

# Society of Graduate Students July 21, 2005 Council Meeting

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# SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

July 21, 2005

## AGENDA

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- 1) Ratification of Agenda
- 2) Announcements
- 3) Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative
- 4) Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes for the June Meeting
- 5) Orders of the Day
  - a. Motions arising from the President
  - b. Motions arising from Other Committees
  - c. Other Motions
- 6) Elections
  - a. Speaker
  - b. 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**
- c) **Other Motions**

## SOGS Council Attendance Report June 23, 2005

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Ruchi Bhalla	6:00 PM		
Anthropology	Alicia Grimes	5:55 PM		
Anthropology	Laura Marciano			
Applied Mathematics	Olga Krakovska			
Applied Mathematics	Andriy Miranskyy			
Biochemistry	Steven Beasley	5:50 PM		
Biochemistry	Aaron Booy			
Biochemistry	Angela Coveny			
Biochemistry	Pat Telmer			
Biology	Jay Anthony Pillai			
Biology	Sateesh Kagale			
Biology	Michelle Marcus	6:00 PM		
Biology	Julia Michitsch			
Biology	Jeremy Pfaff			
Biomedical Engineering	Kirsten Anas			
Biomedical Engineering	Jamie Brownhill			
Board of Governors	Errol Stewart			
Chemistry	Woo-Jae Cheong	6:12 PM		
Chemistry	Mark Kuprowski			
Chemistry	Simone Lam			
Chemistry	Andrea Walette	5:50 PM		
Classical Studies	Suzanne Schaller			
Computer Science	Akpodigha Filatei			
Computer Science	S. Garg			
Computer Science	Jingping Liu			
Computer Science	Kehinde Oladosu			
Computer Science	Lieyu Wu			
Computer Science	Vacant			
CSD	Melanie Beaudin			
CSD	Andria Bulfon			
CSD	B.J. Collins			
CSD	Nancy Galvan			
Earth Sciences	Kebbi Hughes			
Earth Sciences	Reba Macdonald			
Earth Sciences	Greg Wanger			
Economics	Chris Bennett			
Economics	Josh Svatek			
Economics	Dinghai Xu			
Education	Anne Escrader			

Education	David Woods			
Education	Vacant			
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			
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			
English	Vacant			
Epidemiology & Biostats	Laura Anderson	5:55 PM		
Epidemiology & Biostats	Micha Tsarfati			
Executive - Grad Club	Marc Lalonde			
Executive - President	Patti Dalton			
Executive - Speaker	Chris Tait			
Executive - VP Academic	Graydon Raymer			
Executive - VP External	Sarah Mclsaac			
Executive - VP Finance	Jennie Thompson			
Executive - VP Student Services	Ben Hedley			
Family Medicine	Vacant			
French	Christine Knapp			
French	Emma Laval			
Geography	Stephen Carlyle	5:55 PM		
Geography	Daniel Sandink	5:50 PM	7:15 PM	
GTA Union	Elana Geller			
History	Mark Eaton	6:00 PM		
History	Wes Gustavson	6:00 PM		Alt. Forrest Pass
History	Dean Ruffilli			
Journalism	C. Moorehead	5:50 PM		

