

Society of Graduate Students January 27, 2005 Council Meeting

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SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

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 - c. VP External / Graduate Student Issues Committee, Equity Issues and Social Justice
 - d. VP Finance / Finance, Grad Club Committees
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 - f. Councillor Reports
 - g. Speaker's Notes
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Orders of the Day

- a) **Motions Arising from the President**

- b) **Motions Arising from Other Committees**

- c) **Other Motions**

SOGS Council Attendance Report November 25, 2004

Represents (Dept)	Name	Time In	Time Out	Notes
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Rucchi Bhalla	6:00	7:10	
Anthropology	Alicia Grimes			
Anthropology	Laura Marciano	6:00		
Applied Mathematics	Jane Heffernan			
Applied Mathematics	Azar Shakoori			
Biochemistry	Angela Coveny	6:00	7:05	Alt. K. Weedmark
Biochemistry	Aaron Booy			
Biochemistry	Pat Telmer			
Biochemistry	Steven Beasley	6:00		
Biology	Jay Anthonypillai			
Biology	Jeremy Pfaff			
Biology	Michelle Marcus	6:00		
Biology	Julia Michitsch			
Biology	Sateesh Kagale			
Biomedical Engineering	Hanna Phan			
Biomedical Engineering	Vacant			
Board of Governors	Errol Stewart			
Chemistry	Jay Cheong	6:00	7:30	
Chemistry	Dylan England			
Chemistry	Maureen Merrifield			
Chemistry	Elizabeth Turner			
Classical Studies	Suzanne Schaller			
CSD	Andria Bulfon	6:00		
CSD	Melanie Beaudin	6:00		
CSD	B.J. Collins	6:00		
CSD	Nancy Galvan			
Computer Science	Filatei Akpodigha			
Computer Science	Jingping Liu			
Computer Science	Kehinde Oladosu			
Computer Science	Lieyu Wu			
Computer Science	Vacant			
Computer Science	Vacant			
Earth Sciences	Reba Macdonald	6:00		
Earth Sciences	Rebecca Vanderspiegel	6:00		
Earth Sciences	Sam Russell	6:00		
Economics	Josh Svatek			
Economics	Chris Bennett			
Economics	Dinghai Xu			
Education	Amani Alghamdi			
Education	Anne Escrader	6:00		

Represents (Dept)	Name	Time In	Time Out	Notes
Education	David Woods			
Engineering Science	Vineet Bhakhri			
Engineering Science	Jihyun Cho			
Engineering Science	Mohamed El-Gammal			
Engineering Science	Pradeep Kuman Gangadharan			
Engineering Science	Soheil Gholamreza-Kashi	6:00	6:45	
Engineering Science	Ladan Holakoo			
Engineering Science	Babak Jajuee			
Engineering Science	Selvakumar Kamdasamy			
Engineering Science	Rina Kurian	6:10	7:30	
Engineering Science	Jennifer McMillan			
Engineering Science	Prasanna Mohan	6:10	7:30	
Engineering Science	Tanveer Muhammed			
Engineering Science	Tamije Selvy Munian			
Engineering Science	Ye Tian			
Engineering Science	Umang Trivedi			
Engineering Science	Balamourougan Vinayagam			
English	Aaron Keeler			
English	Elan Paulson			
English	Shaun N. Ramdin	6:05	7:30	
English	Vacant			
Epidemiology & Biostats	Laura Anderson	6:00		
Epidemiology & Biostats	Micha Tsarfati	6:00		
Executive - Grad Club	Bruce Fyfe			
Executive - President	M. Kamran Khan	6:00		
Executive - Speaker	Chris Tait	6:00		
Executive - VP Academic	Graydon Raymer	6:00		
Executive - VP External	Nicholas Cothros			
Executive - VP Finance	Jennie Thompson	6:00		
Executive - VP Student Services	Ben Hedley	6:00		
Family Medicine	Vacant			
French	Christine Knapp	6:00		
French	Emma Laval			
Geography	Erika Hill	6:00	7:10	
Geography	Mathew Novak	6:00	7:05	Alt. M. Sdao
GTA Union	Shell Sweeney			
History	Mark Eaton	6:00		
History	Dean Ruffilli	6:00		
History	Wes Gustavson	6:00		
Journalism	Dewlyn D'Mellow			
Journalism	Deborah Creatura			
Kinesiology	Derek Kimmerly			
Kinesiology	Megan Popovic			

