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Hey council,

Wow, what an eventful and fast start to the semester! I hope you are all starting to feel settled in and ready for the fall semester ahead of you – I hope you are able to take some time to take breaks during this busy time. We are always here to support if you ever need anything, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

I want to share a few announcements about things that are happening at the university. First and foremost I am excited to share that Student Wellness Services has hired a new graduate embedded counsellor, Sevda Akilli. The embedded counsellor is an important role because it means that there is a counsellor at SWS that specifically focuses on helping graduate students – this means opening up some more spaces for graduate students to receive mental health services. In addition, online booking will be available going forward.

We had an opportunity to meet the new Provost, Matthew Evans, last month and we chatted about issues that are important to graduate students. In particular, we focused on the out-of-control cost of living, increasing rates of homelessness of students, and we pushed the Provost to provide some direction on how the University can move forward with solving these issues. Unfortunately, we are going to be faced with a lot of resistance on this topic and the Provost was reluctant to offer any solutions. I have been pushing the Provost's Office for a follow-up meeting with myself and Tony, but scheduling difficulties during September have made this a challenge. I am continuing to push hard on this and hope to have some more news to report on this next month. I would encourage you to read Tony's report, or reach out to him directly, for information on the CFS "Fight the fees" campaign if you are interested in this issue.

We have been very fortunate to have had Adekunle Omoboye working with the SGPS over the last year as our Black student researcher. Adekunle collected a large amount of data from Black students on campus and compiled this into a very helpful report that he presented to us at the end of August. This report includes some strong recommendations on what we can do as an organization to improve the Black student experience, and we are working to implement some of the changes with Adekunle's guidance over the course of this Fall term. I am excited to report back on what this means and to keep you all updated on the changes as they develop.

Just two final notes about things happening at the university before I get to a bit of housekeeping: The Senate Committee on Academic Development and Procedures (SCADP) recently approved the appointment of a new research chair in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science; the chair will be a leading researcher in nuclear materials and the department anticipates that this will allow for funding additional graduate students to work on this topic. Finally, a note that the Office of the University Registrar has struck a convocation advisory group; this group works on making convocation more efficient and effective, but it is important to keep graduate and professional student voices at the forefront of this conversation. If you have specific questions, concerns, or ideas about convocation that you want to make sure are implemented, please reach out to Gaby who is serving on this committee.

A couple of housekeeping and reminder points. First, a note to any new students (a reminder to returning students) that the university has updated their sexual violence prevention policies, specifically to reflect changes in Bill 39. This means that new regulations have been placed on employee-student relationships, which implicate you if you are a teaching assistant or otherwise employed by the university in any capacity. I have included the link here if you would like to review the policies, and do not hesitate to reach out to PSAC 901 if you have specific questions about the policy (<https://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/policies/administration-and-operations/interim-sexual-misconduct-policy>). I want to also note that Student Wellness Services has a new walk-in mental health service available, allowing you to walk-in any time between 1-4pm every day and receive mental health support. They are seeking feedback from the community, and specifically from Council, on whether this service is something that is desired and if any changes should be made to make it more accessible.

Okay, that is all from me! Please check out my year plan at the end of this report and, as always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please reach out to me at president@sgps.ca

Take care,

Devin Fowlie
President



Hello Council Members,

Welcome everyone our September Council Meeting! It has been a busy start to the year but I'm excited for the Fall 2023 semester to be underway. I'd like to highlight some items from the events and meetings I have attended, as well as inform you of my plans moving forward.

As many of the committees, councils and groups are starting up again, I have made it my priority to highlight how dire the financial situation is for graduate and professional students. Our funding packages (though they vary depending on each faculty and department) are far below minimum wage, and even farther below a living wage. Therefore, the placement within the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings top 10 seemed surprising. 50% of the AMS Food Bank users are graduate and professional students. Many faculties and departments are showing support, but this has not translated to a significant increase in funding.

