

Society of Graduate Students June 23, 2005 Council Meeting

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SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

June 23, 2005

AGENDA

- 1) Ratification of Agenda
- 2) Announcements
- 3) Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative
- 4) Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes for the May Meeting
- 5) Orders of the Day
 - a. Motions arising from the President
 - b. Motions arising from Other Committees
 - c. Other Motions
- 6) Elections
 - a. VP Finance
 - b. Speaker
 - c. Other elections
- 7) Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports
 - a. President / BoG, Senate, Bylaws and Constitution, Policy, Health Plan
 - b. VP Academic / Academic Committee, Graduate Student Teaching Awards, WJGR
 - c. VP External / Graduate Student Issues Committee, Equity Issues and Social Justice
 - d. VP Finance / Finance, Grad Club Committees
 - e. VP Student Services / International Students' Issues, Orientation Committees
 - f. Councillor Reports
 - g. Speaker's Note
- 9) New Business/Open Forum

Orders of the Day

a) **Motions Arising from the President**

b) **Motions Arising from Other Committees**

Finance Committee:

Whereas, the SOGS Directors need to make decisions that may have unforeseen outcomes, it is necessary to purchase Directorship Liability for one million dollars of coverage in order to protect Directors and Council from any unforeseen litigation.

BIRT the Society of Graduate Students purchase Directorship Liability from Purdom Insurance.

BIFRT that Council increase the budget line item associated with the purchase of this insurance from \$1500 (estimated cost) to \$1655 (actual cost).

Health Plan Committee:

BIRT the SOGS health plan include coverage for eye exams at the cost of \$5.28 per year for students and \$14.88 per family per year.

c) **Other Motions**

SOGS Council Attendance Report May 26, 2005

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Ruchi Bhalla	6:00	7:05	
Anthropology	Alicia Grimes			
Anthropology	Laura Marciano			
Applied Mathematics	Olga Krakovska	6:00		
Applied Mathematics	Andriy Miransky	6:00		
Biochemistry	Steven Beasley	5:58	7:10	
Biochemistry	Aaron Booy			
Biochemistry	Angela Coveny			
Biochemistry	Pat Telmer			
Biology	Jay Anthony Pillai			
Biology	Sateesh Kagale			
Biology	Michelle Marcus	6:00		Alt. R. Morishita
Biology	Julia Michitsch			
Biology	Jeremy Pfaff			
Biomedical Engineering	Kirsten Anas			
Biomedical Engineering	Jamie Brownhill			
Board of Governors	Errol Stewart	6:00		
Chemistry	Woo-Jae Cheong			
Chemistry	Mark Kuprowski	6:00		
Chemistry	Simone Lam	5:45	7:15	
Chemistry	Andrea Walette	5:45		
Classical Studies	Suzanne Schaller			
Computer Science	Akpodigha Filatei			
Computer Science	S. Garg			
Computer Science	Jingping Liu			
Computer Science	Kehinde Oladosu			
Computer Science	Vacant			
Computer Science	Lieyu Wu			
CSD	Melanie Beaudin			
CSD	Andria Bulfon			
CSD	B.J. Collins			
CSD	Nancy Galvan			
Earth Sciences	Kebbi Hughes	6:05		Alt. K. Dalby
Earth Sciences	Reba Macdonald	6:05		
Earth Sciences	Greg Wanger	6:00		S. Russell
Economics	Chris Bennett			
Economics	Josh Svatek			
Economics	Dinghai Xu			
Education	Anne Escrader			

