

Dear Councillors:

Hope you all had an excellent break – Happy New Year to you all. The office was closed for most of the month but there are 2 issues that I would like to address:

Social Team:

I just want to thank the entire social team for the excellent job they have done over the last month. There was the 'Meet and Greet' for Council members that was excellent, but the Social Commissioner actually put on a 'Home away from Home' event over the break that I think deserves particular mention. Our Rep from History, Sara Waurechen (despite being ill) helped our Social Commissioner Abdullah put on a fantastic event by providing the best cake this side of the St. Lawrence. The event was not as well-attended as we would have perhaps liked, but the reasons are obvious – most people were away for the break and this event was for those few who were unable to get away from Kingston. In any case, the Social Commissioner actually stayed in Kingston just for the event so I think it is only appropriate that I bring his beyond the call of duty dedication to helping us all out with our social life to your attention.

Joint Professional / Graduate Programs:

Many of our students who wish to pursue professional degrees such as those in Law and Business along with their graduate studies are unable to do so because they have to choose. Many universities across North America now offer joint programs that allow students to pursue both graduate research and professional degrees (ex. Law / PhD. in 5 years) together. The SGPS has been asked for ideas about how to innovate programs that will continue to attract excellent graduate professional students and I have asked the Dean of Law (Dean of SGS is next on the list) to consider a proposal for joint Law / PhD programs at Queen's. He is receptive to the idea so we might have something in the works for our current MA's – if they choose to continue at Queen's.

Elsewhere – the battle on other fronts continues – and I will update you on those issues by and by ...

Respectfully Submitted,

Jawad Qureshy
president@sqps.ca

Happy New Year, everyone!

My first report of 2011 will be uncharacteristically short, given the holidays and all.

The Copyright Board of Canada reached a decision on December 23rd, 2010. The Board decided in favor of Access Copyright's interim tariff for copyright licensing. The interim tariff is currently in effect, and will apply for two years, or until a final tariff is certified. I look forward to meeting again with the Copyright Working Group on January 12th to discuss the implications of this decision for Queen's. For more information about the decision that was reached, and about the interim tariff itself, you can consult: <http://cb-cda.gc.ca/home-accueil-e.html>

On January 17th, Jennifer Matthews, a student from George Brown College, will be on campus to disseminate information and answer questions about two campaigns which have been endorsed by the CFS: Minimum Age for Employment, and Retirement Security for Everyone. Look for her in the JDUC on the 17th to learn more about these two issues, and give me your feedback as to whether you would like the SGPS to further endorse these campaigns.

Finally, I'm pleased to report that the CFS National Graduate Caucus stand-alone meeting will be taking place here at Queen's next February 18th and 19th! Over the next month, I will be working with staff members to organize this event, which will bring together graduate student representatives from across the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Grondin
VP Campaigns & Community Affairs

The last couple weeks of December were fairly quiet, but below are a couple recent activities and matters.

Free Queen's

December was a tricky time for the Free Queen's Committee to stay in touch, but we've now responded to everyone who applied to lead a workshop or class as part of Free Queen's this year and hope the course will move forward. Our partner this year is Kingston Employment & Youth Services (KEYS), who is very excited about letting us use their facilities to host the course. The next task will be organizing our schedule and advertising the course to the community. If anyone would like to help out or has suggestions about advertising, please email me at vpq@sgps.ca.

ARC Summer Hours

One department's graduates have shown concern about the lack of evening and late-night hours offered by the ARC. The cutback from the regular hours offered during the academic year certainly affects graduate students disproportionately, so we hope to request that the ARC extend their summer hours. If your department feels similarly, please send me a quick note (vpq@sgps.ca) so we can voice this concern in numbers.

January Graduate Welcome Event

The School of Graduate Studies will host a small welcome event this week (Friday, January 6) for graduate beginning their studies at Queen's this term, and I'll attend to represent the SGPS.

At one point it was debated whether or not this mini orientation should be open to all graduate students—a kind of reorientation event for continuing graduates who would like a review of the school's services and resources. I agreed with Students Affairs this would be the ideal way to go about it, but concerns about the cost of running a second orientation day prevailed. I'd like to continue to encourage Student Affairs and the SGS to pursue the feasibility of this idea.

Movie Nights for Social Space in JDUC

If anyone graduates or any departments are interested in showing movies in our social space in the JDUC, please let us know. The space is always available and we've been told it's fairly easy to book a projector. Some graduate departments may already be showing films on a regular basis, and we if they're interested in inviting grads from more departments, this is a great venue to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Moore



Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the VP Finance & Services
January 2011

This is a short report as very little has happened over the month (and break). I wish all good health, happiness and success in the upcoming year! Welcome back to all of you as we move ahead in 2011.

