



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, August 9th, 2011, 5:30pm
McLaughlin Room, JDUC

1. Presentations

Lauren McNicol & Victoria Millious – Job Action on Campus

- Lauren: – QUFA job action. Letter on website – request a letter be posted to website from SGPS. It would be helpful to have a member delegated to act on behalf of the SGPS.
- Jillian Burford-Grinnell: Are you asking to appoint a member or for Exec to do this on behalf of council?
- Lauren: Just somebody who can be contacted – whatever may work the best. This avoids the need to have an extra special meeting to have actions be pushed through. We want to be proactive as opposed to reactive.
- Jillian: Perhaps Anne-Marie, VP Campaigns and Community Affairs, is whom you should be speaking to.
- Anne-Marie Grondin: Do we need a motion that council will endorse this for QUFA?
- Mark Noble: Is the idea not wanting to have a motion passed now to expedite this process so we can get a message out quicker?
- Anne-Marie: Yes, before the September meeting.
- Mark Noble: Waiting until the council meeting would be redundant. Our efforts relating to job action are to try to take a more neutral approach to realizing how sensitive the relationship is between university management and is not to just come out and say we are on one side or the other without the authorization of Council. Point is to keep members abreast of what is going on, but don't want to take action before we get approval from Council. Acting in haste on certain things could be detrimental to our relationship with the university in the future. It is important for us to

remain neutral and to try to be responsive to our member's desires and to not take position one side or the other.

- Eric Rapos: This is becoming a discussion not a presentation. Lets hold our thoughts until the discussion section of the meeting.

MaryAnne Laurico - PSAC

MaryAnne: PSAC represents TA/TFs to address any questions about labour disruptions that you may have.

We are also gearing up for orientation week – TD Day and Free BBQ to come at the Grad Club. All departments have been requested to attend departmental orientations sessions. On that note we are also going to be emailing all grad societies/departments to have stewards elected as not all departments have their own societies. Basically, you will be represented by the chief or assistant chief steward should you not have your own society. Stewards are seen as supervisors when it comes to TA/TF meetings and will advocate on your behalf.

There is also a meeting tomorrow, 530PM Robert Sutherland room, on possible labour action at Queen's. We are also going to be opening elections for a few positions. Are there any questions?

Anne-Marie: If somebody was interested in some of these positions how would they apply?

MaryAnne: It will come from the floor. Any position that is vacant or has not other nominees can be claimed.

Eric: Are there any other questions?

MaryAnne: One more thing about contracts – when you sign contracts they are binding. You will be paid as there is a commitment from the university to do that. On that note, if you have not signed an "e-contract" (likely done in September) it is important to later check your copy to make sure that it has not been changed without your consent by the department. We have had grievances about this. The e-contact can only be changed with mutual agreement. This also goes for TA/TF forms – negotiate everything with professor, training etc., as this is up to you.

Daniel Moore: The SGS released an email about potential lockout/strike. QUFA has apparently said that faculty can refuse to work when another union is striking. Is this true and does this apply to you?

MaryAnne: The labour relations act says we cannot strike in solidarity. However by the Occupational Health and Safety Act, if you do not feel safe crossing the picket line, or if you feel that crossing the line will harm your relationship with your supervisor, you can also refuse to cross the line. This is your right.

Eric: I would like to remind everyone to wait until given permission to speak, as there is a list.

Daniel: How could students show their solidarity?

Anne-Marie: Students can talk to union members and find out about their particular issues and show them that you support them by bringing something such as a coffee or donut. Choosing to go on strike is a last resort, nobody wants to be in that position, so you could show your support.

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION

08/09/11:1

Moved Anne-Marie Grondin / Daniel Moore BIRT the agenda for August 9th, 2011 be adopted.

MOTION 08/09 11:1-M1 Moved Daniel Moore / Jillian Burford-Grinnell BIRT that we add a time sensitive motion to the agenda.

-- See appendix -- [letter as read by Eric Rapos]

Daniel: This letter responds to recent public events surrounding QUFA negotiations and is time sensitive as the deadline to submit is Monday, with their next meeting held on Thursday. This is Council's last meeting before the labour decision is made, and is our last opportunity to be proactive.

Eric: We are not discussing at this now, but voting on whether to add this to the agenda.

Motion carries

MOTION

08/09/11:1 – AS AMENDED

Motion carries

MOTION

08/09/11:2

Moved _____ Jillian Burford-Grinnell _____ / _____ Andrea Phillipson _____
BIRT the minutes for the May 10th, 2011 council meeting be accepted.