Education	Vacant			
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			
Engineering Science	Ladan Holakoo			
Engineering Science	Babak Jajuee			
Engineering Science	Selvakumar Kandasamy			
Engineering Science	Rina Kurian			
Engineering Science	Jennifer McMillan			
Engineering Science	Prasanna Mohan	5:50		
Engineering Science	Tanveer Muhammed			
Engineering Science	Tamije Selvy Munian			
Engineering Science	Ye Tian			
Engineering Science	Umang Trivedi			
Engineering Science	Balamourougan Vinayagam			
English	Aaron Keeler	5:45		
English	Elan Paulson			
English	Shaun N. Ramdin			
English	Vacant			
Epidemiology & Biostats	Laura Anderson	6:30		
Epidemiology & Biostats	Micha Tsarfati	6:00		
Executive - Grad Club	Vacant			
Executive - President	Patti Dalton	5:45		
Executive - Speaker	Chris Tait			
Executive - VP Academic	Graydon Raymer			
Executive - VP External	Sarah McIsaac			
Executive - VP Finance	Jennie Thompson			
Executive - VP St. Services	Ben Hedley			
Family Medicine	Vacant			
French	Christine Knapp	6:00		
French	Emma Laval			
Geography	Stephen Carlyle	6:00		
Geography	Daniel Sandink	6:00		
GTA Union	Elana Geller	5:55		
History	Mark Eaton	6:00		
History	Wes Gustavson	6:00		
History	Dean Ruffilli	5:57		
Journalism	C. Moorehead	5:55	7:15	
Journalism	Alexandra Slaby	6:00	7:15	
Kinesiology	Carly Adams	6:00		
Kinesiology	Marcia Milne	6:12		

Kinesiology	Natalie Szudy	6:00		
Kinesiology	Melissa Wiman			
L&IS	Lindsay Brock	5:50		
L&IS	Jewel Frenette	6:00		
L&IS	P. Gamsby	6:00		
L&IS	Natasha Gerolami	6:00		
L&IS	Lauren Hodges	5:47		
L&IS	David Lee	6:00		
L&IS	D. Van Der Linde	5:47	7:15	
Law	P.M. Vasudev	6:00		
Mathematics	Ortho Smith			
Media Studies	Becca Elias			
Medical Biophysics	Andrew Coristine			
Medical Biophysics	Janet Hendry	6:20		
Medical Biophysics	Andrea McNiven	6:00		
Medical Biophysics	Jodi Miller	6:20		
Microbiology & Immunology	Rob Flannagan			
Microbiology & Immunology	Jason Lehrer			
Microbiology & Immunology	Vijay Somalinga			
Modern Languages and Lit	Lauren Beck			
Modern Languages and Lit	Jessica Natiuk			
Modern Languages and Lit	Vacant			
Music	Brian Arens			
Music	Anna Boyden			
Music	Anita Hardeman	6:15		
Neuroscience	Samantha Doralp			
Neuroscience	Adrian Snihur			
Nursing	Yolanda Babenko-Mould			
Nursing	Abe Oudshoorn			
Occupational Therapy	Neelam Gautam			
Occupational Therapy	Raphael Lencucha			
Occupational Therapy	Jennifer Methot			
Occupational Therapy	Meghan Sears			
Occupational Therapy	Marcy Wood			
Orthodontics	Vacant			
Part-Time Students	Yanyan Sun			
Part-Time Students	Vacant			
Part-Time Students	Vacant			
Part-Time Students	Vacant			
Part-Time Students	Vacant			
Part-Time Students	Vacant			
Pathology	Matthew Fong	5:55		
Philosophy	Shannon Dea	5:55		
Philosophy	Jeremy MacBean			

Philosophy	Jenny Noland	5:50		
Physical Therapy	Christine Dubuc	5:50		
Physical Therapy	Patricia Ferrari	5:50		
Physical Therapy	Jennifer Field	5:50		
Physical Therapy	Erinn Freeman	5:50		
Physical Therapy	Mike Koonar	6:00		
Physics & Astronomy	Iftekharul Haque			
Physics & Astronomy	Chris Hunter			
Physics & Astronomy	Vacant			
Physiology and Pharm.	Ryan Gillespie			
Physiology and Pharm.	Garth Oakes	6:00		
Physiology and Pharm.	Saira Saleem			
Physiology and Pharm.	Brad Urquhart	6:00		
Physiology and Pharm.	Kirk Young			
Political Science	Chris Cheung			
Political Science	Brian Grassie	5:55		
Political Science	Alexandra Taylor			
Psychology	Caroline Abu-Ayyash	5:55		
Psychology	Melissa Grigg	6:00		
Psychology	Alexandra Hernandez-Smith	6:05		
Psychology	Christopher O'Connor	6:00		
Psychology	Natasha Parfyonova	6:00	7:15	
Public Administration	Vacant			
Rehabilitation Sciences	Karla Washington	5:53		
Senate	Cheryl Dudgeon			
Senate	Michelle Witen			
Sociology	Vacant			
Sociology	Ayesha Williams			
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Deepak Sanjel			
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Vacant			
Theory & Criticism	Tara Kachroo			
Theory & Criticism	Vacant			
Visual Arts	Carol-Ann Ryan	5:55		
Visual Arts	Michael Windover	5:55		

SOGS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2005

6:00 – 7:40 p.m.

