



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the President
December 2009

Seasons greetings! Before we adjourn for the winter holidays and empty our brains, here are a few updates from your SGPS President.

International graduate student tuition

The School of Graduate Studies recently released tuition fee schedule for the upcoming year. It shows that graduate tuition has largely been frozen, with the domestic student fee only reflecting the cost of living adjustment and international student fee remaining the same as this year. I hope this attracts more of the competitive domestic and international applicants and also financially better accommodates our current membership.

Senate representation

The Senate Operations Review Committee has been reviewing the composition of the university Senate. I am pleased to inform you that there has been a significant increase in graduate and professional student representation and now the Senate composition more accurately reflects the growth in these two cohorts. An issue that remains to be resolved is the issue of Education Student Senator. Because the Senator elections have been held at the AMS in winter term, only the students who are concurrently enrolled in Arts & Science and Education faculties have been elected as Education Student Senators. This poses two problems. Such students are often members of the Concurrent Education Student Society and not of the Education Student Society. Members of ESS are therefore left without representation. The second part is that CESA students are, in the Senate classification, counted in the Arts & Science headcounts. These students are therefore represented by the Arts & Science Senators as well as the Education Student Senator. We therefore have a situation in which some groups on campus are doubly represented while others are not represented at all. I hope to rectify this problem by the January meeting of the SORC and allow ESS students to be represented by the right individual going forward.

Queen's Centre

The much-awaited Phase I of Queen's Centre is finally open. The December 1 opening had been the "Soft Opening" and only a part of the initial Phase I occupants, Common Ground, JDUC Sidewalk Café, the Athletics and Recreational Centre and a few smaller offices moved in to Queen's Centre. This opened up the spaces occupied by Common Ground and Sidewalk Café in JDUC. University's initial plan was to board up these places in order to cut maintenance cost, but with everyone on campus having desperate space needs, boarding up areas of significant sizes would not be the wisest movement. I am currently looking for ways to utilize these spaces for the benefit of our members while lobbying the administration for the spaces to remain open for now. I am open to suggestions from our members.

Student consultation for departmental and program changes

In our recent meeting with the Principal and Vice Principal Academic Patrick Deane, the SGPS Executive and I addressed the concern that student voice is not heard enough in academic decision-making processes that will inevitably affect their lives. Vice Principal Deane chairs the Senate Committee on Academic Development, which is the final committee before the University Senate. He suggested that he and SGSP could work together to revise the academic change form for SCAD in order to better reflect student voice. This revision is now in progress and I am hopeful the academic change processes will become more accessible and constructive for students.

Cold Beverage Exclusivity Fund

This is the final year of this fund. I met with the AMS President, Director of Housing and Hospitality Services and Finance Manager from Dean of Student Affairs in order to review applications. Many worthy projects reached this year's team and I was glad to see many of these from SGPS groups. I wish to commend the successful applicants on the excellent initiative and the high quality of application, and wish you best of luck for the upcoming events.

Happy holidays!

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria J. Bae
President

TA Consultative Committee:

The TA Consultative Committee met for the first time since March 2009 on 24 November 2009. The attendance was disappointing. The committee decided that they would not make any substantial recommendations to change existing TA policy and practice so as not to influence or interfere with the current TAFA union drive. SGS representatives admitted that the TA Consultative Committee does not have the authority to ensure compliance with the senate policy on TAs within departments. Janice Deacon, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, and former chair of the TA Consultative Committee, made a similar statement in a September 2009 memorandum that discussed the TA Consultative Committee 2007/2008 questionnaire that solicited feedback from a variety of Queen's stakeholders on TA issues, including TAs themselves: "The issue of compliance with the [TA Senate] Policy has been a recurring theme at Committee meetings. The responses reveal that there are gaps between policy and practice. Although the Committee is aware of these gaps, we are ill equipped to assure adherence to the Policy. We recommend that the faculties should take a more active involvement on matters of compliance with the stated Policy goals and procedures." (see appendix A)