Motion carries

3. Executive and Speaker Reports

a) President – Jillian Burford-Grinnell (report attached)

Jillian: Nothing to add to report.

b) VP Graduate – Irene Karagiorgakis (report attached)

Irene: 2 items of note. Please welcome 2 new student advisors to the program.

Lauren McNicol and Victoria Millious. You may see them from time to time if there are issues that need to be brought to council. In addition: A few graduate councils require student representatives. If you may be interested in a position please email me – my email address is at bottom of my report.

c) VP Professional – Mark Noble (no report)

Mark: My apologies for not having report in on time. My wife and I have just had birth of our son and I recently had a slip and fall where I suffered a brain injury. Everything is looking good for recovery. My report will be given to Sean after the conclusion of meeting. I have two things to touch on: Efforts by Jillian and myself about Grad Club issues. Upgrades to the security system need to be implemented. Upgrade to our ATM machine is also badly needed. Financing for this is in progress. Updates to contracts with staff that protect the Grad Club from not having some items in harmony with labour legislation and the province. We need to make sure that we are proactive.

Jillian: On behalf of SGPS we would like to congratulate you on the birth of Carter.

Eric: Questions for Mark?

Elizabeth: Is there something other than alcohol, from an equity perspective, that we can offer to support the Grad Club?

Mark: Word of mouth, make it a destination to hang out at. If there are concerns or issues as to why you don't want to go there, make these known to Jillian or myself so that we can give feedback, and changes can be made. This would be very valuable for the board. We would welcome a multifaceted approach based on the feedback of the membership.

Jillian: Pop and Shirely Temples.

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

Anne-Marie: In September there will be an official Council meeting. If you have questions during meetings about where we are in the agenda, or what we are voting on, please call out "Point of Information". The Speaker will address this. Regardless of whether a program interests you please do pass it on to your department as you are the representatives and point of contact. I have three things to flag: I am on the open access committee – please email me for more information if you don't know what this is. Committee is currently looking for presenters – if you have come across open access and want to present on your experiences please email me. Secondly, there is a job opportunity as a community assistant with the housing project. We are currently looking for someone who is living in An Clachan and who would be interested in this. Finally, provincial elections are coming up on October 6th. There is lots of work to do to get students informed about the platforms and getting them engaged in elections. We are looking for volunteers to help with this. If you are interested please email me.

Eric: Questions?

e) VP Finance and Services – Andrea Phillipson (report attached)

Andrea: One thing to add all of us are attending CFS Ontario August 18-21 meeting. We are sending three person delegation, Irene, myself, and Anne-Marie. We have a copy of the agenda that we will post on the SGPS website on the news feed page. Please have a look at this and if you have questions or concerns to discuss before we attend please email me and we will respond.

Eric: Questions?

f) Speaker – Eric Rapos (report attached)

Eric: Please call out your name to aid the Deputy Speaker. We have also updated the tent cards – if you are missing one, or require changes please let James and myself, or Sean know. At the next council meeting there will be a presentation for the new faces to go over the structure of the meeting and to go thru terms such as Point of Information. This will be a more relaxed meeting. We will also go over Robert's Rules. At any point in time if you have a question please throw up your place card and we will get to you.

MOTION

08/09/11:3

Moved Daniel Moore / Anne-Marie Grondin BIRT
Executive and Speaker reports be accepted.

Motion carries

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

a) Graduate Student Senator – Daniel Moore (report attached)

Daniel: I have nothing to add to my report other than I hope to join the Senate Library Committee in September as their annual report at the May Senate meeting was sobering. The acquisition budget has been decreasing over time because it is static, yet costs are increasing. This needs to be remedied.

Mark: I have a question. You said the budget that we devote to materials such as books, online journals, etc. is the same, but the cost is going up. The net effect is that year over year we are spending less. Are you advocating that we increase the amount?

Daniel: Yes. I would like to speak with other Senators about this and see what we can do.

Eric: I have a correction to your report. Dean MacEwen is actually going to be appointed as the Director of the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost.

Mark: Thank you Eric, we appreciate you being on the ball.

b) Board of Trustees – Benjamin Grant (no report)

c) Committee Reports (no reports)

d) Commissioner Reports

i) Social Commissioner – Abdullah Abunafeesa (report attached)

Abdullah: I have something to add to report. We have some events for ESS students who are here a week earlier. We were hoping to have a mini-orientation week for international students later on. More activities will be better to help individuals get used to life in Kingston. We ask that everyone here help to spread the word. We have worked hard to canvas for prizes etc., so this should be a really great week.

