

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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*Notice from the SGPS Council Speaker, Aileen Editha:*

During the meeting, I mentioned that we did not have quorum (which, according to P.5.2.3 (I) is defined as 1% of the SGPS membership (47 ordinary members) or, with the discretion of the Speaker, 25 ordinary members). This is because I did not include myself in the count.

Upon closely reviewing and looking through the SGPS Bylaw and Policy document with our President, we found that the GM has different quorum requirements compared to the rules for Council meetings. For Council meetings, **P.5.2.2 (n)** states that "[q]uorum for Council Meetings is twelve members with full voting rights, excluding the Speaker". For GMs, however, **P.5.2.3** only makes references to *ordinary members* and does not exclude the Speaker from this quorum; see:

- **P.5.2.3 (b):** "All ordinary members are voting members with one vote."
- Defined in **B.4.1 (a):** "An Ordinary Member of the SGPS is defined as any Graduate Student or Professional Student at Queen's University that has paid the SGPS Society fee as assessed by the Office of the University Registrar [Ordinary Member]."
- **P.5.2.3 (I):** "Quorum for any General Meeting is 1% of the membership of the SGPS (rounded up to the nearest whole number). If there is no quorum at such a meeting, but at least 25 ordinary members are present, business may proceed at the discretion of the Speaker as though quorum were present."

With this interpretation, I should have included myself in the count, which means that **we did, in fact, reach quorum defined as having at least 25 ordinary members**. Because of this, the motions passed in the GM will stand and no further action or vote is required to legitimize the decisions made in the May 16<sup>th</sup> GM.

Thank you very much, as always, for your patience and understanding as I continue to learn and navigate through the SGPS Bylaw and Policy document.

## II. Adoption of the Agenda

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### A. Adoption of the Agenda

**MOTION 05/16/23:01**

BIRT SGPS adopt the Agenda for the May 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 General Meeting.

Maya Kawale moves, Steacy Coombs 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 05/16/23:02**

BIRT SGPS adopt the minutes from the April 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 Council Meeting

Sarah Waldron moves, Miruthula Queen Anbu 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 – Devin Fowlie (report attached)
  - i. Attended a few meetings recently and it seems there is a consensus amongst most that lack of governmental funding has hurt university and that's had a large impact on students. Based on those discussions we need a unified voice to try to encourage that funding in the future. Steacy Coombs will speak more on this.
  - ii. Remind everyone that the 3 Minute Thesis competition is tomorrow morning (10am) at the Isabel Bader Centre. This is the Ontario competition and anyone is welcome to attend.
  - iii. Applications for An Clachan and John Orr open tomorrow morning at 10am for 40 spots. If anyone is interested the application information can be found here: <https://community.housing.queensu.ca/an-clachan-tenants/#ApplicationPaperwork>.
  - iv. If you have completed cyclical review, please reach out so you can complete a survey. Send me an email and I can connect you with the people that would like to hear from you.
  - v. Mathew Evans is the new Provost and Vice Principle (Academic) and Stephanie Simpson will be the Vice Principle (Culture, Equity, and Inclusion) as of school's recent communication.
  - vi. Can be reached at: [vp.president@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.president@sgps.ca).
- b. VP Graduate – Steacy Coombs (report attached)
  - i. Funding – main focus of grad summit that was held on May 1<sup>st</sup> run by James Fraser and Faculty of Arts and Science. A lot of support but they're working within their given budgets- discussions about how to approach the government.
  - ii. Orientation Committee – first meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Discussing what's currently happening in orientation and evaluating its effectiveness and if we want it to continue. If anyone has recommendations for what they want to see, please share. These meetings will recur over the summer, so your feedback is beneficial.
  - iii. Can be reached at: [vp.finance@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.finance@sgps.ca)
- c. VP Professional – Maya Kawale (report attached)
  - i. Main thing working on currently is Commissioner hiring.

- ii. Can be reached at: [vp.professional@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.professional@sgps.ca).
- d. VP Finance and Services – Gaby Fekete (report attached)
  - i. My report discusses my two goals for this position and proposes a timeline for creation of the new budget.
  - ii. Applications to finance committee are open, so we encourage students to apply.
  - iii. Can be reached at: [vp.finance@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.finance@sgps.ca)
- e. VP Community – Tony Hu (as of 15 May 2023) (report attached)
  - i. Hiring update – SGPS is hoping to get both the Athletics commissioner and Deputy Equity commissioner hired by June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - ii. Planning for upcoming school year – looking to get year plan to council for August.
  - iii. Canadian Federation of Students is holding a Mental Health Working Group – will be a member of this and will start meetings over the summer.
  - iv. Ann Tierney- Vice Provost and Cynthia Gibney- Executive Director of Student Wellness Services- discussed how there is an unlimited demand for student wellness services, but they are constrained by their funding model. Hope to engage in greater conversations in collaboration with Canadian Federation of Students to try and better supply funding. Currently Student Wellness Services is funded through Ministry of Education funding- tuition and grants from the government. As Student Wellness Services are healthcare, looking to get funding from the Ministry of Health as well.
  - v. Can be contacted at: [vp.community@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.community@sgps.ca)

