

Society of Graduate Students
June 24, 2010 Council Meeting
University Community Centre, Room 66*

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***PLEASE NOTE:** Room for the summer Council meetings if UCC 66. Sorry for any inconvenience.

SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

June 24, 2010
6:00 – 8:00 pm

AGENDA

1. Ratification of Agenda
2. Announcements
3. Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes of May 27, 2010
4. Orders of the Day
 - a. Motions arising from the President
 - b. Motions arising from Other Committees
 - c. Other Motions
 - d. Tabled Motions
5. Election of Speaker
6. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports
 - a. President
 - Policy Committee
 - Ad Hoc Personal Policy Committee
 - b. VP Academic
 - Academic Committee
 - GSTA Awards Committee
 - WGR Editorial Board
 - c. VP External & Communications
 - Equity Committee
 - Graduate Student Issues Committee
 - d. VP Finance
 - Bursary Committee
 - Finance Committee
 - Grad Club Committee
 - Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee
 - e. VP Student Services
 - Health Plan Committee
 - International Graduate Student Issues Committee
 - Orientation Committee
 - f. SOGS Commissioners' Reports
 - Disabilities Commissioner
 - Pride Commissioner
 - g. Councillor Reports
 - h. Senator and Board of Governor Reports
8. Elections – Committees (Internal & External)
9. New Business/Open Forum

SOGS Council Attendance Report May 27, 2010

(Please note, Council attendance for the May meeting will be updated for the July meeting of council)

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Anatomy & Cell Biology	TaeEun Ahn			
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Luis Quail			
Anthropology	Alyson Jaagumagi	6:00		
Anthropology	Dina Najjar	6:00		
Applied Mathematics	Susanna Hug	6:00		
Applied Mathematics	Walid Mnif			
Astronomy & Physics	Robbie Halonen	6:00		
Astronomy & Physics	Bushra Hussain			
Astronomy & Physics	Draco Szathmary	6:00		
Biochemistry	Kathryn Garside			
Biochemistry	Ben Kleinstiver	6:00		
Biochemistry	Stephanie Kvas	6:00		
Biology	Jason Brown	6:00		
Biology	Aniruddho C. Hoque			
Biology	Eridan Pereira	6:10		
Biology	Sonja Teichert	6:00		
Biology	Mathew Vankoughnett	6:00		
Biomedical Engineering	Erden Ertorer			
Biomedical Engineering	Corey Smith	6:00		
Board of Governors	Jonathan Berg			
Business (Ph.D)	Foad Hassanmirzaei			
Business (Ph.D)	Heather Spiegel			
Chemistry	Joshua Byers	6:10		
Chemistry	Jessica Dechene	6:00		
Chemistry	Tetyana Levchenko			
Chemistry	Radu Racovita	6:00		
Classical Studies	Daniel Levy			
Comp. Lit	Anirban Halder			
Computer Science	Andrew DeLong	6:10		
Computer Science	Md. Nazrul Islam			
Computer Science	Gaston Keller	6:00		Alt. B. Locke
Computer Science	Vadim Mazalov	6:00		
CSD	Nimrit Grewal	6:00		Alt.
CSD	Bonnie Lampe	6:00		
CSD	Silvana Rotulo	6:00		
Disabilities Commissioner	Chelsea Mohler			
Earth Sciences	Saralyn Horvath	6:00		Alt.
Earth Sciences	Sam Russell	6:00		Alt. T. U

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Earth Sciences	Reynold Sukara			
Economics	Jacob Wibe			
Education	Jensen R. Caughlin			
Education	Erica Pridoehl			
Education	Magdalena Stepien			
Education	Zheng Zhang			
Education	vacant			
Education	vacant			
Education	vacant			
Engineering Science	Ahmed Alassuity			
Engineering Science	Reza Azarderakhsh	6:05		
Engineering Science	Stephen Black	6:10		
Engineering Science	Mohamed El Marassi	6:05	7:05	
Engineering Science	Mohamed El Semelawy			
Engineering Science	Ahmed Elatar	6:20		
Engineering Science	Abdullah Hafiz			
Engineering Science	Ahmed Hamada			
Engineering Science	Md. Yahia Hussain			
Engineering Science	Chowdhury Jubayer			
Engineering Science	Mehran Mozaffari Kermani	6:00		Alt. D. Dechene
Engineering Science	Kai Pisters	6:09		
Engineering Science	Md. Jahidur Rahman	6:00		
Engineering Science	Ahmed Soliman			
Engineering Science	Islam Soliman	6:09		
Engineering Science	Mostafa Zaman	6:00	7:05	
English	Sally Colwell			
English	Kevin Godbout			
English	Erica Leighton	6:00		
English	Sherry Thompson			
Environment & Sustainability	Jean-Louis Charette			
Epidemiology & Biostats	Candi Flynn	6:00		
Epidemiology & Biostats	Sabrina Youash	6:00		
Executive - President	Duncan Sutherland	6:00		
Executive - Speaker	Alison Braley			
Executive - VP Academic	Natalie Szudy	6:00		
Executive - VP External	Saidur Chowdhury			
Executive - VP St. Services	Christopher Hum	6:00		
Family Medicine	vacant			
Food & Nutrition	Jenille Hutchinson			
French & Linguistics	Michelle Andrighetti	6:00	7:00	Alt. P. Kim
French & Linguistics	Traci Wai	6:00		Alt
Geography	Matt Maltby	6:00		

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Geography	Richard Sadler	6:00	7:00	Alt.
Global Film Culture	Adam Szymanski			
GTA Union Representative	Reza Azarderakhsh	6:05		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Kristen Bishop	6:00		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Lizebeth Cox	6:00		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Christine Cullion	6:00		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Charity Davy	6:00		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Sarah Woolmore-Goodwin	6:00		
Hisp Studies	vacant			
History	Randy Kissack			
History	Adam Rochweg			
History	vacant			
Journalism	Lauren O'Neil			
Kinesiology	Stefanie De Jesus	6:00		
Kinesiology	Casey Gray	6:00		
Kinesiology	Carly McKay	6:00		
Kinesiology	Jacqueline Simatovic			
L&IS-M	Gary Collins			
L&IS-M	Katie Granton	6:05	7:05	
L&IS-M	Karen Hine			
L&IS-M	Gary Jermy			
L&IS-M	Stefan Todoroff			
L&IS-M	vacant			
L&IS-PhD	Lucia C. Serantes	6:00		Alt.
Law	Scott Armstrong	6:00		
Mathematics	Mohammad Hassenzadeh			
Media Studies	Kyle Asquith			
Media Studies	Maeghan Pirie			
Medical Biophysics	Udunna Anazodo	6:00	7:00	
Medical Biophysics	Timothy Yeung	6:00		
Medical Biophysics	Geoffrey Zeni			
Microbiology & Immunology	Matt Rytelowski			
Microbiology & Immunology	Jessica Tong			
Music	Leigh Allen			
Music	Richard English	6:00	6:40	short
Music	Michelle Garlough			
Music	vacant			
Neuroscience	Iman Janemi			
Neuroscience	vacant			
Nursing	vacant			
Nursing	vacant			
Occupational Therapy	Kevin Li			

