



ISSUE 1 – OCTOBER 2007

A NEW WAY TO KEEP YOU INFORMED

SGPS E-NEWSLETTERS

A little while ago we asked you to fill out an online survey to help us better understand how to fill your needs. Most of you wanted us to communicate with you in a better way. The launch of the SGPS E-Newsletter is meant as a step towards better communication between the SGPS and all of our members. We will keep all of our newsletters on our website. Check the site often, as we will be releasing a new E-Newsletter once every two weeks.

<http://www.sgps.ca/events/newsletter.html>

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Welcome to the new SGPS E-Newsletter! This is one of the many new initiatives we have undertaken to increase communication with our members.

The SGPS Executive and staff have been hard at work representing your interests with the University administration, planning fantastic social events, and increasing our visibility through things like our improved website, renewed focus of the antiThesis (special edition soon to be released!), among many other things. We regret to inform you that two of the members of our executive team have resigned this month. Our President, James Studer, has resigned due to personal reasons and our VP Operations, Peter Gagolewicz has resigned due to increased academic demands. We would like to thank both James and Peter for their service to the organization and are sad to see them leave. We wish them both the best in their future endeavors. In order to preserve the 2007-2008 SGPS goals the SGPS Council has decided, pursuant to ByLaw 10, to appoint our VP Internal Graduate, Arash Farzam-Kia, to the position of President. The SGPS Council has further decided to strike a search committee to recommend individuals to the open positions of VP Internal Graduate and VP Operations.

Until these two positions are filled their responsibilities have been redistributed among the remaining executive. We expect this to be a smooth transition. Jovan, Arash, and Brendan welcome any questions you might have. We look forward to communicating with you more in our regular editions of the E-Newsletter, antiThesis and on our swanky redesigned website www.sgps.ca.

LOOKING TO FILL 3 PAID POSITIONS AT THE SGPS

THE VOICE OF THE SGPS

We are looking to find someone who can produce SGPS podcasts. This person should be comfortable recording their voice and generating high quality podcasts. This successful applicant will create a podcast once every 2 weeks. Pay will be \$25 per podcast produced. For more information on the application process, please contact the Communications Commissioner (communications@sgps.ca).

Application deadline is Friday October 26th, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.

SGPS EXECUTIVE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Vice President Operations (VP Ops)

The VP Operations is responsible for administering the SGPS finances and accounts, supervising all financial transactions, coordinating and planning the services of the SGPS, and administering the SGPS health and dental plan. The VP Operations is Chair of the Operations and Finance Standing Committee. Additionally, the VP Ops is responsible for assisting and maintaining the SGPS Clubs. The VP Operations sits on a variety of committees throughout the University including the SGSR Council and the JDUC Executive Committee.

Vice President Internal Graduate (VPIG)

The VPIG represents the specific interests of our graduate student members both on the SGPS executive and on various committees throughout the University including SGSR council. The VPIG is also responsible for the administration of the SGPS Student Advisor program. The VPIG chairs the Graduate Student Standing Committee and the Education Standing Committee.

More information about both positions can be found in the SGPS dayplanner, on the SGPS website – www.sgps.ca – in the bylaws and policies section or by inquiring to one of the current SGPS Executive.

The application deadline is Friday October 26, 2007 at 4:30 p.m.

Please forward your cover letters and resumes to the Executive Search Committee via email to – info@sgps.ca – or by delivering them in person to Room 021 JDUC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR ALL THE DETAILS VISIT: [HTTP://WWW.SGPS.CA/EVENTS/](http://www.sgps.ca/events/)

October 18th - International Student Potluck – QUIC Lounge (JDUC)

October 21st – The Rita Friendly Kaufman Lecture – Ellis Hall Auditorium

October 24th – QUAQE Potluck “Lesbian Nuns: Good Heavens” – QWA 144 Albert

October 29th – Wolfe Island Corn Maze – **SGPS Social Event**

October 31st – Hallowe’en at the Grad Club – **SGPS Social Event**

November 3rd – Room to Read Charity Gala – The Harbour Restaurant – Proceeds help further education in developing areas. Please consider attending this event!

COMMITTEES LOOKING FOR YOU

ANTI-THESIS PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

The antiThesis is back and needs you! We have 3 eager editors who are ready to start putting the antiThesis back into circulation. We have a lot of exciting things that we need help to accomplish. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Communications Commissioner (communications@sgps.ca).

BYLAW AND POLICY REVISIONS STANDING COMMITTEE

The Bylaw and Policy Revisions Standing Committee is responsible for overseeing the annual revision of the SGPS' Bylaws and Policies. This year, the SGPS has launched into new and exciting endeavours to meet the needs of Graduate and Professional students at Queen's, and the Bylaws and Policies need some work to help empower these positive changes. Meetings of this committee are engaging and thought-provoking, as issues of policy are carefully considered. This committee will start meeting in November, and still needs more members. Please contact the Speaker, Michele Richards (speaker@sgps.ca) to join. We look forward to working with you!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT STANDING COMMITTEE

This committee is in desperate need of members, and soon will need a new chair. In the last year we have been active addressing the rising cost of UHIP, we've organized social activities, and we're developing a peer mentor programme. If you're interested in these issues or have new ideas you would like the committee to pursue we encourage you to join us. Please contact the Committee Coordinator (committee@sgps.ca) for more information.

UHIP UPDATE

As a result of multiple meetings with the Administration, the SGPS recently received a copy of a memo from the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research to the Vice Principal Academic that outlined the problem of escalating UHIP costs faced by international students here at Queen's. In response to this, the Student Awards office conducted a detailed analysis of financial support for international students in 2006-2007. They looked at how many students applied for bursary assistance, of these how many were international students, how many were granted funding and how many of these students had children. Based on the analysis and the concerns expressed by the SGPS, the bursary assistance granted to international students has been remodeled. Quoting from the memo. "Average bursary awards for the 2007-2008 cycle are estimated to increase by an average of \$1,800 for married students with children and sole support parents and by an average of \$1,200 for students with partners and no children. There is no anticipated change to the single category. Based on the 2006/2007 application numbers and categories of students, the increase in need-based bursary expenditure for graduate international students is anticipated to be approximately \$95,000 - \$ 100,000." This is a great step forward, but still an item the SGPS executive will pursue. If you would like to learn more about UHIP and its rising

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fees, check out the UHIP report drafted by the International Student Standing Committee on our website.

DRAFT STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

The New deadline for the submission of feedback about the draft code of conduct is Oct 19th, 2007. The draft code of conduct may be found at

<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/DraftCode/index.html>

Comments may be submitted directly to the University Secretariat at

<http://www.queensu.ca/secretariat/senate/DraftCode/feedback.html>