



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, March 24th, 2009 5:30pm

McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentation

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION 03/24/09:1

Moved _____ Kneen _____ / _____ Welsh _____ BIRT the agenda for 2009 AGM be adopted. Carried.

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

a) President – Jeff Welsh (report attached) – Thanks for coming to AGM. Highlighted several of the SGPS accomplishments that were achieved this past year (These can be found in the report prepared by the President for the AGM).

Stevens – I understand that there are now TA policies with regard to grievances, I was wondering whether there was anything for Teaching Fellows? My second question relates the Dean Travel Award. The Dean Travel Award has been cut drastically. Is there any indication that this will be topped up in the future, or will this cut be sustained?

Welsh – There currently is no policy related to Teaching Fellows. It is hoped that this comes out in the future as SGPS is involved. With regard to travel grants, in the past the amount had been going up as enrolment increases; however, the amount has now been frozen while enrolment continues to increase. The VP Operations has been meeting with the Dean to press for more funding.

Stevens – Sorry, I was referring to one from doctoral students doing field research.

Welsh – Oh, that has been slashed. There is an attempt being made to try and get more funds for this through some 'creative' accounting.

Law – With regard to the Education Student Society coming on board, what fees will their fees be? It was suggested that they would pay 50%, is that still the case?

Welsh – The SGPS can discuss its own fees but those going to other agencies need to be discussed with those agencies. The only indication of resistance from the university relates to where the funding goes. Their concern is specifically ensuring that student services are sustained. We need to discuss mechanisms for ensuring that services don't fail.

Law – We will obviously vote to have them join the SGPS; however, we are just concerned that the ESS will regret joining the SGPS if there are changes to the fee we quoted them. Are they aware that these are still under negotiation?

Welsh – Yes. It looks like we will be able to achieve the 50% rate, but three areas still need to be negotiated. Working on a shared services agreement between AMS and SGPS. More discussions will be forthcoming. Like I said their concern is that services will keep functioning.

b) VP Internal Graduate – Joellen Lin (report attached)

c) VP Internal Professional – Jamie Kneen (report attached) – Asked council to refer to the report which addresses the items touched upon this year. The Health and Dental Plan Review Committee was hoping to present tonight but given the length of the agenda tonight we have decided not to bog down council with financial detail. That said, we did find some providers with lower costs or better services. We will discuss this during the April council meeting. With the Education Student Society coming on board (700 new members), this will strain the VP Professional portfolio. Encourages council and grad student to participate in various committees. Thanks SGPS employees and council members for their support this year.

d) VP External – Mark Rosner (report attached) – This is last report as VP External. Thanks to everyone. The report is long (pls read) and highlights items achieved this past year. The report also makes recommendations for the future – SONAD propose bylaw change to include report requirements. Echoes some of the points that Jeff Welsh made earlier. Housing issues – graduate residence is small and we should be pushing university to have a housing policy for grad students. A Committee has been established but we need to have student representatives to identify graduate student housing needs. What can we reasonably pay, proximity, length of stay, etc. All of these need to be discussed and active and continuous input is important. Thanked all those who helped with campaigns and advocacy work. We had some successes in securing QGA funding. It is important to recognize these victories and capitalize on them. Encourages council and next VP to continue on this path. Also encourages those interested in relationship with those outside of campus to form part of that committee.

e) VP Operations – Vicky Bae (report attached) – Attached you will find the most

recent financial statement. Feel free to speak up if you have questions about the financial situation. The SGPS is financial partners for many services yet it is not recognized as such. I have been working on this through the development of service agreements. Thanks to the members of the Ops and Finance Committee, as well as those participating in the various committees.

f) Speaker – Seth Irwin (report attached) – My report is attached. I have one more meeting as the Speaker then the position is up for grab. We will be accepting nominations for speaker and deputy speaker tonight. I just wanted to highlight on issues as Speaker I am responsible for overseeing the Bylaw and Policies committee, however I am also responsible for interpreting those bylaws or policies down the road. This leads to a potential conflict of interest. I also want to address reports to council. I regularly receive late reports late reports, if the speaker receives reports late it causes problems when trying to put the agenda together. Please get the reports in on time.

MOTION 03/24/09:2

Moved ___Welsh _____ / _____Amir_____ BIRT Executive and Speaker reports be accepted. Carried

4. Committee, Commissioner, Senator, Board of Trustee and Other Reports

a) Graduate Student Senator – Ray Saeidi (no report submitted)

b) Board of Trustees – Alfonso Nocilla (no report submitted)

c) Committee Reports

Commissioner Reports

- i) Social Commissioner – Diala Habib (report attached) – I have summarized all of the social events in my report. Would like feedback on whether to organize a formal. Intention is not to organize a formal, but perhaps an event with dancing and appetizers. Is this a good time to organize this?

Kneen – I would suggest moving such an event into April to allow those in eight-month programs to participate. If this is not possible for this year then it should be considered for the future.

Stevens – Why are we not having a semi-formal?