Conflict Resolution Training:

The two day Conflict Resolution Training (November 7-8, 2009) was well attended by the VP Campaigns and Community Affairs, Logistics Coordinator, Equity Coordinator, Planning Coordinator, our two new Student Advisors, several of the SGPS front desk staff and myself. Facilitated by St. Stephen' Community House the training was tailored to address particular issues facing graduate students and the SGPS and included an invaluable session on mediation. As a result, our SGPS exec and staff will navigate heated debate and diffuse volatile situations while still addressing and advocating for our graduate membership.

Student Advisors (SA):

SA Usman Mushtaq diligently combed past SA reports dating back as far as 2004 to identify some of the reoccurring issues/recommendations of previous SAs including increased support for international students, increased TA/TF/RA protection, access to funding beyond eligibility years, suggestions regarding the academic appeal process, intellectual property, training on supervision for faculty and extending eligibility of the Dean's award. To see Mushtaq's report please see Appendix B. Previous SA reports will be available online at www.sgps.ca/advisors for the edification of our membership – please be aware that all personal information regarding either the student advisors or their clients is confidential and is not included in these reports. In the future all new SA reports will be made available online at this site.

The Student Advisors have dealt with two major issues in the past few months. The first issue is of the lack of standard practices in TA hiring and contracts. Although

departments are supposed to have a written contract with all students, some departments still don't do that. Other times, the contracts are non-standardized, so a TA might get a year-long contract for a course that the TA only wants to teach for the term. Incredibly, many TA contracts are unclear about key issues such as resignation, overtime, and workload. In cases of ambiguity, TA issues are referred to the department head or graduate coordinator who don't always have the interests of the student in mind. The Advisors, unfortunately, have no recourse to take in these cases as there are no policies to protect TAs in areas where the policy is vague or is left to the interpretations of faculty/admin at Queen's. Even if all parties sit down wanting to resolve TA conflicts, there are clear power imbalances between an unsupported student and a faculty/admin member, thus affecting the outcome of the conflict. There is clearly a need for TAs to be represented by someone who has the legal authority to represent them in cases of conflict or ambiguity.

The second issue is of the vagueness of authorship policy at Queen's. The Advisors have been dealing with graduate students being treated unfairly when it comes to being listed as author on their own publications. Often times, supervisors will list themselves as first author or will impose unjust rules about authorship on students. According to the IP policy:

"With respect to a publication, individuals named as authors must have made a significant intellectual contribution to the work. Individuals hired to perform specific tasks typically do not share authorship, although they may receive acknowledgement for their contribution to the work. The decision about authorship and the order of authors may be based on what is considered the usual practice in a particular field, by the relative contribution made by each co-author, by seniority or by some other agreed upon method."

The policy is very vague and does not account for the power imbalances in the discussion between the supervisor and the student. This is especially worrisome for international students who aren't aware of their rights as far as authorship. The faculty member (as a supervisor and as a member of the field) holds expert knowledge and social power over their students. This makes any discussions on authorship biased towards the faculty member. The SGS needs to create clearer policy around authorship that recognizes that students may not be able to discuss authorship with their supervisor on an equal level.

Academic Affairs Standing Committee (AASC):

Unfortunately the callout for AASC membership was delayed and the committee is still seeking members. A number of SGPS reps and graduate students have forwarded to the committee key documents pertaining to the restructuring and cutbacks in their respective departments – if you have recently attended a departmental meeting regarding these issues and are unable to join the committee, please forward any pertinent information to vpq@sqps.ca. A key project of this committee will be to liaise with graduate student bodies in each department to gather information and statistics on increased enrollment and departmental “restructuring” and the affects of both on TA/TF positions and graduate student life. I hope to have a report prepared for the membership by late January, early February 2010. If anyone is interested in joining the AASC they can contact me at vpq@sqps.ca.

