

**SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS  
AUGUST 12, 2009  
GENERAL MEETING**

**SOGS**  
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**SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**  

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**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

# **SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

## **GENERAL MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

**August 12, 2009**

**6:00 p.m.**

**North Campus Building, Room 117**

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1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of ratified Minutes of the 2009 AGM
3. Announcements
4. Orders of the Day
5. New Business/Open Forum

## Approval of ratified Minutes of the 2009 AGM

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 12, 2009

6:45- p.m.

Physics & Astronomy Bldg., Room 137

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1. Executive were introduced to the gathering.
2. Rules of conduct were introduced.

#### 3. Speaker's ruling:

Motion #5 – withdrawn

Moved – M. Burrell (Computer Science)

Seconded – D. Lapierre (Phys/Pharm)

Yes – 158

No – 0

Abstentions – 19

– not to be debated

Motion #11

– duplicate of #6; difference of whereas clause

Mr. Telfer pleased to withdraw #11

Motions #8 and #9 – out of order

Moved to appeal decision

Moved - R. Telfer (Sociology)

Seconded - B. Becker (Sociology)

R. Telfer (Sociology) – budget is not set as yet, can be altered; both motions don't have anything to do with budget. Motion #9 spending from accumulated funds is not related to the budget per se

D. Jacques (Engineering) – both interpretations are correct or possible

J. Meyer (Biochemistry) – half the motion isn't there, how can it be debated?

R. Williams (Sociology) – shouldn't be allowed to amend budget

R. Telfer (Sociology) – former VP Finance, at that time budgets could be amended at the AGM

B. Becker (Sociology) – if budget is not approved tonight, how is it readdressed?

VP Finance – changes can be recommended and would have to go back to Council for approval.

K. Penev (Engineering) – what is the idea behind Bylaw 12?

Speaker – due consideration given to all areas- designated to protect due process

M. Burrell (Computer Science) – can pass a motion to deny, it's important to go through FC

C. Hughes (Biochemistry) – Question called

R. Macdonald (Earth Science) – seconded

Yes – 153

No – 0

Abstention – 1

Sustain ruling that Motions 8 and 9 are inadmissible

Yes – 90

No – 72

Abstentions – 7  
Sustained

**Motion #6**

– out of order, contains false financial figures

R. Telfer (Sociology) – Point of Information (Pol) – where is the false information? Why was motion #5 not censored – (A-Speaker) – potentially liable, no facts.

B. Becker (Sociology)– Pol – negates transparency

J. Meyer (Biochemistry)– clarification of issue requested (A-Speaker) – information behind “X” contained incorrect information could have become a legal matter

R. Telfer (Sociology) – appeal ruling of chair

G. DeGiorgio (Sociology) – seconded

E. Price (Biology) – appreciate sensor; debate only BIRT clauses

R. Telfer (Sociology) – ‘whereas’ just as amendable; parts of motion can be changed; could have been treated in an in camera session.

D. Sutherland (Chemistry) – how did the member get this information – this was a serious breach (A-Speaker) currently we don’t have a confidentiality agreement.

E. Price (Biology) – are whereas clauses amendable? (A-Speaker) – generally yes, it is possible.

M. Brien (Environment & Sustainability) – will SOGS develop a confidentiality clause?

(A-Speaker) – can be brought up under New Business.

T. Cruz (FIMS) – question called

M. Brien (Environment & Sustainability) – seconded

Question called

Yes – 18

No – 115

Abstentions – 29

Sustained

**4. Approval of Agenda**

No - 0

Abstentions - 3

Carried

**5. Approval of ratified Minutes of the 2008 AGM**

Moved - E. Price (Biology)

Seconded - R. Macdonald (Earth Science)

No – 0

Abstentions – 8

Carried

**6. Announcements**

1. Welcome to the Annual General Meeting

2. Quorum is 29.

3. Light refreshments are being offered at tonight’s meeting.

4. The SOGS OSOTF, OOP, Grad Club Bursary and the 125<sup>th</sup> Scholarship deadline is February 27<sup>th</sup>.

5. The Western Research Forum will be held on Saturday, February 28 in the Wave and UCC conference rooms. Jorge Cham, author of PhD Comics, will be speaking in the McKellar Room that evening. There will be a book signing session following his talk. Dinner and award presentations will follow the talk. Tickets to the talk will be sold for \$10. Watch the Western Research Forum website for more details. (<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/Programs/wrf.html>)

6. Nominations for SOGS President are open and will close on Friday, February 13 at 5 pm. Nomination forms are available in the SOGS office, the SOGS website and here at the desk.
7. The next Council meeting will be February 26<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Orders of the Day

### **Motion 1 (VP Finance) - SOGS 2009/2010 Budget**

BIRT SOGS adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 as proposed by the Finance Committee and amended and recommended to the membership by Council at its meeting of January 29, 2009.