Journalism	Alexandra Slaby	5:50 PM		
Kinesiology	Carly Adams	6:10 PM		Alt. Lyndsay Fitzgeorge
Kinesiology	Marcia Milne	6:00 PM		
Kinesiology	Natalie Szudy	5:50 PM	7:15 PM	
Kinesiology	Melissa Wiman	5:50 PM	7:18 PM	
L&IS	Lindsay Brock	5:50 PM		
L&IS	Jewel Frenette	5:55 PM		
L&IS	Pat Gamsby	5:55 PM		
L&IS	Natasha Gerolami	6:00 PM		
L&IS	Lauren Hodges	5:52 PM		
L&IS	David Lee	5:55 PM		
L&IS	D. Van Der Linde			Alt. Rebecca Blackburn - no time listed - not counted toward grant
Law	Vacant			
Mathematics	Ortho Smith			
Media Studies	Becca Elias			
Medical Biophysics	Jason Cakiroglu			
Medical Biophysics	Janet Hendry			
Medical Biophysics	Andrea McNiven			
Medical Biophysics	Jodi Miller			
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			
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			
Philosophy	Shannon Dea	6:00 PM		
Philosophy	Jeremy MacBean	6:00 PM		Alt. Leonardo Jordao
Philosophy	Jenny Noland	6:00 PM		
Physical Therapy	Christine Dubuc	6:00 PM	7:25 PM	
Physical Therapy	Patricia Ferrari			
Physical Therapy	Jennifer Field			
Physical Therapy	Erinn Freeman	6:00 PM	7:25 PM	
Physical Therapy	MikeKoonar			
Physics & Astronomy	Iftekharul Haque			
Physics & Astronomy	Chris Hunter			
Physics & Astronomy	Vacant			
Physiology and Pharm.	Ryan Gillespie			
Physiology and Pharm.	Garth Oakes	6:00 PM		
Physiology and Pharm.	Saira Saleem			
Physiology and Pharm.	Brad Urquhart	6:00 PM		
Physiology and Pharm.	Kirk Young			
Political Science	Chris Cheung			
Political Science	Brian Grassie	5:55 PM		
Political Science	Alexandra Taylor			
Psychology	Caroline Abu-Ayyash			signed but no time listed - not counted toward grant
Psychology	Melissa Grigg	5:55 PM		
Psychology	Alexandra Hernandez-Smith	5:55 PM		
Psychology	Christopher O'Connor	5:55 PM	7:18 PM	
Psychology	Natasha Parfyonova	5:55 PM	7:18 PM	
Public Administration	Vacant			
Rehabilitation Sciences	Karla Washington			
Senate	Cheryl Dudgeon			
Senate	Michelle Witen			
Sociology	Paul Bakker	5:30 PM		
Sociology	Ayesha Williams	5:30 PM		
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Deepak Sanjel			
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Vacant			
Theory & Criticism	Tara Kachroo			
Theory & Criticism	Vacant			
Visual Arts	Carol-Ann Ryan			
Visual Arts	Michael Windover			

# SOGS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 23, 2005  
6:00 – 7:18 p.m.

Social Science Centre Room 3018

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Chair: Chris Tait

Recording Secretary: Amy Taylor

## 1. Ratification of Agenda

- Moved: Beasley (Biochemistry)
- Seconded: Walette (Chemistry)

## 2. Announcements

- Tait welcomed all councillors to the meeting, and mentioned that new Councillor Orientation packages were available at the front table.
- Quorum for the summer is 22.
- Refreshments were served.
- Summer bus passes continue to be available in the SOGS office—please remember to bring proper documentation (fee bill, student card and proof of \$450 dollars tuition paid).
- Health plan rebate cheques will be distributed to departments in late July.
- The University Parking Appeals Committee is looking for members—if interested please contact SOGS office.

## 3. Faculty of Graduate Studies Representative

- No one attended.

## 4. Reception and Ratification of May 26, 2005 SOGS Council Meeting Minutes

There were no corrections or additions proposed.

- Moved: Dea (Philosophy)
- Seconded: Abu-Ayyash (Psychology)

## 5. Orders of the Day

a) **Motions arising from the President:** None

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

Moved: Thompson (VP Finance)

Seconded: Dalton (President)

Motivation (Thompson): SOGS Executive and Council are legally responsible for actions of Society; can be sued. This is especially important with regard to employees and labour laws (eg. regarding termination). Issues have arisen in the past, and have been dealt with in different ways. The Society does not have a lot of liquid assets—a large lawsuit could bankrupt us. The Grad Club renovations consumed most of the Society's cash and investments. Thus the Society should be purchasing this for financial security. This has been proposed in the last three budgets—it is not a new idea.

