

Society of Graduate Students
January 25, 2007 Council Meeting
Physics & Astronomy Bldg. Room 215

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SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

January 25, 2007

AGENDA

1. Ratification of Agenda
2. Announcements
3. Guest Speaker
4. Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes of November 30, 2006
5. Orders of the Day
 - a. Motions arising from the President
 - b. Motions arising from Other Committees
 - c. Other Motions
6. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports
 - a. President
 - b. VP Academic
 - c. VP External & Communications
 - d. VP Finance
 - e. VP Student Services
 - f. Disabilities Commissioner Report
 - g. CFS Liaison Report
 - h. Councillor Reports
- 7) New Business/Open Forum

SOGS Council Attendance Report November 25, 2006

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Jay Maxwell	6:00		
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Jennifer Noad	6:00		
Anthropology	Ramazan Aras	6:00	7:30	
Anthropology	Christine Boston	6:00		
Applied Mathematics	Vacant			
Applied Mathematics	Vacant			
Biochemistry	Kamal Gill			
Biochemistry	Haiting Ma	6:00		
Biochemistry	Gurprett Singh			
Biology	Morgan Kleiber	6:00		
Biology	Cherise Poo	6:00		
Biology	Edwin Price	6:00		
Biology	Xiaofeng Wang			
Biomedical Engineering	Andrew Norman	6:00		
Biomedical Engineering	Sarah Takaki	6:00		
Board of Governors	Graydon Raymer			
CFS Liaison	Nicholas Cothros			
Chemistry	Mark Kuprowski	6:00		
Chemistry	Andrew Leduc			
Chemistry	Vacant			
Chemistry	Filip Wojciechowski			
Classical Studies	Christine Muldoon	6:00	7:35	
Comp. Literature	Maria Dasios			
Computer Science	Andrew DeLong	6:00		
Computer Science	Nathan Lemieux	6:00		
Computer Science	Dan Siemon	6:00		
Computer Science	Qian Zhao	6:00		
CSD	Julia Colangeli	6:00		
CSD	Julia Cott	6:00		
CSD	Claire Mollison	6:00		
Disabilities Commissioner	Brent Sherar	6:00		
Earth Sciences	Alexandre Aubin	6:00		
Earth Sciences	Lachlan MacLean	6:00	7:08	
Economics	Philippe Belley	6:00	7:45	
Economics	Douwere Grekou	6:00	7:45	
Education	Nithya Addageethala			
Education	Xiaoxiao Du			
Education	Stephanie Wilson			
Engineering Science	Dan Dechene	6:00		
Engineering Science	Marco Luccini	6:00		
Engineering Science	Jahirul Mazumder	6:00	7:40	
Engineering Science	Anna Sauer	6:00		
Engineering Science	Milana Trifkovic			
Engineering Science	Vacant			
Engineering Science	Vacant			
Engineering Science	Vacant			
Engineering Science	Vacant			
Engineering Science	Vacant			

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Engineering Science	Vacant			
Engineering Science	Vacant			
Engineering Science	Vacant			
Engineering Science	Vacant			
Engineering Science	Vacant			
Engineering Science	Vacant			
English	Thomas Barnes			
English	Stephanie Oliver	6:00		
English	Laurel Ryan	6:00	7:40	
Epidemiology & Biostats	Annalise Jensen	6:00		
Epidemiology & Biostats	Susan Muir	6:00		
Executive - Grad Club	Marc Lalonde			
Executive - President	Shannon Dea	6:00		
Executive - Speaker	Rebecca Feldman			
Executive - VP Academic	Duane Jacques	6:00		
Executive - VP External	Michael Daubs	6:00		
Executive - VP Finance	Steven Beasley	6:00		
Executive - VP Student Services	Ryan Robb			Kai Pisters
Family Medicine	Vacant			
French	Kim Bruno	6:00		
French	Christine Knapp	6:00		
Geography	Nilima Bhoi	6:00	7:45	
Geography	Qiyun Tan	6:00		
GTA Union	Elana Geller			
Hispanic Studies	Rolando Aguilera			
History	Bryan Andrachuk	6:00	7:30	
History	Grace Fourie			
History	Rollen Lee	6:00		
Journalism	Katherine Fletcher	6:00	7:15	
Journalism	Sarah Vanderwolf	6:00	7:15	
Kinesiology	Lyndsay Fitzgeorge	6:00	7:35	
Kinesiology	Erin McGowan	6:00	7:35	
Kinesiology	Megan Popovic	6:00	7:37	
L&IS-M	Graeme Campbell	6:00	7:40	
L&IS-M	Carolyn Gregoire			
L&IS-M	Carrie Morrison	6:00		
L&IS-M	Jessica Olliver	6:00	7:40	
L&IS-M	Leslie Taylor	6:00	7:40	
L&IS-PhD	Natasha Gerolami	6:00		
Law	Jingjing Zhou	6:00		
Mathematics	Vacant			
Media Studies	Rachel Timmins	6:00		
Media Studies	Vacant			
Medical Biophysics	Kimberley Blackwood	6:00	7:35	
Medical Biophysics	Andrea McNiven			
Medical Biophysics	Jodi Miller	6:00	7:35	
Medical Biophysics	Matthew Murphy	6:00	7:40	
Microbiology & Immunology	Kemi Adeyanju	6:00	7:30	
Microbiology & Immunology	Fred Beasley	6:00	7:35	
Music	Anita Hardeman	6:00	7:40	
Music	Stephanie Horsley	6:00		Alt. P. Gandhi
Music	Alexa Wolosyn	6:00		
Neuroscience	Melanie-Anne Atkins	6:00		
Neuroscience	Adrian Snihur			

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Nursing	Vacant			
Nursing	Vacant			
Occupational Therapy	Liane Cross	6:00	7:15	Alt. A. Jones
Occupational Therapy	Heather Gander	6:00	7:15	
Occupational Therapy	Melissa Knott	6:00		
Occupational Therapy	Jessica Malpage	6:00		
Orthodontics	Vacant			
Part-Time Representative	Vacant	6:00		Ryan Robb
Pathology	Vacant			
Philosophy	Brian Lawson	6:00		
Philosophy	Julia Watt	6:00		
Philosophy	Angela White	6:00		
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physics & Astronomy	Patrick Granton			
Physics & Astronomy	Vacant	6:00		
Physiology and Pharm.	Alexis Gordon	6:00		
Physiology and Pharm.	Janet Manias	6:00		
Physiology and Pharm.	Dan Tong			
Physiology and Pharm.	Vacant			
Physiology and Pharm.	Vacant			
Political Science	Howie Bender	6:00		
Political Science	Sarah Hannan			
Psychology	Paula Brochu	6:00		
Psychology	Deanna Friesen	6:00		
Psychology	Matthew Shanahan	6:00		Alt. S. Hastings
Psychology	Kathryn Turnbull	6:00		
Public Administration	Marc Gainer			
Rehabilitation Sciences	Vacant			
Rehabilitation Sciences	Karla Washington	6:00		
Senate	Naqaa Abbas			
Senate	Jennifer Harmer	6:00	7:15	
Senate	M. Kamran Khan			
Senate	Elan Paulson			
Sociology	Rebecca Williams	6:00	7:15	
Sociology	Katharina Wolff	6:00	7:15	
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Ou Feng	6:00		
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Vacant			
Theology	Vacant			
Theory & Criticism	Miriam Love	6:00		
Theory & Criticism	Vacant			
Visual Arts	Dagmara Genda	6:00		

SOGS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 30, 2006

6:00 – 8:10 p.m.

