



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, February 10th, 2009 5:30pm
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentation

Meghan Gallant - CFS-FCEE-Ontario
Leslie Dal Cin – Athletics and Recreation

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION

02/10/09:1

Moved _____ Welsh _____ / _____ BIRT the agenda for February, 2009 be adopted.

MOTION

02/10/09:2

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

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

President – Jeff Welsh (report attached)
VP Internal Graduate – Joellen Lin (report attached)
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

02/10/09:3

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)
Commissioner Reports

- i) Social Commissioner – Diala Habib (report attached)
- ii) Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
- iii) Equity Commissioner – VACANT

Other Reports

- i) Committee Coordinator – Igor Poroger
- ii) Chief Returning Officer – Sam Hetz
- iii) Rector – Leora Jackson (Report attached)
- iv) Departmental Reports

MOTION

02/10/09:4

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. Other Business

Conclusions for Tuition Fee Action Meeting

8. Main Motions

MOTION

02/10/09:5

Moved Joellen Lin / _____ BIRT that Victoria Hoskin be ratified as members of the SGPS Campus Sustainability Committee.

MOTION

02/10/09:6

BIRT SGPS Council approves the renewal of the Queen's Legal Aid mandatory fee of \$4.50 (not indexed for inflation) until 2011-2012, when it will go to referendum for renewal.

MOTION

02/10/09:7

BIRT SGPS Council approves the renewal of the Queen's Oxfam mandatory fee of \$0.75 (indexed for inflation) until 2011-2012, when it will go to referendum for renewal.

MOTION

02/10/09:8

BIRT SGPS Council approves the renewal of the Union Gallery optional fee of \$1.50 (not indexed for inflation) until 2011-2012, when it will go to referendum for renewal.

MOTION

02/10/09:9

BIRT SGPS Council approves the renewal of the Yellow Bike optional fee of \$0.50 (indexed for inflation) until 2011-2012, when it will go to referendum for renewal.

MOTION

02/10/09:10

Whereas the SGPS may receive new proposals for Health and Dental Plans for the upcoming year, and those proposals will require significant review and discussion.

And whereas the SGPS should strive to maintain the most effective health plan that it is able to for its membership.

Moved Jamie Kneen / _____ BIRT Council Strike a Health and Dental Plan Proposal Review Committee if valid proposals come forward to the SGPS

MOTION

02/10/09:11

Whereas there had not been SGPS-ratified clubs in the past few years and the Clubs Funding line of the operational budget has been subsequently given no fund this year.

Whereas there is now an active club established and run by SGPS members, the SGPS Trivia Club, and they have been and will be participating in various activities in and outside Queen's.

Whereas the club aims to represent Queen's in inter-university competitions and accommodate its members to participate without financial burden,

Moved Victoria Bae / _____ BIRT SGPS transfers \$350 to the Clubs Funding line of the operational budget to support the SGPS Trivia Club.

MOTION

02/10/09:12

Whereas the Graduate Student Radio Documentary Project aims to create meaningful opportunities for graduate students to disseminate their ideas and experiment with forms of popular education,

Whereas this project will create greater exposure for the breadth of research that is coming out of Queen's,

Whereas the Project has visited the SGPS Council at the January meeting to provide background information and budget and from this it is clear that they have proactively sought for other revenues and have approached and succeeded with all other bodies within Queen's for funding,

Moved Victoria Bae / _____ BIRT that the Council gives \$1000 to this Project from the Council's Discretionary Fund.

MOTION

02/10/09:13

BIRT Council approve the following question, submitted by Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre, to be placed on the 2008-2009 referendum ballot:

Question: Should the SGPS establish a \$1.00 Class A optional fee (not indexed for inflation) for the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre?

MOTION

02/10/09:14

BIRT Council approve the following question, submitted by Queen's Daycare Centre, to be placed on the 2008-2009 referendum ballot:

Question: Should the SGPS establish a \$1.00 Class A optional fee (not indexed for inflation) for the Queen's Daycare Centre?

MOTION

02/10/09:15

BIRT Council approve the following question, submitted by Queen's Athletics and Recreation, to be placed on the 2008-2009 referendum ballot:

Question: Do you agree to an increase in the Athletics and Recreation fee portion of the student activity fee from \$81.90 to \$###.##, an increase of \$##.##, not indexed to inflation?

