



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, December 9th, 2008 5:30pm
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentation

Sayyida Jaffer, Operations Officer from CFRC

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION

12/09/08:1

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

MOTION

12/09/08:2

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

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

- a) President – Jeff Welsh (report attached)
- b) VP Internal Graduate – Joellen Lin (report attached)
- c) VP Internal Professional – Jamie Kneen (report attached)
- d) VP External – Mark Rosner (report attached)
- e) VP Operations – Vicky Bae (report attached)
- f) Speaker – Seth Irwin

MOTION

12/09/08:3

Moved _____ Welsh _____ / _____ 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
Chair, SGPS International Student Standing Committee - Miao Li (report attached)
- 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
- e) Other Reports
- i) Committee Coordinator – VACANT
 - ii) Chief Returning Officer – VACANT
 - iii) Rector – Leora Jackson (report attached)
 - iv) Departmental Reports

MOTION

12/09/08:4

Moved Welsh / _____ 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

12/09/08:5

Whereas the SGPS e-mail server is very old and is starting to fail and the e-mail server does not fulfill all the requirements of the SGPS; and
Whereas the SGPS currently has no complete computer backup solution; and
Whereas the SGPS will need other minor hardware devices to facilitate the addition of a new e-mail server and backup server.

Moved Sean Richards Communications Commissioner/_____ BIRT Council allocate \$1500 to fund a new e-mail server, complete backup solution and the labour to complete the upgrades.

MOTION

12/09/08:6

8. Other Business

Conference bursaries
SGPS action regarding tuition increase and QGA restructuring

9. Notice of Motions/Announcements

Reports and Motions for the next regular Council meeting are due Tuesday January 6th, 2008.
The next regular SGPS Council meeting will be on Tuesday January 13th, 2008.

10. Adjournment

MOTION

11/12/08:7

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

12/09/08

SI

CFS-27

Attached:

Nov 2008 Minutes

Reports

Motion in support of the Queen's Muslim Students' Association anti-Islamophobia campaign

Letter regarding Intergroup Dialogue Program

Cold Beverage Exclusivity Fund – Request For Funds



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
Wednesday, November 12th, 2008 5:30pm
Bioscience 2109

SPGS Council Meeting Minutes (12/11/08)

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Speaker made a brief announcement. He requested that everyone fill in the attendance sheet, making the necessary corrections (i.e. name of departmental representative and email address). The Speaker also requested that all agenda items and departmental reports be submitted one week prior to the Council meeting to ensure that all necessary documents are completed on time. Council was reminded that meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM in McLaughlin Hall (JDUC). Council representatives were informed that should they be absent for two Council meetings an email will be sent to their department informing the department that their representative has not been attending. Departmental representatives were also asked to bring forward any departmental complaints so that SGPS can address any issues that arise. Representatives were also asked to ensure that they bring all issues, posters or flyers back to their individual departments. Representatives were informed of some general rules of order for Council meetings, specifically addressed was the distinction between points of privilege and order. Finally, the Council orientation guide was distributed to all departmental representatives and they were asked to review the document and forward any questions to the Speaker.

1. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION 11/12/08:1

Moved _____ Welsh _____ / _____ Bae _____ BIRT the agenda for November, 2008 be adopted.
Carried.

Welsh - Some changes to be made to the agenda. There was to be a presentation by the President of the Education Student Society, however, they may not be able to make

it as they are currently at a meeting with their own society. If by chance they do make it, they will be addressing Council. Moved _____ Welsh_____ / _____Kneen_____

Carried.

Bae – Amendment made to main motions. Substitute first motion for a new one, bumping already existing motions down. New motion passed around to all departmental representatives for review. New motion reads as follows:

Whereas the Queen’s University Muslim Students’ Association has recently been contending with a severe increase in anti-Islamic behaviour on and around campus, in the form of persistent verbal harassment against visible Muslims (predominantly Hijab-wearing women), other discriminatory comments, and the defacement of a QUMSA sign inciting death threats against Muslims, and two aggressive break-ins to the QUMSA office/prayer space causing physical damages and substantial financial loss; and

Whereas these Islamophobic incidents have led to a climate of anxiety and fear for Muslims at Queen’s, who must now restrict their use of a once-lively clubspace as well as rethink such basic acts as walking on campus or going downtown; and

Whereas QUMSA is experiencing a great financial strain in dealing with repercussions of the theft and the expenses of their Campaign for a Hate-Free Campus,

BIRT the SGPS Council, from its Council’s Discretionary Fund, donate \$500 to QUMSA, for the purposes of supporting the day to day expenses of their Campaign for a Hate-Free Campus, such as advertisements and upcoming events (i.e. discussion panels), as well to compensate the financial losses suffered on account of the burglary in their clubspace.