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Occupational Therapy	Val MacIntyre			
Occupational Therapy	Laura Mee	6:00		
Occupational Therapy	William Tam			
Orthodontics	vacant			
Pathology	Christina Yang			
Philosophy	Mallorie Malone			
Philosophy	Nicolas McGinnis			
Physical Therapy	Stephanie Cornell	6:00		
Physical Therapy	Kelsey Maxymyshyn			
Physical Therapy	Stephanie Mills			
Physical Therapy	Chris Statten	6:00		
Physiology and Pharm.	Kim Beaucage	6:00		
Physiology and Pharm.	Jessica Osumek			
Physiology and Pharm.	Ryan Shugg	6:00		
Physiology and Pharm.	Sonia Volante			
Political Science	Robert Maciel			
Political Science	Chad Pilkington			
Psychology	Caroline Bennett- AbuAyyash	6:00		
Psychology	Paula Brochu	6:00		
Psychology	Pralle Kriengwatana			
Psychology	Neil McMillan			
Public Administration	Carolina Oteiza	6:00		
Senate	Jonathan Berge			
Senate	Jenny Jiang			
Senate	Brent Sherar	6:05		
Senate	Rick Telfer			
Social Work	Blaire Courville			
Sociology	Julie Peters	6:00		
Sociology	Victoria Sit			
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Paul Nguyen			
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	vacant			
Theology	vacant			
Theory & Criticism	vacant			
Theory & Criticism	vacant			
Visual Arts	vacant			
Visual Arts	vacant			
VP Finance	Jordan Harel	6:00		
Women's Studies	Elizabeth Leinveer			

SOGS COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

May 27, 2010
6:00 – 7:00 pm
UCC Room 66

Speaker: Alison Braley

Recording secretary: Stephen Black

1. Reception and Ratification of Agenda

Ratified

2. Announcements

- a) Welcome to all Councillors to the SOGS May Council Meeting. I would like to extend a special welcome to new Councillors.
- b) Summer quorum is 22.
- c) Next meeting will be in this room on June 24.
- d) Light refreshments will be provided at tonight's Council meeting?
- e) For students who started on May 1, it is possible to opt-in and opt-out of the health and dental plan until May 31st.
- f) SOGS Summer Office hours are Monday – Thursday 9 am – 4 pm and on Fridays the office closes at 12 noon. July 2nd, the SOGS office will be closed.
- g) A reminder, that if you leave the Council meeting prior to the meeting being adjourned, you must indicate the **correct time** on the sign out Council Attendance Sheet. If you leave once the meeting has been adjourned there is no need to sign out.

3. Elections

SUTA (Senate Subcommittee on Teaching Awards) – **Richard English (Music)**

SUPAD (Subcommittee on Priorities in Academic Development) - vacant

4. Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes of April 29, 2010

unanimous

Ratified

5. Orders of the Day

a. Unfinished Business

Presentation by Brent Sherar

Motion 1 – VP By-Election

WHEREAS the current VP Finance of the Society is soon to vacate his position as VP Finance to become President of the Society; and

WHEREAS 6.2.2 and 6.2.1 of the Bylaws indicate that a by-election should be held to find a candidate to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS Bylaw 5.1.3 is not consistent with the rest of the bylaws:

BIRT Bylaw 5.1.3 be struck.

BIFRT Bylaw 6.2.2.1 be amended to read:

6.2.2.1 The CRO shall open nominations for any executive position immediately upon the CRO being notified that the position will become or has become vacant before the natural retirement of the position.

BIFRT the Bylaws be renumbered appropriately.

Moved – D. Duchene (Engineering)

Seconded – J. Duchene (Chemistry)

Motion Tabled until September.

Motion to omnibus all motions except #2 and #7.

Moved – D. Duchene (Engineering)

Seconded – B. Sherar (Chemistry)

Passed unanimously

Motion 2 - Acclaiming

WHEREAS there is no compelling reason requiring verification (sic, "ratification") of the acclaiming of a sole presidential candidate:

BIRT Bylaws 4.4.6 and 6.1.12 be struck.

BIFRT the Bylaws be renumbered appropriately.

Moved – D. Duchene (Engineering)

Seconded – J. Duchene (Chemistry)

Passed unanimously

Motion 7 – GEC

WHEREAS graduate student representatives of the Graduate Education Council should be granted the same rights as Senators and Board of Governor representatives; and

WHEREAS Senators, BoG reps and GEC reps can always be invited on an ad hoc basis where desired; and

WHEREAS Senators, BoG and GEC reps should meet with the Executive at least some point throughout the year; and

WHEREAS Council does not have the authority to amend the Constitution:

BIRT Bylaw 15.4.3 be struck.

BIFRT the Bylaws be renumbered appropriately.

BIFRT the Policy Committee be directed to draft a policy for a regular retreat between the Executive, graduate student Senators, Board of Governor representatives, and Graduate Education Council representatives and possibly SOGS committee chairs.

BIFRT Council recommend that the general membership, at the next General Meeting, amend 6.1.7 of the Society's Constitution to read (amendment in bold):

6.1.7 Members of the Society who serve as graduate student representatives to The University of Western Ontario Senate, Board of Governors, **Graduate Education Council**, or Graduate Students Teaching Assistants Union shall be non-voting, ex-officio members of Council.

BIFRT Council direct the Speaker to provide a standing invitation to Council for GEC representatives until the Constitution can be amended.