Health Sciences Restructuring:

SGPS delegates and other graduate students in Anatomy and Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology, Pharmacology & Toxicology, and Physiology have been actively engaged to gain better representation, provide input and pose Graduate concerns to the administration on the proposed merger of all five Health Sciences departments. (On the restructuring plan see Appendix C) On 24 November they met with Iain Young, Vice-Dean Academic, Faculty of Health Sciences to discuss whether the restructuring will affect degree programs, quality of education, TA-ships and funding, and whether the new structure will grant graduate students input as key stakeholders in the Health Sciences (see Appendix D). Many of the questions Dr. Young was unable to answer, but SGPS members affected by the proposed merger continue to advocate for graduate students as the restructuring process presses forward. Please see your SGPS departmental rep if you have any questions or comments regarding the Health Sciences restructuring process.

Respectively Submitted,
David Thompson
Vice President Graduate
vpg@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Vice President-Campaigns and
Community Affairs
December 2009

“It’s Christmas Theo. It’s the time of miracles. So be of good cheer”

With all respect to those who celebrate the season for its many reasons, I thought I would start with a wonderful quote from my favourite Christmas movie, and one of the great villains of all time (I’ll have a free treat for the first to tell me where it’s from). Seriously though, season’s greetings to all as we head into the last month of classes. Though I have less variety in the items I shall report on, I do have a fair bit to get through so I will get to it, starting with the small and getting to the big. I will present orally to Council on the CFS NGM as it was....well, a debacle.

City of Kingston/Queen’s Relations:

Next meeting is a day after reports are due so I have nothing to report at this stage though I doubt that will change in any meaningful way by the Council Meeting.

Internal Affairs:

The Executive all met with Principal Woolf and Vice Principal Dean for a pleasant dinner at Summerhill and much important discussion ensued over various issues which I shall leave to my fellow Executive members to describe.

SGPS Campaigns:

Many of you came by our booth out front of the John Deutsch Centre on November 5th and enjoyed a cup of coffee and a fine Canadian pastry and deposited a post card. Despite the awful weather we managed to collect another 250 cards or so and now have about 500 to contribute to the campaign. In total, CFS members have now collected over 90 000 cards and it appears we will break the 100 000 mark which should be an enticing number for the media.

The Water Access Group and our campaign to promote the accessibility of safe drinking water on campus now has all its oars in the water (yeah I said it!). In addition to upcoming awareness campaigns, we are submitting requests to Sodexo and Physical Plant Services to help determine the feasibility of increasing fountain access, limiting the sale of bottled water, and re-negotiating the beverage exclusivity contract with Coca-Cola Limited. This has been a long process, but Principal Woolf has agreed to endorse our requests and force the issue (I do love the honeymoon period). Additionally, a couple of ideas that may be of interest to Council: the creation of a central, “trophy” fountain on campus and the improvement, both physically and aesthetically, of existing fountains.

CFS National General Meeting:

Of all the CFS meetings I have been to, this was the most antagonistic, ill-mannered, juvenile, and down-right counter-productive that I have ever witnessed. There were 90

motions submitted with due notice to amend policy, adopt policy, advocate support, amend by-laws, and to be frank, disrupt the proper procedure for a meeting of this type. These motions were sub-divided into sub-committees to consider over the course of the week so as to (hopefully) facilitate discussion to defeat or ratify in closing plenary. Basically, motions dealing with policy went to a policy sub-committee, campaign issues to the campaign sub-committee budget issues to its appropriate group and the beast of the group, the Organisational and Services Development Committee was assigned the task of discussing the bulk of the contentious motions brought forth primarily from Quebec locals. These motions focused on the suggestion that there is wide-spread discontent with the CFS and that a ground swell of student support for disassociation is evident from many schools across the country. To Amir's credit he stuck with the committee even though they met from 8:30 PM until 6:30 AM the next morning.