Habib – We have organized more social events this year than in years past. We can organize a end of year semi-formal but SGPS would not be able to subsidize as much as we would like.

Bae – If the concern is subsidization, can we have a vote to see who would like to still have a semi-formal, even if it is at higher cost for individuals?

Kneen – Having a semi-formal might be nice, however, it was not well attended last year. This year it was moved to the fall. It seems that this was a better time of year because in fall folks are not as stressed as they are at this time of year.

Welsh – The semi-formal this fall was better attended. I would like to suggest

that Diala go back and come up with a proposal so that the SGPS can vote during the next meeting on whether to support an event for this spring

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

iii) Equity Commissioner: Internal – Usman Mushtaq (report attached)

Other Reports

i) Committee Coordinator – Igor Poroger (no report submitted)

ii) Chief Returning Officer – Sam Hetz (report attached)

iii) Rector – Leora Jackson (no report submitted)

iv) Departmental Reports

MOTION 03/24/09:3

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

Welsh – On issue of Student Senator. We will be having a by-election and one of the positions to be elected is the Student Senator. One member who did indicate interest in the position had their nomination form lost. Andrew Steven's nomination form will be sent around for signature of those of you who wish to support him.

5. Question Period/Departmental Complaints

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Bylaw & Policy Committee was asked to meet to discuss fee increases for Class A and B fees. We have decided that if a fee increase fails the question is whether the fee should be dropped to nothing (revert to zero). We propose that if a fee is rejected and a petition is filled out it should go back to by-election with three options: accept fee increase; old fee remains; eliminate fee.

Tracey – does the question go to by-election automatically?

Kneen – no, only upon petition.

Doug – I realize that we always seem to have by-elections, but won't it just cost additional money in cases where there is not need for a by-election?

Kneen – we were faced with two problems. We wanted to eliminate this "all or nothing" approach. By-elections appear to be the best way to deal with renewals

Doug – if the renewal failed, we would still have a year left of the fee. Is there a separate process for increases and renewals?

Rosner – It is up to the responsible body to introduce a renewal. If not, then the entire fee is lost.

Someone – why not put these three options in the initial referendum.

MOTION 03/24/09:3

Moved ___Kneen___/ ___Bae___ BIRT that ammendment to policies outlined in p 1.2.5 A(3) and p.7.1.4 be accepted.

Carried.

MOTION 03/24/09:4

Moved ___Bae___ / ___Rosner___ BIRT the question be called.

Carried.

Nominations for Speaker and Deputy Speaker

Irwin - describes to council the duties of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker positions

Welsh – nominates Rosner for Speaker

MOTION 03/24/09:5

Moved ___Welsh ___ / ___Kneen___ BIRT the Mark Rosner be accepted as Speaker for 2009/2010

Carried.

Welsh - nominates Bae for Deputy Speaker

MOTION 03/24/09:6

Moved ___Welsh / ___Kneen___ BIRT Vicky Bae be accepted as Deputy Speaker for 2009/2010.

Carried.

CRO – Present SGPS CRO will not be in Kingston during the by-election, therefore looking for a DRO to supervise and count ballots on election day. CRO has done everything else. DRO will be offered \$100.00.

Welsh – nominate Barb Basharat for DRO

MOTION 03/24/09:7

Moved ___Welsh___ / ___Kneen___ -BIRT that Barb Besharat be accepted as DRO.

Carried.

8. Other Business

Discussion emger surrounding the outcome should the Athletics and Referendum fee question be voted down at the SGPS by-election.

Demonstration on Thurday (26 March) at noon, related to laguageprograms (Ital, German, Spanish) losing majors and medials. To express discontent with

suspension of programs.

7. Main Motions

MOTION 03/24/09:8

Whereas 9 of the 26 graduate students in French Studies are in the Francophonie program; and

Whereas all 9 students are being supervised by the only instructor who teaches in that subject; and

Whereas the Francophonie instructor is a sessional adjunct whose contract is not going to be renewed due to budget cuts; and

Whereas there is no proper provision for the continued supervision of these graduate students;

Moved ____Welsh _____ / ____Usman_____ BIRT that the SGPS requestthe university to open up a full-time position to competition and hire a tenure track professor in in French Studies for La Francophonie to replace the tenured professor who is on permanent disability; and

BIFRT that a second faculty position, tenure track or non, in French Studies for La Francophonie be hired to ensure the quality and availability of supervision that is required under the Guide to Graduate Supervision for the entire current group of nine graduate students.

Carried.

Welsh – From the perspective of the SGPS, given impact on students, I would urge members present to pass this motion as it would allow us to lobby on their behalf.

Tracey – I also urge members to support this, as this is exactly what the SGPS should be doing.

Rector – if people want to assist or lobby where should we direct them?