Social Science Centre Room 3018

Chair pro tempore: Prasanna Mohan

Recording Secretary: Olga Sauer

1. Ratification of Agenda

- Agenda - Ratified

2. Election of Speaker pro tempore

Dalton opened elections for Speaker. P. Mohan accepted the nomination and was elected unanimously.

3. Announcements

- Mohan welcomed Councillors to the May SOGS Council Meeting and extended a welcome to new Councillors.
- Quorum for the summer is 15.
- Light refreshments were served.
- Councillors were reminded that after the sign in sheets are collected, name cards were to be left with Olga.
- Next Council meeting will be in the same room on June 23.
- Bus passes for the summer term are available. Proof of payment of \$450, a fee bill and student card must be shown in order to have the pass issued.
- Last day for opting-out of the health plan is May 31.
- From May 1, SOGS Summer Office hours are Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm and Friday 9 am – noon. The office will close at 12 noon.
- Tait wasn't able to be here for Council because he is preparing for his wedding day this weekend. On behalf of the entire Council, Mohan wished Chris and Amy all the very best for their life together.

4. Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative

5. Presentation by Andrea Browning, Regional Social Forum

Dalton introduced Andrea Browning and Tony Weiss, who spoke on the upcoming Regional Social Forum, June 22-26. Anyone wanting additional information can contact Dalton.

6. Reception and Ratification of SOGS Council Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2005

Moved: Dalton (President)

Seconded: Keeler (English)

Approved

7. Orders of the Day

a) Motions Arising from the President

BIRT SOGS purchase ITS support for \$18 per month per computer for the office manager's computer and the finance managers computer.

BIRT the Grad Club purchases ITS support for \$18 per month for the grad club manager's computer.

Moved: Dalton (President)

Seconded: Dea (Philosophy)

Passed

b) **Motions Arising from Other Committees**

Academic Committee

1. BIRT SOGS give an honorarium of \$300.00 to Kelly Comer, based on the recommendation of the WJGR editorial board members for her work as 2004-05 chair/managing editor.

Moved: Gustavson (History)
Seconded: Adams (Kinesiology)
Discussion:
Stewart (Senate): Is there money to pay these honoraria? – (A) Money is allocated for both honoraria within the portfolio budget..
Passed

2. BIRT SOGS give an honorarium of \$300.00 to Flora Stephenson, based on the recommendation of the academic committee members for her work as 2004-05 chairperson.

Moved: Mclsaac (VP External)
Seconded: Dalton (President)
Passed

Bylaws and Constitution Committee:

BIRT the following be added to section 3.4 (Standing Committees) of the SOGS bylaws:

- 3.4.12 Equity Issues Committee
- 3.4.12.1.1 shall discuss and make recommendations to Council on equity issues affecting graduate students.
- 3.4.12.2 shall serve as a liaison between the Society and other groups and programs concerned with equity issues on campus and in the community.
- 3.4.12.3 shall work to increase awareness of equity issues on campus, particularly within the graduate student community, through events and publicity campaigns.

Moved: Walette (Chemistry)
Seconded: MacBean (Philosophy)
Passed

BIFRT the following be added to section 2.5 (The Commissioner for Graduate Students with Disabilities) of the SOGS bylaws:

- 2.4.4 shall be an ex-officio member of the Equity Issues Committee.