Mark: The OC has been doing a great job. We appreciate this work.

Abdullah: We are bringing PhD comics, a movie, in early October to Kingston.

Becky: To add, we have been talking about an extra orientation week as lots of students arrive after the traditional week, so many students miss out on this experience.

Mark: Let us know what's going on so we can throw some weight behind this and make it happen.

Abdullah: It is difficult to organize events, but the support that we get is fantastic.

- ii) Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards (report attached)
- iii) Equity Commissioner: Elizabeth Amirault (report attached)

Elizabeth: A reminder that if you come up with any equity related issues, please email me.

- iv) International Students Affairs Commissioner: Becky Pero (report attached)

Becky: An update about Kingston Transit closing some routes in the summer (17 and 18). We have spoken with Jeremy Ducosta, the Transit Manager. He has been receptive to conversation, and although we have not worked anything out we have opened a dialogue that we can address with a more formal letter later.

e) Other Reports

- i) Equity Coordinator – Aliya Kassam (no report)
- ii) International Students Coordinator – Holly McIndoe (no report)
- iii) Sustainability Coordinator – Ivana Zelenika (report attached)
- iv) Athletics Coordinator – Meaghan Frauts (no report)
- v) Logistics Coordinator – Chris Groten (no report)
- vi) Planning Coordinator – Cassandra Kuyvenhoven (no report)
- vii) Rector – Nick Day (no report)
- viii) Chief Returning Officer – Vacant (no report)
- ix) Departmental Reports

MOTION

08/09/11:4

Moved _____ Jillian Burford-Grinnell _____ / _____ Mark Noble _____
BIRT Senator/Board of Trustees/Commissioner/ Coordinator / Committee, and
Other reports be accepted.

Motion carries

5. Question Period/Departmental Issues

Eric: Any issues before we talk about job action?

Queenie: We need to look over BEd students. A question for Mr. Abdullah: Are you helping to conduct orientation with these students?

Sean: There is a BBQ specifically for these students and we also have other events on West campus during this week.

Anne-Marie: We are also going to be issuing ISIC cards, talking about our campaigns, and are open to invitations.

Jillian: Over the last couple years the Executive have made a point of coming to orientation, BBQ etc. In terms of orientation itself, we are generally there for one

full day where the Executive address the student body, have handouts etc. You will see us there!

Abdullah: We are finalizing the BBQ details, but it should be September 1st. We also have another mixer at Grad Club that Thursday as well, likely trivia based.

Queenie: My concern is that we have to look after these students, so we need to know what's going on.

Mark: make me your point of contact for questions or concerns as the month of August progresses and I can help coordinate.

Eric: QUFA job actions. I will start a speaker list for this.

Anne-Marie: I think that you address a media release that the SGPS put forward regarding CUPE. Our show of solidarity was that in the event of a strike or lockout the Executive would not cross the picket line. Do we do the same for QUFA? There are other factors at stake here. Using the JDUC and doing our work would be different than if QUFA went on strike. The other issue is that we are supposed to be advocates for our members. We are charged with finding out what happens to the students who are worried about what happens to animals in the lab etc. We need to be specific about what we mean by solidarity. This is how we are maintaining neutrality – we are going to try to provide members with as much info as possible. In terms of a campaign about SGPS standing in solidarity, this would imply that every member who makes up our organization agrees. This is a broad statement and would require council approval. In terms of communications, we try to disseminate as much as possible to advertise faculty Q&A and to direct any questions about TA/TF contacts to the appropriate resources. We will continue to do this – this has been the plan from the get-go. If you feel that we are not responding to something, then we can address this in a motion.

Victoria: Regarding the use of office space in the event of a strike. The last thing we would intend in a strike is to jeopardize the students. We would like to be more proactive – the virtual spaces we have in place may not be adequate enough. We should have a physical space where we can come together and make sure we have the information that we actually need. This could be something that the SGPS could coordinate. If you create the spaces then students will occupy them. We propose that maybe we can tie this into discussion with Daniel's motion as we support the letter that he has drafted. Do we want to skip to this?

Mark: So its not that you're unhappy with virtual information we provide, but you feel there could be more done in terms of physical dissemination of info and a forum where students could go?

Victoria: We are not being critical, we just notice that the SGPS set a precedent, and are asking for an expression of an interest of solidarity be communicated to the membership at large as we feel that it is everyone's best interest to take note of this. Can we funnel this thru the SGPS website to reach as many students as possible? We can give more relevant and new information here.