Represents (Dept)	Name	Time In	Time Out	Notes
Kinesiology	Marissa Mendelsohn	6:00		
Kinesiology	Marcia Milne	6:00		
Law	P.M. Vasudev	6:00		
Library & Information Science	Kam Teo	6:00		
Library & Information Science	Adele Lamphier	6:00	7:00	Alt. E. Westhaver
Library & Information Science	Nadine Robinson	6:00	7:00	
Library & Information Science	Melanie Anderson	6:00	7:00	
Library & Information Science	Patricia Meddins	6:00	7:00	
Library & Information Science	Ruth Hamlin-Douglas	6:00	7:00	
Library & Information Science	Natasha Gerolami	6:00		
Mathematics	Ortho Smith			
Media Studies	Becca Elias	6:00		
Medical Biophysics	Andrew Coristine	6:00		
Medical Biophysics	Andrea McNiven	6:00		
Medical Biophysics	Janet Hendry	6:10		
Medical Biophysics	Jodi Miller	6:00		
Microbiology & Immunology	Rob Flannagan	6:00		
Microbiology & Immunology	Jason Lehrer	6:00		
Microbiology & Immunology	Vijay Somalinga	6:00		
Modern Languages & Literature	Jessica Natiuk			
Modern Languages & Literature	Lauren Beck			
Modern Languages & Literature	Vacant			
Music	Anna Boyden	5:55		Alt. S. Horsley
Music	Anita Hardeman	6:50		
Music	Brian Arens			
Neuroscience	Samantha Doralp			
Neuroscience	Adrian Snihur			
Nursing	Yolanda Babenko-Mould			
Nursing	Abe Oudshoorn			
Occupational Therapy	Neelam Gautam	6:00		
Occupational Therapy	Raphael Lencucha	5:55		
Occupational Therapy	Jennifer Methot	6:00		
Occupational Therapy	Meghan Sears	6:15		
Occupational Therapy	Marcy Wood	6:00		
Orthodontics	Vacant			
Part-Time Students	Mohammad R.Deighani-Najvani			
Part-Time Students	Yanyan Sun			
Part-Time Students	Vacant			
Part-Time Students	Vacant			
Part-Time Students	Vacant			
Part-Time Students	Vacant			
Pathology	Matthew Fong	6:00		
Philosophy	Jenny Noland	6:00		

Represents (Dept)	Name	Time In	Time Out	Notes
Philosophy	Shannon Dea	6:00		
Philosophy	Jeremy MacBean	6:00	7:10	
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physics & Astronomy	Iftekharul Haque			
Physics & Astronomy	Chris Hunter	6:00		
Physics & Astronomy	Vacant			
Physiology and Pharmacology	Ryan Gillespie	0:00		
Physiology and Pharmacology	Garth Oakes	0:00		
Physiology and Pharmacology	Brad Urquhart	0:00		
Physiology and Pharmacology	Kirk Young	0:00		
Physiology and Pharmacology	Saira Saleem	6:00	7:30	
Political Science	Alexandra Taylor	6:00		
Political Science	Chris Cheung			
Political Science	Stuart Talos			
Psychology	Alexandra Peterson	6:00	7:30	
Psychology	Alexandra Hernandez-Smith	6:00		
Psychology	Caroline Abu-Ayyash	6:00		Alt. M. Grigg
Psychology	Vacant	0:00		
Psychology	Natasha Parfyonova	6:00		
Public Administration	Tom North			
Rehabilitation Sciences	Karla Washington	6:00		
Senate	Michelle Witen			
Senate	Cheryl Dudgeon			
Sociology	Nick Spence	6:00	7:25	
Sociology	Ayesha Williams			
Statistical & Actuarial Sciences	Deepak Sanjel			
Statistical & Actuarial Sciences	Vacant			
Theory & Criticism	Tara Kachroo	6:00	7:10	
Theory & Criticism	Vacant			
Visual Arts	Carol-Ann Ryan	6:00		
Visual Arts	Michael Windover	6:00		

SOGS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 25, 2004

6:15 – 7:20 p.m.

Social Science Centre Room 3024

Chair: Chris Tait

Recording Secretary: Olga Sauer

1. Ratification of Agenda

- Ratified

2. Announcements

- Tait welcomed Councillors to the November SOGS Council Meeting and extended a special welcome to new Councillors. New Councillors were reminded to pick up an Orientation binder from Olga.
- Quorum for this year is set at 30.
- We will be providing different refreshments at tonight's Council meeting. If anyone has any comments, please let us know.
- The next Council meeting will be January 27th in SSC room 3022.
- Any one wanting to serve as a representative to the Allyn and Betty Taylor Library Committee should contact Olga. The rep should be a current student attending any of the graduate programs offered in the faculties of Engineering, Health Sciences, Medicine and Dentistry and Science. The Committee normally meets twice a year and the next Committee meeting will be Wednesday December 1 at 4 pm.
- The Women in Engineering would like to invite graduate students to attend the Montreal Massacre Ceremony on Monday, December 6 at 3:30 pm in the Engineering Building, room 1200.
- Winter bus passes will be available around the middle of December.
- Rae Review materials and buttons are available at the front.
- The SOGS office will be closed from December 22 – January 2 inclusive.
- The SOGS Staff and Executive wish all Councillors a safe and restful holiday season.
- Just a reminder, that if you leave the Council meeting prior to the meeting being adjourned, you must indicate this on the sign in/out Council Attendance Sheet. If you leave once the meeting has been adjourned there is no need to sign out.
- The meeting was taped. Anyone wanting to speak was asked to stand, say their name and department clearly, and speak loudly.

3. Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative

- There was no representative.

4. Western Foot Patrol Presentation

- There was no presentation.

5. Reception and Ratification of SOGS Council Meeting of October 28, 2004

Moved: Steven Beasley (Biochemistry)

Seconded: Alexandra Taylor (Political Science)

Ratified

6. Orders of the Day

- **Motions arising from the President:** - none
- **Motions arising from other Committees:** -

Grad Club Committee Motion:

MOTION (Coristine): **BIRT support in principle be given for the sale of the Grad Club Pool table.**

Seconded: Escrader (Education)

Discussion: The pool table is large and does not fit very well with the new room. Although it does bring in about \$140 per week, it is felt that a foosball table (to be donated by Molsons), which is smaller, will be sufficient.

Taylor (Political Science): Will the foosball table bring in money? – (A) It is hoped that it will.