- very few changes from last year
- there is a planned deficit

R. Telfer (Sociology) – obviously a lot of thought has gone into the preparation of the budget; however there is some concern  
 – fees haven't been increased but costs are rising; Grad Club isn't making money; we have to build up a surplus of at least one year – what is our cushion? (A-VP Finance) \$130,000 cushion is sufficient; \$120,000 in savings account. Past budgets have been conservative and therefore we have a large surplus at the end of the year. With the graduate student expansion still continuing, more student means more money. This way students aren't gouged.

D. Jacques (Engineering) – currently we have been collecting too much money; easiest way to correct this is to run a deficit for one year

M. Brien (Environment & Sustainability) - couldn't fees be decreased?

R. Irwin (Education) - could services be increased to help students? Perhaps make a new fund accessible by Category II students? (A) this is currently on the table with Finance Committee.

R. Telfer (Sociology) - since Finance committee concluded that a surplus is not a good idea, could membership fees not be scaled back?

M. Burrell (Computer Science) - can't enrolment be projected better? (A) This is difficult; SGPS tries to give accurate numbers.

BIRT SOGS adopt the budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 as proposed by the Finance Committee and amended and recommended to the membership by Council at its meeting of January 29, 2009.

Moved - J. Meyer (Biochemistry)

Seconded - K. Lee (Music)

E. Price (Biology) - Finance Committee budgeted for a deficit, but is really projecting a surplus. Even if all the money is spent, we still have money in the bank

S. Beasley (Biochemistry) - We are audited every year, income statements are available on line on a monthly basis; Finance Committee is financially responsible; increase in bursaries, decrease in admin fees; if unhappy, join the FC

#123 - the projected deficit has most expensive health plan costs, will probably be less

T. Cruz (FIMS) - Question called

Seconded - R. Irwin (Education)

No – 1

Abstentions – 0

Carried

Yes – 143

No – 0

Abstentions – 0

Carried

## **Motion 2 (from BCC) - Constitutional Amendments**

BIRT the following Constitutional amendment be recommended for consideration at the 2009 AGM.

Under Article VI (Government)

Under Section 1 (The Council)

Edit 3 to remove reference to part time representatives so that it shall read as follows

3. Council shall consist of representatives of each department (or program), executive officers of the Society, non-executive officers of the Society, and ex-officio members. Members of Council shall also be referred to as "Councillors".

Enrolment for the fall term shall determine the number of representatives each department (or program) shall have on Council for the academic year. The specific number of representatives to be elected by each department (or program) shall be determined as follows: The number of Councillor positions at Council will be set at a base number of 120. The number of full members plus 1/3 the number of associate members of the Society in a particular department (or program) will then be divided by the total number of full members plus 1/3 associate members of the Society. This number will be multiplied by 120. The resultant figure shall then be rounded up to the nearest whole number, which will be the number of representatives that department will elect to Council. Each representative must be a full or associate member of the Society. A representative may not hold another position on Council.

BIFRT The following bylaw amendments be recommended for consideration at the 2009 AGM

1. Under 5.0 (Other Elections) remove Section 5.2 (Part-time student representatives)
2. Under 12.0 (Finances)  
Under 12.8 (Fees)  
Edit 12.8.1 The administrative and membership fee to be levied on full and associate members of the Society shall be adjusted annually to a maximum of the Ontario Consumer Price Index.
3. Under 15.0 (Meetings)  
Under 5.3 (Council Meetings)  
Edit 15.3.12 The number of students in a department for the purposes of determining councillor representation is the number of Associate Members divided by 3 (rounded up to the nearest whole number) added to the number of Full Members.

## **Motion 3 (from BCC)**

**BIRT** the constitution be amended as follows to remove mention of the CFS Liaison  
Section 3: The Non-Executive Officer of the Society shall be the Speaker.

Section 5: Executive and Non-Executive Officer Term Limits

2. No individual shall serve as a Vice President, and/or Speaker for more than a lifetime cumulative maximum of 28 months.

## **Motion 4 (from BCC) - Creation of Commissioner Position**

**BIRT** SOGS create a Disabilities Commissioner position according to the submitted terms of reference.

### **Terms of Reference for the Disabilities Commissioner**

The Society for Graduate Students will appoint a Disabilities Commissioner:



Component), and that include budgetary and/or fee schedule requirements, be upheld and properly reflected within the Society's 2009-2010 budget, including both financial figures and explanatory details within the accompanying budget notes, and  
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee be directed in strong terms to ensure that, in the future, the Society's proposed budget and fee schedule uphold and properly reflect contractual obligations between the Society and third parties, and that such contractual obligations be detailed within the explanatory notes that accompany proposed budgets.

