



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 14th 2010, 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

1. Presentations

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION 12/14/10:1

Moved Iain Reeve / Eric Rapos BIRT the agenda for December 14th, 2010 be adopted.

MOTION 12/14/10:1-M1

Moved Anne-Marie Grondin / Jillian Burford-Grinnell BIRT the motion 12/14/10:6 be withdrawn from the current agenda.

Carried

MOTION 12/14/10:1-M2

Moved Jillian Burford-Grinnell / Shaughnessy Hawkins BIRT that the SGPS council put forth an emergency motion to over-turn the decision of the finance services committee and executive committee to allow Chad Winch to opt out of the Health and Dental SGPS fees.

Carried

MOTION 12/14/10:1 – AGENDA AS AMENDED

Carried

MOTION 12/14/10:2

Moved Jillian Burford Grinnell / Eric Rapos
BIRT the minutes for the November Council Meeting be accepted.

MOTION 12/14/10:2-M1

Moved Anne-Marie Grondin / Daniel Moore
BIRT that Anne-Marie Grondin's and Daniel Moore's name was spelled incorrectly in Amir Nosrats report in 11/09/14:4 on page 10 and should be changed to reflect the accurate spelling.

Carried

MOTION 12/14/10:2 – MINUTES AS AMENDED

Carried

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

a) President – Jawad Qureshy (report attached)

Alumni are looking to adopt departments. If there is a department that wants to take them up on the offer contact Jawad. Elections are 6-7 weeks away. If there is anyone that wants to run for our positions please get in touch.

b) VP Graduate – Daniel Moore (report attached)

Tuition will be due entirely in September and not December 1st. Correction to the report – in the big paragraph – you will not have to pay the \$150 fee. It seems that by some oversight 10% of the graduate students are not on the...We have raised this issue and asked for it to be fixed. RA employment change – the academic affairs committee have submitted facts about changing to stipend form of payment. Progress reports – we would love to hear from your departments. The SGS did a report on attrition and time to completion at the graduate level. If you do want progress reports please contact me.

c) VP Professional – Shaughnessy Hawkins (report attached)

Highlight the two things going on with the ESS Fees. We continue discussions with the ESS senator.

d) VP Campaigns and Community Affairs – Anne-Marie Grondin (report attached)

Carleton student fees were being held onto by the administration, and did not want to give them back even though they are holding them in trust. The university used these fees as negotiation tactics to put pressure on the student locals. We are retracting the motion today not because it was not wrong, but due to the successful negotiation that occurred recently. The fees have been

released. The fees were released in large part of the solidarity that students local, the Canadian federation of students and other organization showed during this situation. Tomorrow that the KGH is planning to outsource food contracts to Toronto. This is a decision that has been supported by the board of governors at the KGH. There is a town hall meeting about this issue tomorrow night at City Hall. Organized and led by Maud Barlow chairperson for the council of Canadians. It is at 7:00 at City Hall. Kingston transit seems reluctant to admit that there are any issues with the transit system. Encourage colleagues to complain about the system. CC Anne Marie on these emails to the transit system.
e) VP Finance and Services – Jillian Burford-Grinnell (report attached)
f) Speaker – Michael Bravo (no report)

MOTION 12/14/10:3

Moved ___Eric Rapos_____ / ___Meghan Bylsma_____ BIRT Executive and Speaker reports be accepted.

Carried

4. Committee, Commissioner, Senator, B of T and Other Reports

- a) Graduate Student Senator – Iain Reeve (report attached)
Senate created a task force to complete the university academic plan. Once the task force is completed they are going to be looking for a lot of student consultation. One graduate/professional and undergraduate
- b) Board of Trustees – Benjamin Grant (no report)
International students' tuition fee raised by 10%. The AMS, the rector and graduate student spoke against this issue. The motion did pass.
- c) Committee Reports
- d) Commissioner Reports
 - i) Social Commissioner – Abdullah Abunafeesa (report attached)
Highlight – event 27th of December – minority of students not able to go home. Helpful in faculties about the event. Relaxing event – free food in the JDUC room 237 social lounge 6:30 until 9:30.
Having a party after this tonight at the Grizzly.
 - ii) Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
 - iii) Equity Commissioner: Carolyn Prouse (report attached)
- e) Other Reports
 - i) Equity Coordinator – Kalanthe Khaiat (report attached)
Graduate students in the basement of Wallace Hall. There are no windows to the outside. Students have beds in their office. Women express discomfort about going to see TAs in then. Recommendation for panic buttons from the department. This is something within the equity team to look into. Please send other concerns similar to this issue my way. I am also on the sexual violence

committee, if there are concerns about this please send this our way. I can bring these up at network meetings.

