

*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 12/12/23:01**

BIRT SGPS Council adopt the Agenda for the December 12 2023 Council Meeting.

## III. Minutes

---

### A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

**MOTION 12/12/23:02**

BIRT the SGPS adopt the minutes from the November 14 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 (report attached)

### B. Speaker Report

- a. Speaker – Aileen Editha (report attached)

### C. Approval

**MOTION 12/12/23:03**

BIRT SGPS Council 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 – Kana Ogawa (no report)

### C. Commissioner Reports

- a. Athletics & Wellness Commissioner – Meghan Mendelin (report attached)
- b. Equity & Diversity Commissioner – Sangeetha Saravanan (report attached)
- c. Indigenous Graduate Liaison – Rosemary Gasparro (no report)

d. International Students’ Affairs Commissioner – Vina Li (oral report)

e. Social Commissioner – Gabby Toretto (report attached)

**D. Committee Reports**

**E. Department Reports**

**F. Other Reports**

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

**G. Approval**

**MOTION 12/12/23:04**

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

VI. Question Period and Departmental Issues

---

VII. Business Arising from the Minutes

---

**A. Update:** Further information on “O Canada” and “God Save the King” in convocations – [meeting minutes, still awaiting report from SGPS President]. In the meantime, please see Queen’s Journal article here: <https://www.queensjournal.ca/senate-committee-recommends-queens-keep-o-canada-at-convocation/>

**B. Update:** Financing question arising from the VP Finance and Services November Report  
At one point, the SGPS had a health and dental plan under the CFS. Before anyone's time who is currently in the organization, the decision was made to leave the CFS plan and switch to another provider (StudentVIP). In this move, the SGPS was paid out a sum of money by the CFS plan. This money did not do anything for a while. When Studentcare came into the picture they helped the organization grow the pool of money by getting an additional amount that we should have been paid. This resulted in a larger pool, which grew in 2020-21 due to COVID refunds. This has brought the fund to where it is today, minus any supplementing of costs as are appropriate for the fund.

**C. Update:** Question on proposed changes to university housing, arising from the VP Community November Report

**D. Update:** Conversations on how to improve ARC experience for graduate and professional students, arising from the Athletics and Wellness Commissioner’s November Report.

VIII. Main Motions & Discussion

---

**A. Discussion:** Educational Society (*postponed from September Council Meeting – waiting for Raj Gill to be in attendance*)

**B. Discussion:** Winter 2024 Council meetings

- Nature: in-person, hybrid, or fully online meetings?
- Date: meetings are currently held the second Tuesday of the month – would a different day work better?
- Times: meetings are currently held at 17:30 pm, but there were conversations about whether it would be better to “poll” time to ensure more people can attend
- Governance: currently, meetings and Council proceedings are governed by Robert’s Rules of Order. There have been conversations in the past about whether this should be changed to a different system. I have attached *Appendix A* to this agenda, which provides a brief overview of our discussion and deliberation.

- C. Discussion:** Council Representatives’ thoughts on organizing a Winter 2024 meet-up for SGPS Council? This was previously held earlier in the Fall 2023 term but, since then, we have had new members and so it might be a good idea to do it again. On the other hand, I understand how people might not want to get together during the Winter times!

**IX. Other Business**

---

**A. Letter from BGSC international student reps looking to connect with other departments and professional programs (introduced by Sarah Waldron, Biology):**

*Greetings! We Andrea (Andy) and Sreevatshan, are current international graduate student representatives from the Biology Graduate Student Council (BGSC) at the Department of Biology. We extend an invitation to meet and connect with you, to discuss our shared goals and explore ways to collaboratively enhance the experience of international graduate students. Recognizing common concerns and challenges, we believe that pooling resources and expertise across different departments can effectively address pressing issues within our community. We look forward to the opportunity to work together for the betterment of our international graduate student experience at Queens. Our email IDs are 22kpg1@queensu.ca (Sreevatshan) and 22ags4@queensu.ca (Andy) to further connect with us. Hope to hear from you all.!*

**X. Notices of Motion & Announcements**

---

**XI. Adjournment**

---

**Adjournment**

BIRT this meeting of SGPS Council be adjourned.

**MOTION 12/12/23:05**