Raymer (VP Academic): Who will sell the table? – (A) It will be sold either privately or by silent auction.

Beasley (Biochemistry): This would allow for more tables, which would in turn bring in more money, especially on Fridays.

Tait: A 2/3 majority vote is needed to pass the motion.

For: 74
Against: 1
Abstained: 1

- **Other Motions: -**

VP Finance:

MOTION (Thompson): BIRT SOGS Council approve a non-budget capital expense, not exceeding \$10,000, for the purchase of a conference table and chairs for the new Grad Club Conference Room.

Seconded: Robinson (MLIS)

Discussion: Furniture is needed in the new Conference room in order to start booking functions in it. This was not budgeted for in the renovations budget. As seen in the schematic, the sectional table is very functional. It will serve as one long board room table, or it can be split in to several smaller seating arrangements. The recommended option will cost \$6945+tax [table - \$3645 and 20 chairs (\$3300)].

Dea (Philosophy): Will it help to upgrade the chairs, so that they will not have to be reupholstered soon? – (A) This will be taken into consideration.

Marciano (Anthropology): Are the prices a little steep? – (A) The university works with this supplier, and it is felt that this would be the most expedient way to proceed.

Mohan (Engineering): How will the costs be recovered? – (A) The current loss is due to renovations, if we do not have furniture, the room cannot be used.

Hardeman (Music): What will it cost to book the room? – (A) If food is ordered, then there will be no booking fee for graduate students. The exact pricing has not been worked out.

Hardeman (Music): Was AV equipment in the budget? – (A) With renovations being over budget, the purchase of any AV equipment will have to wait.

MacBean (Philosophy): How soon will the room be up and running? – (A) It will take at least a month for the furniture to arrive from the time it is ordered. If we do not pass this tonight, then we will have to wait until the end of March to have the room functioning.

Mohan (Engineering): How many bookings will be without the use of AV equipment? – (A) The hook up system is already there. Equipment can be brought in for special events. The first function is scheduled for November 30 (30 people at \$30/ticket). Tournaments and smaller events are suitable for this space.

Bhalla (Anatomy): If the capacity is 30 people, and the table seats 20, is this not a waste of space? – (A) Later the table will be enlarged to seat 28 people.

Ryan (Visual Arts): There are constant reservations in the Grad Club and people would like their own space. If furnished, this room will bring in business.

Mohan (Engineering): In the future, will the university fund the AV equipment? – (A) It might be possible to borrow equipment for now, but we will work toward acquiring our own.

Tait: Simple majority required to pass the motion:

For: 75
Abstained: 1

VP Student Services:

MOTION (Hedley): Whereas all persons who opt into the SOGS health plan can do so for only one term and receive a year's allotment of benefits during that term which may lead to significantly higher premiums for all graduate students.

BIRT all persons who opt-in to the SOGS health plan do so for the full school year by submitting post-dated cheques for the full amount.

BIFRT that if the sponsoring student completes their degree or a post-doctoral fellow completes their term at The University of Western Ontario, then a percentage of the remaining fees may be returned in appropriate circumstances as determined by the Health Plan Committee.

Seconded Fong (Pathology):

Discussion: Hedley explained the current health plan for graduate full and part-time students and post docs, as well as their ability to opt-in family members. There has been talk among students that they intend to enroll family members for one term using the full amount of dental benefits and not renewing the plan for subsequent terms. If this happens with the majority of opt-ins, the cost of the health & dental plan will skyrocket. For this reason, it is necessary to consider the current motion.

Gavin (OT): When will this start and is it for all students? – (A) This will start in January and will only affect graduate students who are opting-in their family members.

Hendry (Biophysics):

Robinson (MLIS): From January to when? – (A) Families will have to be opted-in for the full year. This will start in January, but will go on the school year (September-August). – (Q) Have you considered students who begin in either January or May. How will that affect their coverage? – (A) Students do not have to opt-in, they are automatically covered and it is hoped that they would not abuse the system.

Marciano (Anthropology): I plan to finish next term, so why should I have to pay for my husband for the May term if I will no longer be a student. This should start next September. – (A) This will happen no matter when we start the new rules.

Taylor (Political Science): The motion is too vague. – (A) The problem is we can't get people to join the Health Committee, or come to meetings.

Mohan (Engineering): Why can't the amount be fixed per term? - (A) It is almost certain that the policy will change in September, and then the fees will probably change too, so it can't be done.

Flannagan (Microbiology): Although we are currently talking about dental coverage, there are people who opt in family members to cover very expensive drug costs. This has to be done in order to show the government that all available personal coverage has been exhausted and then they will cover additional costs. So if I opt-in my wife, even though we don't use any other services, will I have to pay for the whole year? – (A) This is something that I would like to take to the committee. It is very easy to max out the drug if you get sick.

Kurian (Engineering): Can students only opt-in family members for the summer term and get the full benefit? – (A) yes, it does still leave a loop-hole. The only other way to do it is to have people pay for a full year.

Dea (Philosophy): Paying \$128 per term for coverage seems reasonable. Could we not have a policy to have coverage for a year; however, in extenuating circumstances this could be reconsidered. – (A) The only thing that needs to be done is add "as determined by the Health Plan Committee" to the end of the current motion (friendly amendment in italics).

Vasudev (Law): The wording is too vague. An additional friendly amendment (in italics) – "in appropriate circumstances" should be added to the motion.

