Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the President
March 2011

Dear Councillors,

Hope you are well. This is the last report you'll have from me so I will make it short and sweet. Instead of discussing what we have been up to over the year, perhaps a more expansive view of where we might be headed as a student society is more appropriate. It seems to me that the SGPS could think of a few strategic priorities to devote some attention to in the future - these are personal reflections more than studied priorities, but I think Council should know about some of the ways in which we can improve the society to serve our members needs.

1. SGPS staffing - Even taking into account that we are a student society, we are woefully understaffed in terms of administrative support for the Executive. This affects our ability to produce paper (memos, letters, emails, position papers etc.) and as the University administration functions on a voracious appetite for such items, our inability to compete with the AMS on the production of text that is actively under consideration at some level of the University means that our ability to set the agenda for Queen's is not quite what it can be. The SGPS executive works well with the time that we do have, but to make a significant strategic shift in terms of our capacity to effect change for our students here at Queen's, we need to study the possibilities of more internal support that is directly related to the priorities of the executive.

2. Strategic Drift - SGPS priorities are often dictated by the various crises that we have available to us as we take office. I think this serves our membership well in terms of protecting their rights, but that they could be served better if the SGPS was a bit more proactive in terms of strategic policy and prioritization. If there was a dedicated body within the SGPS that identified priorities (and the SGPS Strategic Planning Committee could be the beginning of this infrastructure), then the effectiveness and efficiency of our advocacy would increase. As things stand, each year's executive leaves behind a list of outstanding issues and the next year's exec picks and chooses from within that set and then adds initiatives of their own. This is normal, but not exactly a superlative method of identifying what our students expect from us, so I would recommend that we pay some attention to developing at least a central list of things (services, concrete advocacy issues, timelines etc.) that is shared with Council reps (through the SGPS strategic planning committee perhaps) so that there is more continuity and transparency about what it is that the SGPS is, or could be working on for our students.

3. Relationships - We have repaired some relationships this year - but not merely to make friends. The idea has been to develop a receptive audience for the initiatives that we undertake for our students. As the presentations at Council over the year might have shown, many members of the senior admin try and listen to us and because of that we sometimes get what we want for our students. It is best to keep this dynamic going for as long as possible - there are always things upon which the SGPS and members of the senior administration do not quite see eye-to-eye, but there are other issues that our members expect to have resolved despite disagreements. I would prefer as a student if divisive issues did not get in the way of the SGPS' advocacy on my behalf for unrelated issues. Unfortunately, there are many parts to this equation and the SGPS will probably continue to have to re-iterate this expectation for many years hence.

I have highlighted these 3 issues because this is what I think is either necessary or ideal. Being armed with a conceptual list of things we could do, backed up by lengthy, well-researched memos that satisfy labyrinthine bureaucracies and then actually presenting these to receptive senior admin in a manner that makes them see that you can solve at least one mutual problem if not all is what has seemed to work for me over the year. Naturally, I assume that the future will resemble the past and I continue to think that this will work. For my part, it has been my job to report to Council on not just the issues upon which we work, but also on how the University itself seems to work, so these are some possible directions for our future.

As for the recent past, I would like to end by thanking the current SGPS executive - Shaughnessy, Daniel, Jillian and Ann-Marie have been absolutely excellent and it has been a pleasure to serve with them throughout

the year. The credit for whatever we have achieved for our students is entirely due to their tireless efforts and passionate advocacy - so I am glad that at least some of them will remain involved with the SGPS. I would also like to thank Ben Grant, Logan Crowell and Iain Reeve - who have represented us at the Board of Trustees and Senate with great care and aplomb. Their representation at these bodies and help at the committee level has been invaluable. Also, their frequent saving of a seat beside them has been most kind and I wish them luck as they continue on with their terms.

There is also the awesome staff of the SGPS - Pam, Abdullah, Carolyn, Amir, Ivana, Kali, Nicole, Amanda and our perfectly amazing front desk people - Roxanne, Carolyne, Veronica and Amelie - all of them have been wonderful. Sean, our executive director, is also quite excellent - his passion for student services is peerless and instinct for what will work within the University is frequently ingenious despite the curveballs that the executive frequently lobs in his direction. I have relied on his careful advice and friendship - both of which I hope he will share with me for longer than our all too short working relationship at the SGPS.