Moved – D. Duchene (Engineering)

Seconded – B. Sherar (Chemistry)

Motion 3 – Conflict of Interest

WHEREAS the current conflict of interest bylaw fails to account for domestic partners; and

WHEREAS the current conflict of interest bylaw needs to be updated for the harassment bylaw; and

WHEREAS disciplinary measures are not clearly specified in the current conflict of interest bylaws:

BIRT Bylaw 11.1 be amended to include 11.1.X, positioned between 11.3 and 11.4 to read:

11.1 A conflict of interest arises when a current member of Council, of the Society's Executive, or of the Society's non-executive Officers, or of a committee of the Society has or could be seen to have the opportunity to use the authority, knowledge, or influence derived from her or his position to benefit improperly the member or another person. Such situations include but are not limited to the following:

11.1.X Participating in judging or making a determination on a complaint or appeal, as per Bylaws 4.2, 4.9.4, 4.9.7 and 18.4 when one of the parties involved is oneself or an immediate relative, **such as**, a spouse, domestic partner, parent, in-law, sibling, child or step-child, or has a reasonable apprehension of bias.

BIFRT Bylaw 11.1.3 be amended to read (amendments in bold):

11.1.3 Participating in the hiring or contract review process affecting an immediate relative, **such as**, a spouse, **domestic partner**, parent, in-law, sibling, child or step-child

BIFRT Bylaw 11.5 be amended to include, 11.5.1, to read as follows:

11.5 Failure to disclose a potential conflict of interest constitutes ground for disciplinary procedures.

11.5.1 The Executive has the sole authority to sanction disciplinary measures on a member who has failed to disclose a potential conflict of interest and must report any disciplinary measures to Council at the next Council meeting.

11.5.2 A member shall not vote on any matter pertaining to his or her alleged failure to disclose a potential conflict of interest.

Motion 4 – Decorum in reports

WHEREAS the matter of decorum in reports has recently come to light; and
WHEREAS Section 10 lines 27-28 of Robert's Rules of Order applies decorum to language used in main motions:

BIRT section 15.1 of the Society's Bylaws be amended to include 15.1.2, to read as follows:

15 Meetings

15.1 Procedure

15.1.2 Any written report or oral report presented at a General Meeting or Council Meeting must abide, as if it were debate, by the following sections of Decorum in Debate given in Robert's Rules of Order: Refraining from attacking a member's motives; Avoiding the use of members' names.

15.1.2.1 For the purposes of decorum in reports, a "member" is taken to be any Member of the Society.

Motion 5 – Departmental Divisions

WHEREAS currently some SGPS programs are grouped together for SOGS representation (for one example, consider Comparative Literature and Hispanic Studies, which are separate programs under SGPS but considered one program for SOGS representation); and

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Society does not make it explicit what list or criterion to use when distinguishing between "programs"; and

WHEREAS following SGPS's divisions would make the divisions objective and would capture the spirit of the wording in the Constitution:

BIRT the Speaker and SOGS office staff be directed to use SGPS's program divisions for the purposes of determining "department (or program)" divisions referenced in 6.1.3 of the Society's Constitution, effective October 1, 2010.

BIFRT it be understood that, by extension, SGPS's divisions be used to distinguish between programs for the purposes of determining a constituency of a "duly constituted graduate student organization", referenced in Bylaws 3.1, 3.2, 7.3.1, 7.3.5 and 12.9.

Motion 6 – Disciplinary Measures

WHEREAS Bylaw 18 (Non-discrimination and harassment) may require some measures to ensure every member maintains their right to participate in SOGS free from discrimination and harassment; and

WHEREAS Bylaw 11 (Conflict of interest) makes reference, in 11.5, to "disciplinary procedures" which currently do not exist in the bylaws; and

WHEREAS rights granted by the Constitution of the Society (e.g., the right to attend SOGS sponsored events) exist only "subject to such limitations as may be specified ... in the Bylaws" and, in the interest of preserving another member's right to be free from harassment, might reasonably be limited:

BIRT the Bylaws of the Society be amended to include Bylaw 19, to read as follows:

Bylaw 19: Disciplinary measures

19.0.1 This bylaw lists the totality of disciplinary measures which can be sanctioned by the Society on a member. These disciplinary measures may only be used where disciplinary measures have been found appropriate and where expressly permissible elsewhere in the Bylaws of the Society.

19.0.2 Any specifics required by a disciplinary measure must be expressed at the time a determination of disciplinary measures is given. This includes, but is not limited to, the duration of time for which a member is prohibited from some body or activity.

19.1 Disciplinary measures on a member

19.1.1 A member holding the position of Executive or non-executive Officer may have a recall vote automatically initiated, without petition or motion of Council.

19.1.1.1 In the case of the President, the Chief Returning Officer shall schedule a recall vote as if a valid petition had been received, as per Bylaw

7.1.1. In lieu of any "Rationale" text, the announcement of the recall vote shall include the text "The recall of the President of the Society has been initiated by disciplinary measure and not by any petition" followed by the full text of the written determination prompting the disciplinary measure. The announcement shall include the President's response to the written determination, if the President makes such a response. As there is no petitioner, the Chief Returning Officer shall assume the right to designate the

petitioner's scrutineer, where appropriate.

19.1.1.2 In the case of an Executive who is not the President or in the case of a non-executive Officer, the Speaker shall place the recall vote on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

19.1.2 A Councillor may be automatically recalled, as if a petition had been submitted under Bylaw 7.3.1, and prohibited from rejoining Council for duration not exceeding twelve (12) months. The Chief Returning Officer shall send a letter or email to the Councillor's duly constituted graduate student organization, or graduate secretary if such an organization does not exist, within three (3) business days informing them that the recall was due to disciplinary measures.

19.1.3 A member of the Executive may be prohibited from signing or endorsing contracts or cheques, as described in Bylaws 12.4 and 12.5.

19.1.4 A member may be prohibited from maintaining a particular ex officio position, as described in Bylaws 1.2.4, 2.2.12, 2.5.5, 9.5.1.2, 9.5.1.3, 9.5.4.5.5 or 9.5.12.2.

19.1.5 A member may be prohibited from attending a Council meeting, notwithstanding the right granted by the Constitution of the Society and notwithstanding any ex officio right to attend Council meetings.

19.1.6 A member may be prohibited from joining, or removed from and prohibited from rejoining, a particular committee for a duration not exceeding twelve (12) months.