These sub-committees then made proposals for acceptance or ratification of the different motions to ease this process in closing plenary. Closing plenary made me want to leave. Wide spread filibustering, ignorant comments, short sighted approaches, wide-spread disrespect, inappropriate use of time, and even a fire alarm were all tactics to bog down procedure and hamstringing the entire membership. Interestingly several of the motions brought forth to support McGill's claims of wide-spread discontent from other locals, were in fact instituted by McGill and not the local itself, and were subsequently withdrawn by McGill. This was an utter waste of time and a poor reflection of proper procedure. I was not pleased.

Other motions dealing with policy and procedure, campaigns and government relations were debated and we voted for, against, and abstained as we felt would best reflect the will of the SGPS membership. I can speak to them individually if any would like but there are simply too many to list here.

However, the most contentious motion is certainly worth a discussion here and at Council, and this was Motion 20 in Closing Plenary brought by the Carlton University Graduate Students' Association and seconded by the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa. This motion essentially was brought to counter the disruptive tactics currently being used by the Quebec component in their struggle for autonomy and independence from the CFS. I will discuss the previous process of disassociation at Council, but summarize the new process by saying it now requires 20% of the membership to sign a petition to call a referendum question on disassociation followed by some disturbing particulars: no more than 2 referenda can occur in a 3 month span; no referendum on any particular campus may have taken place in the previous 60 months; and no vote to disassociate may occur within 60 months of a vote to join the CFS. We tried desperately to argue against this motion as it does not serve our membership in any way, but the debacle that surrounded its discussion made that impossible (I will elaborate at Council), and in the end the motion carried despite our vote against the motion.

This is a very disturbing motion and we need to discuss its implications at length at Council so please feel free to email me for more info if you would like or simply come prepared to discuss.

Respectfully, albeit exhaustedly submitted,
Steve Osterberg

Senate: November 26

The Senate meeting was preceded by the Principal's Financial Update. An overview as well as the streaming video can be found on-line (<http://www.queensu.ca/principal/speech/financialupdate2009-11-26.html>). As you can imagine the future does not look rosy for Queen's. While the University has fared better than other post-secondary institutions, the deficit situation continues to weigh heavily on the minds of senior administrators and the Board. Principal Woolf recognized the Memorandum of Understanding, signed between the University and QUSA (Queen's University Staff Association), as a positive example of what employees can do to in times of financial austerity. The staff made serious concessions and will be receiving only minimal increases in pay (less than 2%), while those at the top of their salary grid will receive a meager \$300 bonus. QUFA, on the other hand, was targeted by the Principal as a leading cause for the University's inability to balance the books. Less was said about the increased operating cost associated with new infrastructure projects and, as one faculty member pressed, the expense of senior administration. The Principal has been in negotiation with QUFA over how salary cuts – or rather, decreases in negotiated benefits – will contribute to alleviating the deficit.

I intended to have six questions included in the question period of Senate, but the Agenda Committee rejected five of them but will be reconsidering one of these for the January meeting. My sole question, as well as that from QUFA President, Senator Christie, can be found in Appendix A.

The question submitted in September by Jeff Welsh and I (“Does the Vice-Principal (Academic) plan to replace the Diversity Advisor in his office, and if not, why?”) was responded to, in writing, by an absent VP Academic, Patrick Deane (he was attending a Council of Ontario Universities event in Toronto). For the reasons outlined in Appendix B, the position *will not* be renewed.

Chris Conway, Director, Institutional Research and Planning, was kind enough to provide an interim report on the question Jeff Welsh and I asked, “What has been the change from last year in the number of TAs and paid TA hours in each Department and Faculty?” (See Appendix C, http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/Nov26_09/Q1TA.pdf). Unfortunately this does not adequately address the question and I have since followed up with Mr. Conway personally. As per the response I received at Senate, *Queen's does not have a central record of the number of TAs during the mid-academic cycle*. This will be collected at a later date. In other words, nothing exists for September 2009-onwards, but we can access September 2008-August 2008 numbers. ***As the sole representative of TA (and TF) issues, it is imperative for the SGPS to maintain records on how many of its***

members are currently employed in this capacity. With faculty restructuring, it is important to monitor the expansion or contraction of the number of TAships and related funding.