As I mentioned last month, there were some changes coming this fall to the Health and Dental Plan; one of these changes include the new EmpowerMe+. It has been evident to Queen's that graduate students need reliable access to mental health services, and we are hoping to provide this through EmpowerMe+. We are still working with SGSPA and DSA to ensure student accessibility to this program, while not being a financial burden.

During the September Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) Graduate Council, James Fraser mentioned that he is trying to support departments in forming student societies. The formation of student societies is a priority on my year plan (see August 2023 Council Report), and I plan to work with James in spreading the word and supporting students in forming these departmental student associations.

This summer, I met with Gavan Watson, the new Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning, about making our classrooms and lecture halls more accessible through hybridization. He expressed they are very much in support of this initiative and provided me with contacts and ideas for getting making hybridization happen. Likely, we will put together portable kits and run a pilot project with interested professors. I have identified a course/seminar series that I'd like to use for the pilot project. I will be following up with Gavan, Andy Leger, the professor in charge of the course, and the departmental graduate coordinator to start the process of hybridizing the course/seminar.

I am managing a disability and will be working mainly remotely, but I'm happy to meet with you online should the need arise (vp.graduate@sgps.ca)!

Stacey Coombs
Vice-President Graduate, SGPS



Good Evening Council,

Welcome, and thank you for coming to our September Council meeting! I hope that everyone has had a fantastic first few weeks at school! I would like to highlight some elements that have been completed this month as well as some events and meetings to come in the near future.

The executive members gave O-Talks to the various graduate and professional student bodies. All of the O-Talks were successful, and we enjoyed connecting and meeting many of our incoming members!

During Orientation, SGPS was at the annual Sidewalk Sale. This event was a very big hit and we had various members as well as undergraduates visit our booth to gain more information about the SGPS and what we do as a collective.

Our Board Games Night is coming up! This event is being run with Yellow House. It is on September 19th from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM at 140 Stuart Street. Please stop by, have some snacks, and play some games. We look forward to seeing you there!

I have been working alongside the Sexual Violence Policy Working Group. We are looking to advocate for all students involved during the process of hearing complaints. We also want to ensure that all individuals understand procedures going forward which will guarantee a fair and just process.

The Executive is still actively engaging in the planning of the new Student Life Center (SLC). The TriParty Agreement Negotiations are continuously happening in efforts to finalize some elements of the buildings management board, organization, and financial elements. If you have any questions or concerns about the SLC please reach out so that we can ensure your voice is heard.

The Equity & Diversity Commissioner and I are working on an initiative to create an anonymous feedback form for marginalized individuals. We are hoping that this will allow for individuals to share their experience without fear of being identified so that the SGPS can understand issues that our members face. This will help us become better advocates and foster change in the Queen's community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at vp.professional@sgps.ca

All the best,
Maya Kawale
Vice President Professional, SGPS



Greetings Council,

Welcome, and thank you to all those who are attending the September council meeting.

1. Annual Budget

The annual budget was developed with three goals in mind: 1) to reflect the interests of SGPS members by funding initiatives that support students; 2) to promote financial sustainability; and 3) to minimize instances of under-utilized budget items. [A breakdown of this year's budget](#) and an [explanation of changes to the proposed budget](#) are linked.

At this council meeting we will look to pass the proposed budget for the year.

2. Revamping the Financial Assistance Program

The Finance Committee continues to process financial assistance applications. Anticipated changes on the horizon include broadening the emergency assistance subsidy. A summary of what the proposed changes to the financial assistance program, which were detailed at the August council meeting are as follows:

The financial assistance program has been revised to promote the SGPS's ability and capacity to support students. A summary presentation of the program can be found [here](#).