- ii) International Students Coordinator – Amir Nosrat and Becky Pero (report attached)
- iii) Sustainability Coordinator – Ivana Zelenika (report attached)
- iv) Athletics Coordinator – Amanda Leonard (no report)
- v) Logistics Coordinator – Cory (no report)
- vi) Planning Coordinator – Nicole McCallum (no report)
- vii) Rector – Nick Day (no report)
- viii) Chief Returning Officer – Mikhail Kellawan (no report)
- ix) Departmental Reports

Eric Rapos – external funding for a conference for computing science. We are trying to raise awareness about this program. Early January will have more details as to the date and time of the conference.

MOTION 12/14/10:4

Moved __Eric Rapos_____ / __Derek Smalls_____ BIRT Senator/Board of Trustees/Commissioner/ Coordinator / Committee, and Other reports be accepted.

Carried

5. Question Period/Departmental Issues

Eric Rapos – Student fees?

Sean – Cheques are cut and should be in the mail tomorrow.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Main Motions

EMERGENCY MOTION 12/14/10:5

Moved __Sarah Waurechen_____ / __Daniel Moore_____ BIRT that the SGPS council overturn the decision of the finance services committee and executive committee to allow Chad Winch to opt out of the SGPS Health and Dental Fees.

Chad Winch: Thank you for taking the time to listen to me. The reason I am here is that I really need out of this opt out. I am part-time student, I am a full-time staff and I have a one year old son. Day care costs alone are \$50 a day. Money is really tight. This is essentially a \$500 cost and I am sorry I missed the deadline. I would like to have been able to opt out at the time, I confused the

date. As a Queen's employee I have coverage and this coverage does not incur any benefit for me, just cost. The AMS has grace periods to deal with opt-out periods. There are a number of people that have passed this grace period and have received their money back. This is essentially redundant. I am here again to sway you to see it my way. I am not questioning the front end of things, if there is an exec and appeals committee there are obviously some people that fall through the cracks. I haven't been given formal reasons for my rejection each time only given the next steps that I can take. I am a little confused as in any insurance policy; you don't have to pay up front for a full year policy. I was hoping to pay for a portion of the fees even though I haven't used them. There does not appear to be a grace period with SGPS.

Terry Bridges: Perhaps a grace period should be investigated if this is something that is offered through the AMS.

Sarah Waurechen: What are the fees incurred by SGPS?

Jillian Burford-Grinnell: We would refund him \$460. We have a different dental plan than the AMS. The reason for the two week opt out period because our fee payment deadline is September 30th. With this two week opt out period, we cannot make the September 30th deadline and there would be a longer black out period. And this appeal procedure accounts for the lack of flexibility with this schedule. We unanimously agreed that we did not want to give the funds back for missing the date. I will be voting against this message due to the precedent that this may send. This will open the SGPS up to other members that want to opt out. What would be the point of having a two week opt out period? It is very well publicized. To speak about the pro-rated rebate, Sean?

Sean Richards: Our plan with Greenshield is based on a year entry into the program. In January we pro-rate the health and dental rate so that they are not paying the full rate. It is not easy once someone is on the plan to take them back off. There is nothing established with Greenshield to do partial refunds throughout the year. It depends on each case. There is no provision in our agreement for such circumstances with this.

Marvin Ferrer: If I am covered twice is there no benefit, or just added benefit.

Jillian Burford-Grinnell: 70% from parents plan. I would access the 70% from their plan and 30% from their plan. There is benefit. I am confident that the Queen's employee plan does not cover 100%.

Chad Winch: They do cover 100% of regular checkups.

Nora Zwingerman: Is there any policy for students that carry on for another semester?

Jillian Burford-Grinnell: We have a post graduate program that allows students to opt-in for the following year if they finish their degree in August, they can get coverage for September and the following year.

Bob Cockburn: Is there an opportunity to have a grace period with the change in tuition payment?

Sean Richards: The payments are all still due at the end of September. And you need to submit a promissory note that you want to defer payment until the end of the month.

Jonathan Foster: Is there any way we could move the opt-out period ahead to then allow for a grace period?

Michael Bravo: I don't think what we are discussing now is pertinent to the topic at hand. Perhaps you could email suggestions to Jillian. We need to get back on topic.

Benjamin Grant: How many people appealed through emails?

