



society of graduate & professional students
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS LOCAL 27

AGENDA

Society of Graduate and Professional Students' Council

Local 27 of the Canadian Federation of Students
Tuesday, August 12th, 2008 5:30pm
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentations

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION

8/12/08:1

Moved _____ Welsh _____ / _____ BIRT the agenda for August, 2008 be adopted.

MOTION

8/12/08:2

Moved _____ Welsh _____ / _____ BIRT the minutes for May, 2008 be accepted.

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

- a) President – Jeff Welsh (report attached)
- b) VP Internal, Graduate – Sean Tucker (report attached)
- c) VP Internal, Professional – Jamie Kneen (on leave for the summer)
- d) VP External – Mark Rosner (report attached)
- e) VP Operations – Vicky Bae (report attached)
- f) Speaker –

MOTION

8/12/08:3

Moved _____ / _____ BIRT Executive and Speaker reports be accepted.

4. Committee, Commissioner, Senator, Board of Trustee and Other Reports

- a) Graduate Student Senator – Ray Saeidi
- b) Board of Trustees – Alfonso Nocilla
- c) Committee Reports
- d) Commissioner Reports
 - i) Social Commissioner – Diala Habib (report attached)
 - ii) Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
 - iii) Equity Commissioner: Internal – Shauna Shiels

- iv) Equity Commissioner: External – Cheryl Sutherland (report attached)
- e) Other Reports
 - i) Committee Coordinator – Joellen Lin (report attached)
 - ii) Chief Returning Officer – VACANT
 - iii) Rector – Leora Jackson
 - iv) Departmental Reports

MOTION

8/12/08:4

Moved _____ / _____ BIRT Senator/Board of Trustees/Commissioner/Committee Coordinator/Committee, and Other reports be accepted.

5. Question Period/Departmental Complaints

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Main Motions

MOTION

8/12/08:5

Moved **Welsh**/_____ BIRT Council ratify the following Council meeting dates:

September 9th @ 5:30PM
October 14th @ 5:30PM
November 11th @ 5:30PM
December 9th @ 5:30PM
January 13th @ 5:30PM
February 10th @ 5:30PM
March 10th @ 5:30PM
AGM - March 24th @ 5:30PM
April 14th @ 5:30PM
May 12th @ 5:30PM

MOTION

8/12/08:6

Moved **Welsh**/_____ BIRT the ballots from the 2008 General Election be destroyed in accordance with the SGPS Bylaws and Policies.

MOTION

8/12/08:7

Whereas Sean Richards has been hired as the new SGPS Executive Director by the SGPS Executive following an extensive search.

Moved **Welsh**/_____ BIRT Council ratify Sean Richards to the position of Executive Director.

MOTION

8/12/08:8

Whereas the titles of VP Internal (Graduate), VP Internal (Professional), VP External, and VP Operations within the SGPS are vague and/or do not denote a particular function or portfolio.

Whereas clearer SGPS Executive titles would make their functional portfolios more apparent to SGPS members and others.

Whereas new SGPS members might be confused by SGPS title changes mid-year.

Moved __Welsh__/_____ BIRT Council ratify the following changes to SGPS Executive titles effective immediately:

Vice President Internal (Graduate) to Vice President Academic Affairs;
Vice President Internal (Professional) to Vice President Internal;
Vice President External to Vice President Campaigns and Community Relations; and
Vice President Operations to Vice President Finance and Services.

MOTION

8/12/08:9

Whereas the SGPS Executive seeks to streamline the functions of SGPS Committees.

Whereas the SGPS Executive seeks to clarify the functions of SGPS Committees.

Whereas the SGPS Executive has requested changes to the VP titles in order to clarify their responsibilities.

Moved __Welsh__/_____ BIRT Council ratify the following changes to the names of SGPS Committees:

The Graduate Standing Committee and Education Standing Committee be merged as the Academic Affairs Standing Committee;
The Professional Standing Committee be changed to the Internal Affairs Standing Committee; and
The External Relations Standing Committee be changed to the Campaigns and Community Relations Committee.

MOTION

8/12/08:10

Whereas the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre is organizing the Second Annual Queen's Educational Pow Wow.