The following is a summary of the most significant changes to the financial assistance program:

- Introduction of the General Health Subsidy
 - The general health subsidy aims to support students by covering a wide range of medical or health-related expenses. This subsidy replaces the mental-health subsidy and covers mental health services in addition to other health-related costs.
- Introduction of the Gender-Affirming Care Subsidy
 - The SGPS is pleased to present the gender-affirming care subsidy. This subsidy will support students who receive gender-affirming care by covering a wide range of services, medications and products.
- Introducing of Grants
 - The grant program is back, and we are introducing three grants that will be available to students starting in September. The grant program provides funding for student-led initiatives that aim to promote accessibility, diversity and inclusion and sustainability at Queen's.
- Increase in the UHIP Subsidy
 - Due to the large number of international students who require financial support, we have decided to increase the budget for the UHIP subsidy.
- Discontinuance of Cost of Living Subsidy

- Due legal issues associated with providing this subsidy, the SGPS is no longer able to offer the cost of living subsidy. We recognize that many students are experiencing moderate to severe levels of financial stress and the executive team will continue to search for other measures of supporting students.

3. Opening the Financial Assistance Program

Students experiencing financial stress are strongly encouraged to apply for financial assistance for eligible expenses. A guide to the financial assistance program can be found [here](#).

A special thank you to the hard-working and dedicated Finance Committee. Matthew Kuciak, Katie Zutaugas, Ramtin Mojtahedi, Noah James, and Samuel Makinde for their continued efforts to process financial assistance applications in a timely manner.

4. Nurturing a More Inclusive Campus for Individuals Struggling with Mental Health Challenges

The SGPS successfully applied for a Campus Safety Grant. This funding will be used to promote programs that promote safety on campus including mental health awareness training, anti-racism training, and programming to help students understand how to promote the safety and well-being of equity seeking groups on campus.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this note.

Sincerely,

Gaby Fekete (she/her), Vice President Finance and Services



Dear Council,

Welcome to a new academic year. With orientation occurring, the energy on campus and around Kingston is palpable. It has been a delight meeting both new and returning SGPS members throughout the month of September.

Canadian Federation of Students Ontario Annual General Meeting

I attended the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Ontario Annual General Meeting (AGM), held in Mississauga, ON from August 17-20, 2023, as the delegate from Queen's University Society of Graduate and Professional Students. We are member local 27.

The four-day AGM began with an orientation, followed by anti-oppression training, opening plenary session, meetings of the Ontario Graduate Caucus, meetings of the budget sub-committee, several workshops, and the closing plenary session.

The SGPS was joined by the University of Toronto Graduate Students' Union, Nipissing University Student Union, Ontario College of Art and Design Student Union, Western University Society of Graduate Students, University of Windsor Graduate Students' Society, York Federation of Students, Trent Central Student Association, Carleton University Graduate Students' Association, Algoma University Students' Union, York University Graduate Students' Union, Association des étudiantes et étudiants francophones de l'Université Laurentienne, Student Association of George Brown College, Glendon College Student Union, University of Ottawa Graduate Students' Association, Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students of the University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus Students' Union, University of Toronto, Toronto Metropolitan Association of Part-Time Students, and the University of Toronto at Mississauga Students' Union.

Motions raised by member locals and passed at CFS Ontario AGMs dictate the direction of the organization. Once raised, motions are referred to the relevant subcommittee: either the Budget Committee, the Campaigns and Government Relations Committee, the Organizational and Services Development Committee, or the Policy Review and Development Committee. Motions are also discussed by caucuses and constituency groups. After receiving a referred motion, the subcommittee generates a report, and the motion is voted on at the closing plenary session. Next year, the SGPS might consider sponsoring a motion that challenges CFS Ontario to set more ambitious targets for graduate and professional student-specific advocacy.