Jillian Burford-Grinnell: 15-20 emails requesting to opt out. 3 phone calls from parents of members. They were all forwarded to the finance committee. The majority were denied. One was approved. Generally, the reasons we allowed the very few to opt out were due to extenuating circumstances such as hospitalization during the majority of the period. Car accidents. Nobody was allowed to opt out for the sole reason that they missed the deadline. A few appealed further from the finance and services committee meeting. They appeal by email first, then the executive committee and he was given the chance to come to council. And this is his last avenue.

Logan Crowell: Coming to council is the final step?

Michael Bravo: Yes.

Logan Crowell: Someone has to pay for this? This is coming out of our pockets?

Chad Winch: It is a lot easier for everyone to pay a penny than one person to pay a pound. I was asking a number of questions about whether my family could get covered. And this may be beneficial if my kid got sick. This is not the case. I wasn't sure how having one effect the other. I didn't realize that they are two

separate insurance companies. A lot of my questions were a brainstorm of thoughts.

Shaughnessy Hawkins: Have you pursued other avenues to assist with funding?

Chad Winch: I have not gone down the avenue for bursaries. I would not meet the eligibility for that. Generally you have to fill out the income, expenses and they weigh this and offer money or not. I do make enough to make a surplus. That money is invested in a number of things. Student debt, education fund. I don't have to pay into these things, but I need to secure a future.

Anne-Marie Grondin: We are compassionate to your situation. If we are going to make the allowance is because you forgot, I don't think it would be sustainable for our organization.

Chad Winch: Before you vote, I missed the deadline. This isn't my first time talking. I first contacted SGPS on September 27th. My email came to Jillian on the 30th. I first contacted the 27th before the final deadline. I understood it was time sensitive.

This motion has moved in camera.

Not Carried

MOTION 12/14/10:6

Moved __Eric Rapos_____/ __Meghan Bylsma_____ BIRT the SGPS destroys the ballots from the 2010 SGPS General Election.

Sean Richards: We keep them from election to December and need to do this in case of recounts.

Carried

8. Other Business

Safia Chowdhury: AMS president. We have been working on the operations and management agreement of the student life centre. This was brought forth by Michael Cheche. We have been diligently working on this document which is why we have had Jillian present to express any concerns. The AMS has been working on this for a number of years. We are going to have a new executive election in January. This operation and management agreement, plays into the next election and how we hire the new staff. It is really important to get this done before the

next election before hiring begins. It has been great working with Jillian. We have made it a point to ensure that the SGPS is included in our proceedings. It is departure on how the AMS was previously conducted. We appreciate this new sense of camaraderie.

The article came about in the Journal – there hasn't been a retraction because nobody has noticed the article.

Jillian Burford-Grinnell: SGPS members have contacted me. I advised all those who contacted me that there would be a retraction to the editor. That leaves me somewhat perplexed that Ben said he would do something and has not followed through. I am asking whether the AMS is going to print this letter to the editor.

Safia Chowdhury: Did not think the article would be spun that way. It wasn't at all what Ben has anticipated. We did not follow up because we thought the implications of publishing a letter would outweigh the benefits.

Anne-Marie Grondin: Thank you for the collegial relationship that has been developed. As much as that is reflected in current discussions, can you tell us how our interests will be continued to be protected? Can you tell us what will happen in the future?

Safia Chowdhury: The AMS has a new general manager and this is her first full year. She has started with the understanding that SGPS is a partner. She is checking balance that we are kept accountable. From my end the SGPS is a consideration for Annette the general manager.

Anne-Marie Grondin: Is there anything in the student life agreement that states the future relationship with the SGPS?

Safia Chowdhury: Yes.

Marvin Ferrer: Why do you think you are here at this meeting?

Safia Chowdhury: Not sure what your view of the SGPS AMS relationship is. I am here as an act of good faith. We have attempted to incorporate the SGPS in our future discussions. I wanted to express that to you. This plays into past and current politics.

The motion has moved in camera.

MOTION 12/14/10: + 30 minutes

Moved ____Jawad Qureshy____ / _Jonathan Foster_____ BIRT
that the SGPS meeting be extended for 30 minutes.

Carried

MOTION 12/14/10: + 30 minutes

Moved ____Jawad Qureshy____ / _Jonathan Foster_____ BIRT
that the SGPS meeting be extended for 30 minutes.

Carried

9. Notice of Motions/Announcements

Reports and Motions for the next regular Council meeting are due Tuesday,
January 4th, 2010.

The next regular SGPS Council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 11th, 2010.

10. Adjournment

MOTION

11/09/10:10

Moved _Jillian Burford-Grinnell_____ / _Shaughnessy Hawkins_____ BIRT
the SGPS Council meeting be adjourned.

12/14/10
MFB
CFS-27
Attached:
November Minutes
Attendance October Meeting
December Reports
Appendix – 1