



E-NEWSLETTER

Issue Number 5

December 20th, 2007

Statement by the SGPS: Report of Racist Incident

In light of the most recent and disturbing incident of racial harassment of Wednesday, November 14, 2007, the Society of Graduate and Professional Students would like to reiterate its support for the recommendations by the Senate Educational Equity Committee (SEEC) regarding Dr. Frances Henry's 2003 report on the experiences of racialized faculty at Queen's University. Furthermore, the SGPS condemns the behaviour of the students involved in the incident mentioned above, and hopes that its membership will take up the Principal's recommendations regarding discussing the matter – and the state of equity and respect at Queen's – with students and colleagues at every opportunity, with a focus on the role of bystander intervention in preventing harassment and systemic racism on- and off- campus.

This message has been approved by SGPS Council, and will be included in a letter from the SGPS to Queen's administration regarding the incident and our approved motion to pressure them to implement SEEC's response to and recommendations regarding the Henry Report.

SGPS Office Closed For The Holidays

The SGPS Office will be closed from Monday December 24th 2007 until Friday January 4th 2008. The SGPS Office will re-open Monday January 7th 2008. Everyone at the SGPS would like to wish you, your family and your friends a safe and happy holiday season.

SGPS E-Newsletter

The next issue of the SGPS E-Newsletter will be released January 21st 2008. We look forward to updating you on everything that happened over the holidays (including the photo contest winners). See you all next year! :)

SGPS Council Highlights

Here is a summary of what happened at the December 11th SGPS Council meeting.

This meeting was well attended by most academic areas represented on Council, and ended the 2007 Council sessions with some exciting debate. All of the documents pertaining to this Council meeting can be downloaded at <http://www.sgps.ca/council/documents.html>.

A motion was passed to ratify a donation (from the SGPS charity budget line) to the John Howard Society of Kingston for the purposes of funding contests at the Joyceville and Frontenac Institutions.

A motion was also passed to approve the instatement of the SGPS Dental Bursary Policy. This policy sets out the guidelines for the dispersal of funds to SGPS members for dental procedures not covered by the SGPS Health and Dental plan.

A motion was passed to urge Queen's to implement the Senate Education Equity Committee's response to the Henry

Report. The SGPS will be engaging the university through letters and other correspondence to further the implications of this motion. For more information about this issue, please read the documents on the SGPS website.

Last but not least, Council also approved a statement regarding the recent incident of racial harassment on campus. This statement is being released, among other modes, on the SGPS website and in this newsletter.

The next SGPS Council meeting is being held on January 15th, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the McLaughlin Room of the JDUC. All SGPS members are welcome to attend. If you have any questions or comments regarding Council meetings, or would like to present at motion to Council, please contact the Speaker at speaker@sgps.ca. We look forward to hearing from you!

SGPS Council meets on the second Tuesday of every month. All SGPS members are welcome to come.

SGPS Council

Second tuesday of the month
5:30 p.m.
McLaughlin Rm - 2nd Floor
JDUC

For More Info

If you would like to learn more about SGPS Council, please contact the Speaker (speaker@sgps.ca).