Discussion:

Dea (Philosophy): Is this the first time we are purchasing it? Thompson (A): Yes, we just got a quote. It has been looked into before, but this is the first time it has been pursued this far. It is already in the budget because Dylan intended to purchase insurance but did not have an exact figure.

Vote: 38 in favour, 1 opposed, 0 abstentions (Passed)

#### **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.**

Moved: Mclsaac (VP External)

Seconded: Dalton (President)

Motivation (Mclsaac): Since Hedley was unable to attend, Mclsaac presented the motion. The change was proposed because eye exams were no longer covered by OHIP.

Discussion:

Dea (Philosophy): Will this cover Year X and category 2 students? (A) Mclsaac: Yes, all full-time grad students, or part-time students & post docs who have opted into the plan will be covered.

Beasley (Biochemistry): What does this cover? (A) Mclsaac: Only regular eye exams, once every 2 years will be covered.

Dea (Philosophy): What is the cost of glasses? Are we closing the door on this option? (A) Mclsaac: Although the door isn't closed, it is very expensive for the benefits received.

Vote: 37 in favour, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions (Passed)

c) **Other Motions:** None

## **6. Elections**

### **VP Finance (interim)**

- Tait announced that one candidate (Greg Carnes) had withdrawn, so there was only one remaining declared candidate, Jason Cakiroglu.
- No nominations were made from the floor, so Cakiroglu was acclaimed, subject to ratification by Council.

Questions for candidate:

Abu-Ayyash (Psychology): What sort of previous experience do you have? (A) Cakiroglu: Although he has not had any previous responsibilities on Council, Cakiroglu has worked on several large Engineering projects which required staying within budget; he has experience on fund raising committees; experience in the restaurant business and he has his own business.

Vote: 36 in favour, 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Ratified)

### **Speaker**

- Tait explained that as no nominations had been submitted to Executive prior to meeting (as required by bylaws), there could be no election at this meeting, but he encouraged people to consider the position, especially since a new speaker would be needed for the next meeting.

**Other elections:** None

## 7. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports

### President:

- The Grad Club has a new manager (Marc Lalonde), and things are going well. Everyone encouraged to go to the Grad Club after the meeting for special treats. Thanks to Raquel, Mark and Jennie for their heroic efforts to fill the gap before the new manager was hired.
- The Morgentaler honorary degree garnered lots of media attention. The letter of support from SOGS was sent to the President and Board of Governors.
- Strategic Plan Task Force needs another graduate student representative.
- Information Security Working Group needs a grad rep as well.
- Part-time Grad Students task force is moving in positive directions concerning equity and access, discussing financial hardships.
- Wants input from grad students about funding allocations for grads in provincial budget.
- Will be participating in creation of kits for lobbying MPs and MPPs.
- Regional Social Forum will be held at the end of June.

### VP Academic:

- TA awards very successful, continues to grow, surpassed capacity. TA Awards Committee will begin sooner this year, prepare over summer. Looking for input: what do we value about TA Awards program? What direction could it go in? Should it be online, or should nomination procedure change? To join or contribute ideas, contact SOGS office.
- Has been discussing a joint research fund with FGS and Research Western to support graduate research. Could involve a substantial boost to funds available to graduate students, but would also require larger outlay by SOGS. Would like input from SOGS members. A joint committee would evaluate applications, so SOGS would have 1/3 of decision-making power over money. This would need to be presented as a formal motion at a future meeting to take effect. FGS and RW are waiting for a response from us to continue discussions.
- Question (Freeman, Physical Therapy): Will funds be better publicized than existing programs?
- Answer: SOGS certainly will publicize this.
- Comments were offered by councillors on the TA Awards process: some concerns about paperwork and distribution of labour.