Moved: Walette (Chemistry)
Seconded: MacBean (Philosophy)
Passed

BIRT the following be amended in Section 13 (Elections Table) of the SOGS bylaws:

Position	Month Elected	Date of office taken
Speaker	June	July 1

Moved: Fong (Pathology)
Seconded: Gustavson (History)
Passed

Finance Committee:

Whereas, the SOGS Directors need to make decisions that may have unforeseen outcomes, it is necessary to purchase Directorship Liability for one million dollars of coverage in order to protect Directors and Council from any unforeseen litigation.

BIRT the Society of Graduate Students purchase Directorship Liability from Purdom Insurance.

BIFRT that Council increase the budget line item associated with the purchase of this insurance from \$1500 (estimated cost) to \$1655 (actual cost).

Discussion: Dea (Philosophy) Motion should be tabled to next meeting when it can be motivated by the VP Finance.

Yes: 37
No: 15
Abstained: 1

Dea (Philosophy) objected in principle that motions requiring financial decisions are brought to Council for a rubber stamp.

c) **Other Motions**

8. Elections

There were no nominations / elections at this meeting.

9. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports

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

- Dalton went over her report, emphasizing the need to continue to lobby governments for funding to education. She intends to keep the SOGS profile high in the media. Dalton will be setting up face to face meetings with the various departments on campus.

Board of Governors: Stewart expressed the need for Council to remember that the current University budget was passed in April, prior to the news of the additional funding from the government. This is the first year there is funding in the budget for graduate students, this was not reflected in the university budget.

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

- Raymer was unable to attend. If there are any questions regarding his portfolio, please address them to him.

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

- Mclsaac asked for submissions to the monthly newsletter. There will be a presentation in the Aeolian Hall in support of Morgentaler, cost for students is \$5.
- There are CFS posters available for distribution to departments.
A motion to write a letter of support for Dr. Davenport's was developed.

Discussion:

Stewart (BoG) – a joint letter could be sent with the USC to give it more clout.

Hardeman (Music) – we should submit a letter strictly from SOGS.

Geller (GTA Rep) – The GTA Union has also written a letter of support.

- **MOTION: BIRT The Society of Graduate Students write a letter to the President and the Board of governors expressing support for the exercise of academic freedom in the decision to confer an honorary doctorate on individuals selected by the university Senate.**

Moved: Mclsaac (VP External)

Seconded: Anderson (EPI)

For: 50

Against: 1

Abstained: 1

- Keeler will write a report for next Council on the CFS meeting he attended. GSIC committee is looking for members. A letter was sent to M. Catterall with respect to the Bulte Report. Davenport was copied and a polite response was received from him. There will be a CFS Skills Symposium in June. There are 1 or 2 spots available. If you are interested in advocacy or networking, contact Keeler for more information.

d. VP Finance / Finance, Grad Club Committees

- Thompson was unable to attend. If there are any questions regarding her portfolio, please address them to her.

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

- Hedley was unable to attend. If there are any questions regarding his portfolio, please address them to him.

f. Councillor Reports

None

g. Speaker's Note

10. New Business/Open Forum

MacBean (Philosophy): When will the VP Finance election take place or will be left without a VP for a month?

– (A) the position will be up for Election in June.

Mulligan (Senator): Introduced himself as a new replacement Senator. He also said that there was a position on the Student Planning Task force that needed to be filled.

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm
MOTION: Hardeman (Music)
Seconded: Dea (Philosophy)
Carried

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING

May 18, 2005 3:00pm

MINUTES

Present: President, Patti Dalton;
VP Academic, Graydon Raymer;
VP External, Sarah Mclsaac;
VP Finance, Jennie Thompson;
VP Student Services, Ben Hedley;
Office Manager, Olga Sauer;
Speaker, Chris Tait (invited)

Regrets: Accounting Manager, Raquel Rodrigues

Recording Secretary: Sarah Mclsaac

1. Ratification of Minutes

Minutes of April 20 were ratified.