Someone – We have a petition that we would like to have signed. We will be passing it around

MOTION 03/24/09:9

Whereas the members of the Education Student Society (ESS) held a properly administered referendum to secede from the Alma Mater Society (AMS) and join the Society of Graduate and Professional Students (SGPS) and;

Whereas the majority of voters in the referendum voted to secede from the AMS and join the SGPS and;

Whereas the ESS followed all regulations for joining the SGPS as set out in the SGPS Bylaws and Policies

Moved ___ Welsh___ / ___ Amir___ BIRT the students in the ESS be accepted as members of the SGPS.
Carried.

MOTION 03/24/09:10

Whereas the SGPS Bylaws and Policies stipulate that the payment of an honorarium is an expression of gratitude by the SGPS for services rendered, to be paid at the end of the term of office of the recipient;

Whereas the SGPS Policy stipulates that the motions to approve the bestowal of honoraria shall be brought to Council at the March Council meeting;

Moved ___ Steve___ / ___ Doug___ BIRT the SGPS Council approve the following bestowal of honoraria for 2008-2009 elects, appointees and officers of Council:

President \$2000.00

Vice-President Internal, Graduate \$800.00

Vice-President Internal, Professional \$1600.00

Vice-President, External \$1600.00

Vice-President, Operations \$1600.00

Communications Commissioner \$500.00

Internal Equity Commissioner \$125.00

Social Commissioner \$500.00

Speaker \$700.00

Deputy Speaker \$300.00

Graduate Student Senator \$200.00 (Changed to \$0)

Graduate/Professional Trustee \$200.00

Chief Returning Officer \$500.00

Deputy Returning Officer \$100.00

Carried (1 abstention)

Kneen – every position has a high rate of turnover. Honorariums are bestowed to encourage members to carry out their full-term.

Law – Senator’s rate seems low given the amount of work.

Bae – SGPS is the only one that pays its Senator. Anyone who leaves post does not get honorarium. Allowed \$200 per year for two year term.

Doug – I have a comment. We need to think of honorariums as a portion of salary being withheld. If we are not happy with the work of these members then this is the time to speak up.

Someone – have not seen a report from the Student Senator

Welsh – They have not submitted a report and only attended a few meetings.

The member is not even here today.

MOTION 03/24/09:11

Moved ___ Welsh___ / ___ Amir___ BIRT to removed Grad Student Senator Honourarium

Carried. (3 abstentions)

MOTION 03/24/09:12

Whereas the stipends and honoraria for SGPS elects and appointees have not been increased since 2002;

Whereas the overall membership served by the elects and appointees and subsequently the workload of elects and appointees have significantly grown since the last stipend and honoraria adjustment;

Moved ___Hetz ___ / ___Steve___ BIRT the SGPS Council approve the following increases in stipends:

- President increased by \$389.50, to a total of \$8,179.50
- Vice-President Internal, Graduate increased by \$317.75, to a total of \$6,672.75
- Vice-President Internal, Professional increased by \$317.75, to a total of \$6,672.75
- Vice-President, External increased by \$317.75, to a total of \$6,672.75
- Vice-President, Operations increased by \$317.75, to a total of \$6,672.75
- Communications Commissioner increased by \$437.50, to a total of \$3000.00
- Internal Equity Commissioner increased by \$437.50, to a total of \$3000.00
- Social Commissioner increased by \$437.50, to a total of \$3000.00

Carried. (1 abstention)

Rosner – it should be noted that this is for next year. It's not retroactive.

Tracey – what percentage of enrollment increase vs. increase in rate?

Kneen – cannot give exact numbers. But we will see an increase of 700 new members next year alone with ESS coming on board. This is on top of the 3500 members we have now

Welsh – enrollment increased by approx. 30%

Steve – do outgoing members believe this is fair?

Kneen – we put in a lot more work than we get paid for

Bae – no one thinks this amount is enough, but what we agreed upon. We would like to encourage next year's exec to get more funding for executive members.

As it is right now there is no equivalent funding for VP professional position.

Rosner – I want to echo everything. We all, especially the Commissioners, put in more work than we get paid for.

MOTION 03/24/09:13

Whereas this is the second reading of the Bylaws and Policies

Moved ___ Kneen___ / ___Steve___ BIRT the Bylaws and Policies be accepted as amended by the Bylaw and Policy Committee.

Carried.

Motivated – Kneen – We have added ESS into the bylaw. Outlined firmer roles for executive members. Outlined internal grievance procedure. Part-time and mature student representative added. And changes made to executive titles.

9. Notice of Motions/Announcements

Reports and Motions for the next regular Council meeting are due Tuesday April 7th, 2009.

The next regular SGPS Council meeting will be on Tuesday April 14th, 2009.

10. Adjournment

MOTION **03/24/09:9**

Moved ___Kneen___ / ___Rosner___ BIRT the SGPS Council meeting be adjourned. Carried.

03/24/09

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Attached:

Reports

Letter from Janice Deakin on Planned changes to Queen's Graduate Award (QGA) Funding Model

Report of QGA Funding Advisory Committee

Society of Graduate and Professional Students 2008-2009 Annual Operating Budget Draft

2009 February SGPS Budget Comparison

Petition to the House of Commons in Parliament Assembled

SGPS Bylaws and Policies