Finally, I find myself unable to end without also thanking Michael Bravo for being such a perfect (but huggable) thorn in the side of the current SGPS executive. He frequently confounds us with the application of what he lovingly calls ‘Robert’s rules’, but which seem to be more like ‘Michael’s Rules’, but SGPS Council is a much smoother assembly for it and our students are much better off through his insistence on due process. For his remorseless application of the rules, he has my ungrudging gratitude.

I should end by saying that it has been a singular pleasure to have served as your representative for the year - please pass on my best and my gratitude to students in your departments or faculties. There is no farewell speech for me on Al-Jazeera so this short ‘thank you’ will have to suffice for a farewell and appreciation of their trust.

Finally, with insurrections and revolutions popping up all over the place in the world outside Kingston, I suppose I should be glad that I am leaving the Office of the Presidency with some of my dignity intact ... but then I think ... who needs dignity when love is at stake? ...

Oh SGPS students - you’se had me at hello! ...

Hugs and Kisses,

Jawad Qureshy
president@sgps.ca

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the VP Campaigns & Community Affairs
March 2011

CFS National Graduate Caucus
On February 18th to 20th, our home local hosted the stand-alone meeting of the NGC. The weekend was by all accounts a success – we discussed issues common to graduate students across the country while showcasing Queen's and the Kingston community. The NGC presented their various campaigns, areas of research, and consultative recommendations. Amongst others, we heard a great deal about: the effects of the commercial restructuring of post-secondary education and privatization; copyright, fair dealing, the Copyright Modernization Act (Bill C-32), open access, and IP rights; the governance of research ethics reviews; and ongoing lobbying efforts to reduce tuition and student debt.

Also discussed were health and safety in university workplaces, the strict and problematic equation of social innovation with commercial viability, and whistleblower protection. On this last issue, former SGPS Presidents Jeff Welsh and Andrew Stevens gave an excellent presentation on Queen's new Safe Disclosure Policy, which I encourage all Councilors to read thoroughly and discuss with your departments. I hope to organize a campaign in the near future, and again during our next orientation week, to raise awareness of the vital protections afforded through the safe disclosure process. For more information on any of the NGC's campaigns and other work, please visit their new website: http://www.graduatestudents.ca/ .

Finally, I am pleased to report that I was elected to the NGC Executive in the newly created position of Secretary Treasurer. As of next May and for a period of one year, I will be working alongside fellow Executive members of the Caucus: Chairperson Kimalee Phillip (Local 78, Carleton Graduate Association) and Deputy Chairperson Taiva Tegler (Local 94, GSAED of the University of Ottawa).

Copyright
Responding to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)'s restrictive interpretation of fair dealing (I discussed this in my last month's report), The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is currently in the process of drafting their own set of fair dealing guidelines, which we hope will be more in line with our industry norms, but these may not be ready in time for Queen's Legal Counsel to make best practice recommendations to Provost Silverman. As a student society, we may wish to make our own recommendations to the Office of the Provost and beyond. To this effect, the SGPS passed a motion at the NGC stand-alone meeting (referred to above) tasking the NGC Executive to create advocacy materials to help member locals in such efforts. I hope to have a more detailed update by our next Council meeting.

Health & Wellness
I have recently joined the new Health and Wellness Steering Committee struck by AVP and Dean of Student Affairs John Pierce. The Committee will meet for the first time this month to begin the work of promoting initiatives aimed at enhancing our student experiences as Queen's. Committee discussions will focus on three main issues, namely mental health, alcohol use, and campus safety. Through my participation, I hope to work with the Committee to further address the linkages between these and equity-related concerns.

Sustainability
As you know, March 10th is Bottled Water Free Day, and I have been working closely with the Water Access Group, the CFS, and the Polaris Institute to coordinate events to mark the occasion. Seeing as Queen's is going bottled water free as of September 1st, 2012, our mandate for this year's Day of Action will be to raise awareness about the recent ban, the benefits of opting for public water, and myths about bottled water as a better health and environmental beverage choice. Look for us all over campus!

Respectfully submitted,

Anne-Marie Grondin
VP Campaigns & Community Affairs

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the VP FINANCE & SERVICES
MARCH 2011

First, as my term draws to a close, I want to thank all of you for your support over the last year especially during the negotiations/discussions surrounding the student life centre. I look forward to your continued support over the upcoming months.