19.1.7 A member may have his or her right to enter the Grad Club revoked, notwithstanding that granted by the Constitution of the Society.

19.1.8 A member may have his or her right to attend a SOGS sponsored event revoked, notwithstanding that granted by the Constitution of the Society.

19.1.9 A member may receive a formal censure from the Society.

19.2 Disciplinary measures on an employee

19.2.1 Employees of the Society may face disciplinary measures described in the Personnel Manual, as described in Bylaw 10.

Motion 8 - Harassment

WHEREAS SOGS does not currently have harassment bylaws; and

WHEREAS SOGS should have harassment bylaws to cover cases where other University non-discrimination and harassment bylaws do not carry effect (e.g., SOGS sponsored events, SOGS Council, the SOGS office):

BIRT the Bylaws of the Society be amended to include Bylaw 18, to read as follows:

Bylaw 18: Non-Discrimination and Harassment

18.0.1 For the purposes of this bylaw, a "member" is anyone described by Article V of the Society's Constitution. An "employee" is any person hired by the Society in accordance with Bylaw 10 of the Society's Bylaws.

18.0.2 For the purposes of this bylaw, "harassment" is defined as engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct, which is based on a prohibited ground of discrimination, or that, has the effect of creating an intimidating, demeaning or hostile work or study environment.

18.0.3 For the purposes of this bylaw, "discrimination" is defined as unequal or differential treatment of a person or persons that is not based on individual or group performance but is, instead, based on inappropriate considerations such as race, religion, skin colour, age, physical or mental capabilities, creed, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender, place of origin, family status.

18.1 General

18.1.1 Every member of SOGS and employee of SOGS has the right to study, work and conduct his or her activities in an environment free of discrimination and harassment.

18.1.2 This policy applies to all members of SOGS and SOGS employees in their interaction with other members and employees

18.2 Policy

18.2.1 SOGS members and employees will abide by the University of Western Ontario Non-Discrimination / Harassment policies and this policy in all dealings with SOGS employees, elected and appointed officials, and members.

18.2.2 SOGS may refer discrimination/harassment complaints to the UWO Human Rights office for an informal resolution or elect to initiate a Formal Determination.

18.3 Formal complaint

18.3.1 If a informal resolution is not successful, either because one or both parties failed to comply with the terms of the resolution or because the parties were unable to reach a settlement, a party may request a formal determination.

18.3.2 A formal complaint must be submitted in writing to the SOGS office. It must contain the name of the complainant, the name of the respondent, and a written description of events relevant to the complaint.

18.3.3 Within one (1) business day of a formal complaint being received by the SOGS office, the SOGS office must give a copy of the complaint to the respondent.

18.3.4 The respondent has three (3) business days to give a formal response to the SOGS office.

18.3.5 Within one (1) business day of receiving a formal response to a formal complaint, the SOGS office must give a copy of the formal response to the complainant and must give both the formal complaint and formal response to the External Investigator.

18.4 Formal Determination

18.4.1 Investigation

18.4.1.1 SOGS shall retain an External Investigator to conduct an investigation of the complaint.

18.4.1.2 Within twenty (20) working days of being retained, the External Investigator shall submit a written report to the SOGS Determining Principal, with copies to the complainant(s) and respondent(s). The report shall contain a summary of facts relevant to the complaint found by the External Investigator to be valid. The report shall also contain a determination by the External Investigator indicating whether, with the burden of proof on the complainant, that a harassment policy or bylaw has been violated. The report should not give any suggestion for potential remedies.

18.4.1.3 The External Investigator's report shall be confidential and may not be introduced in subsequent proceedings, except as provided by 18.5 below, or unless compelled by law. The External Investigator may not appear as a witness in subsequent proceedings unless compelled by law.

18.4.2 SOGS Determination

18.4.2.1 The SOGS Determining Principal is a member of the Executive of the Society who shall make a determination of the External Investigator's report. The SOGS Determining Principal shall not be in conflict of interest, as defined by Bylaw 11. The position of SOGS Determining Principal shall be filled ex officio, in order of preference:

- a) by the President of the Society.
- b) by the Vice-President Finance of the Society.
- c) by the Vice-President Academic of the Society.
- d) by the Vice-President External Affairs and Communications of the Society.
- e) by the Vice-President Student Services of the Society.

18.4.2.2 The SOGS Determining Principal shall issue a written determination within ten (10) working days of receiving the External Investigator's report. Copies of the Society's determination shall be sent to the complainant and respondent.

18.4.2.2 The determination shall contain:

- a) a summary of the External Investigator's determination, with reference to supporting facts, that the complaint is or is not upheld;
- b) a statement of any remedy(ies), other action(s), sanction(s) or disciplinary measure(s) to be taken or required by the Society;
- c) a statement of exoneration where appropriate.

18.4.2.3 If the determination finds that any remedy(ies), other action(s), sanction(s) or disciplinary measure(s) are to be taken, it is the responsibility of the SOGS Determining Principal to oversee proper execution.

18.5 Conflict of Interest

18.5.1 A person involved in the application of any of the provisions or procedures under this policy shall, on the grounds of conflict of interest or reasonable apprehension of bias, immediately declare any such conflict of interest or bias to the parties to the complaint, to the Executive.

18.5.2 A party to a complaint who objects to the participation of a person in the application of the provisions or procedures under this policy on the grounds of conflict of interest or reasonable apprehension of bias may inform the Executive that he or she wishes that person to be replaced, stating his or her reasons. The Executive shall immediately inform the Society of any such declaration. The Executive shall also immediately inform the person named in the declaration, and he or she shall be given a reasonable opportunity to respond to it. The Executive shall decide with regard to a replacement, should one be appropriate.

Motion 9 – Personnel Policy

WHEREAS the Ad Hoc Personnel Policy Committee has existed for at least 7 years; and
WHEREAS the Ad Hoc Personnel Policy Committee has not met in recent memory; and
WHEREAS a Personnel Policy Committee is not required to set personnel policy, as per Bylaw 16.1; and

WHEREAS the Executive are in the best position to manage SOGS personnel:

BIRT the Ad Hoc Personnel Policy Committee be disbanded.

BIFRT Council recommend that the Executive assume the responsibilities of managing personnel policy, in perpetuity, with the understanding that all changes to policy must be approved by Council in accordance with Bylaw 16.1.

