

**Society of Graduate Students
March 27, 2008 Council Meeting
Physics & Astronomy Bldg. Room 215**

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SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

March 27, 2008

AGENDA

1. Ratification of Agenda
2. Announcements
3. Guest Speaker - Joshua Ferguson, Director, Standing Against Queer Discrimination
4. Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes of February 21, 2008
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
 - i. Speaker's Note
- 7) New Business/Open Forum

SOGS Council Attendance Report February 21, 2007

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Andre Belisle			
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Andrea Di Sebastino	6:00		
Anthropology	Jennifer Long	6:00		
Anthropology	Shauna Solomon	6:00		
Applied Mathematics	Rolina Van Gaalen	6:00		
Biochemistry	Melanie Bailey	6:00		
Biochemistry	Kamal Gill			
Biochemistry	Stephen Hoke			
Biology	Martin Brandsma	6:00	7:20	
Biology	Steven Deimling			
Biology	Morgan Kleiber			
Biology	Edwin Price	6:00		
Board of Governors	Abudi Awaysheh	6:20		
CFS Liaison	Abudi Awaysheh	6:20		
Chemistry	Kurtis Hartlen			
Chemistry	Diane Kanas	6:00		
Chemistry	Andrew Leduc			
Chemistry	Jiaxin Li			
Comp. Lit / Hisp Studies	Vesna Guzina	6:00	7:50	
Comp. Lit / Hisp Studies	Maria Mayr			
Computer Science	Mike Burrell	6:00	7:10	
Computer Science	Andrew DeLong	6:00	7:45	
Computer Science	Gaston Keller	6:00	7:45	
Computer Science	Melissa Weston	6:00		
CSD	Julia Cott	6:00	7:40	
CSD	Cara Cressman	6:00	7:40	Alt. R. Malcolmson
CSD	Yang Kim			
CSD	Claire Mollison	6:00	7:40	
Disabilities Commissioner	Brent Sherar	6:15	7:20	
Earth Sciences	Rebecca Macdonald			
Earth Sciences	Jessica Metcalfe	6:00	7:40	
Education	Maryann Nargi			
Education	Michelle Pompeo			
Education	David St. Arnault	6:00		
Education	Leticia Yansen			
Engineering Science	Sami Al-Busaidi	6:00		Alt. K. Pisters
Engineering Science	Xiaofeng Bai	6:00	7:10	
Engineering Science	Dan Dechene	6:00		
Engineering Science	Jordan DeMello	6:00		
Engineering Science	Abelardo Escoto	6:00		
Engineering Science	Mehdi Farrokhnejad	6:00		
Engineering Science	Harsharan Hujan	6:00		
Engineering Science	Eri Iizumi	6:00		Alt. M. Farkhondehkavaki
Engineering Science	Adam Kirchhefer	6:00	7:10	
Engineering Science	Marco Luccini	6:00		
Engineering Science	Jan Markowski	6:00	7:50	

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Engineering Science	Khalim Amjad Meerja	6:00		Alt. A. Sauer
Engineering Science	Murray Morrison	6:00	7:45	
Engineering Science	Melissa Perri	6:00		
Engineering Science	Drew Rankin	6:00	7:06	
English	Nadine Fladd	6:00		
English	Mandy George			
English	Stephanie Oliver	6:00		
Environment & Sustainability	Rafiq Dhanji	6:15		
Epidemiology & Biostats	Mark Ferro	6:00	7:25	
Epidemiology & Biostats	Ching Qing Huang	6:00	7:30	
Executive - Grad Club	Marc Lalonde			
Executive - President	Duane Jacques			
Executive - Speaker	Forrest Pass	6:00		
Executive - VP Academic	Margie Davenport	6:00		
Executive - VP External	Michael Daubs	6:00		
Executive - VP Finance	Steven Beasley	6:00		
Executive - VP Student Services	Kristina Neely	6:00		
French & Linguistics	Nicole D'Aoust	6:00	7:10	
French & Linguistics	Heather Kirk	6:00	7:15	
Geography	Stephen Larock			
Geography	Wyatt Smith	6:00		
GTA Union Representative	Alexander Pershai	6:00		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Wenonah Campbell	6:00		Alt. A. Day
Health & Rehab Sciences	Melody Chow	6:00		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Lisebeth Cox	6:00		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Alexandra McKenna	6:00	7:45	
History	Alyssa Cundy	6:00		
History	Timothy Duncan			
History	Stephanie Potter	6:00		
Journalism	Mackenzie Grisdale	6:00	7:15	
Journalism	Jennett Mays	6:00	7:10	
Kinesiology	Shannon Hamm	6:00		
Kinesiology	Charys Raynor	6:00		Alt. C. Steinback
Kinesiology	Caitlin Symonette	6:00		
L&IS-M	Graeme Campbell	6:00		
L&IS-M	Iryna Didur			
L&IS-M	Michael McAlpine	6:00	7:00	
L&IS-M	Paul Nguyen	6:00	7:10	
L&IS-M	Vernice Phillip	6:00		
L&IS-M	Magdalena Skowron			
L&IS-M	Lana Winchester	6:00		
L&IS-PhD	Michael Brundin			
Media Studies	Baha Abu-Shaqra	6:00		
Medical Biophysics	Kimberley Blackwood	6:00		Alt. R. Feldman
Medical Biophysics	Sarah Detombe	6:00		
Medical Biophysics	Jodi Miller	6:00		
Microbiology & Immunology	Kemi Adeyanju	6:00	7:45	
Music	Stephanie Horsley			
Music	Kevin Lee	6:45		
Music	Amy Waller			
Neuroscience	Gesine Alders	6:00		
Neuroscience	Andrew Lockey	6:00	7:40	
Occupational Therapy	Alison Battistuzzi			

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Occupational Therapy	Lyndsey Brooks	6:00	7:40	
Occupational Therapy	Nardia Grant	6:00	7:45	
Occupational Therapy	Tammy Kani			Alt. K. Anderson
Part-Time Representative	Anne Stebbins			
Part-Time Representative	Sandy White			
Pathology	Sabrina Tung	6:15		
Philosophy	Philip Kuchar	6:00		
Philosophy	Gregory Warner			
Philosophy	Julia Watt	6:00		
Physiology and Pharm.	Steve Celetti	6:00		
Physiology and Pharm.	Danielle Lapierre	6:00	7:15	
Physiology and Pharm.	James Mather			
Physiology and Pharm.	Fiona Simpson			
Political Science	David Blunt	6:00	7:45	
Political Science	Richard J. Campbell	6:00	7:00	
Psychology	Paula Brochu	6:00	7:41	
Psychology	Rachel Lechcier-Kimel	6:00	7:15	
Psychology	Erin Marcotte	6:00		
Psychology	Matthew Shanahan			
Public Administration	Charles Wilson	6:00		
Senate	Abudi Awaysheh	6:20		
Senate	Kate Graham			
Senate	M. Kamran Khan			
Senate	Anna Sauer	6:00		
Sociology	Philip Baiden	6:00	7:18	
Sociology	Julie Peters	6:00	7:10	
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Andrew Norman			
Theology	Jacqueline Marr	6:00	7:10	
Theory & Criticism	James Depew			
Theory & Criticism	Miriam Love			
Visual Arts	Katja Beneke			
Women's Studies	Tina O'Connor			
Microbiology & Immunology	David Yue			

SOGS COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2008

6:00 – 8:50 p.m.