The Campus Planning and Development Committee report to Senate listed numerous capital projects that have been completed as well as a few that are slated to commence in the near future (see http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/Nov26_09/CPDCRpt.pdf). Some of these projects have received financial support from the federal and provincial governments, in addition to private funding. Projects such as Phase 2 and 3 of the Queen's Centre remain on hold indefinitely. The \$40 million Goodes Hall expansion is noteworthy. When asked about the feasibility of more capital spending at a time of academic budget cuts, the response was as follows: ***no new projects will begin without money in the bank.***

There is some good news for international students (Master's and PhD) in *non-professional* programs: "Upon consultation with the School of Graduate Studies, it is recommended that there be no increase to the graduate international student tuition fees for Masters and Doctoral students in 2010 – 2011." Not so rosy for everyone: "it is recommended that graduate international tuition fees for Masters students in the School of Policy Studies, the School of Urban and Regional Planning, and the School of Rehabilitation Therapy be increased... International fees in the Master of Management program are also recommended to increase." ***It is my suggestion that the SGPS Executive solicit feedback from its membership in all of these respective programs with regards to the SGS recommendations. Support or lack thereof should be conveyed to the SGS Dean as well as the Board of Trustees.*** (Full report, http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/Nov26_09/Tuition.pdf)

Finally, the Principal has agreed to add Queen's to the climate change statement, which was signed at the COU meeting in October.

Faculty of Arts and Science Graduate Council Restructuring (November 12 and 30)

It will take some time to finalize the restructuring of these faculties. In the interim, it looks as though decision making powers will rest in the hands of deans who will work in consultation with faculties on the issues of course design, program, requirements, etc. The restructuring committee has also addressed the draft academic integrity policy and proposed changes to ITA distribution. With regards to the latter, there exists just as much uncertainty at the department levels as to *how* these awards will be allocated and *why* revisions are being proposed at the SGS level. The flexible scheme has certainly been received favourably, but the long-term objective is less clear. Finally, with regards to student representation and after consulting with the SGPS Executive, I have proposed the following to the committee's chair, Dr. John Pierce, Associate Dean (Studies):

“Our ambition is for SGPS representation to equal 1/4 of the department graduate coordinator membership, rounded up. For example, if Science has 10 departments there would be 3 SGPS members (1 Master’s and 1 PhD and 1 general member from the faculty); if Arts has 18 departments there would be 5 SGPS members (2 Master's and 2 PhD's and 1 general member from the faculty). All members will have full voting rights. The SGPS will be responsible for appointing these representatives and forwarding their names to the respective Faculty Council chairs. We also believe that at least one graduate student from each department represented by the council should be permitted to attend the meetings as an observer.”

This surpasses the current proposal of 1 Master’s and 1 PhD student on each Council, regardless of size. A final decision has to be confirmed.

Senate Operations and Review Committee (SORC): November 11

The discussion on Senate composition and student representation is ongoing. As it stands the Education Senate seat is being filled by a non-ESS member – an issue we hope to resolve shortly.

SORC also reviewed the initial proposal for the University Planning Committee. This sets off the early phase of streamlining the relationship between Senate and the Board, as well as academic and operational planning. I encourage members to review the draft document

(http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/Nov26_09/SORCRptb.pdf). Of particular interest is the Committee’s mandate, reporting structure, role as an advisory body, and composition. In many respects this is a joint Senate and Board committee, so the membership should reflect this ambition. The SGPS and AMS Presidents, along with the Rector, have submitted to the Principal a list of questions that hope to have these and other questions addressed. SORC will continue to review the Committee proposal in the months ahead.