Moved _____ Bae_____ / _____Kneen_____

Carried. Motion Added.

MOTION 11/12/08:2

Moved _____ Welsh_____ / _____Bae_____ BIRT the minutes for October, 2008 be accepted.

Carried.

2. Executive and Speaker Reports

a) President – Jeff Welsh (report attached)

Welsh - Main things to report will arise in later discussion regarding changes to graduate funding packages and increases in tuition fees. The president of the education student society (BEEd), who are currently AMS members, gave formal notice to pursue holding a referendum on the issue of joining the SGPS. This is the issue that

may be presented at this Counsel meeting, if it is agree upon at the BEd meeting (being held simultaneous to the SGPS meeting)

b) VP Internal Graduate – VACANT

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

Kneen - Will be speaking later to the hiring of a new VP Graduate. Representative were asked to think of questions to be added to the Grad Club survey. On the issue of graduated student space, representatives were informed that the SGPS may come into more space in Queens Centre.

d) VP External – Mark Rosner (report attached)

Rosner - Informed representatives that some Queen's students participated in the November 5th Day of Action, which was sponsored by the CFS. The purpose of the event was to call on government to reduce to tuition fees, as well as provide students with grants rather than loans. There was some media coverage of the event. Because of low student turnout from Queen's the event was not as useful/successful as it could have been. We need to rethink what we can do to make these types of events more relevant to Queen's students and garner more student participation. Representatives were also informed that issue of academic integrity was passed and put to senate. The idea of a whistle blower policy was raised, and it was suggested that the is an important issue for graduate students. Input is needed from different departments so that we can identify the different challenges and vulnerabilities faced. Finally, the issue of Graduate Housing was raised. It is apparent that graduated students live, on average, further away from campus (1.5-2km). Graduate housing issues should be filtered up through the SGPS so that they can be addressed as needed.

e) VP Operations – Vicky Bae (report attached) – Report attached – Representative were informed that this has been a relatively inactive month and that the VP Ops has met with committee members.W

f) Speaker – Seth Irwin -

MOTION 11/12/08:3

Moved ___Welsh_____ / _____Silva_____ BIRT Executive and Speaker reports be accepted.

Carried.

3. 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)
Habib – Working on a movie night (Sun Dec 8th – Bews Gym). Wanted something bigger but decided on something low key given number of departmental events during this time of year.
Someone - Will this event be open families as well? If yes, this needs to be kept in mind when making a movie choice, to ensure that it is family friendly.
Habib – Yes it is open. This will be kept in mind.
Colt – The History department also does a movie night, we wouldn't want these to overlap.
 - ii) Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
 - iii) Equity Commissioner: Internal – Shauna Shiels (report attached)
 - iv) Equity Commissioner: External – VACANT
- e) Other Reports
 - i) Committee Coordinator – Joellen Lin (report attached) – volun Lin – we are expecting to have a volunteer appreciation party at the end of November or beginning of December. As people graduate room has opened up for graduate student representatives within the School of Graduate Studies and Research Council, specifically for Divisions II to V. Please pass this information onto SGPS members.
 - Bae – Can you share what those divisions are?
 - Lin – Shared which divisions were missing members. Divisions: II) Humanities; III) Engineering and Applied Sciences; IV) Mathematics and Physical Sciences; V) Social Sciences and Professional Schools ii) Chief Returning Officer – VACANT
 - iii) Rector – Leora Jackson (report attached)
 - – not able to attend
 - iv) Departmental Reports

Li – Establishment of regular and systematic workshops and other services related to career prospects for both international students and their spouses. Please bring forward any issues or concerns.

MOTION 11/12/08:4

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

4. Question Period/Departmental Complaints –

Taunya (MA, Art Conservation) – Students in this department are required to conducted two 12 week internships off campus. Many students return to the U.S. which causes

issues with current health care protocol. Students are required to have health insurance but the administration will not cover student returning to their home countries. This poses issues for those returning to the U.S because there is not national health care plan, and many students of over 25 years of age do not have a HC plan. Many of the students from the U.S. were not aware of this issue, thus many did not have health coverage while on their internships in the U.S. this past summer. The head of the department has been hesitant to sign off on credits for the internship because of liability issues. Some students have been informed that they will not receive the credits. Because the SGPS health coverage does not cover students returning to their home country these students are placed in a precarious position. They are required to purchase their own HC insurance, which is pricey. Further is plan only provides emergency coverage. Would like to know how many other departments have similar internships, and whether they have experienced this particular issues.

Kneen – the SGPS health and dental coverage is quite expensive and we are currently looking for a different provider. Ours coverage does include those travelling abroad, but not in cases where the student is returning to their Country of Origin. We are looking for more universal coverage, but this will not occur until next September. No promises can be made at this point, except for the fact that it will be looked into.