Laurens: We should say something, just something to get the conversation going.

Mark: The content of the letter would be more geared towards why you should be interested in how this can affect you. Is this what you had in mind?

Victoria: Yes.

Mark: A student could read this letter and then email and ask a question and be given an answer. Depending on how this goes, on the 21st of September we will organize a rally to address issues such as this. We could also set up a space in the office downstairs to post physical notices about this. Would this be acceptable?

Victoria: Yes, anything that is better than what the Queen's Labour Relation is doing.

Anne-Marie: Please don't interpret this as defensiveness. We have been thinking a lot about this and agree that silence is problematic. Here are some problems we have encountered. Rallies are challenging because, like a panel, officials are not going to discuss anything when there is a media ban, so we can't do anything like this. We have been active in trying to get as many answers as we can. Andrea solicited some questions on part of our members. Jillian met with QUFA and spoke to them and we have some answers, but have not yet complied this. The problem is that we are not really getting many answers either, as many discussions are on hold until there is a strike or lockout. So we cannot really take a position on this. So what can we do? We are not the experts on TA/TFships. We are open to hearing feedback.

Daniel: It is hard to get concrete answers. If there is a job action then this is going to get even harder. This gives many of our members concern. It may be helpful to create a potential job action working group made of SGPS members whom could gather information and disseminate it over the course of any job action that may occur. Does this sound acceptable?

Lauren: Yes, that sounds good.

Mark: I appreciate Daniel's comments. What I see taking shape here is some input from various people – lets work toward a motion of what you think the response of the Executive should be in the event of a job action.

Victoria: OK

Matt: One of English departmental people were hoping for a point contact with SGPS for specific, not general, information.

Mark: [to Anne-Marie] You have done a good job of soliciting this information. Is this responsive to the needs that you see?

Eric: Anne-Marie is your point contact.

Mark: Is this fair?

Victoria: Yes.

As this is the end of the year and people are going to be undertaking defences, what happens to these people if this strike happens? My understanding is that it will not be resolved very soon. In that scenario, if faculty members do not come to the defence, what is the SGPS going to be doing? Someone should be asking about this.

Anne-Marie: It would be hard for QUFA to make promises at this point. They may or may not be able to say, in the event of a defence we will have some contingency plan. It is hard to have this laid out just yet as faculty are not going to know how this is going to play out at this point in time. The SGS said this morning, verbally, not in writing and not promised, but at this point the perspective is that:

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1. On thesis defences: SGS holds that in the events of a strike/lockout there will be complete work stoppage. Period. Faculty members will not accommodate students in their eyes. Although they say they cannot come up with contingency plans yet, they did say that for applications to other universities, the SGS can write some kind of letter stating that, barring said requirement of defence, this student has completed all of the requirements for our degree.
 2. Fees: We were not able to get far with them on this. We are told we will see. The SGPS will investigate should it come to this and lobby for reduced tuition, in particular for students who cannot take courses. We cannot guarantee that this will have any immediate effects. In answer to whether we will get charged for an extra semester in the event of a prolonged strike, the consensus is that we will not be charged further fees.
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3. E-contracts. If you sign TA or RA contract you will be paid regardless of what happens. Please check your e-contract/get it done ASAP as this is binding with the university. You should get paid no matter what happens.
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Eric: Suggestions for action relating this this? I gather you want some action taken. Daniel has tabled a motion to get some communication flowing. I foresee us dealing with Daniel's motion and if you have specific concerns you should talk to the Executive as they will be dealing with this regardless. Does anyone have concerns with this? Are there any other questions?

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

7. Main Motions

MOTION

08/09/11:5

Whereas the Council Deputy Speaker must be ratified by the SGPS Council

Moved _____ Jillian Burford-Grinnell _____ / _____ Mark Noble _____
BIRT SGPS Council ratify James MacLeod as the Council Deputy Speaker for the 2011 – 2012 year.

Motion carries

MOTION

08/09/11:6

Whereas the Council Meeting dates must be ratified by the SGPS Council

Moved _____ Mark Noble _____ / _____ Irene Karagiorgakis _____ BIRT
SGPS Council ratify the following as the Council Meeting dates for the 2011 – 2012 year:

August 9, 2011
September 13, 2011
October 11, 2011
November 8, 2011
December 13, 2011
January 10, 2012
February 14, 2012
March 13, 2012
March 27, 2012 – Annual General Meeting
April 10, 2012
May 8, 2012

Anne-Marie: Well, for those around at the last AGM, there was some contention about education students who were unable to attend. Has there been further discussion about this reflected in the new dates?