Whereas Four Directions provides support and services to our Aboriginal members.

Whereas Four Directions expects attendance to exceed last year's approximately 2,000.

Whereas Four Directions is seeking contributions from the Queen's community.

Moved __Welsh__/_____ BIRT Council donate one thousand dollars to Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre to sponsor the Annual Queen's Educational Pow Wow.

MOTION

8/12/08:11

Whereas over the past 40 years, hundreds of Indigenous women have gone missing or been murdered across Canada and North America; and

Whereas Walk4Justice is a coalition of Indigenous women that left Vancouver June 21 marching to Ottawa for September 15, 2008 to request a response from the Government on the lack of action to prevent violence against Indigenous women; and

Whereas Walk organizers are seeking support for the walk, organizing welcome and send-off breakfasts for the marchers, and organizing logistics for city stop-overs; and

Whereas the marchers will be passing by Kingston during Orientation Week 2008; therefore

Moved __Welsh__ / _____ BIRT the SGPS demonstrate support for the marchers by endorsing their effort to raise awareness; and

BIFRT Council contribute \$250 to the Walk4Justice.

MOTION

8/12/08:12

Moved __Bae__ / _____ BIRT Council approve the 2008-09 budget (first reading; see Appendices I and II for details).

MOTION

8/12/08:13

Moved __Bae__ / _____ BIRT that Sam Hetz and Gareth Stackhouse be ratified as members of the Operations and Finance Committee.

MOTION

8/12/08:14

Whereas Council has set \$800.00 for the Executive Internal line in the annual 2007-2008 budget;

Moved __Bae__ / _____ BIRT that SGPS goes over-budget on the Executive Internal line by \$170.51 to a total of \$970.51.

MOTION

8/12/08:15

Whereas affordable public post-secondary education benefits all Canadians; and

Whereas increasing tuition fees are a significant financial barrier to post-secondary education; and

Whereas student debt has skyrocketed by over 350% over the past fifteen years; and

Whereas the SGPS acknowledges the usefulness of a strong student effort to increase financial support for post-secondary education; and

Whereas the SGPS, in conjunction with the Ontario component of the Canadian Federation of Students, has planned activities for the week of November 5th, 2008 to raise awareness about the importance of post-secondary education and to pressure government to reinvest in affordable, high-quality public education; and

Whereas the Queen's Senate has for past Days of Action encouraged all course instructors to refrain from setting academic deadlines for tests, assignments, etc. on the Day of Action; therefore

Moved __Rosner__ / _____ BIRT the SGPS declare November 5th, 2008 to be a day of student protest in support of the CFS Provincial Day of Action; and

BIFRT the SGPS encourage the Queen's Senate to pass a motion of academic amnesty for all Queen's students on the Provincial Day of Action, November 5th, 2008; and

BIFRT the SGPS encourage the Queen's Senate to communicate the provisions of the amnesty to all administration, faculty, students and staff; and

BIFRT the SGPS endorse activities, such as the Provincial Day of Action, to increase awareness of the need for the Federal and Provincial governments to reinvest in affordable, high-quality public education at the post-secondary level, and that all members of the university community be encouraged to participate in these events.

MOTION

8/12/08:16

Whereas on March 20, 2008, over forty students & allies staged a peaceful sit-in against tuition fee hikes at the University of Toronto; and

Whereas the peaceful sit-in was broken up by campus police on orders of senior administrators; and

Whereas 14 students and organizers at the University of Toronto were arrested and charged for alleged involvement in the March 20 sit-in; and

Whereas those arrested faced strict bail conditions including bans from University of Toronto property and non-association with other individuals charged; and

Whereas at least 13 University of Toronto students are also being investigated under the terms of the University of Toronto's Code of Student Conduct for protesting fee increases; and

Whereas the ability of students to freely exercise their rights of freedom of expression and association is central to the creation and preservation of a vibrant, democratic university; and

Whereas attacks on these rights stifle dissent, criminalising the legitimate political expression of students; and

Whereas the Mission and Purpose of the University of Toronto states that "the most crucial of all human rights are the rights of freedom of speech, academic freedom, and freedom of research...these rights are meaningless unless they entail the right to raise deeply disturbing questions and provocative challenges to the cherished beliefs of society at large and of the university itself."