Marciano (Anthropology): Funding for international students isn't paid out until October, making it very difficult for them to buy into the program. – (A) The rule for opting into the program is the last business day of the first month of any term. This cannot be changed.

Tait: **A 2/3 majority vote is needed to pass the motion.**

Carried

7. Elections

No additional nominations were received.

Hedley presented his platform. This year his plans include: looking into getting bus passes for part-time students; making the website more user friendly and having the day planner pay for itself.

MOTION: BIRT SOGS Council ratifies Ben Hedley for the position of VP Student Services of SOGS from December 1, 2004 until November 30, 2005.

Moved: Robinson (MLIS)

Seconded: Coristine (Biophysics)

Carried

8. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports

a. President / BoG, Senate, Bylaws and Constitution, Policy, Health Plan

- Khan congratulated Hedley on his re-election.
- The submission to the Bob Rae Commission was signed by all parties. There was no disagreement and the document is available on both the Bob Rae site and in the SOGS Office. Personal submissions can be submitted on the Bob Rae web site.
- Round Table conference had a lively discussion and is also available on the Rae web site.
- On November 17th there was a panel discussion. It was covered by Western News, Fanshawe television and Gazette.
- December 1 there will be a Town Hall meeting. This is the final meeting regarding the Bob Rae Commission, and everyone is urged to come to the Business School (Room 140 – 7-9 pm).
- The name Faculty of Arts has been changed to Faculty of Arts and Humanities.
- The fundraising objectives for 2004-2007 have been set at \$1.7 million.
- There is no more month of grace for graduate students. There will be a refund based on the

completion date (the breakdown is available in the SOGS office).

- The final draft of the By-Laws is being completed and will be posted on the web-site as soon as possible.

Vanderspiegel (Earth Sciences): What is the status of talks regarding graduate funding? – (A) A separate time has been set up with the Deans to discuss the model. Raymer, Lamphier, Keller, Robinson and Khan have met with the Dean to discuss the model. Nothing has been decided as yet.

b. VP Academic / Academic Committee, Graduate Student Teaching Awards, WJGR

- Raymer reported that the Journal should be published by mid January. The deadline for the WJGR logo has been extended to December 1.
- 125th Scholarship: applications are academic but financial needs are considered. The application is on line for those who want a head start. There will be more advertising in the new year.
- TA Awards: The number of nominations for the TA Awards has far surpassed previous years. This year 169 nominations were received for the fall term courses alone. The committee is exhausted. In order to alleviate some of the headaches, every department will have to nominate an individual who will be responsible to have the evaluations completed. These representatives will serve as couriers only. They cannot evaluate their own class. The duties include: receiving an email with the information about the TA; going to the SOGS office to pick up the forms; going on the specified date, time to the room; explaining the process; collecting the forms and returning them promptly to SOGS office. TA's are nominated on line and the information is confirmed with the TA. If we do not receive a name from your department, Raymer will arbitrarily appoint someone.

Thompson (Sociology): Can Graduate Secretaries get involved? – (A) No, this isn't something they would want to get involved with.

Vanderspiegel (Earth Sciences): Will this start this term or next? – (A) This will start in January.

c. VP External / Graduate Student Issues Committee, Equity Issues & Social Justice

- Away at CFS – report submitted.

d. VP Finance / Finance, Grad Club Committees

- Thompson is currently having bi-weekly meetings with Rodrigues, Fyfe and Quigg to get a firm grasp of the Grad Club. The second patio sale brought in \$250 which will be added to the bursary line.
- Finance Committee will meet to discuss Bursaries on December 2nd.
- "Stuck in London" dinner will be held on December 25. Please let the SOGS office know by Dec. 17 if you plan to attend. Donations of non-perishable foods are being accepted for the food bank.

e. VP Student Services / International Students' Issues, Orientation Committees

- Hedley asked people to join the Orientation/Handbook committee.

f. Councillor Reports

- None

g. Speaker's Note

Tait wanted everyone to know that the By-law changes are extensive. They should be completed by mid-December, so there should be enough time to look over the changes and come back to Council with questions.

9. Committee Elections

- None

10. New Business/Open Forum

- Gautam (OT): A food box will be set up in the SOGS Office for donations.
- Hardeman (Music): The Newsletter is coming as an attachment and it is too big. Perhaps Michelle (:): Perhaps it could come as a link to the website.

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:20
MOTION: Fong (Pathology)
Seconded: Gustavson (History)

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING
November 16, 2004 9:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.
MINUTES

Present: President, M. Kamran Khan
VP Academic, Graydon Raymer
VP External, Nicholas Cothros
VP Finance, Jennie Thompson
Accounting Manager, Raquel Rodrigues
Office Manager, Olga Sauer

Regrets: VP Student Services, Ben Hedley

Recording Secretary: Olga Sauer

1. Minutes

October 5 and 19 minutes were ratified.

2. Update from President, M. Kamran Khan

- The final submission to the Rae Commission was approved and signed by all UWO parties.
- The November 8 SCUP Meeting was very long. Highlights include:
 - The Faculty of Arts has been renamed – Faculty of Arts and Humanities
 - The fundraising objective for UWO is set at \$127,500,000 for 2004-2007.
- The Rae Review Panel discussion will be held Wednesday, November 17 at UWO.
- There will be a further Rae Review Town Hall meeting on December 1. Cothros will give Raymer information to post on the website.
- BCC is meeting every Friday, and they are on schedule with regard to the Bylaw revisions.
- The Health Plan Ad Hoc Committee is trying to recruit members. Hedley, Kelly, Khan, and Thompson will participate.