North Campus Building 114

Speaker: Rebecca Feldman

1. Ratification of Agenda

Moved: A. Hardeman (Music)

Seconded: R. Lee (History)

Carried

2. Announcements

Feldman welcomed all Councillors to the SOGS November Council Meeting and extended a special welcome to new Councillors.

Quorum for the year is 27.

Light refreshments were served.

This was the last Council meeting for 2006. The next meeting will be January 25th, the room will be confirmed and posted on the SOGS website.

Winter bus passes will be available around the middle of December. Please check the website for exact date and let your peers know.

The SOGS office will be closed from noon December 22 – January 8 inclusive.

The SOGS Staff and Executive wish all Councillors a safe and restful holiday season.

A reminder was made, that if councillors leave the meeting prior to it being adjourned, they must sign out on the Attendance Sheet. Name tags should be left in the folders at the front. If Councillors leave once the meeting has been adjourned there is no need to sign out.

3. Guest Speaker

4. Ratification of October 26, 2006 Minutes

Moved: J. Watt (Philosophy)

Seconded: B. Andrachuk (History)

Carried

5. Orders of the Day

a. Motions arising from the President

WHEREAS SOGS' official bus pass policy, which was approved by SOGS Council on April 24, 2003, and which came into effect on September 1, 2003 in section II.1 that all full-time graduate students who have paid their SOGS fees are entitled to a bus pass, therefore

BIRT that SOGS cease its practice of requiring proof of payment of \$450 or more of fees (or of anticipated aid in that amount) from students seeking bus passes, and instead henceforth require from them proof of payment of an amount equal to or exceeding the SOGS membership fee for each term, or of anticipated aid in that amount.

Seconded: J. Watt (Philosophy)

Carried

b. Motions arising from Other Committees

Motion arising from the Grad Club Committee (Dea):

WHEREAS Steven Beasley (recently retired) performed the work of Grad Club Committee Chair in a most exemplary fashion,

BIRT that he receive an honorarium of \$300 from SOGS' "Honoraria" budget line.

Seconded: A. Gordon (Physiology & Pharmacology)
Carried

Motion Arising from the Orientation Committee (Robb):

BIRT Council accept the recommendation of the Orientation Committee and award Jen Long and Janet Manias a \$150 honourarium each for their work as co-chairs of the Orientation Committee.

Seconded: S. Dea (President)
Carried

Motion Arising from the International Graduate Student Issues Committee (Robb):

BIRT Council accept the recommendation of IGSIC and award Raphael Bahati and Germaine Joseph a \$150 honourarium each for their work as IGSIC co-chairs.

Seconded: A. White (Philosophy)
Carried

Motion Arising from the Health Plan Committee (Lee):

BIRT the following be adopted as the Health Plan Opt-Out Policy:

SOGS holds that its members have a right to opt out of the Health Plan. Accordingly, SOGS' executive, staff, and other agents will not place undue barriers in the way of members who wish to opt out of the policy. Where there is a genuine concern of a deliberate attempt to defraud the Society, SOGS or its agents may investigate individual opt-out applications. Any such investigation must be initiated by the Health Plan Committee.

To opt out of the SOGS health plan, a graduate student must do the following:

1. Complete the SOGS Health Plan Opt-Out form and;
2. Present proof of coverage that includes the name of the insurance provider and a policy number. Such proof may be, but is not limited to, the following:
 - A letter, fax, or email from either the insurance provider or an employer or other agency that arranges the coverage.
 - A membership card.

The health plan opt-out form will be based on the template provided below. The form will require the member to indicate the semester for which he or she is applying to opt out of the health plan. The form will also indicate the amount that the member will receive for opting out each semester.

Seconded: S. Dea
Carried

c. Other Motions

Motions Submitted by the VP Finance (Dea):

BIRT the travel bursary line item be increased by \$3000 from the current \$12000 to \$15000.

Seconded: A. Hardeman (Music)
Carried

Motion Arising from the VP Student Services (Dea):

Whereas: the honorarium allocated for the Chair of the Health Plan Committee for the 2006/2007 fiscal year cannot be allocated at this time,

BIRT Council approve a deferral of the Health Plan Committee's decision to grant an honoraria to its Chair to the April 2007 meeting of Council, i.e., prior to the end of the 2006/2007 fiscal year.

Seconded: J. Watt (Philosophy)
Carried

6. Elections

a. VP Student Services

Kai Pisters (Engineering) put his name forward and was acclaimed as VP Student Services.

b. Commissioner for Students with Disabilities

Brent Sherar and Abudi Awaysheh put their names forward. Sherar presented his statement. Awaysheh did not attend. Sherar was elected Commissioner for Students with Disabilities.

7. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports

a. President

As I write this, I feel really optimistic and energized about SOGS. Last month's SOGS Council meeting was exemplary in terms of the participation of councillors, senators and the graduate board of governors' representative. We had some vigorous discussions, some surprising votes, and recruited many new grad reps for external bodies and SOGS committees. After the council meeting, I had the opportunity to speak to many SOGS councillors – both new and returning – and was delighted by their enthusiasm and insight. I am optimistic that SOGS will have a really productive year.

Since then, our newly-elected student senators have attended their first meeting of Senate. I am happy to say that the graduate senators were in full attendance, and that, for the first time in a long time, graduate senators have begun to take part in the Student Caucus on Governance. These are the first steps toward having a considerably stronger graduate voice on campus.

Graduate students will also be a presence on this year's Student Services Committee (SSC). Composed of graduate students, undergraduate students and members of the administration, the SSC considers the various university services for students that are offered and sets priorities for same, including approving budget requests for these services. While the SSC has served as something of a rubber stamp in the past, there seems to be a sea change coming. At the SSC meeting just passed, it was decided that student members would tour a number of student services on campus and seek to develop a broader conception of which services require more support. In light of the increased emphasis on graduate study in Western's *Engaging the Future* strategic plan, it is really important for graduate students to have strong voice in this process. If there is a student service that you find particularly useful, or one that you know of that needs better funding, or even a service that is not currently available that you think should be introduced, I urge you to get in touch with me at sogs.president@uwo.ca or stop by my office in UCC 260 to let me know where the priorities for the SSC should reside.

In other recent news, I attended the annual Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS) conference earlier this month in Quebec City. This was an extremely productive meeting of graduate student leaders and graduate deans from across the country. Among the issues that we discussed that are of particular relevance to SOGS members are best practices relating to graduate supervision and external thesis examiners, impending changes to NSERC and a variety of issues related to student funding and tuition. I will address the NSERC issue over the course of my verbal report at this month's SOGS Council meeting, and will work to keep the other issues on the radar at Western throughout the balance of my term.

As well this month, Ontario Minister of Training Colleges and Universities, Chris Bentley, visited London to announce the creation of some 825 new graduate positions at Western, relative to the 2002 baseline. While this is excellent news that is long overdue, I am very concerned that we have not yet received a corresponding announcement about an increase in the number of OGS's available. As graduate populations grow, it is essential that we lobby hard at both the provincial and federal levels to ensure that the number of scholarships and fellowships grows at the same rate.

I also had a productive meeting this month with *Western News* editor David Dauphinee in order to discuss the possibility of increasing the profile of SOGS and graduate-related issues in that publication. While, as one might expect, David's resources are already stretched, we developed some ideas about how to increase the coverage of graduate student issues in the *Western News*. As a consequence of this discussion, over the coming weeks, I

will be seeking out graduate students (especially but not exclusively journalism students) who are interested in writing *Western News* articles about graduate issues. If you are, or know of, such a student, please contact me at sogs.president@uwo.ca to let me know. David also invited me to create a list of ten important graduate stories that would be of interest to a general university readership that are not presently being covered. If you would like to nominate a story for the list, please contact me as soon as possible.