### VP External & Communications:

- Mclsaac brought sign-up sheets for committees—asked councillors to join.
- It has been an exciting time, with the Morgentaler degree and lots of action in federal and provincial politics.
- Aaron Keeler will be lobbying local MPs and MPPs for increased funding for grad studies—will follow up.
- Discussions with FGS and President Davenport: discussed discrepancies in funding and work hours for category 1 and category 2 students; Davenport wants graduate students to work on copyright legislation and its potential effects on academic world.

### VP Finance:

- As mentioned, Grad Club has a new manager. Good feedback from GC staff so far.
- The Congress was very profitable for GC; Special thanks were expressed to Susan Grindrod and Frank Miller for their extra help;
- Financially, the GC is doing better overall, with losses down since December;
- Mortgage arrangements have changed—not enough capital to support current setup; money from mutual funds will be used to support expansion loan;
- This is not the first time the GC has seen a major loss—12 years ago was the last time it happened, and at that time a levy was imposed to pay off the debt;
- The GC should be able to sustain itself in the long term—with the right management and a stabilized situation.

### VP Student Services:

- Hedley was absent. His report appears in the package; anyone with questions should contact him.

**Speaker's Note:**

- Tait encouraged everyone to join committees, since they are essential to the operation of SOGS.

**8. New Business/Open Forum**

None

**9. Adjournment**

Moved: Grassie (Political Science)

Seconded: Pass (History)

- The meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.



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

1. Concerns regarding significant funding cuts for graduate students in the arts and humanities have been received. The Executive and the GSIC will develop a plan in terms of political action; suggestions and direction from all graduate students are encouraged.
2. Graduate student representatives are required for the following roles:
  - a. Speaker for Council
  - b. Part time graduate students subcommittee
3. During my last meeting with Marc Lalonde, he indicated that the operations of the Grad Club are running smoothly. The staff meetings have been very positive; Marc is implementing changes slowly and has improved security features, health and safety concerns, overall service and profits. He has hired a night supervisor to oversee closing. We are in regular contact and meet at least weekly. There will be monthly meetings with Marc, Jason, Susan Grindrod and myself.
4. The Regional Social Forum was a tremendous success—despite extreme heat—over four hundred participants were energized by the events, sessions and speakers. Judy Rebick, Rick Salutin and Ed Finn were among the more well known speakers. The forum will be held again next year and graduate students are warmly invited to help in the planning and organization; please contact me for additional information.
5. Senate Meeting
  - a. President Paul Davenport provided an update on the university budget which is included here (directly from the minutes) for councillors' perusal:

*Following the May 11 Provincial Budget, in which Minister of Finance Greg Sorbara announced that the government would move ahead on recommendations contained in the Rae Report on Postsecondary Education, Ontario's universities have revisited their anticipated budgets for the coming year in the expectation of increased funding. Decisions are still being made at Queen's Park concerning the allocation mechanisms for portions of this funding, and Western's senior team of Vice-Presidents and our Office of Institutional Planning and Budgeting are working to develop a timetable for adjusting individual unit budgets in accordance with University priorities. The increased funding will mean additional faculty and staff appointments in key areas of our academic and support units, investment in facilities renewal and capital projects, and the opportunity to act on priorities identified within the units and across the University.*
  - b. Not included in the minutes but part of the discussion was the fact that graduate program expansion is a key feature of the budget; the projection is an increase of PhD program students by fifty percent. As mentioned in my previous critiques, we need specific allocations and timelines from both the government and the administration of the University. The government still has not formulated the performance indicators upon which funding will be based nor "allocation mechanisms". Of course, the promise of substantial funding begs the question why have there been decreases to the funding for arts and humanities graduate students?
  - c. There was lengthy and considerable debate regarding the naming of the conjoined schools of Medicine and Dentistry. The undergraduate student representative pointed out that the students who were currently graduating did not have any input into the process.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patti Dalton



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

July Council Report  
VP Academic

Greetings,

The summer months are for planning in the Academic Portfolio. The GSTA committee has already begun meeting, and has been discussing the idea of moving the evaluation procedure to an entirely online format. The details are currently being worked out, but it is expected that this move will save the Society a significant amount of time and labour. Individuals are still more than welcome to join the GSTA committee, so please contact [sogs.academic@uwo.ca](mailto:sogs.academic@uwo.ca) if you are one of them.