November 8: National Day of Action

November 8 is the Federation's National Day of Action featuring its Fight the Fees campaign. The Fight the Fees campaign is centered around three principles: 1) free and accessible post-secondary education, 2) education justice, and 3) increased funding for graduate students. While the needs of SGPS members are represented under the aegis of the National Day of Action, the needs of

undergraduate students have historically been and continue to be prioritized in this action. Internal conversations among the SGPS Executive will determine the extent of the SGPS' involvement in the National Day of Action. The Federation will release a Know Your Rights Guide to help folks with precarious status such as international students who require a visa organize.

Ontario Graduate Caucus

A caucus is a group of member local associations with common characteristics (i.e., student associations composed in whole or in part of graduate students). Food insecurity appeared to be a focal point of discussions, with delegates discussing foodbank organizing. I spoke about graduate student stipends, the housing crisis, and recent organizing efforts at Simon Fraser University with the gradCOLA campaign. The challenge of inter-department variability on graduate student stipends was echoed by the delegate from Western University. For example, some departments claw back funding for students who receive scholarships like the Ontario Graduate Scholarship. This highlighted the need for graduate student networking and education. A petition by the McMaster University Graduate Students Association for more graduate funding was also discussed.

Orientation

This month, I delivered orientation talks at the following departments: Gender Studies, English, Sociology, and Global Development Studies. Talks were a great way to meet our members, to educate our members on the services we offer, and to encourage our members to get involved. On September 7, I tabled at the An Clachan Meet and Greet with Vina, the International Student Affairs Commissioner. Many of the residents at An Clachan are international graduate students, and it was a great opportunity to promote our services and to listen to our members' concerns. On September 9, I staffed the SGPS booth at Sidewalk Sale. University Avenue saw a lot of foot traffic, and it was another great opportunity to meet and talk to our members.

Committees and meetings

- AMS Commissioner of External Affairs
 - The AMS is focused on housing affordability as a central issue.
 - Queen's first year residence guarantee was cancelled, blindsiding students and the city.
 - The Commissioner of External Affairs' goal is to get partnerships between the school and the city; to get clear and definitive promises on housing supply and sustainable housing for students.
 - At the city level, focus on housing quality via by-law enforcement of property standards.
 - Consider AMS-SGPS joint delegation to city council.
- Dean of Student Affairs
 - Questioned change from first year residence guarantee to first year residence commitment.
 - An estimated 5-15% of first years who want to live in residence will have to find alternative living arrangements under the first year residence commitment.
 - University budget cuts will result in a 3.5% cut to shared services, including Student Affairs.
 - Cuts will result in reduced personnel across all departments in Student Affairs.
 - Goal is to keep service levels at Student Wellness Services.
 - Continuing conversations with the SGPS around the impact of cuts on students.
- Sexual Health Resource Centre management board
 - Centre updates: 11 executives, 20 volunteers, 10-15 new volunteers hired in September.

- Online ordering paused with return to in person.
 - New website launching late August/early September.
 - Budget sustainable without grants.
- CFS and SGPS organizing meeting
 - Discussed ways the CFS can support the SGPS in organizing for the National Day of Action.
- Global Climate Strike
 - September 15
- Migrants Rights Network Regularization Action
 - September 17
- Task Force on Street Parties
 - September 27

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact me at vp.community@sgps.ca.

Yours in service,

Tony Hu (he/him or they/them)
Vice President Community, SGPS



Queen's University is situated on traditional Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee territories.

Happy start of a new academic year, everyone!