K. Penev (Engineering) - are contractual agreements being honoured? (A-VPF) – more than adequately

R. Telfer (Sociology) - motion withdrawn

**Motion 7 (from Rick Telfer)**

WHEREAS the Canadian government's 2009 federal budget increases Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) over the next three years by a total of \$87 million, and WHEREAS 40% of the funds will go to students studying natural sciences and engineering, 40% to medical science, and only 20% to social sciences and humanities, and

WHEREAS the new CGS funding for the social sciences and humanities will be allocated only to students "focused on business-related degrees," and WHEREAS because slightly more than half of all graduate students are in the social sciences and humanities, of which less than 10% are in business, roughly half of all graduate students will not see any benefit from the CGS increase, and WHEREAS our national student organization, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), and its National Graduate Caucus (NGC), together with the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and the Canadian Consortium for Research have all expressed opposition to the asymmetrical, exclusionary, and inequitable funding, and

WHEREAS Parliament's Liberal caucus voted in favour of the minority government's Conservative budget, thus guaranteeing the budget's implementation, and WHEREAS Parliament's New Democratic and Bloc Québécois caucuses opposed the budget, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Society strongly oppose the exclusionary research funding measures included in the 2009 federal budget, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Society's President send a letter to Canada's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance on behalf of the Society to express the Society's opposition, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the letter from the Society's President be copied to the all of London's local Members of Parliament and to the leaders of the New Democratic and Bloc Québécois parties, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Society work with its national affiliates and partners in order to continue raising awareness of, and expressing opposition to, the exclusionary research funding measures.

Moved – R. Telfer (Sociology)

Seconded - E. Price (Biology)

K. Penev (Engineering) - president could express our concern to government bodies. (A) normally referred to GSIC

J. Meyer (Biochemistry) - amend to include Liberals

Yes –

No – 0

Abstentions – 0

Carried

- K. Pisters (Engineering) - Should the letter be written immediately or sent to Council for approval? (A) sent immediately
- D. Sutherland (Chemistry) - what types of research is being done
- R. Telfer (Sociology) - just walk through Weldon and you will see what different divisions need support
- D. Dechene (Engineering) - is in favour of motion; Dr. Davenport and Dr. Beynon are both unhappy with the situation
- A. Ratcliffe (Geography) - agree – solidarity, we should stick together; business funded research is too extensive here
- J. McLachlan (Chemistry) - agree with motion – write what needs to be done
- T. Cruz (FIMS) - Question called
- B. Cook (Biochemistry) - seconded
- Abstentions – 2
- Carried
- Yes –
- No – 2
- Abstentions – 1
- Carried

**MOTION 10 (from Rick Telfer)**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT no monies be spent from the Society's accumulated surplus (i.e., savings) until such time as, in the estimation of the Finance Committee and as approved by Council, the Society's 2009-2010 budget projects a balanced or surplus position at fiscal year-end.

R. Telfer (Sociology) - withdrawn

**8. Executive Oral Reports**

**a) President, Kai Pisters**

- working on policies and procedures for future years
- code of conduct being worked on with Administration – currently committee is accepting motions from general public; if you have any issues, please email them to President; talking University of Ottawa President regarding their code of conduct
- our relationship with CFS is solid – historically we haven't been as involved, we are in solidarity with many issues; we will work together on lobbying government regarding SSHRC

**b) VP Academic, Margie Davenport**

- Western Research Forum will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup>; from 9-3:30 is free; Jorge Cham is the keynote speaker – cost \$10 to hear him. Tickets available at InfoSource.
- 125<sup>th</sup> Scholarship due date is February 27<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm.
- who is Jorge Cham? (A) he is the author of PhD Comics; several publications – title of talk – Power of Procrastination

**c) VP External and Communication, Dan Dechene**

- VP is more involved in the CFS; Tri-Council motion was unchallenged and passed
- stay involved by joining a committee

**d) VP Finance, Jonathan Meyer**

- New committee that will consider bursary and subsidy applications is needed

- Health plan billing problem –discrepancy \$7.25 per student, \$14.50 per family for the year; met with broker and came up with mutually agreed upon solution. Broker will pay for fall term and Society will pay for winter term; students will be billed correct amount in the summer term.