Finally, please remember to warn your constituents that myUWO will be shutdown throughout December. If they need transcript orders processed for grad school or other applications, they need to order them IMMEDIATELY.

Since this will be my last written report before the holiday break, let me take this opportunity to wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

b. VP Academic

Graduate Student Teaching Award

The nomination period for Fall Term courses will be open until Friday, December 22, 2006. The online nomination form can be found on the SGOS website at <http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/Programs/gstaForm.html>

Graduate students are encouraged to promote the GSTA awards program by mentioning it during their tutorial/laboratory sessions with undergraduates.

Western Research Forum

The Academic committee has begun preparation for the 2007 WRF. Currently, we are trying to determine the room availability through Institutional Planning. Once we have a booking, the advertising campaign will begin. The WRF is tentatively scheduled for March 26 -29th, 2007. The number of sessions will be dependent on student participation.

Western Graduate Review

Preparation of the first issue of the WGR is going well. Due to the hectic nature of the fall exam period the launch date has been pushed back to the middle of January.

c. VP External & Communications

Graduate Student Showcase

On November 4, I represented SOGS at the FGS Graduate Student Showcase, an event designed to highlight graduate programs and faculties at Western for potential incoming graduate students and their families. Over 600 people attended the event which consisted of three parts: a series of informational booths from various campus departments (including SOGS), a series of formal speeches, and a campus tour.

My speech to the group was basically a revised version of an orientation presentation, highlighting the benefits, services, and financial programs SOGS offers as well as the Grad Club and awards such as the GSTA. Those who approached me after my talk, as well as many visitors to the SOGS booth, were pleasantly surprised by the variety of benefits and services. Among the most popular benefits were the health plan and the discounted bus pass. The Grad Club was also a popular topic. A handful of potential students also asked about SOGS' position on issues such as the recent tuition hikes, our relationship with the administration and FGS, and how to become involved with SOGS once they become students. I was most pleasantly surprised by the number of people that expressed interest in getting involved. During the course of the afternoon I also handed out about 30 dayplanners, as well as a number of bus pass holders, informational brochures about SOGS, and health plan booklets. Overall, the event was incredibly successful and I hope SOGS' presence there pays dividends next fall.

Newsletter

The next newsletter will be disseminated on November 27 at the latest. At this point, we are not planning on having a December newsletter. If you have any concerns with this, let me know.

Committees

GSIC

If you have any suggestions for information you would like asked as the committee requests information from various grad departments about their individual funding models, please submit them via email to me.

Equity

The committee is looking forward to working with new Disabilities commissioner, and a meeting will be scheduled soon so everyone can meet.

In closing, I would like to express what a pleasure meeting new councillors last month. Many of you were kind enough to approach me during the new councillor party at the Grad Club to introduce yourself and also talk about concerns you have which might fit under my portfolio. I look forward to working with all of you for the remainder of my term.

d. VP Finance

GENERAL:

I attended a meeting with local area MPP's discussing the federal-provincial Fair-Share discussions and talked to Minister of Education Chris Bentley about the need for OGS support for the increase of 815 graduate spaces they plan to fund at UWO.

In the pursuit of democracy and promotion of the Grad Club, members from all major parties were invited to speak before the local by-election at an open forum at the GC. To date, two candidates availed themselves of this opportunity.

SOGS FISCAL REPORT:

We have received our report from our accountant, Mike King, on our first financial trimester of the fiscal year (May-Aug.). Overall, SOGS had an overall surplus of \$8000 from the last term and currently have retained revenue from last year, so fiscally the society is sound. A general overview of SOGS finances will be presented at council.

A finance committee meeting will need to be called in December to develop policy as well as the upcoming budget for the AGM (annual general meeting) in February. Members are invited to join this committee.

GRAD CLUB INFO:

The Grad Club took on a whole whack of debt during the half million dollar expansion of the Grad Club two years ago. All investments were liquidated and we have a bank loan that is currently being repaid over the next ten years. (2005 - \$173,274; 2006 - \$159,832 left). By the end of the fiscal year, the UWO loan will be completely repaid (~\$10,000 left). The Grad Club saw a decrease in revenues in the summer (typically our slowest term). A number of factors were discussed (weather, smoking ban, lack of major conferences at UWO, extra pay period, amortization of the equipment) and solutions offered at the last Grad Club Committee meeting. Business has been better this term, many events are booked for the Xmas season, hours of operation are being monitored, and our GC Manager Marc Lalonde and Kitchen Manager Mark Brigham have taken many steps in bringing the GC back to sustainable profitability.

DEADLINES:

All subsidy requests (travel, thesis, etc...) must be submitted before the SOGS office closes for the term.

Budgeting for our next fiscal year will begin shortly. Anyone interested in developing budget priorities and policy should PLEASE join the Finance Committee.

e. VP Student Services

As with my previous reports, I will discuss the activities of each of the committees that fall within my portfolio. Since this is my final report to Council as VP Student Services, I will also offer some recommendations as to how I believe the elements of this portfolio should be developed in the future.

Health Plan Committee:

The Health Plan Committee finally held a meeting with quorum on Friday, November 3rd. The purpose of that meeting was to elect a new chair for the committee, then prioritize the issues the committee will be addressing in the short and longer-terms. Rollen Lee agreed to accept the position of Chair, and I have every confidence in his ability to lead this extremely important committee. In terms of issues, there are four on the committee's agenda at this moment:

1. Opt-Out Policy:

In September, a large number of requests to opt-out of the SOGS health plan were initially deemed inconsistent with the most recent formulation of the 'Opt-Out Policy'. The committee took this to suggest that the policy continued to suffer from serious flaws. As a result, at their meeting on November 17th, the committee amended

the opt-out policy in a manner they believe will better serve our members. The amended policy is included in this package for approval by Council, so that it can be implemented in the winter 2007 term.

It is my belief that the key to a smoothly administered Health Plan is a clear focus on its purpose: The Health Plan is a service we provide to our members, in which payment is mandatory. The Health Plan is not, by contrast, a product we offer to potential clients. The point I am trying to make is one about attitude. I believe that many of the stresses that occur in our organization (certainly those arising from the Health Plan) are often the result of those responsible for administering the plan (whether committees, executive members or staff) failing to appreciate the extent to which SOGS is a member-based organization. The sole reason for SOGS' existence generally, and the health plan in particular, is to serve our members' interests. So we are not, arguably, serving those interests by impeding members who enjoy alternate coverage from recovering a redundant fee they are forced to pay. The amended opt-out policy proposed in this package is designed to ensure impediments to those seeking to recover their mandatory health plan fee are as minimal as possible, and I think it will work. Once adopted, I believe any similar future problems with 'opt-outs' will be able to be avoided if the following mantra is repeated: 'SOGS exists to serve its members; we aren't selling 'stuff' to 'clients'.'

2. Online Services:

The committee has expressed an interest in providing a greater amount of the SOGS Health Plan services on-line. We are waiting to hear back from a recently established (and hopefully reliable) contact at the National Student Health Network about the sorts of on-line services that are available, and what, if anything, those services cost. Inasmuch as on-line services tend to be reliable, convenient and affordable, I recommend that SOGS subscribe to all such services as they are made available.

3. Health Plan Administration Fee:

As I outlined in my last two reports, SOGS collects approximately \$15 from each of its members annually for the purposes of 'health plan administration', collecting a total of approximately \$45,000 to administer the plan to our 3000 full-time members. By contrast, the USC charges each of its 26,000 members \$1, collecting a total of \$26,000 to administer their plan for 26,000 people. This discrepancy is currently under investigation by the committee, and pending their results, they hope to be able to make recommendations to the Finance Committee for the 2007/08 budget year. I have no future recommendations for this issue, beyond saying that as a matter of budgetary practice, SOGS should never again collect fees from members for reasons other than their intended use.