3. Update from Vice President Academic, Graydon Raymer

- *Academic Committee* is considering advertising strategies for the Research Forum. Plans involve using the new Grad Club Conference Room for the presentations. The dates will be confirmed with Fyfe.
- *125th Scholarship* is posted on the SOGS website. The deadline is February 28, 2005.
- *WJGR* is closed for the submission of manuscripts. There are 9 or 10 manuscripts and about 6 opinion pieces. Currently, there are two cover submissions. The deadline has been extended to December 1 and is open to all grad students. A verbal invitation to participate was extended to the Visual Arts department. The Journal should be posted on the website by the 2nd week of January. There will be links from UWO library site as well as the National Library of Canada.
- *TA Evaluations* were advertised successfully. Over 160 nominations were received for the fall term alone. The Committee is carrying out the evaluations, but more people are needed.
- Dean Kreiswirth, Khan and Raymer will meet as soon as possible to sign a document which will eliminate the month of grace. Since SOGS fees will be deducted first, grad students will be entitled to all services for the terms, even if they withdraw within the first month.

4. Update from Vice President External, Nicholas Cothros

- *CFS* meeting in Ottawa is coming shortly. There are few motions that are relevant to graduate students. There is a motion to discuss a policy on the access of information on the internet and one to encourage discussion of non-CFS locals regarding income contingent repayment schemes.
- *Rae Review* panel discussion tomorrow will be chaired by Cothros. He anticipates a lively discussion. The GTA will be contacted to increase participation.
- *GSIC* is losing interest. Fresh issues will be introduced to try to boost participation – ex. Information review of child care issues. Currently there are 5 people on *GSIC*.
- *Equity Committee* is currently non-existent. They can meet informally to keep the momentum going by discussing social issues.
- *COKE issue* is currently a non-issue since nothing can be done after Council accepted the contract, without incurring great expense.

5. Update from Vice President Finance, Jennie Thompson

- *Grad Club*: Thompson met with Fyfe, Quigg, M. King and Rodrigues to discuss the last quarter. There was a \$162,000 loss. \$150,000 went to pay off Food Services. The Grad Club had been closed for five days during that period due to renovations. This quarter did not include “dry week”. Bills due to expansion are not being paid yet. More control needs to be exercised over inventory, especially, beer, food and cigarettes. It is important to keep prices reasonable, so grad students can afford to eat there.
- *Conference Room*: Currently there is no furniture for the new Conference Room. The potential cost of the furniture is \$10,000. Concern was expressed at paying for furniture when a \$12,000 loss had been incurred last quarter. Without furniture the Conference Room cannot be rented. Unfortunately, money will have to be spent to make money in the future. Consideration was given to using a different supplier, or purchasing used furniture. This will go to Council for consideration.
- *Liquor license*: By using the University’s liquor license, we are able to use their lawyers, whose bills can be very substantial. Licenses are renewed yearly by the University.
- *Grad Club levy*: Consideration might be given to a Grad Club levy of \$1.00 per term per student.

6. Miscellaneous

- *Executive Pay*: There was some discussion on raising salaries of Executives to a full TA equivalent and the President to a TA + .5 equivalent. In order to do this, fees will need to be increased. An ad hoc committee will need to be formed to evaluate this. There is a yearly increase according to the CPI every September.
- Khan asked if there were any issues to be brought to be discussed with the VP Administration. There is a question of Fyfe’s benefits. Our benefit package is less expensive than that of the University and we are still being billed for the full amount.
- Rodrigues informed the group that the Christmas Dinner will be held on December 15 at the Grad Club. The SOGS office will be closed December 22 – January 2 inclusive.
- Raymer may be emailing the Executive to help with evaluations.
- Cothros’ computer is still not working properly.

Meeting Adjourned 11:20 a.m.

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING
December 7, 2004 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.
MINUTES

Present: President, M. Kamran Khan;
VP Academic, Graydon Raymer;
VP External, Nicholas Cothros;
VP Finance, Jennie Thompson;
VP Student Services, Ben Hedley;
Accounting Manager, Raquel Rodrigues;
Office Manager, Olga Sauer

Recording Secretary: Olga Sauer

1. **Update from President, M. Kamran Khan**

- Khan attended the Unity Group meeting. Davenport urged participation from all sectors of the University community.
- Davenport suggested that a staff recognition task force should be created. He also suggested that rewards should be less monetary. Khan suggested that SOGS staff might be included in this taskforce and follow the same guidelines.
- Khan informed the Executive that a separate Small Animal facility is currently being built.
- Khan and Cothros spoke at the Town Hall meeting on December 1st at the Business School.
- SCUP meetings have been cancelled for December.
- BCC have completed the revisions. At their next meeting, these changes will be discussed and they should be posted on the website in the near future.

2. **Update from Vice President Academic, Graydon Raymer**

- Raymer reported that the TA Evaluations for the fall term have been completed.
- The WJGR is in review with publication on the web scheduled for January 2005.
- The Academic committee has tentatively set the dates for the Research Forum (March 6/7 and 13/14).

