



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, January 13th, 2009 5:30pm

McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentation

Sayyida Jaffer, Operations Officer from CFRC
Paul Quick, SGPS Student Advisor

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION

01/13/09:1

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

MOTION

01/13/09:2

Moved _____ Welsh _____ / _____ BIRT the minutes for December, 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

01/13/09:3

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

Commissioner Reports

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

MOTION

12/09/09:4

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. Main Motions

MOTION

01/13/09:5

Moved Vicky Bae VP Operations / _____ 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).

8. Other Business

Election of Chief Returning Officer

Approval of Election/Referenda dates

Equity Commissioner Vacancy

9. Notice of Motions/Announcements

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

01/13/09:6

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

01/13/09

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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



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, December 9th, 2008 5:30pm

McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentation

Presentation by Aaron Myran and Atanu Sarker of "Queen's Backing Action on Climate Change". Our main goal is to push sustainability. Believes that Queen's should make a commitment to reduce green house gas emissions. This commitment is to be supported by a step-by-step plan to reduce emissions, including a green house gas assessment of the University. We are seeking to have "sustainability" added to the curriculum of all programs. We understand that Queen's is in economic trouble, and that the economy is in trouble. Moving forward with this would send a strong message, to say that if Queen's can take a strong stance, others can as well. Many other universities in BC and the US have signed on to similar protocols. We are addressing student leaders, faculty and alumni, and are hoping that the SGPS can support what we are doing by donating to sustainability. We would like you to vote in support of our position paper.

Myran - Asked a procedural question regarding how to have a motion passed at council meetings.

Someone – responded to the question.

Kneen – Aaron had to leave. We will be attaching their position paper to the agenda of the next council meeting, as well as making a motion to support or reject this paper.

Sayyida Jaffer, Operations Officer from CFRC – This presentation did not occur.

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION 12/09/08:1

Moved ____Kneen ____ / ____Pennimpepe____ BIRT the agenda for December, 2008 be adopted. Carried.

MOTION 12/09/08:2

Moved ____Kneen____ / _____ BIRT the minutes for November, 2008 be accepted. Motion never passed.

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) –
Kneen – We are working on a request for proposals for new health and dental providers – We recently experienced a very serious employment relations issue between SGPS staff and an employee. The detail of the incident will not be discussed at this council meeting as the matter is still being investigated. To date not all parties made themselves available to address the issue, and it is for this reason that the matter will not be discussed further at this time. Apologies were shared for the vagueness of this statement, however, no further details can be provided until all parties have been spoken to. Any questions about the matter can be addressed to her
- d) VP External – Mark Rosner (report attached)
Rosner – Would like to flag a few items from his report. Specifically, he is planning to organize a mini speaker series directed at grad students and related to issues of intellectual property rights, copyright, and whistleblowing. The “Journal” will be conducting a mid-year operations review, thus please forward any complaints and/or comments to him.
- e) VP Operations – Vicky Bae (report attached)
Bae – The Ops and Finance committee met. There was discussion regarding the dental bursary system, specifically with regard to the hope of continuing and/or expanding the program, despite the Vice Principal Operations and Finances resigning. The SGPS operations budget will be revisited at the January Council Meeting.
- f) Speaker – Seth Irwin

MOTION 12/09/08:3

Moved ___Kneen _____ / _____ Erin Kast _____ 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 (report attached)
Li - Work is continuing on the planning of international student career work shops. If anyone is familiar of individuals (international students) who have graduated and would be willing to speak at said workshops, please have them email: international@sgps.ca
- d) Commissioner Reports
 - i) Social Commissioner – Diala Habib (report attached)
 - ii) Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached) –
Richards - nothing to add to his report.
 - 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) – not present
 - iv) Departmental Reports

MOTION 12/09/08:4

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

5. Question Period/Departmental Complaints

No questions or departmental complaints brought forth.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes –

Rosner – flagged for the attention of council members the importance of submitting departmental reports to SGPS. It becomes problematic when individuals fail to submit reports to council as important issues or not (or cannot be) addressed.

Irwin – Three council members, who submitted reports, did not attend this council meeting to respond or elaborate on their reports. This is problematic. Individuals who submit reports should be here to respond to them.

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. Seconded Bae. Carried.

Pennimpede – is this to supplement exclusivity fund?

Richards – When the exclusivity fund was prepared, it did not include everything that was needed. I do not want to come back if something minor is needed. It is likely to come under this amount.

Webb- are you consulting with IT to ensure you get what you need?

Richards – Yes

Pennimpede – Where is money going?

Richard – Can provide an expense claim

Pennimpede – This money cannot be put back, can it?

Webb – Can we first check to see if it comes under \$1500?

Richards – We will have a detailed list of what was purchased and prices.

Bae – Anything over \$500 needs to get council approval.

Pennimpede – Can we state to a max of 1500?

Webb - The motion states for the \$1500 to be "allocated", thus there is no need to change the language of the motion. My concern is that we should be penny pushing, the same as the administration.

MOTION 12/09/08:6

8. Other Business

Conference bursaries –

Kneen – we can table until this until the next meeting.