SLC Discussions

The SLC Operation and Management contract as well as the new Constitution which we voted on last council meeting will be going before the JDUC Council in the beginning of March.

Finance & Services Committee

I am delighted to see many of you are taken advantage of our Grants and Sports Bursary Programs. These are a great opportunity to engage students in activities outside the confines of the classroom.
Additional updates to be given at council.

SERVICES:

Qtalks—this is a series of presentations by students to the community geared at getting our Alumni involved and interested in our research. I am hoping to firm up dates in April, May and June to begin presentations. This does not need to be a formal presentation but can be an opportunity to engage in discussion with those who share similar interests. Please email me asap if you would like to present/share your work at vpfs@sgps.ca

Copying Services—Sean and I have been working diligently over the last few months (and I really appreciate his constant support when I crash the system) to finalize the details surrounding providing print services to our members.

Childcare—I am still trying to negotiate an after hour childcare centre for our student parents who need childcare. Please email me for info. at vpfs@sgps.ca

International Women's Day—we are having a booth at Kingston City Hall to celebrate International Women's Day. The majority of our executive team will be in attendance (including myself) I hope you can all attend for a great day of celebration.

Sutherland Scholar—On **March 9th** the Sutherland Scholar, Robert Bullard alongside many Queen's Profs., and activists are hosting a conference on Water Justice (details can be found in our newsletter). This event is free and runs from 10a to approximately 3p., which includes lunch (please confirm attendance by emailing Melissa.gunton@queensu.ca). As well, the SGPS is hosting a Graduate Student Forum with Dr. Bullard in the SGPS social lounge in the JDUC.

As my term comes to a close, again I want to thank you for all of your support and dedication to the SGPS and would urge you all to continue participating in your student society.

Respectfully submitted,

Jillian Burford-Grinnell
VP Finance & Services

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the VP Professional
March 2011

ESS
I have met with one of the SGPS liaisons to discuss a number of changes and issues necessary before next year. In particular, we are looking to add a Grad Club position as well as a Senator position on the ESS Executive so that it will be elected in the upcoming September for the first time. There are also transitional and other issues that we are looking into and working on to improve the ESS experience. Unfortunately, the students are on practicum until April and so I will be meeting during the transition month with the incoming VPP and one of their members in order to establish connection so they can take over these initiatives when their term starts.

LSS
The draft response to the LSS report is currently under review and making good progress, and will hopefully be completed in time for review and approval at the AGM. We are as always in constant communication regarding additional initiatives we can undertake on their behalf. I plan on attending their Bi-AGM to ensure they are up-to-date on and feel well-connected to our organization.

Grad Club
Strategic Planning at the Grad Club is still underway. We have also approved the budget for this year and are preparing for the Grad Club AGM on March 31, 2011. At this meeting they will be electing a new board (which includes Law and Graduate representatives!) so I encourage everybody to come on out and at least a few of you to run for positions on this board (or to encourage your competent friends to do so.)

Human Resources Committee and Issues
HR issues seem pretty consistent, but happily they are mostly resolving well. The HRSC has made excellent progress on its projects thus far despite the appallingly small number of committee members that now constitute the committee (do to non-response and timing conflicts of initially allocated Council members.) We have completed a memo regarding leaves for Executive Members, are well on our way to finalizing some new policy recommendations and are instituting a new review policy for employees.

Respectfully submitted,
Shaughnessy Hawkins

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the VP Graduate
March 2011

Free Queen's

We're having some difficulty finding registrants for our Free Queen's workshops. We've placed ads with EMC, KRock 105.7, and several businesses and stores, but we've had to cancel the first two workshops due to low attendance. I'm working with KEYS to make the online registration process earlier and more prominent on the web page, and will consult with our Executive Director and KEYS about placing more – and more targeted – ads in the Kingston area.

Student Advisor Program

Our Student Advisors have been working very hard over the last two terms to serve out members. They submitted their first term reports to the School of Graduate Studies last month who remarked on the number of clients through the program since September. Their reports – to be posted online shortly – contained a number of recommendations to the School of Graduate Studies as well as about the Program itself. It was noted that the Program hasn't made it a priority to reach out to professional students. We are in a fortunate position this year – and in some years past – as one of our Advisors is in a professional degree program. However, if we wish to extend the assistance that Advisors offer across campus, we'll need to make a concerted, long-term effort. This needs to entail examining the consultative services that professional students draw on currently and figuring out how the Advisors can assist these services, or fill needs going less met right now.