3. **Update from Vice President External, Nicholas Cothros**

- Cothros reported that the Town Hall meeting of December 1st was a success – there was a large turnout of faculty students and community members. Rae and some of the panel members made brief presentations on the goal of the Review. The audience had three minutes to ask their question and the answer could last as long as the speaker felt it needed. Rae was not receptive to Jesse Greener's comments because they had been made at other meetings.
- CFS Annual Meeting was attended by Cothros and Keeler. Of relevance to graduate students was the post-residency fee campaign, but these had already been eliminated at Western in 1993. The Copyright Issue and its implications were discussed.

4. **Update from Vice President Finance, Jennie Thompson**

- Thompson presented a letter from the Philosophy Department requesting sponsorship of the Mind... Conference April 2-3, 2005. It is open to all graduate students.

MOTION (Thompson): **BIRT SOGS sponsor "Mind Conference" for \$100.**

Seconded: Hedley

Carried

In Camera session

Out of Camera

5. **Update from Vice President Student Services, Ben Hedley**

- Hedley informed the Executive that plans for the Christmas Dinner are progressing.
- Hedley has reworked the website. Everyone agreed that it looks very professional. John is working on updating the Grad Club site.
- The requirements for opting out of the health plan have been altered slightly to include a specific letter from the employer or health insurance company specifying the specifics of the plan and when it is due to expire. These changes have been noted on the website.

6. **Miscellaneous**

- There will be a meeting on December 14, if needed, instead of December 21.

Meeting Adjourned 11:30 am

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING
December 14, 2004 10:15 – 11:30 a.m.
MINUTES

Present: President, M. Kamran Khan;
VP Academic, Graydon Raymer;
VP Finance, Jennie Thompson;
Accounting Manager, Raquel Rodrigues;
Office Manager, Olga Sauer

Absent: VP External, Nicholas Cothros;
VP Student Services, Ben Hedley;

Recording Secretary: Olga Sauer

1. **Update from President, Muhammad Kamran Khan**

- Khan reported that BCC meetings have had difficulty reaching quorum. The final draft of the revised bylaws has been sent to the Committee members. A meeting is planned for this Friday.

2. **Update from Vice President Academic, Graydon Raymer**

- Raymer reported that department representatives have been found for the administration of the TA Evaluations for next term.

3. **Update from Vice President Finance, Jennie Thompson**

- Thompson informed the Executive that the books the Grad Club for November are being completed.

4. **Miscellaneous**

- Thompson is unable to attend meetings on Mondays (due to class in Toronto) and Tuesday AM due to classes here. She requested that office days/hours be reworked.

Monday – Hedley
Tuesday – Thompson
Wednesday – Raymer
Thursday – Cothros
Friday - Khan

- Rodrigues reminded everyone of the year end get-together at the Grad Club (Tuesday, Dec. 21 @ 4 pm).

Meeting Adjourned

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING
January 5, 2005 1:15 pm
MINUTES

Present: President, M. Kamran Khan;
VP External, Nicholas Cothros;
VP Finance, Jennie Thompson;
VP Student Services, Ben Hedley;
Accounting Manager, Raquel Rodrigues;

Regrets: VP Academic, Graydon Raymer;
Office Manager, Olga Sauer (bus passes)

Recording Secretary: Jennie Thompson

1. **Update from President, M. Kamran Khan**

- Khan received an email from Gitta Kulczyk about 1.3 million budget that society has and notified us that an audit will be necessary in the coming months for the CCAC to approve our fees for the coming year; This means that our policies will have to change within the Society. Presently, our policies state that we are to have our accounting books reviewed by a CA on a per term basis. This policy will need to be changed to reflect a yearly audit instead. Otherwise the cost of both practices will burden students with growing accounting expenses.
This is something that the administration is solid on and we will continue to discuss the timeline of this at future meeting with the Administration.
- Tsunami Relief: a donation box will be set up in the office.

2. **Update from Vice President External, Nicholas Cothros**

- Cothros reported day of action is coming. GSIC meeting will be held later this month. (Escrader, Mohan, and Cothros are on the Day of Action Team).
- UWO PIRG contact will meet with us to collaborate on Day of Action.
- GSIC will start a letter writing campaign about the Copyright Renewal. This concern will be brought to the FGS meeting on January 10, 2005.
- Ryerson's Golden Ram Engineering Department Paper has produced an edition that is particularly offensive to women. CFS brought it to Cothros's attention. He is thinking of writing a letter because he cannot verify this complaint about offences against women. He will take this back to GSIC and allow them to make the decision about sending a letter to the Dean of Engineering.

3. **Update from Vice President Finance, Jennie Thompson**

- **MOTION (Cothros): BIRT the Frost Free: The Culture Cool Conference be sponsored in the amount of \$100 by SOGS.**
Seconded: Kahn
Carried

4. **Update from Vice President Student Services, Ben Hedley**

- "Stuck in London" dinner was successful.
- Some complaints have been received about providing proof to opt-out.

5. **Miscellaneous**

MOTION (Khan): BIRT SOGS approve the purchase of two new printers. The cost should not exceed \$200 Cdn.
Seconded: (Cothros)
Carried

Meeting Adjourned



President
January 2005 Report to Council
Muhammad Kamran Khan
(sogs.president@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

President

Dear Councillors

It has been nearly two months since my last report to you and there is a lot to report. However, I will be touching the issues briefly in my report and will try to explain in detail at the council if situation warrants. Before I submit my report, please accept my heartiest Happy New Year greetings. So, I proceed as follows:-

Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP): Nov 29, 2004

The President Report was presented by Dr. Greg Moran. He stressed a lot on the importance of Dec 01, Rae Review, Town Hall Meeting and discussed strategies to be effective at Town Hall. Later on, student survey 2003-04 on finances was discussed. That survey is available at SOGS Office. However, I have already showed that to the council at November meeting.