2. Update from Speaker, Chris Tait

- Equity Issues Committee BIRT motion is in this month's meeting minutes
- Executive needs to nominate a speaker for this council meeting
- Must have a speaker's ruling in the meeting minutes

3. Update from President, Patti Dalton

- Thanked executive for support with Grad Club from the past 2.5 weeks
- Will follow up with Susan Grindrod for the exact date when the new manager will be starting at the Grad Club
- GC – perhaps staff appreciation/staff meetings?
- Potential of developing a graduate resolution committee
- Proposed one executive meeting per month, preferably the second Tuesday of each month – if there are any pressing issues executive will meet as needed
- Hedley has difficulties with afternoon meetings
- Next executive meeting schedule for June 14th at 3pm
- Ontario Budget 2005 made a historical commitment to post-secondary education
- Dalton made public appearances on both the NewPL and CRHW 94.9 FM radio station acknowledging student lobbying efforts
- Dalton will meet with the Dean of FGS to discuss part time graduate student status
- There will be a guest speaker from the Social Regional Forum at this month's council meeting

4. Update from Vice President Academic, Graydon Raymer

- Meet with the Dean of FGS with regards to the joint collaborative travel funding bursary
- TA awards had approximately 250 people in attendance
- Motions have been submitted into council package for honorariums for both the Editorial and Academic committee chairs to receive \$300.00
- In follow up to previous minutes Nick Cothros will burn a CD with the aforementioned computer files and submit a final report by month end to SOGS
- Summer Executive office hours
 - o Graydon Raymer Monday 10-11am
 - o Patti Dalton Tuesday 3-4pm
 - o Ben Hedley Wednesday 9-10am
 - o Sarah Mclsaac Thursday 9-10am

5. Update from Vice President External & Communication, Sarah Mclsaac

- Ontario Budget 2005 focuses on accessibility, accountability and quality in post-secondary education and is welcomed by all graduate students
- There is a Regional Social Forum at the end of June which may be of interest to some graduate students
- Newsletter is ready, Hedley will help upload the newsletter onto the SOGS website
- Mclsaac is to write a letter of support for York's student body's peaceful protest against the Bush inauguration, Dalton will provide additional information

6. Update from Vice President Finance, Jennie Thompson

- Mark is doing a wonderful job with the GC
- Need to have a food policy cost
- Need to have a revenue/cost base
- Everything needs to be written down, in policy with collaboration with current managers
- New manager for the GC to start June 1, 2005
- A price list for the GC was found in the office
- Was asked if we had a policy on hiring graduate students
- Denise will be doing liquor ordering
- Too much cash on the floor at all times, this needs to be addressed
- Mark (kitchen manager) would like a raise; already is given 1.8%; therefore should we offer the entire 2.75% as outlined in the contract → needs further discussion
- Refinance of loan to \$190,000 as opposed to \$300,000 and we are therefore short and may need to ask the university for additional funding
- The Director Liability motion must be passed by council as we need liability insurance. This would be an increase to the current budgeted amount of \$155.00. Must be done at this month's council meeting
- Jennie announced her resignation effective as of June 30th, 2005
- Notice of election for VP Finance needs to go into council package

7. Update from Vice President Student Services, Ben Hedley

- Handbook is almost finished, waiting on Campus Recreation and Food Services
- \$6000 of advertising to date
- Bus pass issues – students must bring in appropriate information as already listed on the SOGS website.

Meeting Adjourned



President
June 2005 Report to Council
Patti Dalton (sogs.president@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

1. Grad Club
 - Marc Lalonde, the new manager, is doing a fine job
 - We met and discussed several issues re. improvements to the operations of the Club and future directions
 - There will be a staff meeting and a staff appreciation social
 - Letters of thanks will be sent to Raquel, Mark (kitchen manager) and Jennie
 - Mark will receive financial compensation for his extensive overtime
 - There were significant profits made during the Congress and business is excellent according to Marc
2. Letters of support were sent to the Board of Governors and the President re. the honorary degree for Dr. Morgentaler
3. I will serve on the Senate Strategic Planning Task Force; we need another graduate student representative
4. Sarah and I prepared a brief for a meeting of the part-time graduates students task force on June 22
5. We need a representative for the working group on information security (ITS)
6. Sarah attended a SOGS/FGS meeting on June 10
 - Four items were addressed: questions regarding the Ontario budget; category one/two graduate student issues; the ten hour rule and our letter of support re. The honorary degree for Dr. Morgentaler
 - FGS raised the issue of the impending copyright legislation and the need for strong graduate student and administration lobbying; we will participate in this endeavour
7. I attended the GSIC meeting and will participate in preparing lobbying kits for use with MPPs and MPs
8. The concerns of the Unity Group with respect to the administration's long term security plan was discussed at the executive and a draft letter to the administration from the Unity Group perused by executive members
9. Councillors are encouraged to participate in committees, offer suggestions and ideas and to attend the social at the Grad Club following the council meeting.



