



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, March 22nd 2011, 5:30pm
Robert Sutherland Room, JDUC

1. Presentations

Grad Club – Ryan Kelly
Academic Writing Team

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION

03/22/11:1

Moved _____ / _____ BIRT the agenda for March 22nd, 2011 be adopted.

MOTION

03/22/11:2

Moved _____ / _____ BIRT the minutes for the March Council Meeting be accepted.

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

- a) President – Jawad Qureshy (report attached)
- b) VP Graduate – Daniel Moore (report attached)
- c) VP Professional – Shaughnessy Hawkins (report attached)
- d) VP Campaigns and Community Affairs – Anne-Marie Grondin (report attached)
- e) VP Finance and Services – Jillian Burford-Grinnell (report attached)
- f) Speaker – Michael Bravo (report attached)

MOTION

03/22/11:3

Moved _____ / _____ BIRT Executive and Speaker reports be accepted.

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

- a) Graduate Student Senator – Iain Reeve (no report)
- b) Board of Trustees – Benjamin Grant (report attached)
- c) Committee Reports (reports attached)
- d) Commissioner Reports
 - i) Social Commissioner – Abdullah Abunafeesa (no report)
 - ii) Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
 - iii) Equity Commissioner: Carolyn Prouse (report attached)
- e) Other Reports
 - i) Equity Coordinator – Kalanthe Khaiat (report attached)
 - ii) International Students Coordinator – Amir Nosrat and Becky Pero (no report)
 - iii) Sustainability Coordinator – Ivana Zelenika (no report)
 - iv) Athletics Coordinator – Amanda Leonard (no report)
 - v) Logistics Coordinator – Corey Valinsky (no report)
 - vi) Planning Coordinator – Nicole McCallum (no report)
 - vii) Rector – Nick Day (no report)
 - viii) Chief Returning Officer – Mikhail Kellawan (report attached)
 - ix) Departmental Reports

MOTION

03/22/11:4

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

5. Question Period/Departmental Issues

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Main Motions

MOTION – 2nd reading of proposed Bylaw Change **03/22/11:5**

Whereas Council has already passed the first reading of this bylaw change and is required to pass the second reading at the March AGM

MOVED _____/_____ BIRT B.9.2a be amended as follows:
The following constitute the Appointees of Council, and shall be responsible for assisting Council and the Executive with a specific aspect of the SGPS' operations, and are responsible for reporting to Council:

- (1) Communications Commissioner
- (2) Social Commissioner
- (3) Equity Commissioner
- (4) International Students Affairs Commissioner
- (4) Education Coordinator
- (5) Equity Coordinator
- (6) International Students Affairs Coordinator
- (7) Web Coordinator (webmaster)
- (8) Logistics Coordinator
- (9) Planning Coordinator
- (10) Athletics Coordinator
- (11) Layout Coordinator
- (12) Academic Affairs Standing Committee

MOTION

03/22/11:6

Whereas recent discussions surrounding IAW (Israel Apartheid Week) have been highly charged, leaving some of our members to feel that they cannot freely and safely engage in the democratic process in person at the AGM; and

Whereas members of the ESS are unable to vote in person at the AGM because of course-based practicums.

MOVED _____ / _____ BIRT the SGPS hold a referendum on 5 April 2011 and 6 April 2011, in accordance with P.7.1.3., stating the questions:

- 1. Should the SGPS formally recommend to the University Council of Queen's University that Nick Day be:
 - A) removed from his office as Rector
 - B) not be removed from his office as Rector
 - C) be censured

The results will be conveyed to the University Council, including a statement in the form as follows:

Of the SGPS members that voted on the question to make a recommendation to University Council regarding Nick Day, ___ % voted in favour of removal, ___ % voted not in favour of removal, and ___ % voted in favour of censure.

- 2. Should the SGPS officially add its name to the petition written by the organizers of 'Support Academic Freedom & Queen's University Rector Nick Day'?