Unity Group Meeting: Dec 01, 2004

Dr. Paul Davenport urged the members to attend the Rae Review Town Hall Meeting. Later on, an update was presented by each member who attended the Rae Review Round Table at Fanshawe College. Two presentations were given regarding the Animal Care / Research Facility being built at campus and Staff Recognition Task Force Report. The details are available in the SOGS Office.

Town Hall: Dec 01, 2004

It was a success and good number of people from the community and campus attended. I and VP External attended the Town Hall and we both spoke at the occasion.

Meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister: Dec 01, 2004

I had a meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities along with Martin England, Senior Policy Advisor to President and discussed some student issues. She assured me of good support to SOGS whenever situation deserves.

Meetings with VP – Administration:

I had a monthly meeting with Gitta in December 2004 and another in January 2005. Besides that I also met with her on number of occasions to discuss some urgent matters. I must say that she cooperated a lot and solved many of our problems even by giving us money. Some issues were particularly related to Grad Club and some relating to SOGS in general.

Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP) And SCUP Sub Committee on Enrolment Planning and Policy (SUEPP): January 13, 2005

Dr. Greg Moran gave a presentation regarding Course Grade Distributions and Debbie Jones from ITS presented a report of the Working Group on Information Technology. The IT report mentioned that 14 computers which contained malicious spywares were blocked and later on cleared after cleansing. However, the details of both reports are available in the SOGS Office.

Ombudsperson Advisory Committee Meeting: Jan 18, 2005

I conducted the meeting as Chair. Frances and Anita (Ombudspersons) both presented their reports. Outreach and Vision Updates were given by Frances. Operating expenses and budget were also discussed. The reports are available in the SOGS Office.

Unity Group Meeting: Jan 20, 2005

The Unity Group has been named as "Campus Council". There was a presentation given by Debbie Jones from ITS. The Group was told that ITS is wrapping all the information in a single portal. However, questions were raised about the security and opt-out facility. The Group was assured that all the pertinent security measures will be taken and any individual will be allowed to opt out.

Dr. Paul Davenport gave key messages for Western and Update of Rae Review. I will explain the key messages at the council.

Rae Review Report:

It was told by Dr. Paul Davenport that there is some good news about the report. He met with Bob Rae and is very optimistic about funding for research. However, we have to wait and see how much money we get. There are rumors about late budget this year and Rae Report may not get good attention. Therefore, there is strong need that we should keep on putting pressure on the government so that Rae Report's recommendations are incorporated in the budget. Rae Report is expected in mid February. Suggestion was made that once the report is released, we should again sit together and discuss the pros and cons of implementation. Dr. Paul Davenport agreed.

Meetings with FGS:

Unfortunately, the meetings with FGS have been rescheduled time and again. However, SOGS is very much updated about New Funding Model. If you have any queries / questions / concerns, then please forward those to me or VP Academic.

Budget and Tuition Issues: Jan 26, 2005

The Executives of SOGS are meeting with the Administration regarding the Budget and Tuition. I will present update on these issues in the council.

Bye-law and Constitution Committee:

BCC is meeting every Friday to revise the bye-laws. BCC has finalized the revision. However, final discussions are underway. After this step, the revised version will be available online at SOGS website. That will be open for discussion and we may move the motion in February or March Council Meeting.

Elections for the President:

My term will expire on April 30 and elections will be conducted in March. If anybody is interested, he/she may contact me for information.

So as I draw this message to a close, let me say thank you because from you comes the dream of a new purpose. If you have any issues and concerns, have suggestions for improvements, want to get involved, or just inquisitive; please do not hesitate to contact me.

SOGS is our organization. It belongs to us and we belong to it. Let us join together, in our time, and make history.

Regards,

Muhammad Kamran Khan



**Vice President Academic
January 2005 Report to Council
Graydon Raymer (sogs.academic@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>**

VP Academic

Greetings,

I hope everyone had a refreshing and enjoyable holiday. Here is an update on the progress of events under my portfolio:

1. I am happy to announce that we have found a GSTA representative for every department on campus. Those of us on the GSTA committee are all very thankful for the support you have shown us. If I haven't already done so, information will be sent out to all the GSTA representatives on the specific duties they will be required to do. Unfortunately the SOGS office has recently been hit with some computer viruses, so our online web forms are not working properly. I am hoping to get these back online before we open the nomination process for the winter term, and thus before I send out any further emails. Unfortunately, I am at the mercy of ITS on this matter, so at this point I cannot say for certain when that will be.
2. The Western Research Forum has been (re)scheduled for April 4th, 5th, 11th, and 12th from 1-5pm. This change in date was to better accommodate our attempts to secure a keynote speaker. We are excited about the change in time, from a weekend in previous years to Monday and Tuesday afternoons. The change in venue to the new Grad Club conference room should also be a big improvement. Advertising for this event has already begun, and official call for abstracts will be made once our online web-form system is back online, if not already by the time of this meeting.
3. The Western Journal of Graduate Research is almost ready to go online. I hope (fingers crossed!) it will be online for our next council meeting. We are just waiting for the reports from some external reviewers to be received.
4. The Faculty of Graduate Studies has made available to the departments the details of the new funding model, effective May 2005. SOGS is trying to work with FGS to make this information more accessible to interested students; however, it should be noted that distribution of funds will primarily be under control of individual departments, so specific questions should be addressed to them. In the meantime, I will be happy to try and answer any questions that councillors may have about the implementation of this model, including what each of us may expect to see on our fee-bills starting in the summer term.