The Advisors will host a Support Group again on March 10th (Ban Righ, downstairs, 5:00). The group is open to both graduate and professional students who would like to talk about effective communication strategies with faculty members and supervisors.

Withdrawal Policies

The School of Graduate Studies drafted a new withdrawal policy and is circulating it among the Graduate Committees and Councils. The substantial change we advocated for was wording in the policy that would require that the department or faculty member requesting a withdrawal on academic grounds be notified *in advance* of the department's decision to seek withdrawal. Further (see below) the department or faculty member must provide an explanation for the withdrawal request:

"Prior to making a recommendation under the procedures below, the faculty member(s), and/or Graduate Coordinator and/or Department/Program Head shall meet with the student to discuss their academic situation. The student may invite a representative to the meeting. The student shall also be informed in writing that the Department/Program shall be making a recommendation of withdrawal, and shall be informed of the grounds for the recommendation."

If you would like to see the full draft of the policy or speak with someone about this matter, please feel free to contact me vpg@sgps.ca.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Moore

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Graduate Student
Senator March 2011

Senate Report for March:

Highlights of the Principal and Provost's Reports

- The principal did not deliver a report as he was traveling.
- The provost noted the release of the preliminary report of the Enrolment Planning Task Force which is available here: http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/Feb17_11/Enrolpln.pdf
- There is a recommended tuition increase for Master's of Engineering students after it was noted that Queen's fees are lower than at other universities. The details of the recommendation can be found here: http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/Feb17_11/Tuition.pdf
- Continued to forecast difficult economic times ahead as grim budget details continue to become apparent.
- Announced the long-discussed mandatory graduate student accessibility training that will come into place next year.

Senate Academic Plan Task Force (SAPTF)

- The Academic Planning Task Force invited Senate to participate in an open discussion on some of the primary areas that the task force is discussing.
- After this the Task Force answered questions from Senate relating to timeline, scope, and consultation.
- The Task Force is still optimistic about completing the Academic Plan in time for the end of the semester, and will be consulting widely with student and faculty groups throughout March.
- Check for Academic Planning Task Force website for updates and to provide feedback or suggestions for the plan: http://www.queensu.ca/saptf/

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Graduate Computing Society
March 2011

Hello Council,

We have been frantically preparing for our Conference which is happening VERY SOON (March 11-12, 2011). All of the last minute details have been falling into place, thanks to our wonderful team of volunteers.

The conference has shaped up quite well, and we now have a full slate of presenters, both speakers and poster presenters. In addition, we have three invited speakers (Dr. Scott Knight of RMC, and Dr. Roel Vertegaal and Dr. David Skillicorn, both from the School of Computing at Queen's Univeristy) who will be presenting information on their respective areas of study.

New this year to the conference are the Programming Competition, and the Panel Discussion. The Competition will pit competing teams, both grads and undergrads, against each other in a trial of programming skill. The panel is aimed at getting different perspectives on the direction of computer science, having members from both applications fields, and those who also look at the theoretical side. This year's panelists are Dr. Juergen Dingel, Dr. Nick Graham, and Dr. Abd-Elhamid Taha, all of the School of Computing at Queen's University. The Panel Moderator will be Dr Pat Martin, also of the School of Computing.

More details about the conference are available on the conference website, which is http://qgcsc.cs.queensu.ca.

The conference has been the big item on our plate recently, but that has not stopped us from holding our other regular events. GCS is always proud to host our quasi-regular movie nights, for a chance for our students to get together in a relaxed setting and watch a fairly new movie. Recent titles have included The Social Network, and Inception. We will of course be holding more in the future.

Our twice weekly Coffee Break tradition also continues to be a big among grad students, and faculty and staff. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 10:30, we all take the time to gather in our lounge, and meet for coffee and discussions. A good time is had by all, and what graduate student doesn't enjoy a good cup of coffee.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. See you at council!