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

A few items to note for June:

1. I would like to invite members to join the Graduate Student Teaching Awards committee for the 2005-2006 academic year. Based on the continued growth of this program, the committee would help to shape the direction and implementation of the GSTA awards this year and next. Interested individuals should contact sogs.academic@uwo.ca.
2. The Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research Western have proposed SOGS join them in establishing a joint fund for supporting Graduate Student research conferences and events. The fund would initially amount to ~\$22,500, based on equal contributions from all three parties. Currently, SOGS has a small line item (~\$2000) for this purpose, so this initiative would represent > 10 fold increase in available funds. The SOGS executive and office staff are currently in the process of examining whether we can contribute the additional \$5500 to match the other parties, but in the meantime, I would invite discussion and thoughts from councillors.
3. I will be in the process of compiling a review of the programs under the Academic portfolio this summer. If you have thoughts - good, bad, or otherwise - on any of these (WJGR, WRF, GSTA, 125th Scholarship, Academic Sponsorship Fund) please bring them up at council, or forward them to: sogs.academic@uwo.ca.

Have a safe summer,

Graydon



**Vice President External and Communication
June 2005 Report to Council
Sarah McIsaac (sogs.external@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>**

Dear Councillors,

This past month has been certainly an exciting time at both the federal and provincial levels. In late May, Belinda Stronach stunned Canadians everywhere when she left the Conservative Party to join the federal Liberals as minister of human resource. Locally, Pat O'Brien quit the Liberal Party to sit as an Independent because of his disagreement over the government's intentions to legalize same-sex marriages. As I write this letter, I am awaiting news on the proposed copyright legislation that tabled for this week. Lastly, UWO made both a controversial and historic move awarding Dr. Morgentaler an honorary degree during convocation week. In no uncertain terms, it truly has been an eventful month!

From my portfolio, the GSIC has a great meeting this month and we are planning a few items. There was extensive discussion of the provincial budget. Aaron Keeler has graciously volunteered to send a letter to MPPs outlining key concerns re. allocation and time lines for funding; funding for equity in placements; the structure and representation on the council for higher education; the research council, etc. We also discussed the imposing of ancillary fees on university students in Manitoba; it was noted that with respect to the new funding for post secondary education from the federal government, there is no excuse to increase student payments. I have made a few comments regarding the issue of raising ancillary fees in this month's SOGS newsletter. GSIC will be preparing a lobbying package for use with MPPs and MPs and if any councillors would like input on this, please feel free to contact myself. The idea of a post secondary forum including a panel of speakers with student and provincial/federal government representatives was discussed, so stayed tuned for future information about the very likely event.

Aaron Keeler, our CFS liaison attended the 47th semi-annual CFS conference in Ottawa this past month. Aaron represented SOGS very well at this conference and I would like to thank him for attending on all of our behalf. His report will follow mine in this month's package.

Lastly, as the fall term seems to be fast approaching, I would like to urge councillors to become more involved in SOGS. Both GSIC and the Equity Issues Committee are actively looking for members. The more members we have, the more events we can organize. These committees are a great way to interact with other graduate students as well as opportunities to become involved in local events. I will have a sign up sheet for both of these committees at this month's council meeting.

In these hot humid days of summer, please remember to stay cool and hydrated.

All the best,
Sarah



**Canadian Federation of Students Liaison
June 2005 Report to Council
Aaron Keeler (akeeler@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>**

CFS Liaison Aaron Keeler and councillor Ayesha Williams attended the CFS National Semi-Annual Meeting at Carleton University, May 19-22, 2005. Delegates from across the country participated in an extensive itinerary, including policy and organizational development, issues information sessions, campaigns strategy planning, and student constituency forums.