Jillian: Do we have BEd students in the room?

Queenie: I speak for them. They are away on March 27 and gone until April. They leave between February and March and are back in April, gone for about 6 weeks.

Eric: If there are suggestions on this then lets look at alternatives.

Anne Marie: How do we do this?

Sean: Policies are set on dates, but we can override.

Anne-Marie: Can we override at this meeting? Perhaps we set the dates at another meeting and come up with an agreement before the next council meeting with a date for the next AGM. Or we could table a motion to not table the AGM date.

08/09/11:6 M-1 Moved Anne-Marie Grondin / Mark Noble BIRT the date of the AGM be changed to TBD, and add the following clause: "BIFRT the date of the AGM is to be decided at the next Council meeting after consultation with the ESS."

Jillian: By discussing this at the September meeting, they may not be here, but we will have had an opportunity to discuss and to find a date by then.

Eric: Any further discussion on the amendment?

Motion carries

MOTION

08/09/11:6-AS AMENDED

Motion carries

MOTION

08/09/11:7

Whereas the SGPS Bylaws state that Appointees of Council must be ratified by the SGPS Council

Moved _____ Jillian Burford-Grinnell _____ / _____ Irene Karagiorgakis _____ BIRT SGPS Council ratify the following Appointees of Council in their positions for the 2011 – 2012 year:

Communications Commissioner – Sean Richards
Social Commissioner – Abdullah Abunafeesa
Equity Commissioner – Elizabeth Amirault
International Students Affairs Commissioner – Becky Pero
Equity Coordinator – Aliya Kassam
International Students Affairs Coordinator – Holly McIndoe
Logistics Coordinator – Chris Groten
Planning Coordinator – Cassandra Kuyvenhoven
Athletics Coordinator – Meaghan Frauts
Sustainability Coordinator – Ivana Zelenika

Motion carries

MOTION

08/09/11:8

Whereas the SGPS Bylaws state that the SGPS Budget must be approved by Council

Moved Andrea Phillipson / Jillian Burford-Grinnell
BIRT SGPS Council approve the 2011-2012 budget (first reading; see Appendices for details).

Andrea: I don't know how much in depth to go. I hope you've had a chance to review the proposed budget and to look at the guide to see what each of these lines mean. We are always about a month behind on reconciling the account as this takes time. This budget gives you some idea as to where we are on track with spending. As this is a couple of months behind this is no longer an accurate reflection of where we stand, however this is just to be a reference point – comparing to last term. We have an audit coming up and at that point I will be able to report what the year 10-11 looked like. I also intend to do a revised budget in February with any revisions that we find are necessary based on actual income from registration numbers, and on any contingencies that have come up. I'm surprised that there is nothing in the policies stating that these are my duties. I suggest that we do make this policy.

Jillian: I would like to make a motion to carry forward from \$3000 from 2010-2011

Motion 08/09/11:8 M-1 Moved Jillian Burford-Grinnell / Andrea Phillipson
BIRT that the amount of \$3000 from the transition and planning line of the 2010-2011 budget be carried forward to the same line of the 2011-2012 budget.

Eric: Discussion on this amendment?

Andrea: I think that this would be a welcome addition to this budget – this carry forward would otherwise have been rolled over into reserves. It makes sense to use it.

Nathalie: Why was no money spent on this last year? Why are we doubling the budget this year?

Jillian: We made tentative plans, but due to courses and schedules, we were unable to follow thru on some of these plans. I had a car accident, for example. The year before we were unable as well due to scheduling conflicts.

Andrea: I intend to correct this. In the past the transition has been planned for after the time the new Executive are in the office. It is hard to get the old Executive to become available as they have moved on. We hope to plan a transition just after election but before outgoing Executive have finished their terms. This allows us to have a true transition. We are aiming for mid-March with this now.

Julian: If we are rolling forward another \$3000 we now have \$6000. What is this for?

Jillian: Meals, accommodation, supplies for 5 exec, 2 support staff, commissioners and coordinators. Doubling this you have 10 exec, 2 paid employees, and commissioners and coordinators. It is a carry forward instead of going to reserves. We may not spend this \$6000 so if this happens it goes into reserves.

Andrea: This is also used for activities such as paying contractors to prepare transition documents for particular projects.

Eric: I ask you to change wording to increase the line to \$6000. By changing this line we can accomplish the same goal.

Jillian: Legally it must be worded as a carry forward.