4. Soliciting Tenders:

For the first time ever, SOGS is developing a policy for seeking annual bids from external service providers. The single largest service from an external provider administered through SOGS to its members is the health plan. Once a general bidding policy has been developed by the Finance Committee and approved by Council, the Health Plan Committee will be able to create its own version of that policy for the purposes of soliciting health plan service provider bids in particular.

Given that the Health Plan is the largest service provided by SOGS, and that an annual bidding process tends to prevent, or at least mitigate, cost increases, I recommend *strongly* that SOGS implement such a practice, and ensures it continues. Indeed, I believe that if this bidding process takes place annually, administering that process will be one of the most important ongoing roles of the Health Plan Committee.

Evidence that the practice of soliciting bids is successful can be seen in the quality of the 2006/2007 SOGS DayPlanner as compared to previous editions. In anticipation of this sort of policy being developed, our DayPlanner editor, Kai Pisters, solicited bids from 15 independent printers in the London area. The result was a high quality product, for the best possible price. There is no reason to expect that the results of a bidding process for health care coverage would be any less spectacular.

Thanks again to Rollen and everyone that has attended meetings during my tenure, especially Forrest, Grace, Steven, Dylan, Heather, Bryon, Julia, Angie and Mark. Thanks also to those that have recently joined the committee. Please continue to participate, as the success of the committee depends on you.

If you would like to become a member of the Health Plan Committee, please contact the chair, Rollen Lee, at rllee66@uwo.ca.

Orientation Committee:

The Orientation Committee has not met this month, though a meeting has been scheduled for either next week, or the first week of December. So in respect of this committee, there aren't a lot of new items to report.

As emphasized in my written and oral reports to Council for September and October, the 2006/2007 edition of the SOGS DayPlanner is **STILL** available for pick-up in the SOGS office. Members need simply show their UWO

student card to collect their copy. **PLEASE** let your constituents know they each have a DayPlanner waiting for them in the SOGS office. The piles are starting to reduce, but there continue to be a large number of boxes.

DayPlanner Contest – The 'trivia contest' advertised at the front of the 2006/07 edition began in October. 42 people responded with correct answers, and the first 10 received \$10 dollar coupons to the Grad Club. The names of the contest winners, along with the November trivia question, will be included in the November edition of the SOGS newsletter. This time, 10 winners will be chosen randomly from the set of persons that respond to the question correctly (instead of choosing the first 10). Please let your constituents know that the contest is underway.

Merchandising – No concrete decisions have been made by the committee in respect of SOGS merchandise. That having been said, \$450 is available under the committee's portfolio, and I think they should continue to pursue the creation of 'SOGS' merchandise.

There are three primary services that fall under the purview of this committee, the first two of which are extremely time consuming. Those are: 1. The production of the DayPlanner, 2. Preparing for the 'New Student Party', and 3. The New Councillor Party. My recommendation in respect of these three tasks, specifically 1 and 2, is to ensure at all times that the Orientation Committee is well staffed with members. That is, the reason tasks 1 and 2 were executed as well as they were this past year is owing to the enthusiasm and abilities of the committee members. The responsibility of my successor will be to ensure that, as SOGS membership changes, new members continue to be brought into the committee.

I would like to thank everyone on the Orientation Committee... had it not been for your efforts, my tenure would not have been nearly as productive/smooth. Thanks to Janet and Jen (committee co-chairs), Kai (DayPlanner editor), Michelle, Lovesha, Sarah, Opal, Howard and Kadie (the rest of the committee).

If you would like to join the Orientation Committee, please contact either Janet at jmanias@uwo.ca or Jen at jlong6@uwo.ca, the committee co-chairs.

International Graduate Student Issues Committee:

As with the Orientation Committee, IGSIC has not yet met this month, though a meeting is going to be scheduled for either next week or early December.

IGSIC held a potluck on Saturday, October 28th. There were approximately twenty grad students and family in attendance. A wonderful time was had by all, sampling a variety of cuisines and enjoying compelling conversation. I would like to thank everyone that attended for joining the committee in this effort.

There are three persons most in need of thanks for their work on IGSIC: Raphael and Germaine, committee co-chairs, and Lisa, the most senior committee member. When I began my term, these were the only 3 members of the committee, and they were determined to see that the committee membership increase substantially, so that it could fulfill its mandate. Their efforts have not gone unrewarded, as evidenced by the successful potluck dinner, and a committee membership in excess of 10. To the new IGSIC members, thanks for your help with the potluck and for your interest, and please continue to actively participate as a means of ensuring IGSIC has a bright future.

While recruitment efforts have been largely successful, IGSIC continues to seek to increase its membership, so that it can begin to fulfill the second part of its mandate, i.e., addressing those issues that are a unique concern to international graduate students. In terms of a recommendation, this is the element of IGSIC's mandate that needs development; more has to be done to determine what issues are uniquely relevant to international grad students, and how those issues can be addressed by the committee. If you are interested in knowing about issues that affect international graduate students, or have an issue you would like discussed, please consider joining IGSIC, or at least coming to a meeting. To do so, contact either Raphael at rbahati@uwo.ca or Germaine at gjoseph2@uwo.ca, the committee co-chairs.

CFS Services:

As reported last month, the International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is available for distribution in the SOGS office. Each SOGS member is entitled to an ISIC because each SOGS member is also a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). There is a \$1 charge when picking up your card in the SOGS office.

In terms of recommendations, there is a problem with \$1 fee collected by SOGS, a fee intended to offset the cost of the equipment purchased to produce photos for the card, a problem that will have to be resolved by my successor. When the motion to purchase the equipment to produce photographs for ISIC distribution was passed at Council, that \$1 was supposed to pay for the cost of a strip of four photos. At some point since that time, we have started charging members \$1 for a single photo. The first step to resolving this is to return to the practice

that was originally approved by Council, i.e., charging \$1 for a strip of four photos. The second step will be to determine whether we've collected enough revenue to cover the cost of the equipment originally purchased, and if not when that point will be reached, such that the \$1 fee can be abolished entirely, or at least substantially reduced (e.g., to \$0.10).

I also reported last month that CFS would be offering a 'clinic' to distribute ISI cards in the Grad Club during the month of November. Unfortunately, I was unable to settle a firm date and as a result, the clinic will not be taking place this month; hopefully, arrangements can be made by my successor for the clinic to take place in either December or early January.

External Representation:

Below is the list of external committees whose representatives are to report their committee's activities to the VP Student Services:

Student Services Committee – 1 vacant (& SOGS president - ex-officio)
Advisory Committee on Sports and Recreation – 1 vacant
Ombudsperson Co-ordinating Committee – 1 vacant
Parking and Traffic Committee (and Parking Appeals) – 1 vacant
Y University Childcare Advisory Committee – 1 vacant
Working Group on Information Technology – 1 vacant
Fieldhouse Recreation Centre Planning Committee – Mathew Murphy

If you or any one of your constituents is interested in representing SOGS on one of these committees (with the exception of the last on this list), please consider seeking election (or encouraging an interested party to do so) at the November Council meeting.

f. CFS Liaison Report

None

g. Commissioner for Students with Disabilities Report

Sherar has attended a CARE Committee meeting. He will work hard at having the outside Grad Club doors made wheelchair accessible through this committee.

h. Councillor Reports

None

8. New Business/Open Forum

Elections:

Bylaws & Constitution Committee

Jen MacLean
Jodie Millar
Julia Watt

Equity Issues and Social Justice Committee

Sarah Hannan

Finance committee

Pratik Gandhi
Ben Cook

Grad Club Committee

Brent Sherar

Graduate Student Issues Committee

Jahirul Mazumder
Howie Bender

GSTA Committee

Deanne Friesen
Jahirul Mazumder

Health Plan Committee

Jahirul Mazumder
International Graduate Student Issues Committee

Jahirul Mazumder
Haiting Ma
Orientation Committee

Anna Sauer
Part-Time Student Councillor

Ryan Robb
Personnel Policy Committee

Arokia (Raja) Armel
Michel Hebert
Rollen Lee

Policy Committee
Angela White

WGR Editorial Board
Christine Muldoon
Kathryn Turnbull

Advisory Committee on Sports & Rec
Angela White

Environmental & Lab Safety Committee
Janet Manias

Fieldhouse Rec Centre Planning Committee
Alexis Gordon

Ombudsperson Coordinating Committee
Brian Lawson

Parking & Traffic Committee
Anna Sauer

Student services Committee
Howie Bender

Working Group on Info Tech
Dan Dechene

Y University Child Care Advisory Committee
Sarah Hannan

MOTION (Dea):

Seconded: J. Watt (Philosophy)
BIRT the SOGS AGM will be on February 1, 2007.
Carried

MOTION (Murphy):

BIRT the spending of the Grad Club Committee vouchers be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration.
Carried

Dea brought forward the idea that due to the new method of taking minutes, a recorder be purchased that will transcribe the actual meeting. It was decided to leave this until the BCC has looked into minute taking requirements.

Adjournment:

H. Bender

C. Boston

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING

Nov 21, 2006 9 -11 am

Minutes

1. **Ratification of minutes from October 31, 2006**

Moved – Dea
Seconded – Beasley
Carried

2. **Grad Club (Lalonde)**

ACTION: Lalonde is working with the Rec Centre to include Grad Club coupons for use by athletic teams.

Considering new hours in the new year.

Current bar supervisor will be replaced by the Kitchen supervisor, who will have a dual role.

Kitchen staff wages will have to be increased soon (since minimum wage has gone up).

Starting December 1, there will be a Christmas Buffet weekly.

December 17 will be a brunch with Santa Claus.

Bookings for the Christmas season are coming in.

Grad Club will be closed from December 22 to January 2.

Problem with the dishwasher backflow. It's a job that must be done soon to be in compliance with Ontario regulations. According to some this is a big problem, Lalonde is looking into this.

3. **Action updates from October 31 meeting (SD)**

Dea spoke with CFS and was told that grass roots food banks do more harm than good. She will continue looking into this.

The Personnel Policy Committee will have a meeting shortly.

BCC has been directed to construct a motion regarding a SOGS Endorsement Policy.

Limited information has been received from other university groups regarding the Health Plan. A draft policy based on Ryerson's information will be constructed.

4. **Help recruit new master's students (SD)**

Tabled to next meeting

5. **Possible move to Middlesex College (SD)**

[Due to an administrative error, the wording of the original motion that was passed has been lost. However, the spirit of the motion was as follows:]

MOTION (Dea):

WHEREAS the university has in its *Engaging the Future* strategic plan expressed a new emphasis on graduate studies and has committed to dramatically increase the number of graduate students; and

WHEREAS the university has plans to move academic units to the core of the campus and move ancillary and administrative units to the periphery;

BIRT the Society of Graduate Students investigate the possibility of sharing space with the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the GTA Union, thereby creating a single central "hub" for graduate students.

Seconded: Daubs

Carried

Have Administration consider making Middlesex College a signature Grad Building. Move all graduate student related departments to this building since Grad Club is already there.

6. **PAW (SB)**

Currently the Postdoctoral Association at Western (PAW) members are in negotiation and SOGS should offer solidarity. Postdoctoral funding isn't regulated and can be withdrawn at any time. PAW members belong to neither UWOFA nor SOGS. The current president has been invited to make a presentation at Council.

Postdocs can opt into the Green Shield health plan.
They should be given the opportunity to use the Grad Club conference room when needed.

7. Survey (SB)

A survey is being compiled to gather information on the Grad Club, Health Plan and other issues. We should remember to use our members who specialize in creating surveys to help construct this survey.

ACTION: A G-mail account will be set up to accept questions from the Executive and committee chairs. December 20 will be the deadline for creating the wish list of questions. Dea will email VPs when the email is set up.

8. Bus pass distribution (SD/OS)

There is \$370 left for hiring someone to assist with bus pass distribution.

MOTION (Dea):

BIRT SOGS hire a grad student at a rate of \$10 /hr, to assist with the winter bus pass distribution for two weeks, not to exceed 4 hours daily.

Seconded: Daubs

YES: 4

Abstained: 1

9. Christmas party (SD) & Grad Club Christmas party (ML) & Christmas shutdown (OS)

ACTION: December 17 at 6 pm, is being considered for the joint Grad Club and SOGS staff Christmas party, to be hosted at the Grad Club. Spouse, or significant other, as well as Michael King and his spouse will be invited. The SOGS office will be closed from December 22 at noon to January 5 (incl.).

10. Advisory council (SD)

Tabled to next meeting

11. Budget priorities (SB)

ACTION: Budget will need to be completed prior to January 16. Beasley/ Rodrigues should receive any items that need to be included in the budget by December 8.

12. Student Services Committee (SD)

ACTION: This Committee will be added to the Election Table.

13. Annual General Meeting (SD)

The AGM will be held on February 1, 2007.

14. Other - Proxy vote will be sent to Queen's SGPS.

MOTION (Dea):

BIRT Local 27 (Queen's Society of Graduate and Professional Students) be appointed as the SOGS proxy for the duration of the 25th Annual National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students, to be held from November 22 to 25, 2006.

Seconded: Robb

Unanimous

Voice Recorder:

ACTION: Sauer will get 3 price quotes

Western News:

ACTION: Dea to provide ten grad student topics of interest to the wider community for possible coverage by Western News.

Vacation: Rodrigues will be off from December 4-8, 2006.

Outside door: Painters will be asked to paint the door with blackboard paint.

15. Next meeting

December 12 at 9 am

Orders of the Day

a) Motions Arising from the President

BIRT Abudi Awaysheh be appointed interim CFS Liaison until the February 2007 SOGS Council meeting, at which time a by-election will be held for the position.

b) Motions Arising from Other Committees

Personnel Policy Committee

Whereas, the Personnel Policy Committee (PPC) has voted in favour of bringing the following motion to council:

BIRT SOGS extend the life of the ad hoc Personnel Policy committee. The Committee will stand for one additional year beginning February 2007 and ending February 2008 and if necessary will stand for renewal.

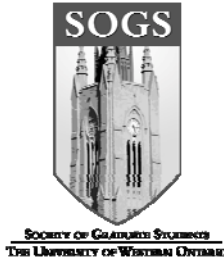
Finance Committee

BIRT, Ben Cook be named as the chair of the Finance Committee.

Graduate Club Committee

BIRT, Elyse Maltin be named as the chair of the Graduate Club Committee.

c) Other Motions



President
January 2007 Report to Council
Shannon Dea (sogs.president@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors,

I hope that the holidays afforded you an opportunity to relax and recharge, and that the new year holds much happiness for you.

I shall be submitting a longer report for the February 1st annual general meeting of SOGS. I will therefore keep this one brief, and merely highlight a few items of interest.