**B. Speaker Report**

- a. Speaker – Aileen Editha (report attached)
  - i. Katie Zutautas and I have been re-elected as officers of council as per the April council meeting. We have three major things in our agenda: 1) revision of Bylaws and Policy, 2) update the SGPS website, 3) create a handover handbook and more generally, increase inclusivity and effective running of SGPS council. If you have questions, please reach out at [speaker@sgps.ca](mailto:speaker@sgps.ca).

**C. Approval**

**MOTION 05/16/23:03**

BIRT SGPS approve the Executive and Speaker Reports.

Elizabeth Cameron moves, Kat Snelling 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 – *Position Vacant as of May 15 2023*

**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 – Gabby Toretto (no report)
  - i. Tony Hu and I met and discussed orientation planning and events over summer, so stay tuned. Wanting to create an accessible and welcoming environment for students.
  - ii. Annika Fuernsinn (submitted through chat): Idea for orientation: have more “fun” events as opposed to “information” events. This orientation could be a great chance to get to know other grad students... To this day, I barely know any grad students outside of my department.
  - iii. Can be reached at: [social@sgps.ca](mailto:social@sgps.ca).

**D. Committee Reports**

**E. Department Reports**

**F. Other Reports**

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

**G. Approval**

**MOTION 05/16/23:04**

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

Kat Snelling moves, Gaby Fekete 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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**A. Question: Intended/planned updates for the SGPS website? (*Raised by Sarah Waldron, BGSC*)**

- (1) Sarah Waldron: This was a question from someone in BGSC committee wondering if certain pages would be included on the website, such as the funding page, as at the time it they were saying they were under construction.
- (2) Devin Fowlie: Moving forward, what we can do is provide a timeframe for when pages will be updated rather than them having a blanket statement of being under construction.
- (3) Aileen Editha: Just as a comment as well, we do recognize there are some areas of the SGPS website that are more inaccessible than others and so this summer, as user traffic is lower, we are looking to make some website adjustments. There are many new resources that will be uploaded to the council website to increase inclusivity.

## VII. Business Arising from the Minutes

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## VIII. Main Motions & Discussion

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*Had some discrepancies regarding whether quorum was reached for this meeting. As the Speaker thought it hadn't been reached, a motion was passed by members of council and the executive to continue to hold council with the added understanding that an email would be circulated to all council members where they could contest the decisions made at the General Meeting. As such, the following motion ensued.*

BIRT current members attending the meeting approve that we proceed with business and agenda as usual, as if there was quorum of 25 ordinary members.

Maya Kawale moves and Annika Fuernsinn seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. One dissenting vote; the motion passes with 2/3 majority.

**A. Second Reading of Revised Bylaw Provisions.**

**MOTION 05/16/23:05**

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).*

- (1) Aileen Editha: Introduces motion and brings everyone up to speed on last councils meeting. The first reading was passed in the April council reading- please reference those meeting minutes for a more in-depth overview of the changes discussed. This is second reading only for Bylaw as they need two readings whereas Policy only needs one reading. Invites a member of the executive to speak on the changes outlined in the "Cover Letter for SGPS BP Revisions"- attached in Appendix A.
- (2) Devin Fowlie: Highlights and reiterates the major changes as outlined in the proposed changes cover letter.

No comments or questions were posed.

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

**B. FTMBA Joining the SGPS**

**MOTION 05/16/23:06**

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.*

- (1) Devin Fowlie: The MBA program has been a part of the AMS which doesn't make sense as they are not undergraduate students- trying to switch them under the SGPS. This only recently came to our collective attention which is why this change is moving to be made now. One component of being included is for the party to present at an annual general meeting and the motion pass. Jess Deluce and Lucas D'Erman are presenting on FT MBA behalf.
- (2) Jess Deluce: President of full-time MBA (FTMBA). Traditionally, MBA program was a direct undergrad entry program tailored to engineering and science programs. Due to this it wasn't classified as a graduate program as the turn-over was so frequent, thus at that point in time (about 20yrs ago) the AMS assumed responsibility for MBA students. However, since then the program has evolved and Lucas can speak too.
- (3) Lucas D'Erman: As the program progressed, requirements changed, for example now need minimum of 2-4.5yrs of work experience to be accepted within the MBA program as it has become more competitive. Needs of MBA students have changed and are more aligned with the needs graduate students rather than undergraduate students which is why we're seeking to join the SGPS. This would be set up for next year MBAs cohort.
- (4) Aileen Editha: Again, this motion only kickstarts the referendum process, this doesn't mean that the FTMBA is joining from today's vote.