Physics & Astronomy Building, Room 215

Speaker: Forrest Pass

1. Ratification of Agenda

Speaker added two motions.

Moved: D. Blunt (Political Science)

Seconded: E. Price (Biology)

Carried

2. Announcements

- Pass welcomed all Councillors to the SOGS February Council Meeting and extended a special welcome to new Councillors.
- Quorum for the year is 27.
- Ice tea was available during the meeting as well as light refreshments. More refreshments were available at the Grad Club after the meeting.
- Next meeting will be in this room on March 27.
- Winter bus passes will be available around December 17th. Please check the website for exact date and let your peers know. Because of the new paperless system, there will be different requirements for picking up the bus pass. More information available on the SOGS website.
- Child Care, Thesis Binding and Travel subsidies deadline is December 21 at 4 pm.
- The SOGS office will be closed from noon December 24 – January 7 inclusive.
- The SOGS Staff and Executive wish all Councillors a safe and restful holiday season.
- The Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund, Out of Province and Grad Club Bursaries are due in the SOGS Office, UCC 260, on Friday, February 29th at 4 pm.
- Presidential nominations are open until 4 pm tomorrow.
- A reminder was made, that councillors **MUST sign in at the beginning of Council with their signature and time** and if they leave before the meeting is adjourned, they must indicate the **correct time** on the sign out Council Attendance Sheet. If councillors leave once the meeting has been adjourned there is no need to sign out.

3. Guest Speaker – none

4. Ratification of January 31, 2008 Minutes

FGS Leave and Parental Leave appendices – missing

Moved: R. Feldman (Medical Biophysics)

Seconded: A. Kirchhefer (Engineering)

Abstentions: 2

Ratified

5. Reception and Ratification of the SOGS AGM Minutes of February 12, 2008

- postponed

6. Orders of the Day

a. Motions arising from the President

WHEREAS it is appropriate to compensate the SOGS President-Elect for the time worked during the month of April while receiving crucial training by the outgoing SOGS President

BIRT the SOGS President-Elect, during the course of a normal election cycle, is compensated the equivalent of a VP salary for the month of April (commencing April 2009) for the workload undertaken when receiving training from the outgoing SOGS President.

BIFRT the Personnel Policy Committee construct a policy, for inclusion in the [PERSONNEL section of the SOGS Policy Manual](#), which specifies how the President-Elect salary will be prorated based on an abnormal election cycle.

BIFRT the prorating policy directly reference the terms and conditions specified in the SOGS Bylaws relating to an abnormal election cycle for the office of the President.

[*BIFRT the President's Manual be updated to specify the training requirements for the President-Elect with a reference to that manual listed in the PERSONNEL section of the SOGS Policy Manual.](#)

[*Recommended amendment from Personnel Policy Committee.](#)

Moved: D. Jacques (President)
Seconded: J. Watt (Philosophy)

Feldman (Medical Biophysics)

2/3 majority needed to pass due to changes in wording

Yes: 69

No: 0

Abstained: 5

Carried

F. Pass and R. Feldman stepped out of the meeting and C. Wilson took over as Speaker Pro-Tem.

WHEREAS the SOGS Speaker is responsible for the maintenance of right and proper meetings of the SOGS Council ~~and the SOGS Executive~~ in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, and therefore must possess an able and effective mastery of these rules as the Chair of said meetings, and

WHEREAS the SOGS Speaker is also tasked with the duties of Chief Returning Officer of SOGS as well as responsibility for the Elections Appeals Board, and
WHEREAS the SOGS Speaker's portfolio also includes the [Policy Ad Hoc Committee for Records Management](#) and the Bylaws and Constitution Committee, and
WHEREAS the SOGS Speaker serves as the final arbiter in disputes over the interpretation of said Bylaws and Constitution, and

WHEREAS the SOGS Speaker is ultimately responsible for the creation of the agenda, the council package, the minutes of Council meetings, and the ongoing maintenance of Councillor and committee lists, and

WHEREAS the SOGS Speaker therefore serves as the advocate for and guarantor of the best interests of the entire membership of SOGS and of the SOGS Council, as guided by the Bylaws and Constitution of SOGS, and

~~BIRT the stipend of the Speaker be raised to the level of a vice-president, as provided for in the 2007 budget and approved at the 2007 AGM.~~

WHEREAS a workload analysis was undertaken by the President (Jacques), in consultation with the Executive, the 2006-2007 Speaker (Feldman), the 2007-2008 Speaker (Pass), and it was determine the appropriate level of compensation is the equivalent of a 3-hour TA-ship, and

WHEREAS the Personnel Policy Committee is in agreement with the recommended increase in compensation

BIRT the current Speaker stipend valued at \$200 per month be increased to a salary equivalent to a 3-hour TA-ship per term, indexed to the compensation rate specified in the GTA Union Collective Agreement.

BIFRT since there are sufficient funds (equivalent to a 5-hour TA-ship) allocated within the SPEAKER STIPEND budget line item for the 2007-2008 fiscal year; the increase be awarded retroactive from May 1, 2007.

R. Campbell (Political Science)
S. Beasley (VP Finance)

Yes: 60
No: 2
Abstained: 12
Carried

b. Motions arising from Other Committees

None

c. Other Motions

WHEREAS there have been a number of sexual assaults against women on the York University campus since October 2007, and

WHEREAS the Society of Graduate Students at The University of Western Ontario is committed to the idea that all post-secondary educational institutions be safe, dedicated to education, and free from discrimination and violence, and

WHEREAS the administration of York University is looking to address these issues by using a request for proposal (RFP) process which can take anywhere from 60-90 days to complete, and

WHEREAS the York Federation of Students, in hopes of expediting the review process, are recommending the services of the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence against Women and Children (METRAC), a community-based, non-profit organization that conducts safety audits to develop concrete proposals for addressing violence,

BIRT SOGS stand with the York Federation of Students and other student groups from around the province in condemning the recent sexual assaults on the York campus.

BIFRT SOGS direct the executive to write a letter to the York University administration, urging them to keep their promise to involve students in the process of determining which organization is selected to do a safety audit of the campus.

BIFRT SOGS direct the executive to also urge the York University administration to expedite the RFP process in light of the number and frequency of the sexual assaults on that campus.

BIFRT SOGS direct the executive to recommend METRAC perform that safety audit, as that organization is preferred by the York Federation of Students.

Moved: A. Kirchhefer (Engineering)
Seconded: C. Symonette (Kinesiology)

B. Sherar (Disabilities Commissioner)
J. Watt (Philosophy)
P. Kuchar (Philosophy)

Yes: 70

No: 2
Abstained: 4
Carried

Whereas the Policy Committee is currently undertaking an review of the policy manual for SOGS;
and

Whereas the Policy Committee has reported to this council the need for all standing committees of the SOGS Council to codify policies and practices which are currently used and in place by the standing committees;

BIRT (1) the Chair of the Policy Committee may write the chair of all standing committees directing them to give an account of their policies and procedures in a form which is consistent with the documents which may be created by the policy committee;

(2) the chair of all standing committees shall respond to the letter of the chair of the policy committee by April 11, 2008.