Eric: OK

Andrea: Is it better as a separate motion rather than an amendment?

Eric: We should vote down amendment.

Motion not carried

Motion 08/09/11:8-TABLING Moved Jillian Burford-Grinnell / Daniel Moore BIRT that the SGPS Council table MOTION 08/09/11:9 until Council addresses the issue of budget adjustment.

Motion carries

Motion 08/09/11:9 Moved Jillian Burford-Grinnell / Andrea Phillipson BIRT that the amount of \$3000 from the transition and planning line of the 2010-2011 budget be carried forward to the same line of the 2011-2012 budget.

Motion carries

Motion 08/09/11:8-REMOVE FROM TABLE Moved by Jillian Burford-Grinnell/Irene Karagiorgakis BIRT Council remove from the table motion 08/09 11:8

Motion carries

Motion 08/09/11:8 Moved Andrea Phillipson / Jillian Burford-Grinnell BIRT SGPS Council approve the 2011-2012 budget (first reading; see Appendices for details).

Jillian: Question – should this motion read SGPS council approves the 2011-2012 as amended?

Eric: It hasn't been amended. We carried forward. Any other discussion on the budget?

Sean: I'm hoping Andrea can tell us what the unallocated item is in this budget?

Andrea: A few reasons outlined in the budget guide. It allows us to keep some flexibility in the budget until we are able to do a revision in the winter term as the enrolment numbers are not finalized and the funds have not come in from the university. We can allocate these funds in the winter term when we are certain. We have also have discussions about the health and dental plans and possibility of establishing bursaries to offset perhaps paying some premiums or to bump up the dental bursary that is already in place. We have not finalized these discussions yet, so we want to keep some wiggle room by not allocating everything.

Eric: Any other questions?

Motion carries

MOTION 08/09/11:10

Whereas the University's and QUFA's negotiating teams will meet next with the appointed mediator on Thursday, 11 August, 2011, and will enter legal lockout and strike positions on 15 August, 2011,

Whereas Council hopes that a mutually agreeable resolution can be reached before this time, in the interests of our members and the Queen's community at large,

Whereas the letter below accurately reflects Council's opinion on this issue,

Moved ___Daniel Moore___ / _____Jillian Burford-Grinnell___ BIRT Council endorses this letter and charges the Executive to send copies to the indicated recipients.

To: Principal Woolf

cc: Allan Manson, Paul Young, Dan Bradshaw, William Young

We write to express disappointment with the approach that the University seems to have taken at the bargaining table with QUFA. Since these conversations take place behind closed doors, we strive to listen to both sides critically and with open-mindedness; however, your recently publicized letter to Mr. William Young has shaken our confidence in the goals of your administration regarding these negotiations. Further, we understand that QUFA and the University will arrive at a legal lockout or strike position by 15 August 2011, and so we write you in some urgency.

Very simply, we ask that you revise your stance, as well as the priorities of the University negotiating team, on the following points:

- Labour disruption is "a necessary step" to the University's success at the bargaining table

In your letter dated 25 June 2011, you request that members of the Board of Trustees view any labour disruptions on campus in the coming months as "a necessary step in order to achieve success in salary restraint and pension reform" (8). The notion that the University would entertain compelling job action on the part of QUFA or push towards a legal lockout situation while negotiations were still underway is disheartening, to say the least. Our members rely on both parties to negotiate keenly and sincerely so that their time at Queen's is productive. Yet these concerns do not appear to play a part in the perspective on the negotiations that

you articulate. Instead of drawing attention to the profound impact that interruption to faculty labour will have on students—and on graduate-student research during the summer, especially—you only warn that such interruptions will be “potentially reputational-damaging” (8). We certainly agree, but we also expect that you will represent the true scope of the issue to the Board, and show as much concern for current students as you appear to show future ones.

- Negotiating faculty salaries and pensions is an opportunity to “reduce the deficit at all costs within a short time frame”

The purely cost-efficient lens through which your administration seems to approach QUFA negotiations strikes our Council as inconsistent with the principles of quality education—and supervision—that we expect at Queen’s. Your letter to Mr. Young states:

“Having established a professional labour relations team that has been assiduously strategizing and negotiating with the unions gives us our best chance of reaching agreements that will help to reduce our financial difficulties. I should note one warning here. The imperative to reduce the deficit at all costs within a short time frame is a major obstacle to completion of the HR rebuild, just as it is inhibiting the completion of QUASR.” (3)

The financial priorities disclosed here suggest the opposite of what students, and the Board, should expect. While recommending that the University try to recover its losses over the last few years by focusing on faculty salaries and pensions, your letter defends costly expenses for administrative services—possibly some of the very services that contributed to the current deficit. Such a response to the school’s financial difficulties suggests that faculty compensation is not the primary issue; it seems to involve matters about allocation, about which university services are needed and which are comparatively dispensable. But we maintain, and hope you agree, that faculty are the least dispensable resources on campus. The success of SGPS members at the University is intimately tied to the quantity and the availability of QUFA members—to the labour that you compensate them for—and so we sincerely ask that you reevaluate your administration’s priorities.