SPACE- There are a few small items remaining that need to be tidied up like finishing the trim around the doors and such then it is anticipated we can move the furniture into the new rooms. I anticipate this will happen by mid-January at the latest.

STUDENT LIFE CENTRE NEGOTIATIONS—At the time of submitting this report, the two contracts are not complete. In addition, there are several small, but important items that are still outstanding. I have an upcoming meeting that will hopefully resolve some of these prior to our council meeting. I anticipate that the contracts will be ready before the council meeting and I hope to forward them to you all through our speaker as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Jillian Burford-Grinnell VP Finance and Services

Hello All,

Welcome back everyone! We hope you have all had a great holiday and a happy new year. The social team is very excited to inform our fellow SGPS members of all the great events that we'll be hosting this year, starting with this month. Our events range from a variety of purely social, athletic and healthy living events. We hope to see everyone come out and interact with the diverse community that is our SGPS members.

SGPS Yoga Classes; Challenge your inner Yogi (HLI)

As a part of our new Healthy Living Initiative the SGPS social team is providing you with a chance to challenge your inner yogi. Whether you've never tried yoga or you are a seasoned yogi, these workshops are safe and inclusive to all levels of ability and familiarity with the discipline. Grant yourself a break from the grind of being a graduate or professional student and participate in the SGPS's FREE yoga class this month, taught by a certified yoga instructor! Based in the Sanskrit meaning of "union", yoga is a physical discipline that unites the body and the mind in a system of movement. There are many benefits to yoga; such as its wonderful health and fitness benefits, as well as stress reduction. There will be two classes offered in November, the exact dates and locations to be announced in the next newsletter and via SGPS facebook group. For more information regarding this event please contact social@sgps.ca.

SGPS Varsity Sport Night

On Friday January 27th, the SGPS Social team is planning a Queen's varsity sport night. This will be an excellent chance to lend your support to Queen's Varsity athletes. The varsity games tend to have a great competitive atmosphere that is enhanced with great music and enthusiastic fans. We will be meeting at the Queens Pub (JDUC) for some complementary appetizers and then heading to watch the Queen's Varsity Volleyball team play against the University of Toronto. After the game we will be heading to the Grad Club for some mingling and complementary appetizers! If you're interested in participating or have any inquiries please contact Amanda at athletics@sgps.ca.

SGPS Co-Ed Touch Football Afternoon

We will be holding a Co-Ed touch football tournament on the week of the 23rd of January. It will be a great chance to get outside and participate in an event that is both fun and active. The exact date of the tournament is tentative on the availability of Tindall field for that week. We will be sending out the details via the next newsletter, SGPS facebook group and website. If you're interested in participating or have any inquiries please contact Amanda at athletics@sgps.ca. Lastly, the social team would love to hear your feedback regarding the types of events we are organizing and ways we can make them more appealing to our SGPS members. If you have any general inquiries or feedback don't hesitate to contact us at social@sgps.ca.

Respectfully Submitted,
Abdullahi Abunafeesa Social Commissioner
(social@sgps.ca)

Dear Councilors,

I hope everyone was able to take a couple of days off over the 'break' and spend time with family and friends.

Council/Committee Meetings:

The month of December was fairly quiet in terms of committee meetings, given the increased workload and decreased availability of many committee members. Queen's Accessibility Committee did not meet this month, but there are plans to jump right into working group discussions in January. Council on Employment Equity held its monthly meeting where we discussed how the new PSAC Local 901 membership will be included in the Federal Contractors Program (FCP) statistics. We also discussed logistics surrounding a potential Employment Equity Award, and I made some recommendations for ensuring better transition between student members on the Council. Finally, I sat on the granting committee for Accessibility Queen's Accessibility Fund. We reviewed a number of applications, the results of which will be made public in the near future.

Campaigns and Awareness

Our Equity Coordinator Kalanthe Khaiat has done excellent work creating our GREB (General Research Ethics Board) application for the Accent Discrimination Campaign. I have continued to do background research and completed CHRPP (Course in Human Research Participant Protection) training to better assist this process.

I also met with our Executive Director Sean Richards to discuss links we (the SGPS) can make with Health, Counseling and Disability Services (HCDS) to ensure easy and automatic opt out of particular mandatory fees for those registered with the Disability Services program.

Finally, I have spent a lot of time putting together an SGPS Equity Plan of Action for 2010/2011 on the advice of Diversity and Equity Taskforce chair Adnan Husain. This resulted in a Queen's News Centre interview that will be published in the near future. Keep your eyes open for how various student governments are addressing equity at Queen's University.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Prouse
Equity Commissioner

SGPS Computer Network

- I am finalizing the details for purchases that are required for our new office space.
- I have updated the systems that allow remote access to our office computers. These were minor updates that were necessary due to the Queen's network.
- The migration to HTTPS access was a success. I look forward to enabling some new features to our e-mail and wiki servers in the new year.
- I am waiting for the Finance & Services Committee to deliberate on the proposed rates for printing and copying, which would be made available to our membership. This new service would not be intended as a printing/copy centre, but would be available for those members requiring large quantity printing or specialized printing. More details, including a breakdown of pricing and printing availability will be released in the new year.
- I continue the necessary work on our computer network to prepare for our new offices. The biggest challenges are in maintaining security and availability across multiple floors of the JDUC.