Moved: C. Wilson (Public Administration)

Seconded: E. Marcotte (Psychology)

S. Beasley
R. Feldman
J. Watt
A. Awaysheh
D. Jacques

2/3 majority needed to pass

Yes: 70
No: 2
Abstained: 4
Carried

Tabled Motion (from November)

Whereas all persons who opt-in to the SOGS health plan can pay for only one term and receive a full year's allotment of benefits during that term, which may lead to significantly higher premiums for all graduate students,

BIRT all persons who opt-in to the SOGS health plan submit payment for the full policy year regardless of the date of opt-in.

BIFRT if the sponsoring student completes their degree or a post-doctoral fellow completes their term at The University of Western Ontario, the remaining term payment(s) will be refunded.

Remains tabled

7. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports were presented

a. President

b. VP Academic

WRF – As of today, 130 abstracts had been received.

According to FGS, feedback from the major Scholarship competitions will not be possible to obtain this year. They will attempt to get this for next year's round of applications. In the meantime, applicants should be contacting their departments for input.

c. VP External & Communications

Newsletter will be going out next week.

d. VP Finance

Beasley re-iterated that no SOGS fees go to fund the Grad Club. The Grad Club does offer 5% discount to SOGS members when the bus pass is shown. Signs to this affect are found near the cash register.

e. VP Student Services

f. CFS Liaison Report

g. Commissioner for Students with Disabilities Report

Sherar will be resigning in May. He stressed that this is a great position for anyone who is interested in working to benefit the disabled. Beasley thanks Sherar for all his hard work on obtaining handicapped doors for the Grad Club.

h. Councillor Reports

8. New Business/Open Forum

MOTION:

WHEREAS SOGS does not currently have a policy pertaining to the conveyance of sympathy to other student bodies in the event of a campus tragedy;

BIRT in the event of a campus tragedy at a University, SOGS Council direct the executive, at its discretion, to send a letter of support and condolence, or other appropriate gesture, to the most relevant student association/organization of the affected university on behalf of graduate students of The University of Western Ontario.

BIFRT any letters sent under this motion be included in the next council package.

Moved: J. Watt (Philosophy)

Seconded: K. Lee (Music)

Neely brought forth this motion to ensure that SOGS is able to act in a timely fashion to send out condolences when tragedies such as the Virginia Tech massacre take place.

- A. McKenna (
- V. Phillip (L&IS – M)
- B. Abu-Shaqra (Media Studies)
- C. Wilson (Public Administration)
- D. Kanas (Chemistry)
- M. Perri (Engineering)
- M. Morrison (Engineering)
- C. Symonette (Kinesiology)

2/3 majority needed to pass

Yes: 42

No: 1

Abstained: 9

Carried

9. Elections

Election Appeals Board

- Charles Wilson
- Julia Watt
- Abudi Awaysheh
- Erin Marcotte
- Sarah Detombe
- Jodi Miller

Unanimous

Adjournment – 7:45 pm:

Moved: R. Feldman

Seconded: C. Wilson

Unanimous

SOGS Annual General Meeting MINUTES

February 12, 2008

4:45 – 6:40 p.m.

Social Science Centre – Room 2024

Chair: Forrest Pass

Recording Secretary: Olga Sauer

1. Ratification of Agenda

Addition: Ratification of 2007 Minutes

Moved: Mackenzie Grisdale (Journalism)

Seconded: Mike Burrell (Computer Science)

Ratified

2. Announcements

- Graduate Students were welcomed to the Annual General Meeting
- Quorum was 30.
- Pizza and pop were provided.
- The SOGS OSOTF, OOP, Grad Club Bursary and the 125th Scholarship deadline is February 28th.
- Nominations for SOGS President opened on Monday and will close on Friday, February 22 at 5 pm. Nomination forms are available in the SOGS office, the SOGS website and here at the desk.
- Western Research Forum abstract submission deadline will be February 15.
- The next Council meeting will be February 21st.
- A SOGS Senator is required for July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009. Interested students should contact the SOGS office.

3. Ratification of 2007 AGM Minutes

Moved: Alexis Gordon (Physiology & Pharmacology)

Seconded: Steven Beasley (Biochemistry)

Ratified

4. Order of the Day

Steven Beasley (VP Finance) read in the motion:

BIRT the SOGS adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as proposed by the Finance Committee and recommended to the membership by Council at its meeting of 31 January 2008.

Moved: Mackenzie Grisdale (Journalism)

Seconded: Mike Burrell (Computer Science)

The budget presented to Council was slightly altered due with new information that was received between meetings.

NOTE: VP Finance noted that the Speaker's Note is not recommended by the Finance Committee.

Abudi Awaysheh (Pathology)

Valerie Pratt (French)

Saidur Chowdhury (Engineering)

Philip Baiden (Sociology)

For – 79

Against – 0

Abstained – 8

5. Executive Oral Reports

a. President, Duane Jacques

Graduate student enrolment is increasing for the next few years. The Faculty of Graduate Studies has been renamed to the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

Personnel Policy committee is discussing the possibility of employing a General Manager for the Society.

Rick Telfer (Sociology)
Brent Sherar (Chemistry)

b. VP Academic, Margie Davenport

Western Research Forum abstracts are due February 15.

Western Graduate Review has had two issues and another is planned for March.

Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Awards have been reduced to \$500 each (for income tax requirements), but the number has been increased to 20.

Joint Fund money has been increased. There is \$2400 for the last four months.

c. VP External and Communication, Michael Daubs

Grad Club website has been reworked and is updated constantly. Good feedback is being received.

Newsletter has been redesigned. Student articles might be an addition for future issues.

Town & Gown Committee – meets with City of London politicians to improve City / educational institution (UWO/Fanshawe) relations.

Equity Issues is a very active committee.

Graduate Student Issues Committee is a catch all for many areas. This committee requires a chair and more members. It deals with CFS issues. SOGS has funding for members to attend various CFS meetings throughout the year.

d. VP Finance, Steven Beasley

Kai Pisters (Engineering)
Edwin Price (Biology)
Valerie Pratt (French)
Brent Sherar (Chemistry)

e. VP Student Services, Kristina Neely

Orientation Committee – plans the Dayplanner; new student orientation party; various social events, like Beach Party to Grand Bend, Oktoberfest trip to Kitchener, Gradtoberfest in the Grad Club. New members and chair needed. A party is being scheduled for early March. If interested in social activities, join the committee. Chair needed.

International Graduate Student Issues Committee – mostly plan events and student get together for international students. Need new members.

Health Plan Committee – In September SOGS started with a new insurer (RWAM Insurance Administrators Inc.). Opt outs are running about 15%. New members are needed for input on how to keep premium increases (if necessary) as low as possible.

Kristina is working at creating new **Backpack to Briefcase** sessions specifically for graduate students in the summer.

f. CFS Liaison, Abudi Awaysheh

CFS works for the betterment of student life (lowered tuition fees, against commercialization on campus, against phobias), solidarity for students across Canada. As a CFS local, SOGS members receive a free ISIC card, free on-line U-File for preparation of income tax returns, and a free student saver card. There are five CFS meetings per year. National Graduate Caucus meets in February. This will be Abudi's last term as CFS Liaison.

Forrest Pass thanked Abudi for his work on behalf of SOGS.

g. Commissioner for Students with Disabilities Report, Brent Sherar

As a member of WODAC, the Commissioner is able to provide input on how Western is helping students with disabilities use Western facilities. Brent is unable to run again but urged others to run because this is a great portfolio.

