoom
<b>August</b>	August 8, 2023	August 15, 2023 5:30 pm	Zoom
<b>September</b>	September 12, 2023	September 19, 2023 5:30 pm	Zoom
<b>October Annual General Meeting</b>	October 10, 2023	October 17, 2023 5:30 pm	Zoom
<b>November</b>	November 7, 2023	November 14, 2023 5:30 pm	Zoom
<b>December</b>	December 5, 2023	December 12, 2023 5:30 pm	Zoom
<b>January</b>	January 16, 2024	January 23, 2024 5:30 pm	Zoom
<b>February</b>	February 6, 2024	February 13, 2024 5:30 pm	Zoom
<b>March</b>	March 5, 2024	March 12, 2024 5:30 pm	Zoom
<b>April</b>	April 2, 2024	April 9, 2024 5:30 pm	Zoom