R. Telfer (Sociology) - this problem needs to be addressed; process needs to be reviewed to ensure that this does not happen again; both broker and Society should look over what is sent/received more closely

C. Steinback (Kinesiology) - where did the break down occur? (A) there are occasions of miscommunication where information is lost along the way

G. DeGiorgio (Sociology) - whose fault was it? (A) we are sent information regarding the fees that are being charged, we add fees and the student charge is calculated. We could see that the tally was wrong, but could find where the discrepancy was.

R. Telfer (Sociology) - what will the fees for the summer be? (A) we are asking Administration if the fees can be increased to cover the summer portion only.

- Continue discussion in New Business

Moved - B. Locke (Computer Science)

Seconded - M. Burrell (Computer Science)

No – 2

Abstentions – 0

Carried

- Bus pass agreement has been tentatively agreed upon for five years (Sept 1, 2009 – Aug 31, 2014) (5% year over year increase)

2009 \$163.66

2010 \$171.84

2011 \$180.44

2012 \$189.46

2013 \$198.93

E. Price (Biology) - Pol – how would 5% be more beneficial than OPI-T (A) currently it's 3% - LTC wants to increase amount

D. Dechene (Engineering) - if we don't have bus service, then there will be a compounded parking problem

M. Burrell (Computer Science) - what happens if we vote it down (A) then there will be no bus pass

J. McLachlan (Chemistry) - please keep bus pass

K. Penev (Engineering) - use transportation issues as leverage

S. Detombe (Medical Biophysics) - support public transit

P. Baiden (Sociology) - although not a benefit for all, majority find it useful

J. Meyer (Biochemistry) - London Transit were told to look for funds from the City

R. Telfer (Sociology) - these are no different than all other fees, it's an important benefit for both SOGS and the community

D. Sutherland (Chemistry) - Question called

C. Hughes (Biochemistry) - Seconded

Carried

Motion to be taken to Council

**e) VP Student Services, Sarah Detombe**

- Dayplanner contest now on for a cover photograph – February 27<sup>th</sup> contest closes
- Looking for suggestions for a summer party
- International Graduate Student Issues Committee is meeting tomorrow at 10

am and looking for new members

9. New Business/Open Forum

BIRT the AGM direct the BCC to formulate policy regarding the submission and admissibility of motions submitted for publication.

Moved – D. Dechene (Engineering)

Seconded – P. Baiden (Sociology)

Abstentions – 9

Carried

Audited financial statements should be presented at the AGM (A) presented to Council in July

What edition of Robert's Rules of Order is being used? (A) – Tenth

Adjournment

Moved - J. McLachlan (Chemistry)

Seconded - J. Meyer (Biochemistry)

## Orders of the Day

WHEREAS the Ivey Ph.D. students have voted to join SOGS; and

WHEREAS Article V Section 1 Paragraph 1 of the SOGS Constitution currently reads:

1. The requirements for full membership of the Society shall be
1. registration in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of The University of Western Ontario as a full-time graduate student (excluding those registered in graduate studies in the Faculty of Business Administration).

WHEREAS Article V Section 2 Paragraph 1 of the SOGS Constitution currently reads:

1. The requirements for associate membership of the Society shall be:
1. registration in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of The University of Western Ontario as a part-time graduate student (excluding those registered in graduate studies in the Faculty of Business Administration).

WHEREAS the SOGS Constitution is inconsistent with allowing members from Ivey; and

WHEREAS only the general membership at a General Meeting can amend the Constitution:

BIRT Council recommend to the general membership that they amend at the next General Meeting Article V Section 1 Paragraph 1 of the SOGS Constitution to read:

1. The requirements for full membership of the Society shall be
1. registration in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of The University of Western Ontario as a full-time graduate student (excluding those registered in the MBA program in the Richard Ivey School of Business)

BIFRT Council recommend to the general membership that they amend at the next General Meeting Article V Section 2 Paragraph 1 of the SOGS Constitution to read:

1. The requirements for associate membership of the Society shall be:
1. registration in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies of The University of Western Ontario as a part-time graduate student (excluding those registered in the MBA program in the Richard Ivey School of Business)



**SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO**

**PROXY FORM**  
**(No more than two proxies can be held by any member)**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby proxy my vote for the August 12, 2009  
**(Proxy Issuer)**

General Meeting of the Society of Graduate Students of The University of Western

Ontario to be held on \_\_\_\_\_, to \_\_\_\_\_ .  
**(Date)** **(Proxy Holder)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Signature of Proxy Issuer)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Student No. of Proxy Issuer)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Department of Proxy Issuer)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Date)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Received**

**Only Proxies Submitted On This Form Will Be Accepted**