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Rapos and Layan Nahlawi
SGPS Relations Officers
Graduate Computing Society
http://sites.cs.queensu.ca/gcs/main/

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Academic Affairs Standing Committee
March 2011

Our academic affairs committee met on March 1 to discuss three items:

Grading Panel

As we mentioned at Council last month, we hope to host a panel on the new grading system and the transition thereto in late March or early April. The panel would fill a need that the committee has identified for a polyvocal discussion on campus, bringing together participants from a wide range of roles – undergraduate, graduate, faculty, staff (especially the Registrar), the Centre for Teaching and Learning, and SCAP (Senate committee who oversaw the decision to move to the new grade system). We've begun inviting people from all these places and hope to publicize the time and location shortly.

Once the minutes are adopted at this Council meeting, the VPG will forward last month's motion on the grade change to the chair of SCAP on behalf of the AASC.

RA FAQ

Please consult the FAQ about the RA stipendiary employment option in the appendix to Council. The committee would like to get a sense of Council's satisfaction with the FAQ thus far and about issues requiring further clarification from Council's perspective. A summary of the committee's actions to date on this matter can be found in RA FAQ motion on the agenda this month.

Progress Reports

The committee compared nearly two-dozen progress reports currently in use across graduate departments on campus – mostly from Arts and Science. We're in the process of articulating best practices from the committee's perspective and hope to write a policy report for submission to CFS, which will be brought to this Council beforehand.

Respectfully submitted,
AASC Chair
VP Graduate

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Social Commissioner
March, 2010

Hello All,

The SGPS social team is excited to inform you of the great events that we're going to be holding 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 SKI/Snowboarding Trip

The SGPS is excited to inform you about our upcoming trip to the Calabogie Peaks Resort. This event is guaranteed to be a great time whether you're an avid skier/snowboarder or looking to try something exhilarating and fun. The Calabogie Peaks Resort has a wide variety of runs, ranging from advanced black diamonds to novice blue and green runs. So come out and carve some powder with your fellow SGPS members. Additionally, you can rent some equipment for a discounted price ($22) if your equipment is not readily available. Visit SGPS website (link below) or the office (JDUC 021) to sing up for this great event before we hit capacity. For more information please contact us at logistics@sgps.ca.

Cost: $50/person

Package includes: Transportation, a day pass to the slopes and lunch.

Time: Saturday March 5th, 2011 (**note this event will proceed as planned weather permitting)**

Bus leaves the JDUC at 8 A.M. and returns at approximately 8 P.M.
Meet outside the JDUC (Union & University)

SGPS Healthy Living Initiative: "Yoga for Runners"

This month, as a part of our Healthy Living Initiative, SGPS is providing you with an opportunity to empower your mind and body and experience the benefits of Yoga in a FREE Hatha class taught by a certified instructor. This workshop uses a series of Asanas to help improve balance, strength and range of motion, specifically addressing the major muscles used in running. In addition, the internal focus of the practice connects the mind, body and breath to engage awareness and concentration in each movement. This class costs nothing and is safe and adaptable to all levels of ability and familiarity with yoga or running, and beneficial to any individual -- runner or not.

Date: Monday March 14th,

Time: 8-9pm

Location: LuluLemon Athletics (Princess St)

**Registration required by emailing your name to planning@sgps.ca

SGPS Sports Pub Night

Come out and join us for a night of sports and socialization. This laid back event is guaranteed to be a hit, whether you are someone who loves hockey or looking for something fun and social to do. Thus, why not let off some steam watching the Toronto Maples Leafs take on the Detroit Red Wings with your fellow SGPS members, while enjoying some free appetizers. If you are planning on coming out, please email athletics@sgps.ca so we know how many tables to reserve. See you there!

Date: March 26th

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Fanatics (Princess and Barrie)

SGPS Bowling Night

The SGPS is thrilled to inform you about our Bowling Night at Cloverleaf Lane. This should be an entertaining night of cosmos moonlight bowling, split between amazing strikes and more entertaining gutter balls. Additionally, this will be an excellent opportunity to show off or brush up on those invaluable bowling skills. Please email social@sgps.ca if you're planning on coming out, hence we can reserve enough lanes.