Motion 10 – Presidential Recall

WHEREAS the Presidential recall in December was absurd; and

WHEREAS a referendum would be more convenient, more democratic and less costly than renting out a giant room for no good reason; and

WHEREAS Presidential votes are currently held online, as should be recall votes; and

WHEREAS SOGS can and should aid in disseminating information about the recall should such an event occur again:

BIRT Bylaw 7.1.1 be struck and replaced with:

7.1.1 The President may be recalled by a 2/3 majority via a vote held for that purpose. The recall vote will be conducted in the same manner as a Presidential vote.

BIFRT Bylaw 7.1.2 be struck and replaced with:

7.1.2 The CRO must notify the President and Executive of the recall vote within two (2) business days of approval of the vote.

BIFRT Bylaw 7.1 be amended to include 7.1.X through 7.1.(X+4), positioned contiguously and sequentially between 7.1.2 and 7.1.3 to read:

7.1.X The CRO shall hold a recall vote within ten (10) business days of the conclusion of the rebuttal process described in 7.1.(X+2).

7.1.(X+1) The CRO shall approve a valid petition calling for the recall of the President within two (2) business days of receipt of the petition.

7.1.(X+2) The petition may contain text under the heading of "Rationale". The CRO must provide the text of the "Rationale" to the President within two (2) business days of being received. The President has further three (3) business days to provide to the CRO a response to the text included under "Rationale".

7.1.(X+3) The CRO shall announce the recall vote to all members of the Society at least four (4) business days before the vote is to be held. The announcement shall include the text of the rationale and the text of the President's response, provided such text is not libelous. The CRO has the right to consult the Society's legal counsel to verify that text is not libelous.

7.1.(X+4) The member who submits the petition to the CRO has the sole right to designate a scrutineer for the recall vote while maintaining the right to remain anonymous.

BIFRT the Bylaws be renumbered accordingly.

Motion 11 - Sustainability

WHEREAS the Ad Hoc Sustainability Committee has successfully fulfilled its mandate for the previous year; and

WHEREAS the mandate for the committee is ongoing and justifies its position as a standing committee of the Society:

BIRT Bylaw 9.5 (Standing Committees) be amended to include 9.5.15, to read as follows:

9.5.15 Sustainability Committee (SC)

9.5.15.1 shall have a Chair who:

9.5.15.1.1 shall represent SOGS on the University Sustainability Committee

9.5.15.1.2 shall report to Council once a term;

9.5.15.2 shall assess the sustainability practices of SOGS, including activities of the executive, SOGS office, and council;

9.5.15.3 shall assess the sustainability practices of the Grad Club, and work to make viable recommendations for improvement, so that it may be a progressive leader for sustainable development on the campus.

9.5.15.4 shall co-ordinate campus advocacy for sustainable policies and practices on behalf of SOGS.

BIFRT 9.6 (Official Liaison Table) be amended to include "Sustainability Committee" with VP Finance listed as its official liaison.

BIFRT 6.2.1.4 be amended to read:

6.2.1 Chain of command

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

i. by the chair of the Finance committee

ii. by the chair of the GC committee

iii. by the chair of the Sustainability committee

iv. by a member appointed by the remaining executive until a by-election can be held

b. Other

Motion 1 – Brent Sherar

Whereas, a petition containing > 10% of the graduate student body at Western has been submitted to the CFS to hold referendums regarding our certification;

Whereas the SOGS President received a letter dated January 14, 2010 from the CFS admitting as such;

Whereas a referendum regarding Local 47's membership in the CFS is imminent;

Whereas the CFS Bylaw I - Membership does not place a limit on campaign financing;

BIRT SOGS earmark \$20,000.00 into a CFS referendum contingency fund;

BIFRT \$5,000 of the referendum contingency fund be allocated to spend on campaign materials (i.e., increase "Political Activities/Campaigns/Advocacy" budget from \$1,000 to \$6,000; SOGS 2010-11 budget line item 118);

BIFRT the remaining \$15,000 be allocated to cover legal costs associated with holding a referendum regarding our certification (i.e., increase "Professional Fees – Legal" SOGS 2010-11 budget from \$3,000 to \$18,000; line item 74).

Moved – B. Sherar (Chemistry)

Seconded – S. Armstrong (Law)

For – 39

Against – 8

Abstained – 8

6. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports

President

VP Academic

VP External & Communications

VP Finance

VP Student Services

SOGS Councillor Appreciation Party will be held in June.

SOGS Commissioners' Reports

- Disabilities Commissioner
- Pride Commissioner

Councillor Reports**Senator and Board of Governor Reports**

Meeting was held in the wrong room, and had to adjourn because a class was to start.

Motion to adjourn – 7:00 pm

SOGS EXECUTIVE MEETING
Thursday, May 13, 2010
1:15 pm
APPROVED MINUTES

Present: President, Duncan Sutherland
VP Academic, Natalie Szudy
VP Finance, Jordan Harel
VP Student Services, Christopher Hum
Grad Club Manager, Marc Lalonde
Accounting Manager, Raquel Rodrigues
Office Manager, Olga Sauer

Absent: VP External, Saidur Chowdhury

Recording Secretary: Olga Sauer

Marc Lalonde, Grad Club Manager

- Revenue increase by 5% over last year
- new health inspector is requiring upgrades and updates in the GC which may be costly. This may impact on a quick repayment of loan to SOGS.
- For the summer – BBQ will be on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:30 – 1:30 and the Indian buffet will be on Tuesdays. Mondays will have regular kitchen fare.

Duncan Sutherland, President

- Duncan welcomed the new members of the Executive.
- New email accounts have been set up on the UWO server. This is so that “gmail” accounts are no longer used. (Olga handed out new new accounts and passwords, as well as photocopier codes.)
- President and VPs act as liaisons between the Executive and committees. If there are problems within committees they should be brought to the Executive and if they can’t be fixed, they can be taken to Council.
- Cross-talk between various portfolios should include the appropriate VPs. If there are problems talking to each other then the President should be involved. This was brought up as a precaution.
- A meeting with VPs and Committee Chairs, office staff may be organized for later in the summer. This is a good way for everyone to meet and get on the same page.
- Duncan had hoped that Saidur would be at the meeting. At the upcoming CFS meeting there are some problematic bylaws that are up for discussion.
 - No. 7 – no electronic voting, only paper ballots
 - No. 13 – 10% needed to join CFS but 20% needed to defederate
 - No. 29 – original petition is to be given to CFS including mailing addresses of all who sign petition.