Principal’s Ad Hoc to Draft a Safe Disclosure Policy: November 26

Despite the best efforts of the committee we have yet to finalize a draft Safe Disclosure policy. Depending on how long the final revisions take we anticipate a draft appearing at Senate early in the New Year.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrew Stevens



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Social Commissioner
December 2009

Hello Everyone,

I just wanted to let you know of our upcoming social event for the month of December “**SGPS Charity Cinemas**”

Come out with your family and friends and join us for a Movie Night and Pizza!

Date: Wednesday December 2nd 2009

Place: Queen's University International Centre, JDUC

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Price: Canned Food Items!

All canned food items will be donated to the Kingston Food Bank!

Also, please stay tuned for details on our **Charity Casino Night** that will take place in early March.

If you have any ideas of social events you would like to see, please e-mail the social team at social@sgps.ca

Respectfully Submitted,

Diala Habib
Social Commissioner

SGPS Computer Network

- I have been working on additional backup solutions for the SGPS network. I have integrated additional backup measures to ensure our backup data is secure.

SGPS Website

- I have added a new club section to our website. This page contains new forms and information pertaining to SGPS clubs. You can find the new page under the 'Get Involved' section of the website. <http://www.sgps.ca/jobs/clubs.html>
- I have added a new rotating transition banner to the top of the SGPS homepage. I added the banner to draw attention to some of the services provided by the SGPS.
- I am continuing to work on the new Student Advisor section of the website. I will be including past reports (with confidential data removed). This new section of the site should be a great resource for our members. SGPS Executive will be able to use this section to better track the cases brought to the Student Advisor program so they can better represent our members' issues.
- I have done some work on a web-based health and dental opt-in system. This is a very complicated system with many checks and bounds. I hope to have this ready for our next major health and dental opt-in period in September 2010.

E-Newsletter

- I am very excited to report the next newsletter that will be released will be issue number 50. I consider this an exciting milestone for our newsletter.
- I have continued investigating a possible online submission system for E-Newsletter content.

Communications

- I have been working with the SGPS Front Desk to streamline our office communications strategy.
- I have been working with the University committee for the grand opening of the Queen's Centre. I'll report more on the event when we have solidified the details.
- I have been working on updating some of our old forms (particularly those used at the SGPS Front Desk) and adding some new forms.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Richards - info@sgps.ca



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity Commissioner
December 2009

Hello Everybody,

Let me begin my very first report as an official thank you for this opportunity and for the great support that everybody has offered my way.

The last few weeks have been hectic and overwhelming, as transitions usually are, but I have also had an immense increase in the knowledge of the workings of the SGPS, the Equity Committee and Queen's University in general.

I especially wish to express my deep gratitude to Jeff Welsh, Usman Mushtaq and Lara Szabo Greisman for all their time and devotion to the Society and also for aiding me to such an extent with my transition.

Accessibility Queen's

The Accessibility subcommittee on the Equity committee is currently working on finding capital projects that might be of interest to Accessibility Queen's.

One such project put forth is to make the 4 Directions, native students building, more accessible and accommodating of its elders. Currently there are no accessible washrooms in the building and Accessibility Queen's is looking into funding that project. Secondly, the resources on the second floor of the Grey House are also faced with a similar issue. The Equity Committee together with Accessibility Queen's is looking into hiring independent contractors that maybe able to give us a quote on building an elevator that that the Grey House safe space is accessible to all.

On the side is a project to fund the Disability Services website in order to re design it as a fully accessible electronic resource for all students.

Queer Grad Student Group

Several grad students have expressed interest in starting up a queer grad student group. We have finally has some membership from the grad student community and are looking to have this group up and running at the beginning of the New Year. We are still seeking membership and anybody interested in participating in the group should please email at equity@sgps.ca.