Moved __Rosner__ / _____ BIRT the SGPS declare its solidarity with the 14 University of Toronto students charged for protesting increases to post-secondary tuition fees; and

BIFRT the SGPS call upon the University of Toronto to immediately drop all criminal charges and to cease to investigate the students under the terms of the Code of Student Conduct; and

BIFRT the SGPS contribute \$300 to the legal defence fund of the 14 University of Toronto students.

MOTION

8/12/08:17

Whereas the recycling systems on campus differ from location to location (if at all exist); and

Whereas most of the food and laboratory waste on campus go the landfill; and

Whereas AMS has established a sustainability committee for undergraduate students, and are seeking partnership with graduate students to promote and create a more environmentally friendly campus.

Moved _____/_____ BIRT SGPS establish SGPS Campus Sustainability Standing Committee to work with other related organizations in order to initiate, promote, and contribute to sustainable practices on campus.

BIFRT Council allocates funds to support sustainable projects proposed by the committee.

8. Other Business

9. Notice of Motions/Announcements

Reports and Motions for the next regular Council meeting are due Tuesday September 2nd, 2008. The next regular SGPS Council meeting will be on Tuesday September 9th, 2008.

10. Adjournment

MOTION

8/12/08:18

Moved _____ / _____ BIRT the SGPS Council meeting be adjourned.

8/7/08

SWR

CFS-27

Attached:

May 2008 Minutes

Reports

Appendix I – Budget Guide

Appendix II – 2008/2009 Budget

Appendix III – TA/TF Survey

Appendix IV – TA/TF Survey Report (Draft)



society of graduate & professional students
CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS LOCAL 27

MINUTES

Society of Graduate and Professional Students' Council

Local 27 of the Canadian Federation of Students

May 13, 2008 5:30 p.m.

McLaughlin Room, JDUC

5:35 pm

1. Presentations

2. Action

3. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

a) MOTION **05/13/08:1**

Moved **Morrow/Welsh** BIRT the agenda for May 13, 2008 be adopted.

Carries

b) MOTION **05/13/08:2**

Moved **Lau/Rosner** BIRT the minutes for April 8, 2008 be accepted.

Carries

4. Executive and Speaker Reports

a) President –Jeff Welsh (report attached)

Meeting with Vicky Bae and Simpson and Brown to talk about future space needs for the SGPS. Phase 2 and 3 of Queen's Center are re-opened. If you have any suggestions for SGPS space (social hub, etc) please contact Jeff.

Met with 2 new equity commissioners and Leora and the SGSR. Discussed graduate student life outside of academia. More support for parents, more resources for internships, etc (wide open across the board). If there is something you want the school to support please let Jeff know.

b) VP Internal, Graduate – Sean Tucker (report attached)

A/TF survey is being conducted and will be closed on May 22. Post a report on the SGPS website in July or August.

Student Advisor program: we are hiring 2 advisors for next year. Postings will be up next week.

c) VP Internal, Professional – Jamie Kneen (report attached)

d) VP External – Mark Rosner (report attached)

Went to CFS meeting and they are organizing activities for next year. Possibly a province wide action. Contact Mark if you have any comments about this

e) VP Operations – Vicky Bae (report attached)

It has been a smooth month. Looking for Finance committee members.

f) Speaker – VACANT

We need to elect a new speaker at this meeting.

MOTION

05/13/08:3

Moved **Han/Ho** BIRT Executive and Speaker reports be accepted.

Carries

5. Committee, Senator, Board of Trustee and Other Reports

- a) Senator – Ray Saedi
- b) Board of Trustees – Alfonso Nocilla
- c) Committee Reports
 - i) Operations and Finance Standing Committee
 - ii) External Relations Standing Committee
 - iii) Education Standing Committee
 - iv) By-Law and Policy Revisions Standing Committee
 - v) Equity Issues Standing Committee
 - vi) Graduate Students Standing Committee
 - vii) Professional Students Standing Committee
- d) Other Reports
 - i) Social Commissioner – Vacant
 - ii) Communications Commissioner – Vacant
 - iii) Equity Commissioner – Vacant
 - iv) Committee Coordinator – Vacant
 - v) Chief Returning Officer – Vacant
 - vi) Biology Department – Richard Morrow (report attached)

Biology department made a committee to deal with things in the department. A number of students are concerned about lack of funding if they go over the prescribed length of degree.