Natalie Szudy, VP Academic

- GSTA Awards event went well. Largest number of attendees.
- WRF – has been wrapped up for the year.
- WGR – is ongoing.
- Joint Fund Application – there is a problem with the application. Groups aren’t filling out the application with appropriate information. More information is needed and if it’s not provided, applications may not be funded in the future.
- Website – information needs to be updated in a timely fashion. Everyone agreed that Olga should update the website.

Jordan Harel, VP Finance

- new to the job. Looking forward to working with everyone. Requested name of new Grad Club Chair.
- looking at investments, approximately \$150,000
- talking to Gitta Kulczycki and Lynn Logan about possibly investing in endowments. Once some logistics have been worked out, then will be taken to Finance Committee and then to Council for final approval. It is

important to know what happens if SOGS folds or becomes another corporation and to ensure that the money will remain with graduate students.

- Grad Club had the inventory count at the end of April.
- Audit will take place later in June/July.
- Sustainability committee may not be able to conduct audit.

Christopher Hum, VP Student Services

- hopes to increase good-will across campus with several events: pumpkin growing from May/June to October with a Halloween party to end the contest.
- dinner/formal dance – could piggyback on undergraduate Charity ball by offering a fancy dinner at the Grad Club and bus transportation to the venue.
- have a separate Councillor party not after Council to promote good will.

MOTION

BIRT the SOGS office close on the morning of July 2nd.

Unanimous

Adjourned – 2:45 pm

Orders of the Day

a) Motions arising from the President

- 1) BIRT the BCC review the impact of allowing the Sustainability Committee to elect a member of their committee to sit on the President's advisory committee on Environment and Sustainability.
- 2) BIRT the BCC review the impact of requiring Council to automatically vote on the performance of a commissioner when two consecutive reports are not included in the council package.

b) Motions arising from Other Committees

c) Other Motions

d) Tabled Motions

Tabled until September 2010

WHEREAS the current VP Finance of the Society is soon to vacate his position as VP Finance to become President of the Society; and

WHEREAS 6.2.2 and 6.2.1 of the Bylaws indicate that a by-election should be held to find a candidate to fill the vacancy; and

WHEREAS Bylaw 5.1.3 is not consistent with the rest of the bylaws:

BIRT Bylaw 5.1.3 be struck.

BIFRT Bylaw 6.2.2.1 be amended to read:

6.2.2.1 The CRO shall open nominations for any executive position immediately upon the CRO being notified that the position will become or has become vacant before the natural retirement of the position.

BIFRT the Bylaws be renumbered appropriately.



President
June 2010 Report to Council
Duncan Sutherland (sogs.president@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors,

SGPS (June 7 2010)

Graduate student members are needed on various university committees. This includes committees involved with program reviews. Joining a university committee is an excellent way to build your CV and make positive lasting changes to the university. A list of these committees was not available at the time of the report submission, however I have been in contact with SGPS and it will be made available shortly.

Senate (June 11 2010)

A new policy on the environment and sustainability has been passed. This position requires one graduate student appointed by SOGS. Because our Sustainability Committee currently addresses issues concerning the ecological impact of graduate students, I believe we should allow this committee to elect a representative.

The process for graduate appeals has been modified in order to yield fair and reasonable results in a timely manner. The new policy phases out an SRBA-like panel and maintains a graduate student's right to appeal to the SRBA proper. More information is provided below in the senate package: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/senate/minutes/2010/a1006sen.pdf>.

Executive meeting (June 15 2010)

There will be an upcoming election for two positions. The first is for the position of Disabilities Commissioner, and the second position is the Pride Commissioner. Both are critically important to maintain both accessibility and tolerance at a university level. Interested people should e-mail sogs@uwo.ca to nominate themselves.

CFS referendum

At the Executive meeting of June 15, 2010 a letter requesting a referendum from the CFS (see Appendix A) was signed. This letter was a reply to a previous letter issued to us by Katherine Giroux-Bougard (National Chairperson), dated January 14 2010 and included in the April 2010 Council package. The petition was verified by Dr. Linda Miller, the Vice-Provost of our School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. We are currently awaiting a reply.

Thank You

Duncan Sutherland
President of SOGS



VP Academic
June 2010 Report to Council
Natalie Szudy (sogs.academic@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors,

Graduate Student Teaching Awards (GSTA):

Certificates of nomination for the 2009/2010 Graduate teaching awards are now available by request only. Please contact Olga at sogs@uwo.ca to request a certificate.

Joint Fund for Graduate Research and Scholarship:

The Joint Fund for Graduate Research and Scholarship was created to support on-campus events (conferences and lectures) that offer opportunities for Western graduate students to present and discuss their research. There is currently \$8000 remaining in the fund. A reminder for those submitting an application, the Joint Fund is in place to support events for Western Graduate students. To strengthen your application, please ensure that the nature of graduate involvement during the event is outlined clearly. If you are interested in submitting an application, the form can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/Programs/jointFund.html>.

If you have any questions about the application process, please feel free to contact me.

Please contact me if you any questions.

Thanks,

Natalie



**VP External & Communications
June 2010 Report to Council
Saidur Chowdhury (sogs.external@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>**

Dear Councillors:

Thanks. I am very glad to serve you as a VP of External Affairs and Communications. Here is an update of what has been happening under my portfolio since May 2010.

Equity Issues Committee

Committee meeting will be held after 20th June, 2010. Erica Pridoehl, our new Committee Chair, attended the meeting with [Western's Ontarians Disabilities Act Committee \(WODAC\)](#) to discuss Equity related Issues and the preparation of Western's annual [accessibility plan](#). Please visit <http://accessibility.uwo.ca/reports.htm> for more information about Western's Accessibility Reports. Again, visit <http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/Committee/Equity%20Issues%20Committee.html> for more information about Equity Issues Committee.

Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC)

GSIC met on Tuesday 15th June, 2010. The GSIC meeting involved the updates and discussions of GSIC issues. GSIC is looking for Chair and Co-Chair for 2010-11 years. Any members, interested to be Chair of this Committee, email me at sogs.external@gmail.com.