Note: Athletics and Recreation is in the process of surveying our members to determine programing and fee requirements. They will submit an exact amount by February 17th, which will be circulated to Council and the SGPS membership for notification prior to the referendum.

MOTION**02/10/09:16**

Moved Mark Rosner / _____ BIRT Council endorse the goals outlined in the minutes of the Working Group on Tuition Fees;

BIFRT Council endorse a demonstration by graduate students, faculty, staff and administration publicizing these goals.

MOTION**02/10/09:17**

Whereas there have been a number of incidents of racism on campuses across Ontario; and
Whereas racism in the post-secondary education system also manifests systemically, in hiring practices and teaching curriculum; and

Whereas there are few reporting mechanisms to measure the degree and extent of racism on campuses in Ontario; and

Whereas gathering information on the degree and extent of campus racism in Ontario could be helpful in challenging racism on campuses; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students in Ontario has struck the Task Force on Campus Racism; and

Whereas the Canadian Federation of Students in Ontario is seeking endorsement for the Task Force on Campus Racism in order to partner with community organisations and coalitions to stop racism

Moved Mark Rosner / _____ BIRT the Canadian Federation of Students' Task Force on Campus Racism be endorsed; and

BIFRT the Task Force on Campus Racism be promoted and advertised through the mechanisms available to the SGPS

MOTION**02/10/09:18**

Whereas the Queen's University administration has a history of taking public stands on matters relevant to academia generally, and the Palestinian/Israeli conflict specifically,

Whereas in 2007 our Principal of Queen's University publicly took a position against divestment of Israeli universities while the occupation of Palestine continued, giving the reason that the "university's central purpose" was to speak out against the silencing of other universities,

Whereas the Islamic University of Gaza , the largest and oldest university in Gaza Strip with more than 18,000 students, grants internationally-recognized degrees in many faculties including medicine, nursing, engineering, science, commerce etc...,

Whereas in a single night, December 28-29, 2008, Israeli forces bombed the university campus in six separate air strikes,

Whereas this single event speaks to an ongoing and long-term process of intimidation and silencing of Palestinian academics and students, through tactics ranging from military attacks on campuses, to the imprisonment or killing of academics, to a checkpoint system and curfews which effectively closes universities to study, and the refusal to allow our academic and student colleagues international travel to attend conferences, all of which is a symptom of a decades-long military occupation of Palestine,

BIRT the SGPS demands that the Queen's University administration take a strong stand as it has in the past regarding Israel/Palestine, condemning the Israeli bombing of a Palestinian university, and the ongoing segregation, intimidation, and silencing of academics and students in Palestine.

9. Notice of Motions/Announcements

Reports and Motions for the next regular Council meeting are due Tuesday March 3rd, 2009.
The next regular SGPS Council meeting will be on Tuesday March 10th, 2009.

10. Adjournment

MOTION

02/10/09:19

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

02/10/09

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Attached:

Jan 2009 Minutes

Reports

Mail/File server invoices

Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre Referendum Fee Bid SGPS Winter 2009

Funding Request for Graduate Student Radio Documentary Project Project

Sample Endorsement Letter for Task Force on Campus Racism

Minutes of Working Group on Tuition Fees – January 20th



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
Tuesday, January 13th, 2009 5:30pm
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentation

Sayyida Jaffer, Operations Officer from CFRC – CFRC presenting presents a proposal to provide opportunities for grad students to produce a radio documentary on research they are conducting. This will allow people to engage their ideas in non-academic way. It provides a different way of dissemination. The station gets fees from students, and is looking to reach out to grad students and improve relations with the community. The objective is to make research accessible to the public and allow students to engage with different types of feedbacks. It highlights the type of research being done at Queen's beyond what faculty is doing. There will be brief application process whereby students will present their idea. This can be used as an opportunity to translate a completed paper into a 30-minute radio documentary. Hoping to get a cross section of student to apply, and is proposing to provide a 300\$ honourarium. The CFRC is aware that Queen's budget cuts are affecting students and that every little bit of financial assistance helps. They hope that this marginal honourarium provides students with the incentive to apply. No experience in radio production is necessary, as the station will provide all help required. The CFRC is requesting \$4500 from the Dean of Student Affairs. It is also requesting \$2000 from the SGPS - \$1500, plus \$500 in-kind for advertising.

Kneen: Would program be open to theology students?

Jaffer: Yes

Kneen: When do you anticipate a call out?