Bae – Can we get clarification on what was meant by Country of Origin?

Someone – Student who pay international student fees here, and are returning back to their home country.

Irwin – Also from Art Conservation program and experiences the same issue this past summer. On the OCASP liability form you are asked to indicate whether you have Health Insurance. There are currently no alternatives to purchasing private coverage for these students. We are trying to find an alternative, even if this means signing-off on a liability form. We are also trying to get idea of which other departments share this concern (who/how many this affects)

Bae - Some will have internships similar to Art Conservation. May also include those who go over seas to do field research

Silva – Biology students have to sign a liability form, but in their case it is not for credit
Welsh - OCASP procedures on their own are problematic. If anyone has questions or concerns they should be forwarded to the SGPS president send to president. This issues will be discussed with the hope of addressing it.

Someone - Does something preclude these students from staying in Canada? Irwin - Opportunities for internships, there are many more in the U.S., as well as funding issues. It is less expensive to go back home for you internship that to stay in Canada. More than half of the Art Conservation students go back to U.S. to work.

Someone – Would SGPS consider bringing back the conference bursary?

Welsh – Yes, this could be considered. Reason for eliminating last year was because the selection process was a lottery. It was felt by the executive that they were not prepared to decided who should be selected. That said, if it is a lottery then so be it.

Cole – History would also be interested in seeing this return.

Bae - Also agreed that consideration should be given to bringing the bursary back. May need to think of ways to reform the process. Will funds be spread around departments equally or will the lottery system be maintained.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

6. Main Motions

MOTION 11/12/08:6

Whereas the Queen's University Muslim Students' Association has recently been contending with a severe increase in anti-Islamic behaviour on and around campus, in the form of persistent verbal harassment against visible Muslims (predominantly Hijab-wearing women), other discriminatory comments, and the defacement of a QUMSA sign inciting death threats against Muslims, and two aggressive break-ins to the QUMSA office/prayer space causing physical damages and substantial financial loss; and

Whereas these Islamophobic incidents have led to a climate of anxiety and fear for Muslims at Queen's, who must now restrict their use of a once-lively clubspace as well as rethink such basic acts as walking on campus or going downtown; and

Whereas QUMSA is experiencing a great financial strain in dealing with repercussions of the theft and the expenses of their Campaign for a Hate-Free Campus,

Moved ___ Bae ___ / ___ Han ___ BIRT the SGPS Council, from its Council's Discretionary Fund, donate \$500 to QUMSA, for the purposes of supporting the day to day expenses of their Campaign for a Hate-Free Campus, such as advertisements and upcoming events (i.e. discussion panels), as well to compensate the financial losses suffered on account of the burglary in their clubspace.

Discussion:

Rideout – From discussion with membership the Physics department feels that these acts are deplorable. However, is SGPS able to reimburse where a student society experiences theft?

Welsh: The leadership of QUMSA are grad students. The association has been broken into a couple of times. Damage has been caused, items and money were stolen. Money was stolen that was to be donated to local charities. Members of the associates are concerned with safety and security upgrades have been made. They are also engaging in education campaigns, and of this costs more money. When QUMSA applied for assistance it was requested that they provide a copy of their budget. They have also applied to AMS, Dean of Student Affairs. \$500 is more a of a good faith motion in relation to what they have actually lost, especially given that a fair number of their membership also belong to this society.:

Someone - If a similar situation were experienced by another organization would the SGPS be in a position to do the same?

Bae – Yes. Because it comes from discretionary fund, council can do this if it feels that it is necessary.

Webb - Is there any requirement on how societies store/secure their funds? Welsh - JDUC has no policy requiring deposits. While of course this is recommended, QUMSA does not normally keep funds in their space. The funds were there because of

fundraising they did, which indicates that there was some degree of planning that went into this act.

Someone - Inside job? Would be interested in assisting with the funding of advertising, but not with recouping their loss

Welsh – We can change the wording to ensure that says that it is to recoup the cost of their campaign.

Rosner - Point of information. Can make a motion to change the wording of the motion.

Moved ___Webb ___ / ___Rideout___ BIRT that last sentence of the original motion end after “(i.e. discussion panels)”.

Carried.

Silva - why not charity fund?

Welsh: can be changed.

Moved ___Kneen___ / ___Rosner___ BIRT the motion read charity fund over discretionary fund.

Carried.

MOTION 11/12/08:7

Whereas there is currently no organized body to enable members of the SGPS to interact with their peers while engaging in Trivia competition and training, and to facilitate the ability of Club Members to participate in Trivia Activities within the Queen's Community and within the larger academic community;

Moved ___ Lin ___ / ___Kneen___ BIRT Council ratify the SGPS Trivia Club.

Carried.