Biology department e-mails changed to an alpha numeric system. Students are unhappy with this for many reasons including difficulty networking with frustrating e-mail addresses.

MOTION

05/13/08:4

Moved **Bae/Rosner** BIRT Senator/Board of Trustees/Committee/Coordinator/Committee and Other reports be accepted.

Carries

6. Question Period/Departmental Complaints

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

8. Main Motions

MOTION

05/13/08:5

Whereas Council has set \$5,000.00 for the Professional fee line in the annual 2007-2008 budget; and

Whereas Council has set \$2,850.00 for the Insurance line in the annual 2007-2008 budget;

MOVED **Bae/Rosner** BIRT that SGPS goes over-budget on the professional fee line by \$1,287.00 to a total of \$6,287.00 and the insurance line by \$97.83 to a total of \$2,947.83.

Pennimpede: Why the increase?

Bae: For some reason we did not allocate any budget for legal advice last year. We have already received the bill for legal work but have not yet paid it. The money is not technically spent yet.

Carries

MOTION

05/13/08:6

Whereas SGPS has extended the SGPS Health and Dental plans to RMC and post-doc students for the past several years without any negative impact on its membership with regards to the plan;

MOVED **Bae/Ho** BIRT to continue to extend the SGPS Health and Dental plans to RMC and post-doc students for 2008-2009.

Bae: SGPS extends the plan to post-docs and civilian RMC students. This did not show any negative affects to our plan and se we wish to continue offering this plan to RMC civilians and post-docs

Carries

MOTION

05/13/08:7

MOVED **Welsh/Morow** BIRT that Diala Habib (Social Commissioner), Cheryl Sutherland (External Equity Commissioner), Shauna Shiels (Internal Equity Commissioner) and Joellen Lin (Committee Coordinator) be ratified as appointees of Council.

Habib: Please forward any ideas you have about Orientation to me social@sgps.ca.

Carries

MOTION

05/13/08:8

MOVED **Welsh/Morrow** BIRT that Sean Richards be temporarily appointed as Interim Communications Commissioner until a suitable candidate can be found. This position is to be extended at the same rate of pay with a pro-rated honorarium.

Welsh: Having a communications commissioner is important to the organization. We are still looking to hire someone new for this position. Sean has offered to stay on a monthly basis to continue to update the website and the E-Newsletters.

Carries

MOTION

05/13/08:9

WHEREAS the SGPS faces increasing difficulties representing Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows as workers on the Queen's University Campus; and

WHEREAS working conditions for Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows on the Queen's University Campus continue to deteriorate; and

WHEREAS a group of Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows who are SGPS members have organised under the name Teaching Assistants and Fellows Association (TAFE) for the purpose of unionizing Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows at Queen's University;

MOVED **Derby/Lu** BIRT the SGPS recognizes that a unionized working environment for Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows is preferable to a non-unionized working environment and that a unionized working environment would give Teaching Assistants and Teaching Fellows at Queen's University the protection of a collective bargaining agreement and expert representation with regard to their working conditions;

BIFRT the SGPS fully supports the unionization efforts of TAFE.

Derby: I think we should let the student body decide if this is something they want. The SGPS should support this.

Welsh: We had an Exec meeting about this yesterday. The Exec recognizes the need to further educate the members regarding issues of TA and TFs. The 2 main points of the exec meeting are:

- 1 – These are our members. Not to support our members is politically difficult to defend
- 2 – Ultimately the decision rests with the members (who will vote individually). This is not a decision that will be made by the SGPS, so we should go ahead and support this motion.

Pennimpede: I agree with you (Welsh). I am worried the wording of the motion such that it may sway the members to support unionization (particularly the statement ... Teaching Fellows is preferable to a non-unionized ...).

Tucker: My take is that the SGPS does not have the capacity to handle TA/TF issues. After the last union drive the university responded with the formation of a new committee. I do not believe this committee to be effective. My last point is that our TFs receive no coverage at all (no grievance procedures).