Kat Snelling moves, Maya Kawale seconds. No points of discussion on this motion. No dissenting votes; the motion passes unanimously.

- (1) Katie Zutautas: Just out of curiosity, what is the typical cohort size of the MBA program?
  - (a) Jess Deluce: That's a great question. It does vary, but typically it ranges between 80-85 students. Of that the majority are FTMBA students, between 3-5 are Graduate Business Diploma (GBD) students out of Smith, and ranging from 2-4 Law students that do the dual masters of their Law and MBA. Currently this year we have a smaller cohort- we have 69, due to COVID and other matters. And it is a one year program.

**C. Discussion: enabling discourse among Council Representatives across various departments.**

*Raised by Sarah Waldron, BGSC*

*This section has been amalgamated with the former Other Business Section in the May Meeting Agenda titled "Efforts by the BGSC to encourage discussion on Queen's graduate students' tuition and stipend difficulties (Raised by Sarah Waldron, BGSC)"*

- (1) Sarah Waldron: Hi everyone, I'm Sarah and represent the BGSC (Bio Graduate Student Council) so I communicate back and forth between the BGSC and SGPS. One thing that that I've noticed and spoken with Aileen about as well as my own council, is that there is a lack of discourse between department representatives on SGPS council. There are a lot of current student movements (ex. through PSAC) and the Bio students have a lot of issues that they're discussing, we thought that having other graduate and professional students communicating amongst each other may help fortify the student front against administration. What I wanted to propose is that people in this meeting who would like

to get in touch and continue this discussion, can include their contact information in the following worksheet: [https://queensuca-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/jny\\_queensu\\_ca/EWyzZTSIQHF0sLxWryO2FbQBshfhL4CN6Z-9jZnZ51danQ?e=kWThMn](https://queensuca-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/jny_queensu_ca/EWyzZTSIQHF0sLxWryO2FbQBshfhL4CN6Z-9jZnZ51danQ?e=kWThMn)

- (2) Aileen Editha: If anyone has issues accessing the document, please reach out to me and I can put you in contact with Sarah.
- (3) Devin Fowlie: Had a discussion earlier today about getting a broader discussion going across departments specifically to the Faculty of Arts and Science, but this could apply to any faculty board. If you haven't done your undergrad at Queen's or are less familiar with the Queen's administrative structure, there are DSC's (Department Student Councils) that have a say in many of these faculty boards. Graduate students don't have this kind of representation at the moment, it's through the one SGPS rep – which is Steacy Coombs. Steacy and I are in discussion to determine how we might have this discussion across departments to increase graduate representation.
- (4) Steacy Coombs: Want to compile a list of departments across Queen's that have graduate student councils and have recurring meetings where we can have a more informal discussion about issues or anything going on within the departments. Again, this is a very recent discussion, so more information will be shared as we move forward.

*Aileen asked Sarah to speak on the Other Business Section titled "Efforts by the BGSC to encourage discussion on Queen's graduate students' tuition and stipend difficulties (Raised by Sarah Waldron, BGSC)"*

- (5) Sarah Waldron: This comment went with the other topic I discussed as an effort to encourage discussion and reach solutions to see how other students are dealing with this, so this serves as an example of what we could discuss in these interdepartmental meetings.
- (6) Devin Fowlie: I don't have a lot new to share on this topic- will touch on some of it in my report, but I think it's good that we're keeping this discussion going, need to continue to build momentum as broadly as possible.
- (7) Steacy Coombs: Just to add, we were recently told that the government wants to see support from industry for topics of tuition and stipend costs. If you work or know industry partners, have them write to their MPs in support of making changes to graduate student tuition or stipends.

**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.*

- (1) Aileen Editha: Current methods of governance for the SGPS have been in accord with Roberts Rules of Order (RRO) however within that there is contention about whether we have fully adopted RRO or whether we've created our own morphed version. Thus, we've talked amongst council members to determine whether we should adopt a new method of governance. Katie Zutautas (Deputy Speaker) and I, as Officers of Council, are trying to provide potential alternatives and information as we are neutral parties within

council, but ultimately the decision belongs to the SGPS ordinary members and council representatives as to how council and general meetings should be governed. If there are any further thoughts you have, or you have experience in other governing boards with other types of governance that you would like to recommend please reach out to myself and Katie.

## IX. Other Business

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## X. Notices of Motion & Announcements

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## XI. Adjournment

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### **Adjournment**

**MOTION 05/16/23:07**

BIRT this SGPS General Meeting be adjourned.

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