1. **Welcome:** A very warm welcome to those who are just joining us. Welcome to SGPS and the SGPS Council! We have created an infographic, FAQs sheet as well as an “Introduction to SGPS Council Meetings” video. These have been attached to the previous e-mails, and has also been uploaded to the website, see: <https://www.sgps.ca/sgps-council>.
2. **SGPS Council social event:** To thank you for volunteering to be part of the SGPS Council, we will be organizing a **social event** at The Grad Club just for our Council Representatives. This will be held sometime in late September to October to give some people a chance to settle into the new academic year. For now, **keep a look out for an e-mail from me!**
3. **For a better Council:** To ensure that we continue to increase **attendance, inclusivity, and engagement in Council and General Meetings**, please:
 - a. **Try your best to attend meetings.** If you cannot attend, please e-mail speaker@sgps.ca and let me know beforehand. Per Bylaw and Policy, if you are unable to attend, you are entitled to one proxy vote so long as you notify me beforehand.
 - b. **Come prepared.** Please take some time (at the very least 5 minutes) to read through the agenda, relevant documents, and Council Reports provided. This will not only increase participation and engagement, but will also ensure the smooth running of meetings.
 - c. **Get in touch with me.** As Officers of the Council, we depend on Council Representatives to let us know what and how we can do better. If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail speaker@sgps.ca.

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at speaker@sgps.ca

SGPS Council Speaker
Aileen Editha (she/her)



Dear Council,

Happy start to a new academic year! This report highlights the fitness and wellness-related events I have organized for the start of the academic term. I also hope to gather feedback from members on what kind of wellness workshops would be beneficial for graduate students.

1. Free Fitness Classes at the ARC for SGPS members

- **Free Zumba Class**, Wednesday September 20th, 4:30-5:30pm, Studio 1
This easy-to-follow, Latin inspired dance class will provide SGPS members with a fun and energetic workout.
- **Free Triple Threat Class**, Wednesday, September 27th, 4:30-5:30pm, Studio 1
This class targeting core, cardio, and strength will allow SGPS members to partake in a workout that targets all the major muscle groups using equipment such as dumbbells.
Spots in these classes are limited and registration is required via the SGPS links provided through the SGPS Instagram page.

2. ARC Tours

- Thursday, September 21st, 4:30-5pm
 - Tuesday, September 26th, 4:30-5pm
- The Queen's University Athletics & Recreation Centre offers a wide array of fitness opportunities to keep students active throughout the year. SGPS members can sign up to join one of these free, guided tours through the ARC to get an overview of the facilities and resources this space has to offer. Spots are limited and registration is required. Sign up links can be found via the SGPS Instagram page.

3. Virtual ARC Tour

The Social Commissioner and I have put together a virtual tour of the ARC video for those unable to attend an in-person tour. The video aims to provide SGPS members with an overview of the ARC facilities to encourage members to take advantage of the many resources this space has to offer. The video will be available to all members on the SGPS website.

4. Wellness Workshops

One of my goals this year is to partner with Student Wellness Services to offer SGPS members a number of wellness workshops. Please reach out to me if you have any suggestions or recommendations for what kind of workshops would be beneficial for you.

I am excited for the upcoming events and look forward to seeing you there. Please don't hesitate to contact athletics@sgps.ca if you have any questions, feedback, or ideas for fitness and wellness related events.

Sincerely,

Meghan Mendelin (she/her)
SGPS Athletics & Wellness Commissioner - athletics@sgps.ca



Hello Council Members,

As I have fully transitioned our Deputy ED Commissioner, Sangeetha, I conclude with a bit of a shorter report.

Over the past few months, this is what I have done:

1. Collaborations
 - a. Working with our Socials commissioner to ensure Orientation goes as smoothly as possible!
2. Transition for next year has completed!!
 - a. Gender Affirming Bursary
 - i. We just approved our first one, great job Sangeetha!
 - b. SGPS Black Liaison Commissioner
 - i. Ensuring the launch and start of this position runs smoothly!
 - c. Orientation
 - i. Currently planning an anti-oppressive sexual education and consent workshop!!
 - d. Soft Infrastructure Network
 - i. Deputy has this completely handled!!
3. Committee Commitment
 - a. Public Service Alliance of Canada DCL 901 (PSAC 901) – on hold until summer
 - b. Provost’s Action Group for Gender and Sexual Diversity (PAGGAS) – on hold until summer
 - c. Soft Infrastructure Network – working on it!
 - d. Built Environment Advisory Group – Deputy is taking over!
 - e. University Council on Anti-Racism and Equity (UCARE) – working on new year ideas!
 - f. Inclusive Communities UCARE Sub-Committee – working on new year ideas!
 - g. Steering Committee related to review of CSES response to Hate Crimes – paused until new year!
 - h. Senate Educational Equity Committee – paused until new year!