Firstly, I am delighted to announce two important pieces of news for the Faculty of Graduate Studies (and, by extension, for graduate students). After several years of dormancy, the Faculty Council will resume meetings starting February 1st. FGS Council is comprised of graduate students, deans, and faculty members from all departments with graduate programmes. Council meetings provide all those with an interest in graduate studies at Western a chance to meet and discuss issues pertaining to same. We are seeking sixteen graduate representatives – two from each academic area – to serve on Faculty Council. Please consider standing for one of these positions and/or encouraging your constituents to do so. Details about these positions are available in the last issue of SOGS Update. You can find this on the SOGS website at www.uwo.ca/sogs. The second piece of FGS news is the formation of a Senate Ad Hoc committee on the restructuring of FGS. This committee will conduct wide-ranging research into what structure FGS ought to take in order to best serve graduate students throughout the current graduate expansion. I shall be sitting on this committee along with long-time SOGS Councillor Mark Kuprowski. Please take some time to discuss FGS's structure with your constituents and to share your thoughts on same with Mark or myself. We are most eager to ensure that graduate students' interests are well served by this important process.

In other news, you will soon be receiving an email from the university asking you to complete the online CGPSS (Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey). Again, there is information about this online in the latest SOGS Update. Please encourage your constituents to complete this survey and, in particular, to take advantage of the final question – a box that invites further comments. Providing comments there about any issues inadequately addressed in the rest of the survey will help to produce a fuller picture of graduate students' needs and concerns. As we note in the latest issue of SOGS Update, the university has agreed to share raw data from the survey with SOGS; so, the better the participation rate, and the fuller the final comments, the better we can advocate for you.

In other upcoming events, SOGS is currently organizing a symposium on tuition issues in conjunction with the Canadian Federation of Students' February 7th National Day of Action. If you or any of your constituents are interested in helping out with this, please contact me asap at sogs.president@uwo.ca. For details on the symposium, stay tuned to the SOGS website.

The Personnel Policy Committee has resumed meeting and has (finally) a strong membership base. However, the committee has plenty of work to do and can always use more members. At present, the PPC is conducting research on staffing levels and policies at other Canadian graduate student associations in order to improve SOGS' own personnel policies and practices. Again, if you or your constituents are interested in helping out, please get in touch with me.

As well, I'm still looking for graduate students interested in reporting on graduate issues for the *Western News*. If you or anyone you know are interested in this, please let me know as soon as you can.

At this time, I'd like to draw SOGS members' attention to the fact that my term is three-quarters through, and it will soon be time to elect a new president. If you or anyone you know are potentially interested in holding this challenging but rewarding position and would like to hear a little bit about what's involved, please get in touch with and I'll be most happy to tell you what I can. It is my sincerest hope that SOGS will once again be able to hold a presidential election this year, rather than acclaiming a single candidate. Having a presidential election is not only a chance to let the membership determine who it wants to lead the Society, it is also a great opportunity to raise issues affecting graduate students, and to engage the broader membership. Thus, all presidential candidates, whether they win or not, can serve an important role in the life of the Society. If you know someone who would be a good candidate for this position, please encourage them to stand for election.

Finally, please, please, *please* come out to the AGM on February 1st, and bring as many other graduate students with you as you can. We are constitutionally obliged to hold an AGM and cannot submit our fee levels to the university's Board of Governors for approval until our budget has been passed by the general membership. It is thus crucial to SOGS' continued well-being that we achieve quorum at the AGM. In addition to passing the 2007-2008 SOGS budget, this AGM has another important task in that a motion will be presented there to reform SOGS' executive elections table. The AGM is also a great opportunity for members who are not themselves councillors to raise any concerns that they may have about SOGS. Details about the AGM will be publicized on the SOGS website as they become available.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Dea



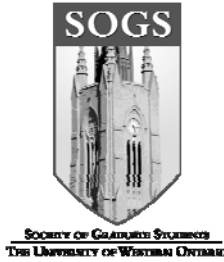
SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

**VP Academic
January 2007 Report to Council
Duane Jacques (sogs.academic@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>**

Dear Councilors,

I regret that time does not permit me to submit a written report in time for inclusion in this month's SOGS Council package. I shall give a full verbal report of activities in my portfolio at the Council meeting. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding my portfolio.

Best regards,
Duane



VP External & Communications
January 2007 Report to Council
Michael Daubs (sogs.external@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors,

Welcome back. Below is a brief update on the External portfolio. As always, should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

National Student Day of Action to Reduce Tuition Fees

The CFS is launching a National Student Day of Action to Reduce Tuition Fees on February 7 in order to raise awareness of increasing tuition fees and attract community and media attention to the issue. As a CFS member local, SOGS is an active partner in this Day of Action and will be hosting events on that day. I will be working with President Shannon Dea and a committee to help plan those events which include, among other things, an open, non-partisan, roundtable discussion on tuition fees tentatively planned to be held at the Grad Club. More details will be coming in the next few days and weeks, so keep an eye on the SOGS website.

SOGS AGM

With the SOGS AGM approaching on February 1, preparing for that meeting and reviewing budget priorities for the upcoming fiscal year have been main concerns. More details on that will, of course, be available at the AGM.

Other Continuing Duties

The newsletter is receiving a good amount of attention and we have received a number of requests for postings and announcements from student groups, departments, and researchers from Western and other universities. Thanks to everyone who has helped contribute to this publication.

Committees

After some time off because of the break, both of the committees in my portfolio are looking to get back into gear this term.

GSIC

Chair Caitlin Hayward is calling a meeting for the week of January 22. In addition to the issue of departmental funding for graduate students, the issue of office space for teaching and research assistants and a report from the CFS semi-annual general meeting will be on the agenda.

Equity

This committee will also be scheduling its first meeting of the new year for the end of January/early February. The agenda includes orienting new members, introducing new disabilities commissioner Brent Sherar, reviewing past committee actions including the pending equity questionnaire, and planning actions for 2007. This committee still needs a chair as well, which will be the first item of business.

I hope you all had an enjoyable break, wish you the best of luck in the new term, and look forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming AGM.



VP Finance
January 2007 Report to Council
Stephen Beasley (sogs.finance@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

GENERAL:

In December, SOGS and the Grad Club hosted the '10th Annual Stuck in London' lunch on the 25th. I want to personally commend Marc Lalonde and Mark Brigham for coming in on Christmas to put on this charitable event. The event drew about 30-40 people.

This month, I attended a meeting with FGS. I will briefly update council on the agenda, as the meeting will occur after this report has been submitted.

GRAD CLUB (GC):

Unlike the summer term, the fall term was slightly profitable although final numbers will not be available till next month's council meeting. This can be attributed to a number of events occurring during the term, especially the Orientation Committee events, UFC, Trivia with Melissa (now on Tuesday nights). The 'snow day' unfortunately occurred on the busiest day of the year, where the comparable Friday in the year before had about \$10,000 worth of sales. The February meeting will include a further update on GC finances

The Grad Club Committee (GCC) made several decisions at the December meeting including:

- 1) To decrease wages, unprofitable weekend hours were cut. The Grad Club will now close earlier on the weekends.
- 2) To provide actual benefit for membership, a 5% discount on food purchases for members will be implemented, free booking of the conference room and use of the LCD projector therein. All graduate students are GC members. A current bus pass is required as proof of membership. UWOFA (the profs) also pays us a tidy sum each year in membership fees. PAW (post docs) members will be given the option of purchasing a membership for \$8.

It is hoped that these changes will increase food consumption and membership purchases and consequently overall revenues.

The GCC members were invited to the Orientation Committee meeting in January to plan the winter party. The next GCC meeting is scheduled for mid-February where the annual budget will be discussed. Trivia nights with Melissa are on Tuesdays, Rick McGhie on Thursdays, and the next UFC is on February 3rd.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

This committee sat twice since last council meeting. Once in December to ponder bursary applications, the second in January. At these meetings, a 'Request for Tender' policy was formulated for any purchases/contracts made over \$5000 to ensure members receive the best value. The policy itself will be available at the SOGS office and hopefully online soon. It also passed a motion that recompense vouchers include an expiry date one year after date of issuance. This will ensure we can close the books properly each year without outstanding receipts. We also met to approve the SOGS 2007-2008 budget. How's that for a segue?