We are now looking for individuals to serve on the WJGR editorial board. Great experience, and looks great on a CV! Interested individuals should contact [sogs.academic@uwo.ca](mailto:sogs.academic@uwo.ca).

Last month I mentioned to councillors the possibility of SOGS contributing \$7000 to a joint research fund with FGS and Research Western. Based on current enrollment figures, it does not appear that we have the surplus to commit to this amount. Any thoughts or ideas regarding the future of this proposal are welcome.

- Graydon



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

Dear Councillors,

To begin, I apologize for my absence at this month's council meeting. To reiterate my comments from last council's meeting, I would once again encourage councilors to recruit graduate students on campus to become more involved in SOGS. Specifically under my portfolio, both the Graduate Student Issues Committee 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. Please have any graduate students who are interested in volunteering on this committees send me an email at [sogs.external@uwo.ca](mailto:sogs.external@uwo.ca).

The Canadian Federation of Students came out with a very disturbing report that summarizes a study published by Statistics Canada entitled Survey of Earned Doctorates: A Profile of Doctoral Degree Recipients. The study highlights the debt levels of graduate students and brings attention to many concerning factors that may potentially affect the accessibility of graduate education to individuals. Some of the points raised in the study include: 32% of graduate borrowers have a debt in excess of \$20,000; for every 2 female graduate students there are 3 male graduate students; and the length of time to complete a doctoral program averages 70 months, or 5 years and 10 months. The complete published report can be retrieved electronically from <http://www.statcan.ca/english/research/81-595-MIE/81-595-MIE2005032.pdf>.

I would like to inform all councillors of the forthcoming Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) 2005 General Meeting August 18<sup>th</sup> to August 21<sup>st</sup> in Markham, Ontario. This is an excellent opportunity for the Society of Graduate Students to plan provincial campaigns, internal operations, policies and bylaws. Anyone interested in attending this meeting should contact either Aaron Keeler ([akeeler@uwo.ca](mailto:akeeler@uwo.ca)) or Sarah McIsaac ([sogs.external@uwo.ca](mailto:sogs.external@uwo.ca)) as soon as possible.

All the best,  
Sarah

*"You must be that change you want to see in the world"*  
-Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)



**Vice President Finance**  
**July 2005 Report to Council**  
**Jason Cakiroglu (sogs.finance@uwo.ca)**  
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors,

During the first two weeks of July, I met with Marc Lalonde on a couple of occasions to discuss the current standing, and future direction for operations at the Grad Club. We are meeting next week along with Mark the kitchen manager to review the past and present years' budget. Our goal is to determine the best operating cost and food/liquor price balance for September.

I met with Gitta Kulczycki, and we focused our discussion on preparation of the SOGS report (fee proposal) to Campus Community Affairs Council (CCAC) for this year, the impending 2005 SOGS audit, and current housing issues for graduate students. I am currently reviewing past CCAC proposals, and will meet with Gitta soon to begin preparation of the CCAC report for this year. Michael King is the auditor for SOGS in 2005, should an audit be necessary. Gitta and I will meet with Susan Grindrod to discuss housing issues for graduate students. We plan to distribute a survey to students to collect feedback on current housing needs for grads, and present this information to London City Council to stimulate affordable housing in the best suited locations for graduates.

Jennie has been an amazing resource, providing me with countless suggestions for improvement of SOGS financial affairs. On the top of the list is an amendment to the UWO personnel policy, which would allow the SOGS Executive to have power over Grad Club management. Other issues are the development of a membership fees policy, and a write up of inventory procedures. I will address these issues at the next executive meeting, as well as future meetings with Gitta Kulczycki and Grad Club Management.