Date: April 1st

Time: 9:00-11:00 pm

Location: Cloverleaf Lane (10 Bath road)

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)

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity Commissioner
March 2011

Dear Councilors,

Council/Committee Meetings

Queen's Accessibility Committee met and discussed the Customer Service Standard that will be required for all graduate students. The Committee is very excited about this (as Queen's is one of the first universities to mandate the training for graduate students) and seems unconcerned with the issues that PSAC 901 might have regarding unpaid training. As March is 'Disability Awareness Month', QAC has asked the SGPS Equity Team to coordinate various events at Queen's. To this end we have been in touch with Queen's News Centre, Accessibility Queen's, and members of the Equity Office to determine how these various units can best support each other. Please stay tuned to the SGPS newsletter to learn about the latest accessibility awareness events in March. Finally, the Steve Cutway Award has been broadened to include nominations for students who have made a contribution to accessibility on campus. The call for nominations will be out soon.

The Council on Employment Equity met and discussed the creation of a new Employment Equity Award that is being developed by the FCP Action Group. The call for nominations will go out in November of each year, with the winner announced in December. The award may go to people internal (including students) or external to Queen's University, as long as the nominee has made a significant measurable impact in fostering employment equity at Queen's. Another issue discussed concerns the federal government undergoing reviews of universities to ensure we are meeting employment equity standards. Queen's is close to having our numbers together should we be asked. Finally, gender neutral washroom are close to coming into being, pending final rubber stamping from VP Caroline Davis.

I attended the Senate Educational Equity Committee this month in lieu of Anne-Marie. I was involved in discussions regarding the Academic Planning process and the Senate Task Force assigned the duties of completing this work. SEEC has agreed to take initiative in preparing a document for this Task Force that will make educational equity recommendations. Anne-Marie and/or I will sit on this sub-committee. SEEC may invite some of the Task Force Senators to the next meeting in order to orally hear the recommendations. We also reviewed a letter that is being written by SEEC to John Dixon regarding processes of internationalization. They have asked for specific feedback from the SGPS about issues our international students have faced at Queen's. Finally, I gave an lengthy presentation about our Accent Discrimination Campaign, which was warmly received by those around the table.

Campaigns and SGPS Internal

In light of the Senate Academic Planning Task Force's goal of having a plan by the end of April, I've requested to meet with Senators Iain Reeve and Chris Rudnicki in order to discuss equity-related concerns and recommendations for the Academic Plan. The AMS Social Issues Commissioner and the Rector will also be involved in these discussions. If you have any specific concerns or recommendations for the Academic Plan, please feel free to get in touch with me at equity@sgps.ca and I will include your ideas in our discussions.

I've also spent quite a bit of time revising our Accent Discrimination Campaign GREB application, and would like to thank all those committee members who offered insightful feedback. We have just submitted the latest version.

Finally, we've been working with SGPS Research Assistant Gayathri Vijay to help put together a display for International Women's Day for Sunday, March 6th at City Hall. Please visit this event and stop by our booth to say hello!

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Prouse
Equity Commissioner

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Communications Commissioner
March 2011

SGPS Computer Network

- I have mapped all of the hardware in our office. This allows me to have a conceptual map of our network so it is easier to complete upgrades. It will also allow me to better manage updates and software installations.
- The new additions to our mail/wiki server have been successfully integrated. The new features have improved the workflow for everyone with SGPS e-mail.
- I am in the process of rebuilding an old server. The server will become a development platform for improved delivery of our bursary applications. Over the course of the summer I will be building online bursary applications.

SGPS Website

- I am in the process of rewriting some of the FAQs on the SGPS website.
- I have optimized the images on our website so our site is quicker to load and consumes less bandwidth.
- I have been updating the election section of our site. As soon as I have the final details of the election results, I will post them to our site.

Communications

- I have started work on the SGPS Dayplanner/Agenda for the 2011/2012 academic year. I have started the work on updating text as well as started soliciting for ads. Our content is due to the print shop at the end of April.
- I have finished work to prepare the election site for the 2011 SGPS Election and Referendum. The server was populated with all eligible voters and all position and fee questions.
- I am working with a few sub-societies to allow online voting for their specific purposes.
- I have finished compiling e-mail lists for alternate messaging (alternate to the main SGPS mailing list).
- I am working to have mailing lists set for sub-sections of the SGPS membership. This will facilitate targeted messaging when required.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean Richards - info@sgps.ca

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Equity Coordinator
March 2011

Equity Coordinator Report – March 2011

Dear Council Members,

February is a remarkably short month, but quite a few things have been accomplished, in regards to the items I listed in my report for February's council meeting.