It is our understanding that the next meeting between the University and the QUFA negotiating teams with the appointed mediator will take place on Thursday, 11 August 2011. Certainly this leaves you little time to revise your stance on the points above, but we prevail upon you to do so to your—and your negotiating team’s—best efforts.

We look forward to hearing about a mutually successful resolution to these talks soon.

Sincerely,
SGPS Council

Daniel: I'm happy to go thru key points and hear your thoughts. The principal wrote his annual letter directly to Board of Trustees. This is supposed to be a candid report, but this year his letter somehow came into the public domain. It could have been an accident, or passed on by someone else, but in any case it was made public. There were a number of things said that drew some attention. This letter is an attempt to pick up on two things he said in that letter regarding union negotiations:

The letter basically comes close to saying outright that the university has never been negotiating over the last 5 months in good faith – essentially planning a breakdown of negotiations all along to pressure QUFA to give into their demands. It also admits reasonably openly that the question is not can Queen's afford faculty salaries, but do we want to? It is presented to the unions that Queen's cannot afford it, but may merely be that they do not want to allocate the funds. I am just drawing on the Principal's words here, not here say. William Young, on board of Trustees, should be made aware that students don't think that the Principal's vision is that of the student body.

Eric: [Reads letter]

Motion 08/09/11: +30 Minutes

Moved Nathalie Ouellette/Jillian Burford-Grinnell BIRT that the SGPS Council meeting be extended for thirty minutes.

Motion carries

Mark: I support this – this is national news we need to seize this opportunity to respond as a student body, as what the Principal has said is quite offensive. Then content of the letter is timely and necessary. It would be great if as a student body we could come together and demonstrate some political autonomy and are taken seriously.

Eric: Thank you Daniel for coming to us with this.

MOTION 08/09/11:10

Motion carries

8. Other Business

MOTION

08/09/11:11

Whereas the SGPS requires a Chief Returning Officer to oversee Elections and Referenda

Moved Anne-Marie Grondin / Jillian Burford-Grinnell BIRT SGPS Council elect as the Chief Returning Officer for the 2011 – 2012 year:

Eric: Are there any other nominations? CRO oversees the referenda for the SGPS and makes sure that the elections run smoothly, and that all questions follow bylaws and policies.

Motion 08:09 11:11 M-1 Moved Andrea / Jillian Burford-Grinnell BIRT we insert Mikhail Kellawan to Motion 08/09 11:11 where there is a blank.

Motion carries

MOTION

08/09/11:11-AS AMENDED

Motion carries

9. Notice of Motions/Announcements

Reports and Motions for the next regular Council meeting are due Tuesday, September 6th, 2011.

The next regular SGPS Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13th, 2011.

Jillian: The Speaker and Executive would like to invite all to the Grad Club after the meeting.

Eric: Please finish the coffee, we have a lot left!

Anne-Marie: To thank you for your participation we have agreed to institute coffee and food. Please remember to bring your sustainable mugs to the meeting!

Andrea: For those who may not like coffee, we can take requests.

Eric: I will be handing this, send requests my way!

10. Adjournment

MOTION

08/09/11:12

Moved ___Jillian Burford-Grinnell___ / ___Nathalie Ouellette___ BIRT
the SGPS Council meeting be adjourned.