SOGS BUDGET:

The budget for the 2007-2008 fiscal year took into account consultations with the executive and the finance committee. The budget will be attached to the council package for consideration before it is submitted to the AGM a week thereafter.

We have a projected surplus of \$32,476.53 for the fiscal year 2007-2008. The main three factors for the surplus include a higher number of students than projected meaning increased income of membership dues and administration fees, the excellent work of the Handbook team in soliciting ad revenue, and the transfer of our accounts by our accountant, Raquel Rodriguez, to a bank that provides a far higher interest rate. Since we are a non-profit organization, a surplus means we either are not providing enough benefits to the membership or the membership fee is too high.

Consequently, the main focus of the upcoming budget are to:

- ensure SOGS remains fiscally sound
- provide greater benefits to the membership
- minimize the increase in total fees

The major points of the budget include:

- the number of students is projected to increase to 3578 FT, 537 PT. this increase will help provide extra income to support proposed budget.
- CPI increases to Bus Pass, CFS fees; all internal dues and fees remain static
- Health Plan is projected to rise 17% according to the broker. The health plan committee has already begun a search for a new provider, as this increase is basically robbery. Hopefully this will be accomplished before the next fiscal year allowing the total fees paid to remain the same.
- Bursaries have been substantially increased from \$45K to \$75K. A larger proportion of applications have been turned down in recent years and this increase reflects the existing need and increase of students.
- An extra ~\$12.25K has been added to the professional fees in anticipation of external audits and potential need for lawyers.
- an IT Officer has been created to develop websites and other computer related activities
- departmental grants for council attendance was raised from \$1.50 to \$2.00 each appearance

FT fees – 2007 - \$208.56/term; 2006 - \$188.52/term

PT fees – 2007 - \$18.38/term; 2006 - \$18.34/term

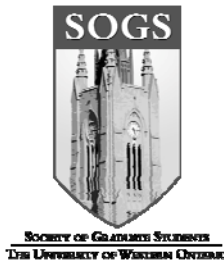
NB: the increase in FT fees is solely due to projected Health Plan Premium increase.

The budget still maintains a small surplus, although we hope that the worst-case scenario need for accountant and lawyer fees does not pass. There are other line items that do not typically become fully used at fiscal year's end, so it is expected that we will remain in surplus.

If there is again further retained revenue at the end of the year, we need to consider a policy for dealing with it. An idea of buying out Grad Club debt as an investment was broached, but council will be consulted before any major policy decisions of this sort are.

I look forward to hearing thoughts/questions/concerns/(constructive) criticisms on the budget at council. Please email me if you need clarification on what various line items mean, etc..

Steven Beasley
VP Finance



VP Student Services
January 2007 Report to Council
Kai Pisters (sogs.services@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councilors,

Here's a short update on what the Student Services department has been doing:

SOGS Health Plan Committee

We are currently meeting with other brokers for our health plan to not only bring down the projected rise in cost for next year but more importantly increase the level of service to the members. We have some very successful meetings and more information will follow during the council meeting.

We've contacted counterparts of Student Services executives at other universities (Grad societies) to exchange ideas and experiences.

Opt-in policies will be discussed in more detail at the next committee meeting. For any questions please email me @ sogs.services@uwo.ca

SOGS Orientation Committee

Mark February 15th at 8pm in the Grad Club!! The OC has planned a massive 'Grad Winter Bash'. Rumour has it that members may dress up in 80's style gear. Please keep your members informed about this event. There will be posters for councilors during the council meeting, so please make sure to pick some up and post them in your departments.

There may also be emails out to councilors asking them to forward an advertising email for this event. Please email me if you have a problem with this!

The committee is also working hard on fun merchandise items for SOGS to either give away at events or sell to students who want to show SOGS pride. Stay posted on this!

The handbook is getting into the planning phase again. We are looking for an editor this year from the SOGS population. If you know somebody that is sufficient in either Corel Draw, Adobe Illustrator or any other program that can save in .eps format, please have them contact me (preference given to SOGS member). Payment is not based on hours worked on the project but rather a lump sum for the work.

SOGS International Students' Committee

We're getting back into the spirit. The committee is quite active with lots of ideas and energy. I'll touch up on some of the plans for this term during council meeting.

Tell your members!!!

February 15th at 8pm @ The Grad Club!!

'Grad Winter Bash'.



CFS Liaison
January 2007 Report to Council
(sogs.cfs.liaison@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>



SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

Commissioner for Graduate Students with Disabilities
January 2007 Report to Council
Brent Sherar (sogs.disabilities@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

2007 - 2008 Budget

REVENUE	Proposed Budget 2007 - 08	Year End Projections	May - December	2006 - 2007 Budget
Bus Pass Dues				
Bus Pass - FT Dues	477,992.11	391,574.35	267,684.35	367,734.35
Bus Pass Administration Dues	4,918.45	4,319.95	3,409.95	2,749.95
Sub-total	482,910.56	395,894.30	271,094.30	370,483.30
CFS Membership Dues				
Full-time Students	45,162.22	38,010.96	26,102.96	36,943.22
Part-time Students	4,514.26	3,557.12	2,642.12	3,410.26
Sub-total	49,676.48	41,568.08	28,745.08	40,353.48
Grad Club				
GC Administration Fee	27,600.00	27,600.00	18,400.00	27,600.00
SOGS Bursaries/Subsidies				
Sub-total	27,600.00	27,600.00	18,400.00	27,600.00
Health Plan Dues				
Health Plan Administration	56,843.94	48,320.82	33,188.82	45,279.94
Health Plan Premiums	1,177,111.71	888,054.62	609,412.62	849,394.71
Health Plan - FT Family Opt-in	71,533.80	41,037.06	20,657.06	53,763.80
Health Plan - PT Opt-in	25,246.20	14,439.67	6,288.00	13,047.20
Sub-total	1,330,735.65	991,852.17	669,546.50	961,485.65
Membership Dues				
Full-time Students	224,152.65	191,863.68	132,193.68	178,530.65
Part-time Students	22,415.14	17,845.36	13,258.36	17,840.14
Sub-total	246,567.79	209,709.04	145,452.04	196,370.79
Other Income				
Bank Interest	17,748.28	12,677.34	8,451.56	3,500.28
Emergency Loan Administration Fees	450.00	400.00	361.69	250.00
FGS Subsidy	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.00
GTA Union Contribution	3,200.00	3,200.00		3,200.00
Handbook Advertising	3,500.00	13,217.30	13,217.30	1,000.00
Micellaneous		0.01	0.01	
Retained Revenue	31,176.54			49,910.54
Sale of Merchandise				
Sub-total	57,074.82	30,494.65	22,030.56	58,860.82
TOTAL INCOME	2,194,565.30	1,697,118.24	1,155,268.48	1,655,154.30
EXPENSES				
	Proposed Budget 2007 - 08	Year End Projections	May - December	2006 - 2007 Budget

Awards, Bursaries and Subsidies

Child Care Subsidy	10,500.00	5,000.00	3,200.00	5,000.00
Out of Province Bursary	21,000.00	15,000.00	10,000.00	15,000.00
Scholarships	6,000.00	5,000.00		5,000.00
Student Emergency Fund	6,000.00	2,000.00		2,000.00
Thesis Binding Subsidy	6,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
Travel Subsidy	25,500.00	15,000.00	10,000.00	15,000.00
Sub-total	75,000.00	45,000.00	25,200.00	45,000.00