Best,

Jane Mao

BScH, SXGD Certificate, M.Ed Candidate

equity@sgps.ca

Equity and Diversity Commissioner

Society of Graduate and Professional Students



Hello Council,

Hope this report finds everybody well! Our orientation events are going very well and it was a blast to work alongside the organizers and volunteers!

Ongoing conversation with the Ban Righ Centre

In the last few months, there have been a marked increase in international students emailing to request help in finding financial resources such as scholarships, bursaries, awards, etc. The majority of these emails came from international women students with children. I have started a discussion since then to 1) identify Ban Righ resources that are especially helpful for international students; 2) provide suggestions about resources they can potentially offer to international students and; 3) seek potential collaborations between the SGPS and Ban Righ to help these students. Our next meeting is scheduled on September 18th and more updates will be provided in the next report.

Connecting QUIC and SGPS services

The QUIC provides a very thoughtful series of services and advocacy efforts with their resources. We have been taking a break with meetings for the summer, but I have requested a list of resources to share with our network. For council members' reference, the following resources should be especially helpful for graduate students: 1) Academic transition chats: conversations are held on various higher education topics, including academic cultural shock and communication expectations which are especially helpful for international graduate students and; 2) International Voices at Queen's Podcast, where students share their experiences and strategies for success. I will be passing on these resources and relevant dates to the SGPS community shortly, along with other resources that I am waiting to hear back from them. One of my goals for this academic year is to make resources at Queen's more accessible to international students. Currently I am having conversations with QUIC academic advisors to potentially connect their programs with the student advising services offered by the SGPS. I am hoping that the connection will strengthen the SGPS's capacity to provide resources for international students to better navigate their graduate career.

Meet & Greet at An Clachan

A Meet & Greet event was organized to introduce both on- and off-campus resources to residents at An Clachan. It was exciting to meet the large number of international students living there! A few questions regarding our newly changed health & dental plan and supervisor issues were raised by the residents about our services and I will be seeking clarification from the respective council members and SGPS staff. To council members who might be interested to host an event there: The An Clachan Community Room is a newly renovated multi-functional space ready for events. If you need more information, their community coordinator, Amy Okesola, can be reached at amy.okesola@queensu.ca.

Fairness for International Students Working Group (Canadian Federation of Students)

The working group has had 3 meetings over the summer discussing the following issues: domestic vs international tuition disparity, rights for international students to protest, clearer path for immigration for graduate students (currently the immigration pathways are geared more towards working populations). I have not heard from my networks about similar sentiments around Queen's aside from tuition disparity (which we are actively advocating for). However, I am keeping track of resources the working group is able to provide so that we can jump in with assistance in case one of our SGPS international members raise relevant concerns.

Global Month – Vice Provost Global Engagement

The Global Month is coming up shortly in October/November. A series of panels and events will be held by VP-Global Engagement and we will also likely hold an event in conjunction. More details will hopefully be available after our next meeting (still scheduling).

International Student Affairs Commission Year Plan

Please see my year plan attached below:

Objective 1	Providing more financial benefits to international students
Description	Compared to domestic students, international students incur many hidden costs in their daily lives, such as immigration application fee, travel to/from home and the extra cost of UHIP. These costs pose more challenges on top of those stemmed from adapting to a foreign country. Providing more financial and other benefits and alleviating their high cost of living are vital to improving their graduate studies experience. The aim of this objective is to work with partners to advocate for lower cost of housing and health insurance for international students, among other benefits after discussing with partners.
Benefits	Improving the experience for international students is key to welcoming more international students to Queen's. With better graduate school experience, we could help Canada retain more highly educated international students and contribute to the general Canadian labour force.
Difficulties	Well-expected reluctance from Queen's administration and governing bodies
Long-term	Better graduate school experience for international students
How	Working with university administrations, especially Vice Provost Global Engagement and Queen's University International Centre
Partners	Vice Provost Global Engagement (and Queen's University International Centre)