MOTION

03/22/11:7

Whereas there is already a by-election to be held on 28 March 2011 and 29 March 2011 regarding the CFRC fees as a result of a majority of the membership of the SGPS recommending to not increase the CFRC fees at the annual March elections and referenda;

Whereas the result of the previous motion necessitates another election one week after the aforementioned CFRC by-election;

MOVED _____/_____ BIRT the SGPS delay the by-election to be held on 28 March 2011 and 29 March 2011 until 5 April 2011 and 6 April 2011 so that the SGPS membership only has to vote at one election and allows the organization of a single, streamlined election process for both issues to be voted upon.

MOTION

03/22/11:8

MOVED Jaclyn Mackenzie/_____ BIRT the SGPS support the following letter to the University Council recommending the removal of Rector Nick Day from his position as rector.

Dear Members of the University Council,

On behalf of the Society of Graduate and Professional Students, we would like to express our concerns regarding current Queen’s Rector Nick Day’s recent actions.

We believe in academic freedom and the value of free public discourse. We are not concerned with the personal opinions that Rector Day expressed in his letter to Mr. Ignatieff, but rather that he over-extended the mandate of his role. As an elected student representative, the Queen’s student body trusts Rector Day to represent us on matters of education to the administration of the University. By making divisive political claims to the leader of the Official Opposition as the Rector, he has abused his office and breached our trust.

By signing his letter to Mr. Ignatieff as “Rector”, and by explicitly noting his role as representative of approximately 20,000 Queen’s students, Rector Day has ascribed his own political stance to the entire student body, both graduate and undergraduate. As soon as he identified himself as Rector, he went beyond personal expression.

Having been previously censured and warned against such actions in the past by the AMS, we believe that Rector Day’s continued behaviour warrants removal from office.

Sincerely,

The Society of Graduate and Professional Students

MOTION

03/22/11:9

Whereas "intellectual integrity", "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas," and "equal dignity of all persons" are held as "essential values" by Queen's University (<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/policies/princpri/>);

Whereas the research, expression and assembly of graduate and professional students are essential and indispensable to affirming the aforementioned "essential values";

Whereas the Rector’s mandate is intended to “promote scholarly dialogue amongst students”;

Whereas SGPS Council “supports, protects and upholds the freedom of speech and academic freedom of campus groups, students, activists, and academics at Queen’s University who use the term ‘Israeli apartheid’ to describe the present conditions of legal, political, and economic, and social segregation imposed on the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the Palestinian people by the Israeli state”;

MOVED Andrew Stevens/ _____ BIRT the Society of Graduate and Professional Student Council officially adds its name to the petition written by the organizers of “Support Academic Freedom & Queen’s University Rector Nick Day” and sends the signed letter to the Principal, the Provost, Chair of the Board of Trustees, Chair of Senate, AMS President, and Queen’s University Chancellor.

To: Members of the Queen’s University Community

We, the undersigned, wish to state our deep concern over the recent attacks on the principles of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression that have recently occurred at Queen’s University.

The unequivocal protection of these principles is crucial to the health and vitality of Queen’s University’s stated commitment to “develop leaders and citizens for a global society.”

BACKGROUND

On March 9, 2011, the Queen’s University Rector Nick Day published a “Response Letter to Michael Ignatieff” on the Liberal Party leader’s “Statement on Israeli Apartheid Week.” The letter expressed the Rector’s position regarding Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW), outlining the rationale for its legitimate inclusion on Canadian university campuses as a matter of freedom of speech. At no point in the letter did Rector Day state that he was expressing the official view of Queen’s University or of Queen’s students as a group.

Only a day after the publication of the Rector’s letter, Principal Daniel Woolf issued a public statement expressing his views, declaring that it was “inappropriate” for the

Rector to voice his opinions regarding Ignatieff's comments. Principal Woolf stated he was contacted by "students, alumni, and others, who believe the Rector should no longer have the privilege of holding this office." In his public statement, the Principal neglected to reference the messages from current students, alumni, faculty members, and others who had contacted him in support of the Rector and his right to speak publicly on such issues in his capacity as Rector.

Partisan student organizations, including the Campus Conservatives, Queen's Liberal Association, and Israel on Campus, circulated a petition seeking an AMS motion to poll the Queen's undergraduate student body on whether to recommend the Rector's dismissal by the University Council. This petition was presented to the AMS Assembly only one day after the publication of the Rector's letter to Michael Ignatieff.