Lau: Can you give us some information on past union drives?

Stevens: Back to 2003. After looking at other agreements from other universities, the SGPS thought to support the union drive. Labour law dictated that we need 40% of members to sign union cards. We did not achieve 40%. 2004: we got well over 40%. The vote lost by 30 votes against (many of which were contested). In both cases (2003 and 2004) the university offered a raise in the middle of the union drive. The union gives TA and TFs a collective agreement which will protect them. We are trying to point out that we are seeing a wage decrease and a tuition increase. Money is being taken from the QGA and put to TA fees. This will hurt students because it increases their taxable income.

Richardson: It goes along with Pennimpede: To me, the wording of the motion speaks against the people who are against unionization.

Pennimpede: I support the union drive, but I don't feel comfortable speaking on behalf of everyone else at Queen's.

Phillippe: I support the efforts leading to a union drive. Ultimately the decision is up to the members. I am comfortable voting for the efforts of the union drive but saying that the SGPS supports the union is too much.

Welsh: To give more background. Generally, there are virtually no universities with graduate level programs where TAs are not unionized. The last few that have unionized (last few years) the percentage votes in favour were from 84 and 98%. Personally, from the many committees that I sit on in the school, I support VPIG, we have nothing to fall back on. Possible radical changes for student funding coming next year (for many reasons). My real concern, given that QUFA has a union, and that there is a public move by the staff within QUSA to unionize next year, that would leave TAs and TFs as the only non-unionized employees on campus. If there are ever budget cuts, you can imagine where the cuts will be (with nothing legal to back us up). There are no policies in place with respect to TFs. They have nothing (up to the whim of the department). I don't even know how to represent them.

Phillippe: I have nothing against the spirit of the motion. I would like the motion to be stated better. The SGPS should not take a side on the unionization drive. We should support the drive itself, but not take a side. We should have an impartial position. Credibility will be diminished if we take a side.

Rutherford: Why we are seeking SGPS support: I agree it is up to the students to decide (it is an individual choice). I don't think that anything will be hidden (including things for and against unionization). Orientation week is a key moment for us to communicate. Without official support from the SGPS the university could ban us from speaking to students. What we really want is transparency. We want to meet with students and tell them what we are doing. We are trying to

understand the differences in the various departments. I am suggesting that some sort of support is key for us. We need support from the SGPS.

AMMENDMENT

Moved **Richardson/Morrow** to add the following whereas statement and deleted paragraph 3:

“Whereas council has previously approved a report produced by a special committee supporting unionization.”

Rosner: Will this satisfy the support you asked of the SGPS?

Rutherford: yes

Carries

1 abstention

Welsh: When the motion was put on, I did research to educate myself. My understanding is that with this motion passing (ie – we support the union drive) that union committee members or drive members cannot be removed from the school. It protects the ability of our students to ask union reps to come to the school and inform them about the issues surrounding unionization. Because they are invited (and approved by the SGPS), the university cannot expel them.

Han: What type of support is the SGPS willing to give?

Tucker: What would be some of your needs (speaking to union committee)?

Stevens: Anything that we do to disseminate info would be approved by the SGPS. Being there when people are coming on to campus and having the support of the SGPS for them to be there. We just want to be allowed to have a presence.

Carries

1 abstention

9. Other Business

We have to elect a new speaker.

Welsh: For those who are continuing on, my thought is that if you are planning to attend these meetings anyway, why not get paid to do it.

Chen Liang is appointed as the new SGPS Speaker.

Queen’s Intramural Women’s soccer league only has 3 teams. They need more people!!

10. Notice of Motions/Announcements

Reports and Motions for next meeting due Tuesday August 5, 2008

Next SGPS Council meeting will be Tuesday, August 12, 2008

11. Adjournment

MOTION

05/13/08:10

Moved **Rosner/Lau** BIRT the SGPS Council meeting be adjourned.

Carries

6:40pm

05/13/08

JAS

CFS-27

Attached:

President's Report

VPIG's Report

VPEX's Report

VPIP's Report

VPOP's Report

Appendix A – TA/TF Survey