Objective 2	Improving communications between commissioner and international student body
Description	Establishing a more direct and personalized method of communication could increase the presence of SGPS international commission among international students. Improving communications with international students could make SGPS a trusted source of information and assistance for international students and increase the presence of SGPS.
Benefits	Improving communication with international students can gather more information from international students, which could inspire us to devise more ways to improve their experience.
Difficulties	1. Incorporating the help from all graduate school department assistants

	2. Finding ways to approach international students who come from various backgrounds
Long-term	Increasing the presence of SGPS in the international student population
How	Start with sending personalized emails through department email chains.
Partners	Department assistants and SGPS social media team

Objective 3	Making resources at Queen’s more accessible to international students
Description	International students tend to have limited access to campus resources due to a lack of awareness. Institutions in their home countries might be organized differently in terms of institutional resources and academic culture. Resources at Queen’s can therefore be unintuitive to access as a result. Increasing international students’ access to our resources can improve their graduate experiences and hopefully enable them to make more connections with domestic students and integrate better into the Canadian society in the long run.
Benefits	Students can benefit from more services from organization across Queen’s. In the process, we can also set up collaborations with other organizations to pave the way for more collaborative efforts in the future.
Difficulties	1. It is difficult not to make generalizations about what kind of resources are needed by international students, but surveys will be sent out to address this information gap.
Long-term	Students will hopefully be more aware of the resources across Queen’s and will be more willing to engage with the various organizations.
How	I am having conversations with various organizations/offices on campus to seek potential collaborations and connections. Providing existing resources to international students can save both on time and resources, but additional resources will also be created where students’ needs are heard.
Partners	QUIC, Ban Righ Centre, Student Experience Office

Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns about any of my updates or if you think something has been missed in this report. My email is international@sgps.ca.

Sincerely,
Vina Li
SGPS International Student Affairs Commissioner



Hello Council!

I hope everyone is having a great start to their school year! SGPS September Orientation is in full swing, with some exciting events happening throughout the month to welcome incoming and returning graduate and professional students!

Full descriptions of each of the Orientation events can be found in my August 2023 report

This past Saturday, SGPS hosted a booth at ASUS Sidewalk Sale where SGPS Executives and Commissioners connected with hundreds of students throughout the day! We shared information about what we do here at SGPS to support students as well as gave students free SGPS merchandise! I'd like to give a big thank you to Andria, Devin, Maya, Tony and Vina for helping organize and run the booth, and making this event a big success! I've already seen a handful of students around campus using our SGPS tote bags!

Here are the dates and times for the upcoming Orientation events. Advertising graphics are being posted on our Instagram + Facebook accounts and our newsletter, along with links to register for free!

SGPS Trivia and Friends: September 12th, 7pm-10pm

Misty Underwood Walk Talk: September 16th, 1pm-3pm

SGPS x Yellow House Board Games Night: September 19th, 5pm-6pm

SGPS Movie Night at the Screening Room: September 25th, 8pm-10:30pm

Looking ahead to October and November, I am beginning to plan fall social events, taking inspiration from the successful Pumpkinferno events run by SGPS in the past!

Lastly, I am working to create an all-encompassing Google Drive archive of Social Commissioner files, transition manuals and previous events/logistics going back to 2017. I believe this Drive will be a great resource for future Social Commissioners to reference when planning their events!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to social@sgps.ca with any questions, concerns or suggestions!

Gabby Torretto (she/her)
SGPS Social Commissioner
Society of Graduate and Professional Students
social@sgps.ca