MOTION 11/12/08:8

Whereas, Sean Tucker, former Vice President Internal (Graduate), resigned at the beginning of October, and the bylaws and policies permit Council, at their discretion to recognize a new Executive member without election, provided that there is less than six months left in the term.

Moved ___Kneen___ / ___Rosner___ BIRT the Council accept the recommendation of the hiring committee for the acceptance of a new candidate for Vice President Internal (Graduate), candidate name to be disclosed on November 12, 2008 at the Council meeting.

Carried.

Kneen – Announced that Joellen Lin was recommended to replace Sean Tucker as the VP Internal Graduate. She will be able to fill the position quickly and jump right in.

Someone – Can you briefly discuss the position description?

Kneen - To represent students in various issues, to sit on various committees, to meet with administration and to ensure that grad needs are met on campus. As well as oversee the student advisor program. Joellen would no longer be the committee coordinator.

7. Other Business

Welsh - Graduate Funding – The Dean of graduate studies has apparently changed their mind since last term. When the last tuition increases of 4% and 8% were brought forward they were to be held for two years. However, it appears that these increases will be implemented again to the maximum allowable. This increase will not be accompanied by increase in QGA funding. At the same time there is currently a review to change policies related to graduate student funding. They are considering focusing on research-based programs, narrowing the scope of who gets funding. They are looking to remove funding from professional programs altogether. PhD funding will be a multiple of the Masters funding. This will serve to place more emphasis on doctoral funding. SGPS wishes to get comments and concerns so that they can be filtered up. While it appears that tuitions fees will go up for certain, it is not definite that there will be changes to the funding policies

Rosner - We are being squeezed, but none of this is set in stone. We need to get out in front of this issue. The administration has not made this widely known. This essentially amount to broken promises on the part of the administration. They should be looking for funds elsewhere and not hitting graduate students in this way. We should seek to pass a motion indicating that this is not in our interest, and that the administration needs to find more equitable ways to find money. We need to find ways to make this public.

Brown – With regard to cuts in QGA funding, Urban Planning is a professional program, but this designation is false as we do conduct research. Support provided for SGPS to bring this issue forward.

Webb - What is the administration doing with undergraduate tuition? Have they been raising the tuition for undergrads?

Bae - They have been raising undergrad tuition. They are easier to squeeze as there is less opposition.

Cole – Are they raising international fees for sure?

Rosner – Likely to be raised along the same lines as domestic students.

Cole – Are they removing funding from MA so that they can increase PhD funding in an attempt to make the university more competitive?

Brown – We need to be timely with this. Bring concerns to SGPS and to the Journal. We need to craft a resolution to stop this action.

Rosner – It wouldn't need to be very specific. Something indicating that we want consultation.

Silva - What is happening to the money being taken away?

Bae – Some are going to be given more money but others will have funding taken away. They are not bringing in money from elsewhere.

Moved ____ Bae____ / ____Webb____ BIRT that the SGPS is firmly opposed to Queen's administration's plan to increase graduate tuition fees in the coming year.

BIFRT that the SGPS opposes the proposed changes to the QGA funding regime.

BIFRT that the SGPS demands more transparency and consultation in current and future changes to tuition and funding
Carried.

Welsh - Judicial Committee – SGPS handles cases on non academic discipline. For instance non academic complaints related to the code of conduct. If is determined to move toward a hearing, the committee will determine the sanctions. There are currently policies surrounding this. There are 7 members of the Committed. Currently Seth Irwin has the complaints sent to him. If there is enough evidence to go forward the complaint will be submitted to three committee members who have dispute resolution training. It is quite rare that this occurs, in fact there has only been one hearing in the last 4-5 years. Complaints have been brought to our attention, but have never been filed. Membership to this committee does not require not much time commitment but the quite an important task. If we (the SGPS) don't do it, the administration can, which may be quite disadvantageous to our members. For purposes of confidentiality if anyone is interested please forward you name to Seth.

Kneen - Bylaws and Policies Committee – Important changes will be coming this year as there have been some issues with certain position. VP Internal (Graduate and Professional) are currently limited to those students here for more than 12 months. Would like to see this requirement shortened to make the positions more accessible. Would like to see 8 month rather than 12 months terms. This would be more relevant to the membership and would better meet their needs. This committee will also address various other issues and is in need of help council members to participate as committee members.

8. Presentation

Amanda Leonard, the President of the Education Student Society – This presentation did not occur.

9. Notice of Motions/Announcements

Reports and Motions for the next regular Council meeting are due Tuesday December 2th, 2008.

The next regular SGPS Council meeting will be on Tuesday December 9th, 2008.

10. Adjournment

MOTION 11/12/08:7

Moved ___Kneen___ / ___Bae___ BIRT the SGPS Council meeting be adjourned.
Carried.

12/09/08

SI

CFS-27

Attached:

Oct 2008 Minutes

Reports

Council Orientation Package