Jaffer: Right away. Will advertisement a call for application for a few weeks. The process of selection would be open if SGPS would like to be part of that. It would be nice to get the project rolling before end of semester, but we're flexible.

Paul Quick, SGPS Student Advisor – Student advisor program is funded in part by graduate student fees and the school of graduate studies. What we do: There are 3 branches, we provide confidential information, provide advice, and advocate on behalf of students. We can respond to questions on how the school runs. If your colleagues have questions send them to us, as we know how to get answers. If they do not wish to reveal their identities we can act as a buffer. We can provide strategic information on how to work the system, as we have knowledge of system and people in the system. We can help coach on communication skills and assist in conflicts with supervisors. We can assist students by showing them how to express themselves in ways that will not explode a particular situation. Resolving conflict between students can also be done. We have had success in advocating on behalf of students facing serious academic issues, or serious

conflict with supervisors. It helps to have us sit in on a meeting to have outside scrutiny, as people behave differently when a third party is in the room. The most interesting part of the job is empowering grad students to advocate on their own behalf, and making sure they know their rights. If you know anyone who could use our service refer him or her to our office. We can also assist with intellectual property issues. The current situation is a mess and there are no easy answers. We can also help with getting funding, for instance how to get a bursary. Please get the word out.

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION 01/1309:1

Moved ____Irwin____ / ____Kneen____ BIRT the agenda for January, 2009 be amended. Carried.

MOTION 01/13/09:2

Moved ____Welsh____ / ____Bae____ BIRT the agenda for January, 2009 be adopted. Carried.

MOTION 01/13/09:3

Moved ____Welsh____ / ____Bae____ BIRT the minutes for December, 2008 be accepted. Carried.

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

President – Jeff Welsh (report attached) – Discussed Senate Ops Review. Discussed establishment of a whistleblower policy and that indicate that we should anticipate that this will take a year to emerge (winter 2010). Review being conducted on the composition of the Senate, only three reps from 3 from grad students; and new formula needs to be adopted so that another graduate seat can be added to the Senate. Following from TAFE drive, which failed, a motion was put forward by Dean of Grad Studies at meeting of the TA consultative committee allowing the appeal policy be amended to grant jurisdiction over TA disputes.

VP Internal Graduate – Joellen Lin (report attached) – December was a quiet month. This is a good opportunity to remind your colleagues of the student advisor service. We have posters, so please take them back to your departments. The Senate is looking for a grad rep starting Sept. 2009, I am working with coordinator to fill the spot. This is a great way to get involved. Please encourage members of your department to apply.

VP Internal Professional – Jamie Kneen (report attached) – The by-law policy committee will be meeting frequently to get going. Will be undertaking employee assessment for commissioners and coordinators. I am also looking forward to hearing great proposals for health and dental. Will let you know when I hear back

d) VP External – Mark Rosner (report attached) – there are a couple things to flag. At the last council meeting the question was raised with regard to the Dean's email about not exceeding 10 hours of work per week. You will find the Dean's response to our request for clarification attached response. In short, students should only work 10 hours per week on TA RA stuff not related to their thesis. There is little consequence for students who do, except for their own performance. We will have a speaker series on the 23-27th on intellectual property. The CFS will be holding campus wide hearings on racism, which will be open to the general public. If people are interested in participating information will be disseminated.

e) VP Operations – Vicky Bae (report attached) – There is one revision on the operational budget for year (2008-2009). Hold off on discussion until the motion.

f) Speaker – Seth Irwin

MOTION 01/13/09:4

Moved ___Welsh___ / ___Warfe___ BIRT Executive and Speaker reports be accepted. Carried.

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

Commissioner Reports

i) Social Commissioner – Diala Habib (report attached) – There will be a social mixer with medical/law students at Elixer, more information can be found in the newsletter. We are in the planning stages of a Ski trip for mid-or-end February. We welcome any feedback/suggestions

ii) Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached) – nothing to add

iii) Equity Commissioner: Internal – VACANT

iv) Equity Commissioner: External – VACANT

Other Reports

i) Committee Coordinator – VACANT

ii) Chief Returning Officer – VACANT

iii) Rector – Leora Jackson

iv) Departmental Reports

Melissa – Looking to increase athletic and recreation fee. Any increase requires a referendum. They are looking for the increase in student athletic fees in order to sustain programs. There has not been an increase in 10 years. I will be going to a meeting to address the issues.