Uppermost on the agenda were several key issues: 1) working toward a continuation of tuition fee freezes which students in a majority of Canadian jurisdictions have now secured; 2) ensuring the delivery of funding increases to post secondary education recently announced at the federal and provincial levels; 3) lobbying federal and provincial governments and university administrations to ensure the academic freedom of students, specifically regarding the commercialization of research; 4) protecting students' right to access campus space, especially in light of recent evictions and seizures of student unions and student-run services at Carleton and York Universities.

All of the motions presented to the CFS membership, copies of which can be found in the SOGS office, were passed at closing plenary. Further details are also available from Keeler or Williams.

CFS Liaison Aaron Keeler attended the CFS Ontario Executive Meeting in Toronto, June 10-12 2005. Representatives from across Ontario were named to the provincial executive for a term of one year.

As almost all executive members are new to their posts, much of the meeting was orientation. This included a history of the student movement and the CFS in Canada and Ontario, and a primer on recent issues in post secondary education. Discussion focused specifically on several issues of immediate import: 1) advocacy and lobbying at the local level to ensure the delivery of promised provincial and federal increases to post secondary funding; 2) continued organization against student debt, especially the Income Contingent Loan Repayment scheme recently advocated by the Rae review; 3) familiarizing student union representatives with students' legal rights, specifically regarding campus space and access issues.

The remainder of the meeting involved extensive workshops highlighting various CFS initiatives, including the National Student Health Network, Travel CUTS and the ISIC card, Homes4students.ca, studentphonestore.com, and the students' union directory. Further details are available from Keeler.



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

Hey everyone,

This has been a busy month at the Grad Club. Our new manager, Marc Lalonde, has started and has many new and wonderful ideas. The club was very busy during both the management turnover and the Congress. I would like to thank Mark

Brigham for all of his hard work and dedication. It is and was greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Raquel, Olga and the Executive for all of their help over the last month. I really enjoyed working everyone and I wish the best to the society.

Jennie Thompson



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

Dear Councillors

It is with regret that I have to be absent from this month's council meeting, last time was for work, this time is for fun. So if there are any questions you can e-mail me (sogs.services@uwo.ca) and I will try and get back to as soon as humanly possible.

The handbook is finished, at present it is being composed in a printer friendly format and then magically we will have our handbooks the 2nd week in August. This year we will not be distributing them to all the graduate assistants but they will be made available once the tuition fee bills have been printed and you can come and get one when you collect your bus pass. We are distributing this way this year to better assess the number of graduate students that use their handbook. With the advent of electronic devices not as many grad students use their handbook and we would like to see what % of students still do.

I am seeking to get council approval to increase the amount of money that the Student Development Centre receives in our ancillary fees. This is in direct response to the length of the waiting list for counselling. I will need council approval for this as it is not a trivial increase in the SDC ancillary fee line item. I will present details of how much this will cost and the approximate increase in the yearly SDC fee will be at the July council meeting.

Hope this is the last of the humidity ☺

Ben
VP Student Services



Speaker's Note
June 2005 Council
Chris Tait (sogs.speaker@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Hi everyone,

Since I will be stepping down as Speaker at the end of the month, I thought I would just offer a few observations on the position and the work I have been doing in the year since I took over the job.

When I became Speaker, the Bylaws and Constitution Committee was engrossed in a thorough, line-by-line review of the bylaws, based mainly on the proposed changes written by former president Daryl White and others in the previous year. This set of changes was composed on the basis of many years of experience on the part of the authors and contributors, including members of the BCC past and current. The intention was to streamline the rules and procedures by which the Society operates—anyone who is familiar with the myriad of regulations in the constitution, bylaws, and collected policies will understand why this is necessary, but also why this is such a time-consuming (and occasionally mind-numbing) process. This continued until just before the holidays in December. In the meantime, other important amendments to the bylaws were proposed at council which also needed the committee's attention. The in-depth review slowed our responsiveness to other matters, and vice versa. When we got to the end of the bylaws, we realized that there were inconsistencies even in the "improvements" we were making. We were also concerned that it might be difficult, or even inappropriate, to introduce wholesale changes all at once. So we have only been bringing forward bits and pieces of the changes in the last few months, as you may have noticed. But obviously much remains to be done.