Motion carries

08/09/11

EJR

CFS-27

Attached:

May Council Meeting Minutes

Attendance May Council Meeting

August Reports

Appendices to Motions

SGPS Council Attendance – August			
Name		Represents	Present
Vacant	Vacant	Aboriginal Rep	
Marvin	Ferrer	Anatomy & Cell Biology	
Christina	Prokopchuk	Art Conservation	
Chantal	Valkenborg	Art History	
Namit	Sharma	Biochemistry	
Derek	Gray	Biology	
Celia	Symons	Biology	
Julian	Chesterman	Biomedical Engineering	X
Vacant	Vacant	Biostatistics	
Ben	Grant	Board of Trustees Rep	
Jonas	Gerson	Chem Eng (CEGSA) President	
Eric	Peterson	Chemical Engineering	X
Nicole	Day	Chemistry	
Jonathan	Foster	Civil Engineering	
Vacant	Vacant	Classics	
Nora	Zwingerman	Community Health and Epidemiology	
Layan	Nahlawi	Computing Science	
Vacant	Vacant	Computing Science	
Jaspreet	Bal	Cultural Studies	
Matt	Webb	Economics	
Julia	Brook	Education - Graduate - President	
Queenie	Wong	Education - Graduate M.Ed	X
Miao	Li	Education - Graduate PhD	
Tejinder	Dhaliwal	Electrical and Computer	

		Engineering	
Matthew	Scribner	English	X
Gina Beth	Roberts	English	
Mike	McHugh	Environmental Studies	
Sunny	Moondi	ESS	
Vacant	Vacant	ESS	
Rebecca	ReginorId	ESS	
Derek	Smalls	ESS Liason to SGPS	
Hayley	Backewich	ESS President	
Francesca	Fiore	French	
Judicael	Zounmevo	GECE President	
Kaleigh	Alkenbrack	Gender Studies	
Kirby	Calvert	Geography	
Dani	Delaloye	Geology	
Corina	Fonyodi-Szarka	German	
Maralyne	Narayan	Global Development	
Doug	Nesbitt	History	
Minoo	Kianizad	Industrial Relations	
Sima	Zakani	International Rep	
Holly	McIndoe	International Rep	
Hannah Legh	Jones	Kinesiology and Health Studies	
Stephanie	Timerman	Law	
Jeremy	D'Souza	Law	
Brittany	Sargent	Law	
Alejandra	Encinales	Law - Graduate	
Brianna	Butchart	Law - LSS President	
Logan	Crowell	Law Senator	
Vacant	Vacant	Management	
Saeed	Akhavan Astaneh	Math and Stats	
Vacant	Vacant	Mature Student Rep	
Jerome	James	Mechanical and Material Engineering	
Andrew	Pursell	Microbiology	
Brett	Owens	Mining Engineering	
Brandon	Chambers	Mining Engineering	
Vacant	Vacant	MPA	
Ethan	Zhao	Neuroscience	
Stacey	Karp	Nursing	
Charlene	Brown	Occupational Therapy	
Lisa	Hughes	Part Time Rep	

Dulcie	Lai	Pathology	
Victoria	Hoskin	Pathology	X
Yohan	D'Souza	Pharmacology	
Ryan	McInerney	Philosophy	
Nathalie	Ouellette	Physics	X
Andrea	Mimee	Physiology	
Charan	Rainford	Political Studies	
Vacant	Vacant	Psychology	
Brent	Shaw	Public Administration	
Megan	Jaquith	Public Health	
Nick	Day	Rector	
Janice	Phe	Rehab Sciences (Professional)	
Ian	Gilchrist	Rehab Sciences (Research)	
Vacant	Vacant	Rehabilitation Therapy	
Caleigh	Lyn-Piluso	Religious Studies	
Stephanie	Cork	Sociology	
Ryan	Robinson	Theology	X
Erin	Burns	Theology Senator	
Andrea	Renney	Urban and Regional Planning	
Sean	Richards	Executive Director	X
Jillian	Burford-Grinnell	President	X
Andrea	Phillipson	VP Finance	X
Anne-Marie	Grondin	VP Campaigns & Community Affairs	X
Irene	Karagiorgakis	VP Graduate	X
Mark	Noble	VP Professional	X
Abdullah	Abunafeesa	Social Commissioner	X
Meaghan	Frauts	Athletics Coordinator	X
Chris	Groten	Logistics Coordinator	X
Cassandra	Kuyvenhoven	Planning Coordinator	X
Elizabeth	Amirault	Equity Commissioner	X
Aliya	Kassam	Equity Coordinator	
Becky	Pero	International Students' Affairs Commissioner	X
Holly	McIndoe	International Students' Affairs Coordinator	
Ivana	Zelinka	Sustainability Coordinator	
Daniel	Moore	Graduate Student Senator	X
Eric	Rapos	Speaker	X
James	MacLean	Deputy Speaker	X

Mikhail	Kellawan	Chief Returning Officer	X
Other Attendees			
Lauren	McNocol	Student Advisor	X
Victoria	Millious	Student Advisor	X
MaryAnne	Laurico	PSAC 901 President	X