Steve Beasley informed everyone that, because of Brent's persistence, automatic doors have been installed at the Grad Club.

Forrest Pass thanked Brent for his work on behalf of SOGS.

6. New Business / Open Forum

Craig Steinback, Kinesiology Graduate Chair, had emailed his constituents regarding the issue of having undergraduates use the Grad Club. The majority of Kinesiology graduate students and faculty do not want undergraduates in the Grad Club.

Discussion ensued.

Heather Hanson (Health & Rehabilitation Science)

Edwin Price (Biology)

Danielle Lapierre (Physiology & Pharmacology)

Steven Beasley (Biochemistry)

Andrew Lockey (Neurosciences)

Slade Loutet (Microbiology)

Melissa Weston (Computer Science)

Shannon Hamm (Kinesiology)

Michelle Pompeo (Education)

Nominations for President are due to the SOGS office by 5 pm on February 22.

There is still one more position for Senator for the July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 term.

7. Adjournment – 8 pm

Leticia Yansen (Education)

Adam Kirchhefer (Engineering)

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING

January 18, 2008

3:25 – 5:30pm

UCC 260 – SOGS Office

Minutes

Present: President, Duane Jacques
VP External & Communication, Michael Daubs
VP Finance, Steven Beasley
VP Student Services, Kristina Neely
Grad Club Manager, Marc Lalonde
Accounting Manager, Raquel Rodrigues

Regrets: Office Manager, Olga Sauer
VP Academic, Margie Davenport

Recording Secretary: President, Duane Jacques

1) Grad Club report – Marc Lalonde

- Lalonde submitted written GC Revenue Report (See Appendix I)
- New bar glass washers installation is complete. Cost at \$7795 + tax = \$8886
- Lalonde and Brigham currently working on proposed 2008-2009 GC budget. They will be consulting with Beasley and Rodrigues shortly
- Water softener, ice machine, and other capital acquisitions to go into the proposed 2008-2009 GC budget.
- **ACTION Item I:** Initial draft of 2008-2009 GC budget to be ready Feb-14-08. All present agreed to this time line.
- The power outage that covered parts of campus and the city on Jan-11-08 resulted in significant business that day.
- The next scheduled UFC event on Jan-19-08 will not be shown
- Micro-Brew tour scheduled on Feb-27-08. Draw for tickets will be held in GC on Feb-22-08
- New GC staff compensation rates began as of Jan-01-08. GC staff are pleased
- Jacques presented the results of the GC related questions from the SOGS-LTC survey that took place at the end of October. All present agreed that the data represented very positive results from GC operations.

2) Ratification of previous Executive minutes

- Sept-14-07, Oct-15-07, Dec-03-07 Exec meeting minutes ratified.

Moved (Daubs)
Seconded (Beasley)
Unanimous

3) ACTION Item Update from Previous Minutes

- **Dec-03-07 ACTION I:** SOGS Exec member to fill out new key request form **Result:** Beasley signed the appropriate form
- **Dec-03-07 ACTION II:** Olga to send email invite (RVSP by Dec-19-07) immediately **Result:** Sauer completed
- **Dec-03-07 ACTION III:** Lalonde to resend email quotes from bar glass washer vendors for inclusion in these minutes. **Result:** Lalonde no longer has copy of email. Rodrigues has hard copies of quotes. Rodrigues to provide copies for inclusion in Jan-18-08 Exec Minutes (See Appendix II)

- **Dec-03-07 ACTION IV:** Jacques to make agreed upon corrections of pending minutes to be ratified by email prior to next meeting. **Result:** Pending minutes (Sept-14-07 and Oct-15-07) prepared and presented in Dec-03-07 Exec meeting. Minutes ratified.
- **Dec-03-07 ACTION V:** Jacques to include a copy of SOGS report UWO Alumni Association Board in next Executive meeting minutes. **Result:** Report submitted include in January Council report instead.
- **Dec-03-07 ACTION VI:** All Executive members to submit their portfolio budgets proposals for 2008-2009 at least 2 days prior to next Executive meeting. **Result:** Completed

4) Executive reports

VP Academic – Margie Davenport

- Davenport submitted a written report in her absence. See Appendix III
- FGS-SOGS meeting update: Jacques reported that both Research Western and FGS have agreed to increase Joint Fund contribution for 2008-2009 from \$2000 to \$4000 each. That increased level will be incorporated in the proposed 2008-2009 SOGS budget

VP External – Michael Daubs

- Jaihrul Mazumder is the new GSIC chair
- January newsletter is scheduled to be released on Jan-22-08
- Town & Gown Committee Report: meeting agenda and discussion items at the last meeting were not significantly related to graduate students. Next Town & Gown meeting scheduled for Feb-06-08.
- Training on Dreamweaver website development software for Sauer and Lalonde is progressing well.
- Some further refinements and reorganization of GC website structure to come shortly
- Daubs to work with CFS liaison to plan CFS Day of Action event

VP Finance – Steven Beasley

- Finance Committee (FC) is requesting advice/assistance from Daubs to help redesign the bursary form – new online submission form
- FC met on Jan-16-08 to review Exec portfolio budget submissions and make initial recommendations
- Next Grad Club Committee (GCC) meeting scheduled for Jan-22-08
- Beasley (with GCC) and Neely (with OC) to further partnership with Alumni Relations through work on a set of Back2Briefcase style events targeted towards graduate students. Beasley and Neely to schedule a meeting with Christina Fox, Alumni Relations
- **ACTION Item II:** Beasley/Neely to report results of meeting with C.Fox for inclusion in next SOGS Report to the UWO Alumni Association Board.

Note: Daubs had to leave the meeting due to another commitment (4:32pm). Quorum maintained.

VP Student Services – Kristina Neely

- IGSIC dinner event scheduled for Jan-19-08 at 5pm in GC. Currently there are 55 RSVPS.
- Orientation Committee (OC) is in need of new members.
- Health Plan opt-in policy motion tabled at November Council meeting will not be brought forth from the table in January Council meeting, as originally planned. The clarifications/revisions required by Council still need further work.
- Neely commented positively on the development of events with Alumni Relations; similar to item presented in Beasley's report.
- Jacques raised a question regarding the lost advertising revenue from the dayplanner/handbook printing error made by the CFS.

- **ACTION Item III:** Neely and Rodrigues to report back on what, if any, adjustments were made on the 2007-2008 invoices as a result of the printing error, and how that will affect whether the CFS gets the printing order again next year.

President – Duane Jacques

- Jacques appointed Kai Pisters as SOGS representative at the upcoming Graduate Student Associations – G13 (GSAG13) conference at McGill University.
- Both partners have also agreed to provide an additional \$2000 contribution this year. Jacques will put a motion before Council at January meeting to allocate the additional funds. Allocation to be spread across THESIS TEMPLATE TRAINING line item and SPONSORSHIP/DONATIONS line item.
- Through his regular review of YTD actuals Jacques found a error in budgeting and payout of Executive salaries. The errors are being addressed with Rodrigues
- The new FGS leave of absence policy has been released. Jacques will include copies of the policy announcement and request form in his January Council report
- The sample Student-Supervisor agreement letters under development with FGS are stilling pending. The anticipated completion is end of March.
- A unique problem related to inconsistent information between the online “unofficial” transcript (available on student.uwo.ca) versus an official transcript was brought to Jacques’ attention by a student at large. Jacques will follow up on this error with FGS, and Registrar as necessary.