Looking ahead, I am planning to stay on the BCC until the end of the summer, because there are still important changes that I would like to see made in the next few months. I know that the other current members of the BCC also want to see more accomplished. **But the committee also needs new faces and fresh ideas.** Since last summer, the committee has lost more members than it has gained, and we have had no new members since the beginning of this school year. The work of the BCC seems boring, I know, but it is also important because it affects everything from the way we run council meetings and elect our president to how we account for spending your student fees. The BCC will be able to do a better job, I believe, if we have more people who have been involved in other areas of the organization, including the executive, council and committees. **Even if you don't want to join the committee, please let us know if you have any concerns or suggestions relating to the bylaws and constitution.** The BCC needs to be more connected to the rest of SOGS' activities—when we are handed a proposal for amending the bylaws, or if we want to troubleshoot current procedures, it is very helpful to get multiple perspectives from people who understand the consequences of those changes in a concrete way.

I hope I helped things to run smoothly in my dual capacity as Speaker and CRO this year. If there was some chaos, confusion, and frustration, I apologize, but I find myself feeling remarkably un-bitter about the whole thing, which is a rarity in student politics.

Thanks to former speakers Ryan, Jesse and Jennie for showing me the ropes, to Prasanna for serving as BCC Chair and Deputy Speaker, to the members of the BCC for all of their hard work and patience, to Olga, Raquel and the executive for their support, and to councillors for being well-behaved and orderly (most of the time)!

Chris



Elections June 2005 Council

Statement of Candidate for VP Finance (Greg Carnes)

To the SOGS Council:

My name is Greg Carnes and I am currently enrolled in the second year of my Master's Degree through the department of Medical Biophysics.

I am writing to demonstrate my interest in the position of VP Finance for the SOGS Council. As a current employee of the Graduate Club I feel that I have a lot to offer both the council and the students who it services. I've been witness to the difficult transition currently underway at the Pub and feel that now more than ever, it is important to have enthusiastic people with fresh ideas. The establishment has great potential to provide an important service to its patrons; these funds can then be funneled back to those patrons through conveyance such as bursaries and scholarships.

During my undergraduate career at Queen's I was an active participant with the school as a member of the Track and Field team. As an Event Group Leader during my final year with the team I was involved in the management of funds that were raised through events such as bottle drives, calendar sales and bar events.

In my opinion, it is of utmost importance in an academic environment such as our own, that for an economic venture to be profitable it must serve the needs of all students involved. For the Grad Club, this means fostering a fun, stimulating environment. I see this as the central mantra of the position of VP Finance. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Greg Carnes
gcarnes@imaging.robarts.ca

Statement of Candidate for VP Finance (Jason Cakiroglu)

Dear Executive Committee and Council,

I am writing to submit an application for the position of VP Finance for the term beginning July 1 through October 31. I am greatly interested in this position as I would like to prepare the annual budget for the Society, to help in administration of funds to graduate students requiring emergency loans and child care funds, and play a strong role in reconciling the relationship between the Society's finance department and the grad club.

My background is in Mechanical Engineering (U.W.O.), and my current work is research in spinal cord regeneration with stem cell therapy. I have over two years experience as an engineering designer with budgets up to 50K, having been successful in the completion of 3 major projects. I have experience on fund raising committees including United Way, 2 years with the Robarts Research family Campaign, and currently am preparing for the annual Bike tour for MS research. I have 1 and a half years experience in the restaurant industry, working many positions including Sous Chef, Server and Bartender. I also have experience in entertainment, having played many shows in the past with my band.

I feel that my experience and background as mechanical engineer has prepared me well for the position of VP finance, as I have experience with tight operating budgets. My experience in the restaurant and entertainment industry will greatly aid in turning the Grad Club into a successful business where students and the community can enjoy activities, entertainment and dining.

Jason Cakiroglu
Faculty of Medical Biophysics
Msc Candidate

BESc
jcakirog@imaging.robarts.ca
(519) 663-5777 ext. 34315



**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**