-Graydon Raymer



Vice President External
January 2005 Report to Council
Nicholas Cothros (sogs.external@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

VP External

1. The Day of Action will be held on 3 February at 12:00 on concrete beach. All students are encouraged to attend this event and show their support. The Day of Action is an invention of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The purpose of the Day of Action is to educate students and raise awareness of issues pertaining to post secondary education (PSE). The most pertinent issues today are the steady withdrawal of public funds from PSE, rising tuition fees, and income-contingent loan repayment schemes. The SOGS VP External, along with the Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) and the UWO Public Interest Research Group are planning a series of events for Western's own Day of Action.

These include:

- presentations to large undergraduate classes
- free, public viewings of the documentary "My Student Loan"
- circulation of petitions
- a march to raise awareness in the community
- presentation by guest speaker

Volunteers are most welcome. Those interested in participating should contact the VP External at sogs.external@uwo.ca.

2. In response to impending changes to Canadian copyright law, GSIC is in the process of drafting a letter to Marlene Catterall, Chair of the Standing Committee on Heritage. Aaron Keeler, Chair of GSIC, wrote the first draft of this letter. The letter represents an informed and firm objection to a restrictive model of copyright law. The consequences of restrictive copyright law are, among other things, increased fees for students and the erosion of the free Internet. GSIC is planning to hold a copyright information session in March in an effort to alert both students and faculty to this growing concern. More details will follow.

3. The VP External attended the CFS Ontario general meeting from 20 January to 23 January. The focus of the meeting was planning for the Day of Action. Those interested in attending future CFS meetings should contact the VP External at sogs.external@uwo.ca.

Nick Cothros
VP External



Vice President Finance
January 2005 Report to Council
Jennie Thompson (sogs.finance@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

VP Finance

I hope that everyone had a restful and safe holiday break. I have worked hard to understand the finances of the Society of Graduate Students, which is proving to be a very large task. I have also attended several meetings with the administration to date.

Generally, there are a few items that I should review:

1. The Grad Club as expected is incurring losses; however, these losses are becoming substantial. The Executive and the Grad Management have made a plan to decrease the losses and we are hoping that the implementation of these recommendations will see the Grad Club profiting again.
2. The University requires that a Chartered Accountant perform an audit due to our budget being larger than a million dollars on a yearly basis. This is a cost that was not anticipated by SOGS this year and will be above and beyond what has been budgeted for accounting services this year. Additionally, we need to change the policies that dictate our accounting practices over the year as at the present they do not require a yearly audit.
3. Raquel is worked diligently on the budget and this will be presented to council this evening. Both, the Finance Committee and I are reviewing this budget. I am sure that you will note that there have not been any substantial changes this year with the budget.

Jennie Thompson
VP Finance



VP Student Services
January 2005 Report to Council
Benjamin Hedley (sogs.services@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

VP Student Services

Dear Councilors

I hope everyone is now refreshed after the holidays and I trust that everyone has accepted that winter is now here for the next couple of months ☺

My portfolio has one major goal that is taking my time at the moment, our 2005-2006 handbook. I will be contacting the people that advertised with us last year to see about the possibility of advertising with us again, in fact by the time of the council meeting I will have contacted most of them. The only way that we will be able to make the handbook pay for itself is to sell advertising within the book, last year approximately 60% of the costs for the handbook were covered through advertising and I would like to improve this figure by getting off campus businesses involved. Rest assured we will not go the road of the undergrads did last year in their handbook, I am looking for more volunteers to help with the handbook in the orientation committee. I already have one person who is interested and if \$3 vouchers for the grad club are bribes I would like to offer them now.

Regarding the distribution of the handbook – we are thinking that this year all handbooks will be distributed from the SOGS office, this will ensure that all students have access to the handbooks in mid august, also at the time of the bus pass for the fall term. Thus with a simple trip to the SOGS office all students can get a bus pass, orientation package as well as a handbook.

I will see you all at council.

Regards,

Ben Hedley
VP Student Services

Elections

Type of Committee	Position	Nominee	Department
	Speaker	Chris Tait	History

Election Statement

Position of Speaker

I have enjoyed my time as Speaker since I assumed the position in May, and I would be happy to continue in the position for another term.

I am looking forward to seeing the extensive proposed revisions to the by-laws brought to Council in the near future, as well as discussions about streamlining the process of electing councillors each fall.

Chris

Chris Tait
Department of History



**Society of Graduate Students
Alternate Councillor/Proxy Form**

The purpose of this form is:

Alternate Councillor Designation

or

Proxy Designation

First and last names of Issuer (please print)

Student No.

Department, unit, or constituency of Issuer

E-mail address of Issuer

Duration of leave (dates)
Only applicable to Alternate Councillors

Alternate Councillor/Proxy Voter

First and last name (please print)

Student No.

Department, unit, or constituency (for verification purposes of Alternate Councillors)

E-mail address

Authorization

Signature of Issuer

Signature of Recipient

Date

RECEIVED (FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)

**Please return completed form to the SOGS office before the next meeting of Council.
Room 260, University Community Centre • Fax: (519) 661-3374**