Membership Disbursements

Bus Pass Fees	477,992.11	391,574.35	267,684.35	367,734.35
Bus Pass Printing and Administration	1,500.00	1,200.00		1,200.00
CFS Fees - FT and PT Students	49,676.48	41,568.08	28,745.08	40,354.08
Departmental Grants	10,000.00	7,307.16	4,607.16	7,000.00
Emergency Loan Delinquency	500.00	300.00	300.00	500.00
Health Plan Premiums	1,151,423.30	843,054.30	568,031.63	816,379.63
Health Plan Refunds	122,468.41	100,477.05	68,326.05	99,826.05
Health Plan Discretionary Funds	3,000.00	1,000.00		3,000.00
Recompense Program	4,000.00	2,500.00	1,449.00	1,900.00
Sub-total	1,820,560.30	1,388,980.94	939,143.27	1,337,894.35

Office and Administration

Bank Service Charges	676.77	483.41	322.27	500.00
Equipment Rentals and Charges	8,000.00	7,000.00	4,044.76	8,000.00
Insurance - Office Liability	600.00	574.56	383.04	600.00
Insurance - Officer and Director Liability	1,800.00	1,782.00	717.12	1,800.00
Office - Capital Acquisitions/Depreciation	2,500.00	1,900.00	1,216.00	2,500.00
Office - Computer Supplies/Software	2,000.00	1,000.00	302.52	1,500.00
Office-Maintenance/Repairs/Computer Support	1,232.00	840.56	840.56	750.00
Office - Miscellaneous	150.00	100.00	237.81	150.00
Office - Postage and Courier	800.00	521.09	347.39	700.00
Office - Supplies and Stationary	3,500.00	3,028.83	2,019.22	3,500.00
Photocopier Usage	800.00	800.00		800.00
Professional Fees - Accounting	25,500.00	10,500.00	7,000.00	15,000.00
Professional Fees - Legal	3,000.00			750.00
Sub-total	50,558.77	28,530.44	17,430.69	36,550.00

Wages, Benefits and Contributions

Payroll - President	16,224.00	14,400.20	9,450.00	14,400.00
Payroll - Vice Presidents	32,448.00	27,300.00	18,200.00	28,808.00
Payroll - Office Staff	91,661.73	88,465.41	58,839.47	88,465.00
Payroll Taxes and Remittances	13,401.87	12,430.82	9,252.45	8,005.00
Staff Benefits and Training	4,772.71	4,499.40	3,250.92	5,241.00
Stipend - IT Officer	3,900.00			
Stipend - Speaker	2,640.00	2,400.00	1,400.00	2,400.00
Temporary Staff	1,000.00	950.00	590.00	960.00
Sub-total	166,048.31	150,445.83	100,982.84	148,280.00

**Proposed
Budget
2007 - 08**

**Year End
Projections**

**May -
December**

**2006 - 2007
Budget**

Executive

Events and Organizing	600.00			600.
Honararia	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,800.00	2,500.
Meetings/Conferences	800.00	200.00	142.06	800.
Promotions/Advertising	500.00	100.00	15.00	150.
Sponsorship/Donations	5,000.00	3,000.00	2,430.00	3,000.
Student Disabilities Commissioner	300.00	300.00		300.
Sub-total	9,700.00	6,100.00	4,387.06	7,350.
President				
Expenses	500.00	200.00	90.39	300.
Vice-President Academic				
GSTA Advertising	400.00	400.00		400.
GSTA Awards	9,600.00	9,600.00		9,600.
GSTA Materials and Form Scanning	600.00	600.00	152.89	600.
GSTA Reception	1,750.00	1,750.00		1,750.
RF Advertising and Materials	1,250.00	1,250.00		1,250.
RF Judges and Guest Speaker	1,000.00	1,000.00		1,000.
RF Prizes	1,250.00	1,250.00		1,250.
RF Refreshments and Catering	1,750.00	1,750.00		1,750.
RF Room Booking	500.00	500.00		500.
Thesis Template Workshops	500.00	-		
WJGR Advertising	500.00	500.00		500.
WJGR Layout and Printing	750.00	750.00	97.20	750.
Sub-total	19,850.00	19,350.00	250.09	19,350.
Vice-President Finance				
Expenses	200.00	200.00		200.
Sub-total	200.00	200.00	-	200.
Vice-President External				
CFS - Conferences	9,000.00	5,005.00	2,455.00	9,000.
CFS Liaison	900.00	900.00	450.00	900.
CFS Programmes	250.00	100.00	(56.84)	250.
Media/Subscriptions	900.00	100.00		300.
Political				
Activities/Campaigns/Advocacy/Speakers	1,300.00	300.00	200.00	1,900.
Sub-total	12,350.00	6,405.00	3,048.16	12,350.
Vice-President Student Services				
Graduation Celebration	3,000.00			
Handbook Editor	1,000.00	500.00		1,300.
Handbook Printing	13,000.00	13,149.49	13,149.49	13,000.
Handbook Promotions/Prizes	1,000.00	1,000.00	140.00	1,000.
International Students	600.00	500.00	12.44	500.
Merchandise	450.00			450.
Orientation - Students	4,000.00	4,000.00	2,239.12	4,000.
Orientation - Councillors	500.00	300.00	138.45	500.
Sub-total	23,550.00	19,449.49	15,679.50	20,750.
	Proposed Budget 2007 - 08	Year End Projections	May - December	2006 - 2007 Budget

Speaker

Council Meeting Packages/Supplies	200.00	30.00	30.00	200.00
Council Meeting Refreshments	1,500.00	1,200.00	555.87	1,200.00
Elections/Referenda	2,000.00	50.00	50.00	2,000.00
Sub-total	3,700.00	1,280.00	635.87	3,400.00
Contingency Fund	7,860.10			6,617.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,189,877.48	1,665,941.70	1,106,847.87	1,638,042.00
NET INCOME	4,687.82	31,176.54	48,420.61	17,112.00

ELECTIONS TABLE

Position	Month Elected	Date Office Taken
President	March	May 1
Vice President External & Communications	April	May 1
Vice President Academic	September	October 1
Vice President Finance	October	November 1
Vice President Student Services	November	December 1
Speaker	June	July 1
CFS Liaison	April	May 1

SOGS Committees

Type	Position	Nominee	Department	Email	Comments
SOGS	Academic Committee				
SOGS	Bylaws and Constitution Committee				
SOGS	Equity and Social Justice				
SOGS	Finance Committee				
SOGS	Grad Club Committee				
SOGS	Graduate Student Issues Committee				
SOGS	Graduate Student Teaching Awards Committee				
SOGS	Health Plan Committee				
SOGS	International Graduate Student Issues Committee				
SOGS	Orientation Committee				
SOGS	Part-time Student Councilors				
SOGS	Personnel Policy Committee				
SOGS	Policy Committee				
SOGS	WGR Editorial Board				
Other	Advisory Committee on Sports and Recreation				1 seat full
Other	Environmental and Laboratory Safety Committee				1 seat full
Other	Field house Recreation Centre Planning Committee				1 seat full
Other	FGS Council				18 reps total, 2 per division.
Other	Hellmuth Prize Committee				1 seat vacant
Other	Ombudsperson Coordinating Committee				1 seat full

Type	Position	Nominee	Department	Email	Comments
Other	Parking and Traffic Committee (and Parking Appeals)				1 seat full
Other	Student Services Committee				1 seat full
Other	Working Group on Information Technology				1 seat full
Other	Y University Child Care Advisory Committee				1 seat full



**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**