CFS Information

a) CFS-Ontario Executive Meeting

The CFS-Ontario Executive meeting was held on May 8th-10th in Toronto. The meeting involved review and discussion of CFS services and future campaigns on grad-related issues. I, CFS Ontario Executive from local 47, have been assigned to work on motions forwarded from different CFS meetings. In addition, I have been assigned to work (with other executives) on the feasibility of producing E-newsletter from CFS Ontario more frequently.

The following CFS meetings are coming up:

- CFS Ontario Annual General Meeting: August 13-August 16, 2009
- CFS Ontario Semi-Annual General Meeting January 21- January 24, 2010.

b) CFS National General Meeting was held on 22nd -26th May, 2010 in Ottawa. Tae-Eun Ahn attended the meeting. Please find Tae's written report attached with June Council Package.

c) Please find letter and media releases from CFS.

Should you have any questions about my portfolio, feel free to contact me at sogs.external@uwo.ca.

Best

Saidur R Chowdhury
VP External of Affairs & Communications

1) [CFS letter to Minister of Industry about Canada's Copyright Act](#)

May 6, 2010

Honourable Tony Clement
Minister of Industry
278 Confederation Building
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Clement,

I am writing on behalf of the over 600,000 college and university students who are members of the Canadian Federation of Students. In recent days, it has been reported that, in advance of the summer break, your government intends to introduce legislation to reform Canada's Copyright Act.

Two years ago, when Bill C-61 was tabled, Canadians from across the political spectrum raised concerns about the lack of public consultation prior to the bill being introduced, and the effects the reforms would have on Canada's citizens, culture, and economy.

Our members were encouraged last year, when your government announced its intention to hold public consultations to seek input on amendments to the Act. From coast-to-coast students participated in large numbers in the town hall meetings, and students' representatives contributed to several of the round table discussions. By the end of the consultations it was apparent that Canadians widely hold the view that future amendments to the Copyright Act must not follow the model of the United States Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA") and its close relative, C-61. Rather, Canadians believe in a flexible and inclusive redefinition of fair dealing, careful regulation of technological protection measures, strict limits on statutory damages, and the elimination of Crown copyright.

Given the public's response, students were surprised and disconcerted to read reports that the legislation your government intends to introduce will closely resemble Bill C-61 and the DMCA, and ignore the concerns raised by our members during the consultations. It is generally understood that an act that resembles the DMCA, such as C-61, prevents the kind of innovation and access to information that students, professors, and the public need in order to continue driving Canada's culture and economy. Educational institutions can only function in an environment where information is shared and where current generations are able to build upon the work and knowledge of those who have come before them. While there have been several reports regarding the legislation to come, your government has remained quiet about the direction it intends to take.

Students await the introduction of new copyright legislation anxiously. This is a critical issue for the future of education in Canada, and students will be watching closely to ensure that this bill strikes a fair balance between the rights of users, creators, and owners. I request that you provide a clear indication of the direction your government intends to take in reforming the Copyright Act, and provide a clear timeline for the introduction of legislation to do so.

I look forward to your response and the opportunity to discuss these issues further.



Katherine Giroux-Bougard
National Chairperson
Canadian Federation of Students

2)

MEDIA RELEASE

a) [Copyright bill threatens students' access to copyrighted works](#)

Wednesday, June 02, 2010
OTTAWA--

If adopted in its current form, legislation tabled today to amend the Copyright Act will undermine the ability of students to access and make use of copyrighted works.

"When the government asked Canadians what copyright law they wanted, an overwhelming majority rejected the 'made in the USA' approach to digital locks found in this bill," said Dave Molenhuis, National Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students. "Despite a welcome expansion of fair dealing rights, these new protections for digital locks will seriously undermine the ability of students, teachers, and citizens to access and make use of copyrighted works."

Anti-circumvention provisions found in the bill would make it illegal to bypass digital locks that are used to control how digital works are used. These provisions effectively override the rights of Canadian users and creators, as bypassing these digital locks remains illegal, regardless of whether accessing and/or using the work is legal or not. While the bill proposes an expansion of fair dealing—the right to good faith and limited use of copyrighted works in certain circumstances—the anti-circumvention provisions strip away any rights granted to users through the Copyright Act, granting corporate copyright owners absolute control over how their works are accessed and used.

"This bill will make it even more difficult for students and teachers to access and use copyrighted materials for teaching and learning," added Molenhuis. "The government has indicated a willingness to compromise. Step one is listening to Canadians and abandoning blanket protections for digital locks."

Access is of particular importance to members of the education sector who both use and create copyrighted materials on a day-to-day basis. Many in the educational community have raised concerns that overly restrictive regulations will limit how students and teachers can use copyrighted materials and pave the way to higher access fees paid by post-secondary institutions and, ultimately, students.

The Canadian Federation of Students is Canada's largest student organisation, uniting more than one-half million students in all ten provinces. The Canadian Federation of Students and its predecessor organisations have represented students in Canada since 1927.

Contact: Ben Lewis, Communications Coordinator
Tel: 416-925-3825

Contact: Dave Molenhuis, National Chairperson
Tel: 613-232-7394

b) [Students call for measures to improve the university and college experience](#)

Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario
Tuesday, May 11, 2010
TORONTO--

TORONTO – A report released by the Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario identifies that high tuition fees and high student debt are factors that have caused the erosion of the quality of education offered at Ontario colleges and universities. As a result, student engagement has suffered and quality has declined.

"In March, the government announced that it would allow tuition fees to increase by an average of five percent for the fifth year in a row," said Shelley Melanson, Chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario. "This fee increase, combined with growing class sizes and ballooning student debt, means that students are now paying more than ever before and getting less."

Our Bright Future: Student Engagement is the final of seven submissions calling on the Ontario government to make positive change for the post-secondary education sector, produced by the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario. Students are calling for the government to make incentives for the creation of more paid co-op placements, the dedication of more funding to the Work Study Program and legally protect students' unions.

"The Ontario Liberal government has identified that student engagement is a priority, and with this submission today, students have offered ways in which we can be more engaged in our education," said Melanson. "Central to promoting better student engagement is stopping the privatisation of higher education through the user fees that are levied on students and their families."

The submission on student engagement is part of a series that also recommends ways to improve student financial assistance, funding and quality, credit transfer and regional issues. All copies of Our Bright Future can be found at www.cfsontario.ca.

The Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario unites more than 300,000 college and university students studying at public post-secondary institutions across the province.