5) Staff Reports

Accounting Manager – Raquel Rodrigues

- Requested vacation from Feb-01-08 through Feb-10-08
- Annual General Meeting set for Feb-12-08

Note: Rodrigues left the meeting (5:25pm)

Office Manager – Olga Sauer

- Absent with regrets: no written report submitted.

6) Inaccuracy of Council Minutes – General Discussion

- Neely raised the issue that she had received inaccurate lists of names for Councillors that volunteered during Council meetings for Student Services Portfolio committees
- Jacques mentioned that he had experienced similar problems as well.
- **ACTION Item IV:** Jacques to address this problem with Sauer.

Adjournment (5:30pm)

Jacques (Moved)
Beasley (Second)
Unanimous

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING

January 18, 2008

3:25 – 5:30pm

UCC 260 – SOGS Office

Minutes – Appendix I

Grad Club Revenue Report

Exec Meeting Report	Revenue					
		7-Dec	6-Dec	Difference	%	
Alcohol		\$ 28,695.61	\$ 27,966.08	\$ 729.53	3%	
Food		\$ 37,999.83	\$ 30,834.77	\$ 7,165.06	23%	
Beverages		\$ 2,721.85	\$ 2,268.85	\$ 453.00	20%	
Confection		\$ 1,112.36	\$ 1,016.54	\$ 95.82	9%	
Cigarettes		\$ 934.89	\$ 997.39	\$ (62.50)	-6%	
Total revenue		\$ 42,768.93	\$ 35,117.55	\$ 7,651.38	22%	
		2007-2008	2006-2007	Difference	%	
Year to date						
Alcohol		\$321,799.98	\$294,104.84	\$ 27,695.14	9%	
Food		\$390,516.48	\$328,609.86	\$ 61,906.62	19%	
Beverages		\$ 45,431.55	\$ 34,829.26	\$ 10,602.29	30%	
Confection		\$ 14,378.71	\$ 13,866.88	\$ 511.83	4%	
Cigarettes		\$ 12,702.12	\$ 13,746.30	\$ (1,044.18)	-8%	
Revenue		\$784,828.84	\$685,157.14	\$ 99,671.70		
Taxes		\$108,694.01	\$ 96,170.82	\$ 12,523.19		
Total revenue		\$676,134.83	\$588,986.32	\$ 87,148.51	15%	

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING

January 18, 2008

3:25 – 5:30pm

UCC 260 – SOGS Office

Minutes – Appendix II

Grad Club Bar Glass Washer Quotations

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING

January 18, 2008

3:25 – 5:30pm

UCC 260 – SOGS Office

Minutes – Appendix III

VP Academic Written Report

My apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. Here is my update:

Graduate Student Teaching Awards (GSTA):

GSTA awards are running smoothly. The GSTA fall nominations were open until just before Christmas and had a great response. We will advertise again later in the spring. The awards date has been set for the spring.

Western Graduate Review (WGR):

We have run into some problems with the WGR. My committee has been working VERY hard to get people to fill in profiles. Lots of people say they will but they never do! This has significantly delayed the fall edition of the WGR. If you know ANYBODY who we can profile please send me their contact information. We want to have an edition out by the middle of February. The summer edition will profile the winners from the WRF.

Western Research Forum (WRF):

The WRF is going to be held Saturday March 29. We are going to run the whole event on one day with concurrent oral and poster presentations followed by dinner and a reception/awards presentation featuring graduate students from the school of music. And yes, this is all on budget ☺ We'll be doing a more aggressive advertising campaign with a tentative Abstract submission date on Feb 15. I hope you can all attend!

Orders of the Day

a) **Motions Arising from the President**

Whereas the TEMPORARY STAFF line item from the 2007-2008 budget has been exhausted (\$1037.50 of \$1000.00 as reported in Feb2008 YTD actuals) and,

Whereas additional temporary staffing is needed to meet the service demands for Summer term bus passes during the end of April 2008

BIRT Council increase the 2007-2008 budgetary allocation for the TEMPORARY STAFF line item by \$250.00 (total: \$1250.00)

*Note: This request of Council to increase the TEMPORARY STAFF line item was submitted to the Finance Committee and received a positive recommendation on March 14, 2008.

b) **Motions Arising from Other Committees**

VP Academic:

Whereas there have only been 2 eligible applications submitted for the 125th Anniversary Scholarship Program by the standard deadline.

BIRT the deadline for the 125th Anniversary Scholarship Program during the 2007-2008 academic year be extended until Thursday April 10, 2008 at 4pm.

BIFRT those applications submitted by the standard deadline will be given first priority in the application review and awarding of scholarships.

BCC:

Motion 1: Removal of the Trial Procedure and Institution of Recall

Whereas the "Trial" as described in the bylaws is a lengthy, work-intensive process; and
Whereas the society has no jurisdiction in the case of criminal offences by members; and
Where as graduate students are entitled to a means by which to hold their elected representatives accountable for their decisions and actions

BIRT Section 6: Discipline of Executive Officers and Councillors be repealed

BIFRT Council Adopt the following recall bylaw

6. Recall

6.1 Recall of the President

6.1.1 The president may be recalled by a 2/3 majority vote at a general meeting called for that purpose.

6.1.2 The CRO must notify the president and executive of the general meeting called for the purpose of recall within 48 hours of approval for the meeting.

6.1.3 Nominations for the position of president will open immediately after a successful recall vote.

6.1.4 The position of president vacated by the recall shall be filled according to the presidential by-election procedures.

6.2 Recall of executive and non-executive officers

6.2.1 Executive and non-executive officers may be recalled by a 2/3 majority motion at a council meeting

6.2.2 A motion for recall must be distributed in the council package

- 6.2.3 A motion for recall may not be introduced in new business
- 6.2.4 The CRO must notify the officer or non-executive officer affected by recall within 48 hours of receiving the motion submission
- 6.2.5 Nominations for the position vacated by recall will open immediately after a successful recall vote
- 6.2.6 The position vacated by recall shall be filled according to the appropriate by-election procedures.

6.3 Recall of Councillors

6.3.1 A councillor may be recalled:

- a) by a motion of the duly-constituted graduate student association responsible for the councillor's nomination; or
- b) by submission of a petition signed by one half (1/2) of the members of the councillor's constituency; or
- c) upon receipt and verification by the Speaker of a written formal complaint of dereliction of his or her duties under section 1.3.1,

6.3.2 A recall petition must be accompanied by a nomination for a replacement councillor.

6.3.3 Recall will not be initiated until the submissions of 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 are verified by the Speaker.

6.3.4 The councillor shall be informed of the recall by the Speaker within three business days of the formal receipt of the recall submission.

6.3.5 A seat vacated through a motion submitted the duly-constituted graduation student association will be filled by the association's nominee.

6.3.6 A seat vacated by any other form of recall will be filled by a by-election in which the recalled councillor is eligible to run.

6.3.7 A Councillor elected to fill a seat vacated through recall shall serve until the October meeting of Council following his or her election.

BIFRT the Bylaws be renumbered as appropriate.