1. The revised GREB application for the SGPS Equity/Human Rights Office Understanding Each Other accent discrimination project has been submitted. We have also compiled several articles + summaries. I will be playing with these in our template website, so that that will start having content (to be published as the project proceeds).

2. (also 5.) I met with representatives from a number of Queen's administration-level and AMS organizations concerned with accessibility (QAC, the Equity Office, HCDS, AMS Social Issues Commission, ABLE publication) today to coordinate plans for March as (Dis)Ability Awareness Month. In collaboration with these groups and with Accessibility Queen's, I will develop a centralized calendar of all events relating to the month, which will be posted in its usual place on the SGPS website, with links to that from the SIC website and (I hope) from the Queen's News Centre. Also at this meeting, we determined four stories we hope to have run over the course of the month via the Queen's News Centre. (I expect this to be ready by our meeting.)

3. All relevant parties have been informed of all necessary details regarding the Accessibility Queen's funding for Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre. Although I have yet to receive confirmation of the funds being transferred, AMS VP (University Affairs) Chris Rudnicki assures me that it will proceed in as timely a manner as possible.

4. Equity Committee: The winter semester membership list has been confirmed, so we expect to be meeting very soon to discuss upcoming projects/initiatives.

In terms of other upcoming projects and events:

1. March 6th-12th is International Women's Week! At the International Women's Day Fair, 11am-4pm in Memorial Hall, City Hall, on March 6th, the SGPS will have a display on the subject of women's herstories in academia, prepared by SGPS RA Gayathri Vijay and the Equity Team. A full calendar of IWW 2011 events is available at http://www.wedontstopkingston.com/.

2. The following week, March 14th-19th is Queen's Pride Week, organized by Queen's Pride Project. A full calendar of events is available at http://www.queensupride.ca/.

Respectfully submitted,

Kalanthe Khaiat

Equity Coordinator

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the Sustainability Coordinator
March 2011

Recyclemania @ Queen's

This is the first time Queen's is participating in this international competition for waste reduction, and together with AMS and main campus sustainability offices I have been working on organizing events: info booth sessions at Queen's Center, in class talks and we have also submitted a Queen's entry for Recyclemania video competition. Our video has over 400 views at the moment and if selected among top 10 by the Recyclemania judges will go on their facebook page for further voting. The story has been covered by several Queen's news outlets and is getting positive attention.
http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Queens-University-Recyclemania-2011/191751424171464

Bike Shop @ Queen's

Thing are also moving forward with the plans to establish a bike shop at Queen's - although AMS has taken leadership in this initiative in terms of organization and structure, SGPS Sustainability will be involved financially and providing volunteers, and so will other cycling groups and activists. We have a free space secured, have applied for Principal's Innovation Fund and are working on gathering volunteers, tools and getting things set up for spring. More meetings are being organized at the moment to move things forward.

Water Access Group

As Queen's is moving forward to establish a bottled water free campus by September 2012, I have attended water access group meetings with Anne Marie to plan out what more needs to be done – creating a bigger awareness, getting more working water-fountains and etc. I will also be planing some events with Anne-Marie's office for March 10th – the bottled water free day and I'm working on a Journal article with Jodi from AMS.

Green House Gas working group and the Sustainability Advisory Committee

We also have meetings this month for the GHG and QSAC groups to discuss ways on reducing Queen's GHG emissions, solar panels, energy reduction measures as well bringing the bottled water issue to the table. The meeting details will be provided in the next council report.

Society of Graduate and Professional Students
Report of the International Students' Coordinators
March 2011

In February, I met with the International Students' Standing Committee to lay a foundation for Committee initiatives. The turnout to this meeting was disappointing and I have since made an additional call for members. A second meeting is currently being scheduled for next week (the week of March 7th) in an effort to both solidify the Committee's membership and goals. I hope to engage Committee members to take an active role in creating and supporting projects for international students, particularly for the next academic year.

Again I promoted several events to international students via the SGPS Facebook page, specifically sessions on Finding Work in Canada provided by Career Services and QUIC. I am also working on developing a program, through the SGPS, that would lends ice skates to international students and their families.

I look forward to meeting with Susan Anderson, Associate Director at QUIC, in the near future to discuss developing an end-of-year session for international students to express their thoughts and concerns about their academic year.

Respectfully,

Becky Pero
ISC