Welsh – Any general thoughts on fee increases should be shared. What they are requesting would be a substantial increase. If it is not passed at a referendum we may be required to pay for service.

Bae - Is there possibility to amend fee so that it is optional?

Melissa – There has been no discussion with SGPS at this point, only AMS. I will know more after this meeting

Kneen – Can you hold back to field more questions?

Melissa – I have to leave at 7pm

Kneen – Can people send you questions/comments through email?

Melissa - Yes

Irwin – vote to end.

MOTION 12/09/09:5

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

5. Question Period/Departmental Complaints

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Main Motions

MOTION 01/13/09:5

Moved ____Bae____ / ____Rosner____ BIRT following the recommendations of the Operations and Finance Standing Committee, Council approve the changes to the SGPS budget, dated January 7th, 2009 (see Appendix). Carried.

Bae - Attached you will find a revised version of operational budget. We have a surplus due to resignations from council positions.

8. Other Business

Election of Chief Returning Officer – SGPS elections and referendum are coming up and we need a CRO. The CRO waits for nominations to come in and supervises (counts) ballots.

Irwin – I am begging council members to step up and take on the role. If you are interested I will be here after the council meeting to talk to you further. Is there any interest in taking on this position?

Hetz – expressed interest in the position

Council Voted: All supported Hetz's appointment. There was no opposition.

Approval of Election/Referenda dates –

MOTION 01/13/09:6

Moved ____Hertz____ / ____Welsh____ BIRT the 2009 SGPS election be called. Carried.

BIFRT nominations will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2009.

BIFRT the All-Candidates Debate be held in the front room of the Grad Club from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Monday February 23th, 2009.

BIFRT polling stations will be open on Wednesday, February 25th, and Thursday, February 26th, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Equity Commissioner Vacancy –

Kneen - We recently received the resignation of the Equity Commissioner (EC). When a resignation comes this late into in the game, the question is whether we should re-hire for the position. The new EC would be coming on with little time to learn the position. Should we hold off and just refill position for next year? Any discussion?

Rosner – I suggest that council fill the position, if we can find a capable person. There is no question that there are equity issues on campus. If we cannot find a capable person or no one is willing that is another story.

Nahanni – is there training? Can we hire someone now in anticipation that they will come back next September? We would be hiring now ensuring that they would be prepared for next year.

Kneen – There's no guarantee.

Bae – There's an administrative concern. There is only 2.5 months left. We need to find a person, which could take 2-3 weeks. This leaves a max of 2 months in the role. Plus there will be a transition period. The job description is very vague. It is possible to do, but it would be a lot of work to break from previous portfolio. Question becomes should they just kept with the old portfolio.

Rosner – There is no requirement to hire, but we should engage in the process to find someone.

Habib – Is there no other commissioner?

Kneen – Both have resigned.

Warfe – If the concern is time, can someone not be appointed from council?

Kneen – Usually hiring process takes two weeks. Council can strike a committee .

Bae – I think the question is more whether we can appoint someone?

Warfe – However we can do it quickly.

Richards – This is not an appointed position, so we need to go through a hiring process

Someone – What does the position entail?

Welsh - The EC sits on the equity committee, liaise with the Human Rights office, and the student advisor program. They raise and address any systemic issues, and provide advice on events to hold. They also evaluate how to make campus more accessible.

Someone – You said that this happened last year. Can anything get done?

Kneen – It would take a minimum of 2, but more like 3 weeks. The problem with this position is its independence. It would be the second week of February before it comes to council, and there is little likelihood that any thing will get done.

Irwin – Can I get a show of hands of how many people would be in favour of going ahead of with hiring process.

Paul – Can I make a pitch for hiring? The position can be invaluable and it is worth opening it up for hiring. It would be great to have someone at SGPS, especially given the type of year we have had. It is likely that the person could role over into applying for another year.

MOTION 01/13/09:7

Moved _____Kneen_____/_____ Rosner_____ BIRT that the SGPS move forward in striking a hiring committee in order to hire an Equity Commissioner. Carried.

Kneen – If there are people interested in sitting on the hire committee, please speak to me at the end of council.

Proposal for a walk out on the 1st Monday in February (2nd)

Webb – University has mandated more budget cuts, while increasing tuition. They promised it would not happen every year; that it was a one shot deal. The idea is that grad student would take a stand and request justification/accountability from administration. Where is the money going. A deomonstration / walk out would gather media attention

Rideout – What repercussions would there be for leaving labs unattended?