Motion 2: Exceptional Circumstances and By-Elections

Whereas Executives, non executives and councillors may be unable to complete their full terms

BIRT Bylaw 3.11 be repealed

BIFRT Council adopt the following bylaw regarding By-Elections

5.0 Exceptional Circumstances and By-Election

5.0.1 In the event that an officer, non-executive officer, or councillor resigns or is otherwise required to vacate the position prior to the completion of their term, a temporary replacement will be assigned as designated by the bylaws and a by-election will be held.

5.1 Presidential By-election

5.1.1 In the event of a vacancy in the position of president, the VP Academic shall assume the responsibilities of President until a by-election can be held.

5.1.2 The presidential by-election shall be held in a General Meeting called for that purpose.

5.1.3 A General meeting shall be called scheduled for no less than 5 business days and no more than 14 business days from the date the presidential position was vacated.

5.1.4 Notice for the General meeting shall include notification of the by-election and shall be communicated to the membership as required by the bylaws concerning notice for a General meeting.

5.1.5 The nomination period shall be 5 business days prior to the General meeting.

5.1.6 All nominations must be submitted to the CRO or Office manager by midnight prior to the meeting.

5.1.7 Campaigning may be conducted during the nomination period by candidates who have submitted a completed nomination and been briefed by the CRO.

- 5.1.8 All forms of media may be used during the campaign. No media coverage is allowed the day of the General meeting
- 5.1.9 Society space, resources or materials may not be used in the preparation or dissemination of campaign material, except with permission of the CRO.
- 5.1.10 Candidates may address the General meeting and participate in a question and answer session prior to the election at the General meeting.
- 5.1.11 Voting at the meeting will be conducted by secret ballot.
- 5.1.12 In the event of a single candidate, ratification may be done by a show of hands or roll call.
- 5.1.13 Proxy voting is allowed as specified in the rules governing General meetings
- 5.1.14 Each candidate shall be allowed one scrutineer to be present while votes are being tabulated
- 5.1.15 In the event of a tie, the tie shall be broken by the CRO.
- 5.1.16 The maximum spending limit for a by-election presidential campaign is \$50.
- 5.1.17 The society shall provide subsidies for 50% of campaign expenses incurred by candidates the maximum spending limit.
- 5.1.18 In the event no nomination is received in time for the General meeting, the meeting shall be cancelled and rescheduled for 1 week later, the nomination period shall be similarly extended.
- 5.1.19 The term of the president elected in a by election shall extend only until the next regularly scheduled election, and notification shall be sent to the membership

5.2.0 Executive and non-executive officers

5.2.1 Chain of Command

5.2.1.1 In the event of a vacancy in the position of Vice-President external Affairs and Communications the duties shall be assumed in order of preference

- a) by the chair of the GSIC committee.
- b) by the chair of the Equity committee.
- c) by a member appointed by the remaining executive, until a by-election can be held

5.2.1.2 In the event of a vacancy in the position of Vice-President Academic the duties shall be assumed in order of preference

- a) by the chair of the Academic committee
- b) by the chair of the GSTA Awards committee
- c) by the chair of the WGR committee
- d) by a member appointed by the remaining executive until a by-election can be held

5.2.1.3 In the event of a vacancy in the position of Vice-President Student Services the duties shall be assumed in order of preference

- a) by the chair of the Orientation committee
- b) by the chair of the Health Plan committee
- c) by the chair of the IGSIC committee
- d) by a member appointed by the remaining executive until a by-election can be held

5.2.1.4 In the event of a vacancy in the position of Vice-President Finance the duties shall be assumed in order of preference

- a) by the chair of the Finance committee
- b) by the chair of the GC committee
- c) by a member appointed by the remaining executive until a by-election can be held

5.2.1.5 In the event of a vacancy in the position of Speaker the duties shall be assumed by the chair of the BCC until a by-election can be held

5.2.1.6 In the event of a vacancy in the position of any other non-executive position, the duties shall be assumed by a member appointed by the executive until a by-election can be held.

5.2.1.7 In the event of a vacancy in position of chair, the committee shall select a new chair in an election facilitated by the Liaison.

5.2.2 By-Elections

5.2.2.1 The nominations for an executive officer position shall be opened by the CRO upon notification of the vacant position.

5.2.2.2 Nominations shall remain open until the next scheduled council meeting

5.2.2.3 The position shall be filled by a vote of Council.

5.2.2.4 The term of an executive officer elected in a by-election shall extend only until the next regularly scheduled council meeting

5.2.2.5 In the event no nomination is received, the nomination period shall be extended until the next regularly scheduled council meeting, and notification shall be sent to the membership

5.3 Councillor By-Elections

5.3.1 Councillor by elections shall be run through the constituency, facilitated by the CRO as requested.

BIFRT The Bylaws be renumbered as appropriate.

Motion 3: Councillor Bylaw

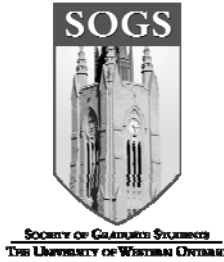
Whereas attending council meetings is a major councillor responsibility
BIRT the following be added to the Councillors Bylaw

Councillors Bylaw

1.3.1. Councillors shall be deemed to be in dereliction of his or her duties if he or she fails to attend two meetings during his or her term and fails to designate an alternate.

c) **Other Motions**

BIRT SOGS endorse the following letter of support for STAND in their UWO divestment campaign. (Appendix III)



President
March 2008 Report to Council
Duane Jacques (sogs.president@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors,

A majority of my time this month has been spent on my duties as part of the Selection Committee for the Vice-Provost [Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Studies]. These details are confidential and thus I cannot report them to you. However, there are a few items on which I would like to report that are the result of SOGS activities throughout the past year.

Board of Governors: PFC Committee Submission

Each year in mid-march the Student Associations that have fees collected through the University's tuition billing system must submit a fee schedule package to a standing committee of the Board of Governors (BoG) for approval. In previous years, the package was submitted to the Campus and Community Affairs Committee (CCAC). Due to changes in the structure of the BoG committees, the responsibility of approving the collection of ancillary and student fees falls to the Property and Finance Committee (PFC). Regardless of the change in committee responsibilities, the package submission process is the same. The package we have submitted for approval contains the following items:

1. SOGS President Report (see Appendix I)
2. SOGS VP Finance Report (see Appendix I)
3. SOGS Financial Documents(http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/About/Budgets/SOGSPFC_0809.xls)
 - a. PFC Fee Schedule
 - b. SOGS proposed 2008-2009 Fees
 - c. SOGS proposed 2008-2009 Budget
 - d. Grad Club proposed 2008-2009 Budget
 - e. SOGS Statement of Operations 2006-2007

I encourage councillors to read the package items. Steve Beasley, VP Finance and I welcome any questions you might have.

Student Services Committee Final Report

The Students Services Committee provides oversight and recommendations on the budget requests of the Ancillary Fee Funded Units to the Board of Governors. These units (such as Student Health Services, Student Development Services, Campus Recreations, etc) obtain some portion of their annual budgets from ancillary fees collected from all Western students. The committee is comprised of 7 voting members (USC President – committee chair, USC VP Student Affairs, 2 undergraduate student-at-large, SOGS President, SOGS graduate student-at-large, 1 MBAA Executive). Non-voting membership from the Western administration includes: Gitta Kulczycki (VP Resources and Operations), Roma Harris (Vice-Provost and Registrar), Lynn Logan (AVP Financial Services), Susan Grindrod (AVP Housing & Ancillary Services) and Rick Campbell (Financial Analyst for Ancillary Operations). I have included the SSC Final Report in Appendix II and the SSC's budget recommendation to the BoG: Property and Finance Committee.