OHIP for All campaign

The former equity commissioner made great progress with the campaign. The university has shown interest in the matter but said that they would not invest resources into it but is willing to take forth any proposals that the students work on. Since this is an inter-university issue with all international students, I have joined the collaborative efforts of other universities working on the UHIP Action Campaign. More information about the campaign can be found at www.uhip.info. In the last meeting we mainly discussed ways to publicize the campaign and have increased membership through events tailored to international students in the winter semester.

International Student Award (ITA)

The issue regarding ITA is still underway. Specifics about the issue can be found in last months report. Currently we are seeking international student voice in this matter and are hoping to raise awareness about this with the help of the International Student

Center

Queen's Day Care Center

My first meeting with the Queen's Day Care center will be early January and I hope to address the issue of the waiting list in regards to day care spots as well as the afterhours and weekend child support. I will be bringing forth ideas brought to my attention from several grad students such as a collaborative effort with con-current education students and also the use of Mac-Brown as potential day care center space.

Please feel free to contact me regarding any equity or otherwise related issues at equity@sqps.ca

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Virani
Equity Commissioner

Chef Michael Smith visits Queen's

I represented the SGPS during the Food Sustainability with Chef Michael Smith organized by the Queen's Hospitality Services. This full day event was held October 26th and included an early morning visit and a tour of MyFarm – a farm of our Queen's Chef in a joint partnership between Queen's University, Sodexo and Kingston's communities. It was followed by a breakfast made with fresh local produce, a talk by Chef Michael Smith on importance of food sustainability, as well as a prayer by the Aboriginal Student Centre, and a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the event. The evening dinner at Leonard Field drew quite a crowd and included a book signing by Chef Smith and a live band.

Solar PV Initiative – SGPS Sustainability Committee Study

Since receiving an approval for a solar viability study during the last Council's meeting, SGPS Sustainability Standing Committee has been working with MECH Applied Sustainability, MCRC and Living Cities on spreading the news about the solar initiative and assembling the data for the study.

In collaboration with the MECH Queen's Applied Sustainability we have established a facebook group and currently have 1,631 members and counting! The initiative has even reached Principal Woolf and according to our sources he expressed his support on Twitter. We have obtained files Dr. Pearce has used to make his study and the numbers match. Seems like the next step requested by the Administration is to hire an outside firm to do an official study- Dr. Pearce is looking into this and we will report on any new developments.

Queen's Sustainability Advisory Committee – QSAC

In light of Queen's commitment to COU (Council of Ontario Universities) the University has formed an advisory committee for sustainability. The QSAC is led by co-chairs Patrick Deane (V-P Academic) and Bill Bryck (V-P Operations and Finance). It is composed of faculty members with expertise and interest in sustainability, as well as Queen's Campus Planning personnel such as Audrey Kaplan (Director of Campus Planning) and Aaron Ball (Sustainability Manager of Campus Planning). Claire Nelischer and I will provide student representation for Alma Mater Society and the Society of Graduate & Professional Students.

QSAC members include: Steve Harrison (Mechanical and Materials Engineering), Harry McCaughey (Geography, Environmental Studies), Steven Moore (School of Business), Claire Nelischer (Alma Mater Society), Bruce Pardy (Law), Joshua Pearce (Mechanical and Materials Engineering), Vicki Remenda (Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering), John Smol (Biology, Environmental Studies), Andrew Pollard (Mechanical & Materials Engineering), Scott Carson (School of Business) and myself Ivana Zelenika (Society of Graduate & Professional Students).

While Principal Woolf should be commended on signing the COU climate document, it is the opinion of all QSAC members that COU does not set out any palpable goals or guidelines on climate mitigation. Therefore we will unanimously continue to encourage the Principal and Queen's to sign the ACUPCC (American College and University President's Climate Commitment) which actually does have realistic targets and guidelines.

The next order of business to be discussed at the next meeting include Queen's Sustainability Framework and Queen's GHG emissions inventory and I shall report more on this next time.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivana Zelenika