Webb – Without TAs the don't open the labs.

Rideout – What about repercussions as TA?

Rosner – This is a hazy area, but there would be little chance. There would be hesitation to punish students for political involvement, but we cannot discount the possibility.

Welsh – Where a TA is in breach, the amount of time taken for legal/disciplinary action for a one term contract is not worth the administration effort. So around a single incident it is doubtful that there would be repercussions. There would be concerns regarding health and safety. For instance, no one should leave a lab if students are in it. There is also the possibility of spoiled relations with your students.

Webb – What if we advertised before hand, if we sent out a message from the SGPS?

Irwin – Just a side note, professors are in support of graduate and PhD students. We might find that professors will join in as well. They are not in favour of cuts and tuition increases.

Rosner – This is a great idea. I love it. We need to advertise before hand to let professors know and inform other students

Someone – What are the intended outcomes?

Webb – We cannot get more money as the money is given from government. I would draw attention to fact that money is being drawn from students. It also raised leadership issues.

Bae – Can we propose an alternative day, maybe in March rather than February. We can strike a working group.

Someone – is not more appropriate to lobby the Government?

Warfe – TA assignments do end before March

Kneen – A Committee may be a better forum for this type of action. Need to discuss a date,

audience. This is all hard to narrow down right now.

Rosner – We should not view this as an isolated action. There is a network of other universities where these issues are raised. This will raise the prominence of the issue at Queen's and Kingston. Inform the voting public

Webb – One of the issues is government. What is queen's doing on this? There is a lack of leadership; they are not acting on behalf of students at the university

Nocilla – Whose attention are we trying to get? The Principal's? My end not getting complaints – if have tangible goals will get something from them – best not to take them by surprise – might be prudent to consider to raise issues through principle or board of trustees – my recommendations

Bae – In response to concerns, Rosner submitted an appendix you might want to review that.

Someone – If Alfonso is not getting this information then perhaps this body is not working

Jeff – This issue has been raised repeatedly. Student trustees voted against fee increases and budgets. This is not an issue of these concerns not getting to board of trustees.

Bae – This issue was brought to council through reports. You are a part of council.

Nocilla – I was not at the last meeting. If you want to take to next level, this will inconvenience people.

Bae – Why are we proposing a committee?

Webb – It is just a proposal.

MOTION 13/01/09:8

Moved ___Kneen___ / ___Welsh___ BIRT a working group be stuck to examine the issue of tuition increases, and how to address this (i.e. collective action), and report back to council. Carried.

Rosner – I will send around a list, put your name on it if you want to participate in the working group.

MOTION 13/01/09:9

Moved ___Kneen___ / ___Lin___ BIRT Igor (Lastname?) be appointed by council to fill the position of Committee Coordinator. Carried.

Kneen – Discussed the Committee Coordinator position. This person is responsible for filling all committees. We interviewed 2 candidates. We are asking that Igor be appointed by council to fill the position of Committee Coordinator.

MOTION 13/01/09:10

Moved ___Kneen___ / ___Lin___ BIRT council approve \$200 for Education Student Society referendum regarding succession to the SGPS. Carried.

Kneen – The education student society expressed a desire to move away from AMS to SGPS. This would mean a boom to our membership. We are allowed to give \$100 from the discretionary fund, as this is not our referendum. AMS upped their support to \$200. We are asking council to match AMS' \$200.

Church - Why would we be funding their referendum? It seems inappropriate to get involved at this point.

Kneen – To have competitive campaign with AMS.

Irwin – would like those interested in sitting on committee re: by-law policies to get in touch with him

9. Notice of Motions/Announcements

Motions should be included prior to meeting – love if motions could come in on time –
Email will be sent to those interested in committee re: day of action
Reports and Motions for the next regular Council meeting are due Tuesday February 3rd, 2009.
The next regular SGPS Council meeting will be on Tuesday February 10th, 2009.

10. Adjournment

MOTION 01/13/09:11

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

01/13/09

SI

CFS-27

Attached:

Dec 2008 Minutes

Reports

VP Operations Appendixes

Resignation Letter of Biology Representative

Revised Budget

Letter from Janice Deakin in response to policy regarding the number of hours worked by
graduate students

My New Home Student Survey Report

Queen's Backing Action on Climate Change: Position Paper

Letter from Ryerson's Student Union in regard to QUMSA