Note: The SSC budget document is too large to include in this SOGS Council package, so it will be accessible as a separate link along side the March 2008 Council package

Office of the Ombudsperson Annual Report

A link to the Annual Report from the Office of the Ombudsperson has been on the SOGS website since its release a couple weeks ago. I would like to take the opportunity to encourage councillors to read it. This will aid you in being informed about some of the difficult issues that your constituents can face

during their graduate career, as well as the services available through the Office of the Ombudsperson. The report can be found through either:

<http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/reports/AR2006-07.pdf> (direct link)

<http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/reports/reports.html> (archive of all reports)

Sincerely,
Duane Jacques, President



VP Academic
March 2008 Report to Council
Margie Davenport (sogs.academic@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors,

Scholarship Feedback:

Carol Beynon and Stephen Sims of FGS have passed on to me a document "The Nelson Report" which was compiled by members of the UWO SSHRC selection committee. This document gives excellent feedback on what the committee felt made a strong application. A big thank you to the committee members for sharing their findings with us! This document will be made available to graduate students in the near future.

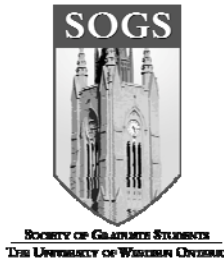
WESTERN RESEARCH FORUM:

The WRF will be held at the Wave March 29, 2008. As of Feb 11, 2008 we have already received 29 abstracts! Please encourage your constituents to attend the sessions! Dr. Tim Wilson, 2001 winner at the WRF, will be the keynote speaker at the Awards Dinner. Congratulations to the Academic Committee on a job well done!

125th Anniversary Scholarship

We received many applications to the 125th Anniversary Scholarship. However, most were ineligible since "***the applicant must be able to demonstrate that he or she receives less in funding from the university and other academic sources (scholarships and bursaries already expected) than he or she pays in tuition fees.***" Since we have not received the full quota of applications I have put a motion into council to extend the deadline to April 10, 2008 at 4pm in the SOGS office. The application form and more information can be found at <http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/Programs/125thAnniversary.html>.

Have a great month and see you at the Western Research Forum!



VP External & Communications
March 2008 Report to Council
Michael Daubs (sogs.external@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Hello everyone,

First, a quick personal note. This will be the last SOGS Council meeting I will attend in the role of VP External Affairs & Communication. As you may know, my term ends at the end of April. However, I will be out of town the last two weeks in April, missing that month's Council meeting. I will still submit a written report and make sure other Executive members are briefed in case there are questions. Now, here is an update on this portfolio.

End of Term Portfolio Preparations

I have begun the process of organizing the materials in this portfolio for the next VP External. Part of this process is making sure Grad Club Manager Marc Lalonde and SOGS Office Manager Olga Sauer are up to speed on making website updates. Marc appears to be set, as he has been making updates to the GC website for some time. Olga, mostly due to problems with her office machine, needs another lesson or two, which we have already discussed. I will also prepare a guide for Olga (and the next VP External) concerning the website. Next, I will turn my attention to cleaning up archived files, communications, and other documents in for the next VP external, as well as preparing simplified templates for publications such as press releases and the *SOGS Update* newsletter.

Newsletter

The March Newsletter was sent to students on Tuesday, March 18. The focus in this newsletter was the SOGS Presidential election. After a request from one of the candidates, both candidates were allowed to review the newsletter before the notice to students was sent. The downside to this was that I didn't post the link to the newsletter before the email notice was sent (which I usually do). This resulted in the newsletter not being publicly available until after some had received the notice. This oversight was my error, and I apologize for any inconvenience. Luckily, we only received one complaint about the missing link. Olga called me upon receiving it, and the issue was corrected after the first complaint.

Election Issues (of a technical nature, that is)

With the SOGS presidential election voting taking place online at certain dates and times, coordinating website changes (namely, to provide a button link to the voting site) has been a priority. Unfortunately, two technical errors have led to additional changes. The first was the loss of a few votes cast before 6pm on the advance polling date. CRO Forrest Pass corrected those issues (and should be commended for his calm and quick response to the situation), but the website needed some additional changes, including a notice (as part of a larger publication campaign informing voters of the potential need to re-vote) as well as the removal and subsequent re-posting of the voting link. For the start of the March 18 voting period, technical issues at home (loss of network connectivity) cause me to post the link 3.5 hours late. Again, I accept responsibility for this error, and apologize for any inconvenience. As with the newsletter issue described above, we only received one complaint.

Committees

Both committees are looking at having at least one more meeting before I leave in mid-April, and both have gained new members since last meeting. Here's a quick update.

GSIC

The last GSIC meeting was again only attended by me and the current chair. As quorum was not reached, no official actions were taken. However, we did discuss some issues including the recent incidents of sexual assault and racist graffiti on the York campus (an issue addressed at the last Council meeting), the proposed "Scent Aware" guidelines, and the issue of work and leisure (specifically a communal eating space) for

graduate students. Hopefully these issues can be addressed by a full, well attended committee meeting in the coming weeks.

Equity

The Equity committee now has two candidates for chair, which will be voted on at the next meeting. Scheduling an Equity meeting has proven difficult, mostly because of my own schedule. However, this will be a priority in the next week or two. In the meantime, I have been working with ITS to finally develop and disseminate the student equity survey this committee worked diligently to develop. We will discuss the timing of this at the next meeting.

If there are any questions about anything in this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at sogs.external@uwo.ca.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael



VP Finance
March 2008 Report to Council
Steven Beasley (sogs.finance@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Hi All,

The major endeavour in the VP Finance portfolio this month is preparing our fee schedule and budgets (approved at the February AGM) for submission to the University Planning and Finance Committee. All pertinent submitted materials, including the 2007-2008 Grad Club budget, are found on the SOGS website (<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/About/budgets.html>). The proposed fee includes the maximal health plan increase, but as the Health Plan Committee is currently in negotiations with our broker, the upcoming fee will likely decrease. Our cash position remains strong, the debt has been completely paid off and we are truly on the road to fiscal stability.

The Grad Club Committee met at the end of February to discuss the upcoming Grad Club budget. GC revenues have increased this year over last by 12% and we project a profit when the depreciation value of the equipment is removed. The equipment line item was increased significantly to include a number of kitchen items requested by our kitchen manager including a sandwich toaster (tastier lunches!!), safety items, as well new a high def TV system in time for the Olympics and EuroCup2008. Also included in the equipment line item is enough money for a Wii system for the benefit of members only. A usage policy is still being discussed, ideas welcome.

The Spoke made us an offer we couldn't refuse. The GC took \$1200 of their patio furniture, however this is above the GC equipment budgeted line item this year. The decision had to be made that day as they were having a fire sale and wasn't able to be brought to council beforehand. (sorry).

The issue of the exclusivity of the Coke contract was brought forth recently. Representatives from both Coke and Pepsi have been contacted to inform them that a new contract will be tendered beginning Jan.1/09. The terms of the exclusivity deal were clarified and the Coke rep is amenable to our stocking non-competing items at the GC (specifically Organic Juices). Details will follow in next months' update.