SGPS Website

- I believe our website is now fully compliant with all major mobile platforms. If you experience any issues viewing our site on a mobile device, I would love to hear about it.

Communications

- I continue to work with Queen's IT to improve the support and delivery of our online opt-out system.
- I am very pleased to announce that SGPS Elections will be online. I have worked with Queen's IT to bring this to our membership. For those that do not wish to utilize the online option, there will be a paper ballot as well.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Richards - info@sgps.ca

Dear Councillors,

I regret to report that I have accomplished very little over the past month. My preoccupation with my thesis completion and the lethargic mood that the winter holidays bring has been a bigger impediment to my work than I originally imagined.

However, I would like to outline my tasks for the next month:

1. We are working with the Rector and AMS to submit a letter to Principal Woolf requesting a more transparent approach to the 'internationalization' at Queen's based on the broad strategic recommendations outlined in the ISC's November report on international students. Hopefully this letter is finalized and submitted within the next few weeks.
2. I will be working to initiate the UHIP bursary committee stuck in Council's November meeting to complete our mandate of offering proposals on alleviating the burden of UHIP on international students.
3. On a related note, I will be working with AMS executive candidates to incorporate international student issues in their campaign platforms. Hopefully this will commit future AMS executive to international student issues.
4. I will be submitting a proposal to Council to refine the roles of the international student coordinators based on last year's experiences.
5. I will be continuing to pursue the short and medium-term recommendations based on resource and time availability.

Furthermore, as my time at Queen's University comes to an end, I will be trying my best to remain in touch with any succeeding international student coordinators. While I am still uncertain whether or not I will be making an early departure from my role, I will remain committed to accomplishing my initial objective of introducing institutional changes within the SGPS and the university to address international student issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Amir Hossein Nosrat

Happy New Year everyone!!!

Documentary Night – Bike Kitchen

The SGPS Sustainability Committee organized a documentary night on December 1st – we had a great turnout of faculty and students, as well as several cycling groups from Kingston. The event was a great opportunity to touch base with cycling groups like the Yellow Bike Action and Cycle Kingston and discuss any educational or outreach events. In addition, along with the AMS Sustainability Deputy, SGPS Sustainability will work to lift the Bike Shop project off the ground which would involve setting up a bike rental/ repair and education center on campus. There seems to be quite a number of volunteers interested in helping us out as well, and we are also in talks to try to secure a location for the shop as well as investigate any liability and by-laws concerns.

Solar at Queen's

As mentioned in my December report, Queen's finished the RFP process I took part in and officially announced that the preferred vendor is Johnson Controls. Based on pre-feasibility studies, Johnson Controls proposed a total solar PV deployment of 950 kW on main and west campus and a 10 MW ground-mounted system at the Queen's University Biological Station located north of Kingston. The Campus and Planning Development Committee of the Board of Trustees approved Johnson Controls as the preferred vendor for the project. The university is working through some details before entering into contract negotiations with the company.

Meeting with Campus Sustainability

On December 13th I took part in the regular Campus Sustainability talks organized by the Sustainability Office. We discussed projects on the go and ways to collaborate and help each other out. Key talking points brought up were: Upcoming Recyclemania event in January, Better recycling signage and description, The Campus waste audit, Working on a joint website with sustainability links, Volunteering Opportunities with the Sustainability Office, Energy Lighting Audit/ Retrofit Changes, Green Publications - Tips and Guide to Sustainability Practices at Queen's and etc.

Recyclemania event details:

Recyclemania is a competition and benchmarking tool established by the College and University Recycling Council (CURC) in the United States. The competition provides colleges and universities with a vehicle for promoting their campus recycling programs and their waste reduction efforts.

Key objectives are:

- Create a fun and friendly competitive activity for Queen's students
- Promote the concept of recycling on campus
- Reduce excess waste on campus
- Increase awareness of recycling facilities on campus
- Improve waste diversion rates
- Facilitate participation in the Recyclemania program

Summary of Plan

The university will report its recycling and waste data over a 10-week period, from January 23 – April 2, 2011. The first 2-weeks from January 23 to February 6 are trial reporting weeks.

The data will be ranked against other schools to show which school collected the largest amount of recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate.

The data will be posted on the Recyclemania website and will serve as tool to motivate the campus community to reduce and recycle.

Respectfully submitted,
Ivanka