After receiving defamatory and violent personal attacks, including a death threat, through email, Facebook, and Twitter, the Rector decided not to attend the AMS Assembly. The Queen's Journal reported that he felt "uncomfortable and unsafe." This environment of intimidation -- which Principal Woolf not only failed to address but also exacerbated -- has denied the Rector an opportunity to respond to the controversy prior to or during the AMS Assembly. Following a secret ballot, AMS Assembly voted to allow the question to proceed to a referendum set for March 22-23, 2011.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM & FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

We believe that the Queen's University community must demonstrate its unequivocal support to upholding a campus environment of unfettered academic inquiry and discussion. Israel Apartheid Week (IAW) provides a forum for the Queen's University community to engage with vital issues of concern to human rights and Canadian foreign policy.

The Rector's response to Liberal Party leader, Michael Ignatieff, addressed common and often dangerous misconceptions with Israel Apartheid Week, an annual week-long event that has been held on Canadian campuses since 2005.

IAW has been held at Queen's University since 2008 and is well attended by faculty, staff, students, and local community members. IAW makes an intellectual contribution to public understanding of Canadian and Israeli foreign policy, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and the situation of the Occupied Territories and Palestinian peoples. Further, "Israeli Apartheid" is the subject of an internationally-recognized academic and political debate, one that is actively engaged with here at Queen's.

There is no doubt that IAW is a controversial event, particularly with respect to the use of the term "apartheid." As a leader in higher education and an institution dedicated to global citizenship, Queen's University must not retreat from its responsibility to engage with controversial issues; rather, it is the University's role to create and maintain space for civil discussion, dialogue, and dissent. While IAW events

may challenge attendees to reflect critically on their presumptions and beliefs, a process that can be difficult for some, there have been no credible reports of anti-Semitism or targeting and harassment of Jewish or Israeli students during IAW at Queen's.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RECTOR

In publicly addressing the protection of IAW as a matter of Academic Freedom, and Freedom of Expression, the Rector acted in accordance with the duties and responsibilities of the office which requires the Rector to "promote scholarly dialogue amongst students." The countless debates about this and other issues sparked by the Rector's public statements are certainly a testament to the fulfillment of this important mandate.

To suggest that all actions undertaken by the Rector must necessarily represent a consensus of the Queen's University student body is both impossible and renders meaningless the position of the Rector as an elected representative of students to the Board of Trustees and administration. Any public action or statements made by the Rector, especially those directly relating to matters of academic freedom and discourse, will no doubt may be seen as contentious by some members of the Queen's University community. It would be a frightening compromise of democratic principles if the Rector were to be restricted from acting publicly on matters relevant to student life and academic inquiry, while being expected to espouse institutionally-sanctioned lines in both her or his politics and actions.

We, the undersigned, wish to state the following:

1. We unequivocally support the principles of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression in all circumstances. These principles are critical to the maintenance and vitality of an open and democratic community and must not be constrained in any way by interference from outside powers.
2. Differences of opinion and the motives of partisan political organizations regarding controversial issues are not justifiable grounds for the removal of the Rector from office by the University Council.
3. The position of Rector is accountable to the entire Queen's University student body and not any particular student government or constituency.
4. We urge the Queen's University student body to affirm its commitment to principles of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Expression by voting "no" on the referendum regarding the recommendation of the removal of the Rector from his position.

5. We condemn the use of hate speech and violent personal attacks in all cases and call on Principal Daniel Woolf to make a clear public statement condemning the use of hate speech and physical intimidation, including those made against the Rector.

Please send your personal statements of support for the unequivocal protection of principles of Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech at Queen’s University to: academicfreedomqueens@gmail.com

8. Other Business

9. Notice of Motions/Announcements

Reports and Motions for the next regular Council meeting are due Tuesday, April 5th, 2010.

The next regular SGPS Council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12th, 2010.

10. Adjournment

MOTION

03/22/11:10

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

03/22/11
MFB
CFS-27
Attached:
March Minutes
Attendance March Meeting
March AGM Reports
Appendix – 1