By an E-Vote by the GCC (and almost important to him as his knighthood): The GCC grants Dr. Paul Davenport an honorary lifetime membership to the GC. At least we won't kick him out some random Friday when enforcing our tightened membership admission criteria. Although word on the street doesn't state he's an egregious tipper.

The Finance Committee didn't meet, but did some E-governance including approval of the following recommendations/motions:

1st - a request from the VP Academic to have the budget line item for the WRF increased by ~\$1000 to accommodate the unprecedented interest in the event; NOTE: we received extra funds from FGS towards the VP Academic portfolio that would cover this.

2nd - a request from the President to have the budget line item for the temporary staff increased by ~\$250 to hire someone for bus pass distribution as office staff will be away during that crucial period.

3rd - BIRT committees requesting GC voucher recompense adhere to the following procedure: The President, VP, or Speaker under whose aegis the committee resides shall email the SOGS accounts manager and cc: the chair of said committee with the name of the committee, the name of the chair, time of the meeting and the number of vouchers needed. It is the responsibility of the committee chair to pick up the vouchers before the meeting.

Arrangements for the full audit being performed this year are underway.

Happy March,

Steven Beasley, SOGS VP Finance



**VP Student Services
March 2008 Report to Council
Kristina Neely (sogs.services@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>**

Dear SOGS Councillors;

Here is a brief update on items within my portfolio:

International Graduate Student Issues Committee (IGSIC) hosts an evening of Bowling for International Students at Fleetway Fun on Tuesday, April 8, 2008. Please send the following details to your constituents:

Who: International Graduate Students

What: IGSIC hosts an evening of bowling!

When: Tuesday, April 8 at 6:45pm

Where: Fleetway Fun

Registration: Students must register in advance! \$10 covers the cost of 3, 10-pin bowling games, shoe rental and the chance to win a variety of UWO door prizes! Students can register in the SOGS office until Friday, April 4. This event is limited to 50 participants.

The Health Plan Committee (HPC) is preparing to receive the Mid-Year Report from our Broker, Campbell & Co. This report provides us with vital statistics on our plan usage. In addition, the HPC is currently evaluating an increasing trend in opt-out rates. In the Fall Term of 2006, our opt-out rate was 8.9%; interestingly however, we have seen a steady increase to its current rate of 18.5% for the Winter Term 2008. As you know, since we operate a group plan, we aim for low opt-out rates to keep our plan membership high.

The Orientation Committee (OC) is working with the Grad Club Committee to co-sponsor a Spring Party. Keep an eye out for event information. The OC is also beginning work on the SOGS Day Planner. Interested in joining the OC? Please see me after Council or send me an email (sogs.services@uwo.ca).

SOGS Merchandise is on the way! Since our supply of travel mugs has run out and the demand for such products still exists, I have ordered a small supply of stainless steel travel mugs with the SOGS and Western logos. These mugs will not be for sale; rather they will be used for promotional purposes such as "perfect Councillor attendance." Are you interested in purchasing merchandise at a discounted price? One option for the next fiscal year is to purchase higher quality items and subsidize a portion of the item's expense. Let me know what kind of SOGS stuff you might be interested in purchasing.

Wishing you a wonderful April!

Respectfully yours,

Kristina A. Neely



SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

CFS Liaison
March 2008 Report to Council
Abudi Awaysheh (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
March 2008 Report to Council
Brent Sherar (sogs.disabilities@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>



SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

Speaker's Note
March 2008 Report to Council
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<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

CRO's report will be posted on the website in advance of the March meeting.

ELECTIONS TABLE

Position	Month Elected	Date Office Taken
Vice President External & Communications	April	May 1
CFS Liaison	April	May 1
Disabilities Commissioner	April	May 1
Speaker	June	July 1
Vice President Academic	September	October 1
Vice President Finance	September	October 1
Vice President Student Services	November	December 1
President	March	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 Councillors				
SOGS	Personnel Policy Committee				
SOGS	Policy Committee				
SOGS	WGR Editorial Board				

OTHER	SUTA – Subcommittee on Teaching Awards – July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009				
	SCUP – Subcommittee on University Planning Awards – July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009				
	SRBA (Senate Review Board Academic) (4) – July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009				
	SCAPA (Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards) – July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009				

Appendix I

W:\sogsall\Common Drive\Portfolio - President\BoG Fee Submission\March-18-2008\

Appendix II

W:\sogsall\Common Drive\Portfolio - President\SSC\Annual Report of the SSC 08.doc

Appendix III

March 27, 2008

Board of Governors at The University of Western Ontario,

If the Rwandan genocide of 1994 would happen today, would the powers of the world react differently? Retired Lieutenant General Romeo Dallaire thinks not, and he has just reason to believe so.

Darfur, a region of western Sudan, is a prime example. As you may know, Darfur marks the first time in history that the United States has classified a conflict as a genocide while atrocities are still ongoing. In 2003, what started as an attempt to distill tensions arising between the Sudanese government and local non-Arab rebel groups, turned into the first genocide of the 21st century. The Sudanese government tactfully armed and supported an Arab militia, the Janjaweed, in an effort to attack the tribes from which the rebels draw their support. The carnage has resulted in 90% of Darfur's villages being destroyed, the slaughter of over 400,000 innocent civilians, and the displacement of nearly 3 million people.

Interviews conducted all recount the same horrendous violence and fear with which the Darfurians live daily. Aerial bombardments of villages are followed by sprays of bullets and the torching of huts. Survivors are either thrown into the burning huts or down wells to poison the water supply. Women, a term used loosely, are systematically raped. Those lucky enough to escape flee to refugee camps on the border of Chad, and live under the constant threat of surrounding Janjaweed forces that are not hesitant to attack these camps.

STAND (Students Taking Action Now: Darfur) Canada's mandate is to mobilize a critical mass of Canadian students, citizens, and decision makers to end the crisis in Darfur, and respond to future threats of genocide. A major mandate of STAND UWO is to push UWO to continue to divest from companies which enable the occurrence of crimes against humanity.

Divesting encourages investment firms to withdraw investment from companies that help fund the genocide in Darfur (www.savedarfur.org). In so doing, focussed efforts help maximize the impact on the Sudanese government, while minimizing potential harm to both innocent Sudanese civilians and investment returns. Companies are targeted if they (1) have a business relationship with the government or government-created project(s), (2) impart minimal benefit to the country's underprivileged, and (3) have demonstrated no substantial corporate governance policy regarding the situation in Darfur. Furthermore, the targeted divestment model only requires divestment from companies that are unresponsive to an expedited period of shareholder engagement (www.sudandivestment.org).

It is our understanding that in the recent past, UWO was investing students' tuition in five companies on the 25 Highest Offenders list as compiled by the Sudan Divestment Task Force. We are aware that UWO does not have any current investments in the aforementioned companies. We applaud UWO's efforts thus far, and we ask the Board to commit to remaining un-invested in any company on the Sudan Divestment Task Force's "Highest Offender" list. We are also asking that the Board issue a public statement announcing this commitment.

It is more important than ever that we don't sit back and allow these atrocities to occur. Already a significant number of those committing the crimes have declared victory in the region. It is our duty as Canadians to do our part in protecting those most vulnerable, and in promoting world peace.

Thank you for your time



**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**