SGPS action regarding tuition increase and QGA restructuring

Rosner – since last council meeting the Senate and Board of Trustees have met. I'm not fully certain of status tuition fee increase or professional student funding issues. Tuition increases went through, at the recommendation of Senate. Queen's is also set to invest \$15 million in IT. Recently Janice Deakon sent out two emails: 1) related to the issues of funding; 2) related to the issue of ensuring that grad students are only working 10 hours per week. Thanks in part to emails from students grad students there will be guaranteed QGA funding for current students as well as those coming in next year. We should keep this success in mind for future attempts to do this. Tuition fee increases between 4-8% will occur again next year. This constitutes 16% over last two years. We need to consider what we can do to publicize this fact, as it is currently not being done. We keep hearing of the administrations budget issues, but we are not hearing anything of the fact that this is being passed down to students. This fact needs to be put out there.

Katz – Question regarding the number of hours grad students can work. The reiteration that grad students should not work more than 10 hours, is this a recommendation or a rule?

Bae – It is a requirement if you are receiving a tri-counsel scholarship.

Rosner – This should be a university wide policy, however, simply because it is coming from the Dean doesn't mean it is university wide.

Saeidi – I think that there is some misunderstanding about this memo. It is meant to mean only work that is conducted outside of the lab.

Bae – It means that your RA and/or TA work should not go over 10 hours per week – work in a lab will exceed this.

Katz – Does this mean 10 hours each for TA and RAships?

Rideout – TAships are normally 120 hours for 6 week course.

Rosner – I'm pretty sure that during an 8 month academic year, TA hours should be capped at 10 hours per week. It will be useful to get some clarification on this.

Student Advisor – This comes up often. TA and RAships are averaged out across the year. If you are working more what are the consequences?

Fralick – If it does come up in a formal way, you can be demoted from full time status.

Bae – If you work more than 10 hours per week, you can have future hours reduced.

Rosner – There are 2 different channels to bring these issues up – Graduate Chair – There should be some mechanism to address this – TA Consultative Committee – There should be university wide policy on grievances.

Webb – TAships are 60 hours per semester (in Chemistry)

Katz – Read Deakin's memo aloud –

Saeidi - RA ships must be those above and beyond RA work related to your own research

Rosner – We will seek clarification – i.e. whether there differences between departments, – whether this is university or tri-counsel policy, whether this includes outside work. We will report back to council next meeting depending on the turn around time. With regard to the tuition fee issues, we can organize something independent of council. We can bring this up at next counsel meeting, but for now it's something to think about.

Webb – This as incensed the Chemistry Department

Rosner – Some of the options for media outlets include: CFRC, Journal. We can also do student awareness campaigns, as not everyone knows about this. For instance, postering campaigns, small rallies, etc. Any of these will get the attention of the administration.

Webb – We should organize a university-wide grad student walk-out or student strike.

Someone – If a tuition increase has already been passed, What can really be done?

Richards – This has likely already been passed for this coming year, however, Queen's wants to do again for the next year and the one after.

Student Advisor – In the past students did take over Principal's office. We need to do something

that sends the signal that the university will feel pain if they continue to raise tuition for graduate students, so they need to keep this in mind.

Rosner – Queens prides itself on its reputation. If its reputation is undermined it becomes less competitive to attract students. What we need is better leadership, the administration must take ownership rather than pass the buck to students. We need to take this public.

Webb – If challenged on academic issues, it would really hurt Queen's. Queen's Alumni will not accept the fact that school is increasing tuition by 8, 8, ad 7%. Where is this money going?

Bae – With regard to Education Student examined the Student Activity Fee table (SGPS v. AMS). Education students are currently pooling information, and in every area SGPS meets their needs better. AMS is taking aggressive action to cut fees for students, however education students cannot enjoy all the benefits to the same extent as other undergrad students (given their short time here). She strongly recommends that we endorse this recommendation that fees be cut for education students. SGPS member pay less in everything but health and dental coverage, however, we should market that they can save on health and dental if under parents plan (which is the case with this age group). She is not looking to move and motions at this meeting but asking council members to think about this, so that in January we can put forth a motion to put this to the BEd student society.

Kneen – Provided some information regarding the Education Student Society Referendum. SGPS will be campaigning to support them if it is their wish to join the SGPS. Council members interested in helping with this campaign were encouraged to come forward in January by contacting a member of the executive.

Bae – Requested a quick show of hands for support. Council showed support.

Student Advisor – We shouldn't be surprised that if BEd student fees are pro-rated, that law students will ask questions about themselves.

Kneen – Even at half-rated fees, BEd students will pay more than they benefit.

Bae – Any questions should be raised to executive.

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.

Richards – The SGPS office closes on December 19th. Please remind your members to pick up their ISIC cards before going home for the holidays, as VIA Rail will not be accepting expired cards this holiday season.

10. Adjournment

MOTION 11/12/08:7

Moved ___ Bae ___ / ___ Rosner ___ BIRT the SGPS Council meeting be adjourned.

12/09/08

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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