Enjoy the rest of the summer,

Jason



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

Dear Councillors

Finally, I am back in London for a council meeting. ☺ Although I have been away I have made sure that things were still on track during my absence, e-mail is a wondrous thing occasionally.

The handbook was finished and was composed with the help of the composing department in the USC. With help from the VP Academic and Olga I managed to proof read the final version and it was sent to the printer while I was 3000 miles away.

As I have mentioned numerous times this year we will not be distributing handbooks through the graduate assistants but they will be made available in the SOGS Office, once the tuition fee bills have been printed and you can come and get one when you collect your bus pass. We are distributing them 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.

As I am here this month I will address the following item in person. I am seeking to get councils 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 councils' 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.

Planning for the new student orientation party is starting now, if you have any ideas or want to help then contact me. Personal invitations will be issued this year to all the new students but if you want to come and help we can get in the door, we will probably need 2-3 helpers. As last year there will be a raffle for door prizes. The location will again be the Grad Club on a week day evening, I will try and schedule a time when it is the least inconvenient for the majority of students; however, with the numbers involved it won't be possible to avoid conflicts. You can help by telling me times of compulsory courses for your department. Thank you in advance.

Only 2 weeks more to go.....until the end of July, another 6 weeks worth of humidity!!! ☺

Ben  
VP Student Services



**Speaker's Note**  
**July 2005 Council**  
**([sogs.speaker@uwo.ca](mailto:sogs.speaker@uwo.ca))**  
**<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>**

Volunteer required  
- see position requirements at [www.uwo.ca/sogs](http://www.uwo.ca/sogs) governance



## Appendix I Final Report – VP Finance

Hi Everyone,

This year has been interesting and difficult to say the least. The year started with the Society facing major losses at the Grad Club at a time when we were least able to handle it because of the demands of paying for the expansion. Several difficult business decisions were made and the Grad Club is now starting to see a profit once again. This is great! I would encourage all grad students to use the expanded facility because it is one of the many great services that the Society provides for its members.

The next major issue that I tackled was the development of the budget. This task was made easy because of the help of Raquel and the Finance Committee. The budget was very conservative to ensure stability for the Society in the future and I think that the budget will ensure this. Additionally, I worked with KMPG to perform a specified review of the Grad Club business procedures. This was very useful and the document that was provided by this process should be used to guide many of our financial policies in the future. This allowed us to make a successful presentation to the CCAC and move forward with the collection of our fees next year.

Finally, I was able to secure the Directors' Liability Insurance, which was one of the focuses at the beginning of my term.

I would like to mention a few issues that should be considered in the future:

- It is very important that we pay off the loans for the Grad Club expansion as quickly as possible to ensure replenishment of our accounts where we borrowed money.
- In the future, I would like to see the Grad Club be able to profit share about \$3000 a month for bursaries. This can be met by paying off our loans as quickly as possible. This will also allow us to allocate more funds to individual bursary amounts.
- The Grad Club needs to prepare a budget that will include all aspects of the business. Additionally, a five year business plan should be developed, so that Council can evaluate how effectively the Club is being managed.
- We also need to consider extra budgeting for the increased enrollment of the future.
- An ad-hoc committee should be struck to examine the possibility of raising Executive honorariums.
- Many policies need to be enacted to deal with finances of the Society and the Grad Club and many policies must be developed to deal with the procedural operations at the Grad Club. These policies are the only way to ensure that Council has control over their business. No policy simply means **No control!**
- Some policies that need to be developed include: inventory procedures, membership policies, overtime hours and remuneration for extra hours, policy making it necessary to compare the previous year budget with the actual. My list is very extensive and the new VP Finance has it! So I won't bore you with the details.

I would like to thank everyone that worked with me over the last eight months. I would especially like to thank Raquel, Olga and Mike King for the support that they provided me.

Wishing the Grad Club and the Society continued prosperity,

Jennie Thompson  
VP Finance



**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**