Contact: Shelley Melanson
Tel: 416-925-3825



VP Finance
June 2010 Report to Council
Jordan Harel (sogs.finance@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met this month in order to discuss the terms of the proposed SOGS endowment, which will likely be voted on at the next meeting, and brought to council in July. Another issue that was brought forth and discussed in the meeting was the increase in emergency loans, and how to best deal with this circumstance in the most equitable and student friendly way possible.

Grad Club Committee

The Grad Club Committee met at the end of last month and mainly discussed a recent food inspection that highlighted a few minor changes which must be addressed.

Sustainability Committee

Late last month, the chair of the committee, Sonja Teichert and I met with Marc Lalonde (Grad Club Manger) in order to discuss and gauge the ease with which sustainability metrics can be obtained, specifically for the Grad Club. As well, the Sustainability Committee met this month to discuss the most appropriate means by which to conduct the SOGS sustainability audit. Several options are currently being evaluated.

Bursaries and Subsidies Committee

The Bursaries and Subsidies Committee met last month to deliberate both travel and childcare subsidy award winners. It is with great pleasure to announce that a total of \$11,994 has been awarded.

Your VP Finance,

Jordan Harel



VP Student Services
June 2010 Report to Council
Christopher Hum (sogs.services@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors;

The months of May and June were very productive months. The following is a list of activities that we have accomplished or have laid the foundation for. If you have a special interest or activity you would like share and invite other graduate students to please contact sogs.services@uwo.ca

Open Mic and Poetry Slam at the Grad Club: There will be an Open Mic at the Grad Club on a weekly basis. This event will be subject to scheduling changes based on interest and host availability. Special thanks to the International Graduate Student Committee for its willingness to sponsor one event per semester for International Music Night and to Marc Lalonde and the staff at the Grad Club for sharing their thought and energies in launching this event. We are receiving a wonderful reception throughout campus for our desire to boost graduate student generated culture on campus. Please spread the news of this exciting event to any grad student you feel would be interested.

Reorganization of the SOGS Office: The SOGS executive collectively improved the appeal and functionality of our office. Come in and see us anytime. Reuven Brandt has provided SOGS with exceptional IT services and consultation. Thank you Reuven.

Facebook Group: There will be a student interest section in the SOGS Facebook Group. This page will serve as a 'living' virtual public bulletin board. Please consult this page if you are interested in participating in any of the SOGS organized events being planned. This includes a Horseback Riding on a local trail (approximately \$40.00) with the Equestrian Club (President Meredith Conrod), a trip to the beach in July (Jesse Mello), camping trip with the Outdoors Club with an exclusive graduate student cohort, Open Mic Info (Chris Hum), and trips to local festivals with other graduate students. Please contact the VP Student Services at sogs.services@uwo.ca for more information about these activities or if you have an event you would like to run for the benefit of other graduate students. Introducing graduate to other graduate students in other faculties is a top priority for us in the SOGS Executive this year.

SOGS Councillor Appreciation Party: This event was a huge success despite, and a positive result of, the low turn out amongst councillors. Those who were there enjoyed live music, a few complimentary drinks, and a buffet style dinner. Special thanks to the Grad Club staff and Cookie the Kitchen Manager for all their hard work. Supporters of Team Brazil and Germany should be commended for their enthusiastic support of the 'World Cup Themed Party'.

Health Plan Committee: We are in search of a new chair for the Health Plan Committee. More details to come. Outstanding bursaries were approved. The committee discussed the particulars of the August 1st renewal. Those interested in becoming involved are invited to participate.

International Graduate Students Committee: A dinner party is in the process of being organized. The IGSC has approved to finance an international student night once per semester. Expect to hear sounds from around the globe on a tri-annual basis at the Open Mic. This event has great inherent potential and is open to the entire graduate student body. The IGSC will be hosting a special dinner for its members in July. We are also interested in reaching out to any new student who has arrived at Western who would like to learn more about the campus, the city, and life in Canada.

Orientation Committee: Jessica Dechene, Chair of OC, was approved for the full honourarium for her hard work for the 2009/10 academic year. Congratulations Jessica. The Student Handbook contest for 'best cover page artwork' will close 30 June 2010. A \$100 prize will be awarded to the winner. Please send your submissions to the VP Student Services.

BAT Team: The membership of this ancillary support committee has grown to 15 lovely members with representation from the Department(s) of Philosophy, Kinesiology, Mechanical, Chemical, and Civil Engineering, History, Sociology, Biology, English, Library and Information Science, Geography, and Computer Science.

Thank you kindly and warmest regards from your friendly neighbourhood VP Student Services.

Christopher Hum
Ph.D Student (History)
VP Student Services
Society of Graduate Students



SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

Commissioner for Graduate Students with Disabilities
June 2010 Report to Council
Chelsea Molner (sogs.disabilities@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Elections Tables

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

Type	Position	Nominee	Department
SOGS	Academic Committee – Western Research Forum		
SOGS	Bursary & Subsidy Committee		
SOGS	Bylaws and Constitution Committee		
SOGS	Elections Appeal Board		
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 Student Issues Committee		
SOGS	Orientation Committee		
SOGS	Policy Committee		
SOGS	Personnel Policy Committee		
SOGS	Sustainability Committee		
SOGS	WGR Editorial Board		
Other	SUPAD*		

* Subcommittee on Priorities in Academic Development (SUPAD) is seeking a graduate student to serve on the committee for one year commencing July 1, 2010- June 30, 2011. We require a student from the Physical, Mathematical Sciences and Engineering discipline, **but NOT from: Physics & Astronomy, Chemistry or Civil & Environmental Engineering.** (Appendix B)

Robert's Rules at a Glance

To do this	You say this	May you interrupt the person speaking?	Must you be seconded?	Is the motion debatable?	Is the motion amendable?	What vote is required?
Object to incorrect procedure being used	Point of order	Yes	No	No	No	No vote required, chair rules
Object to something which prevents your continued participation (e.g., excessive noise)	Point of personal privilege	Yes	No	No	No	No vote required, chair rules
Object to a motion being considered	I object to consideration of this motion	Yes	No	No	No	2/3 Majority
Considered something out of its scheduled order	I move the agenda be amended in order to deal with the following item...	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority
Overturn the ruling of the Speaker	I challenge the Speaker on...	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Change a motion	I move that the motion be amended to read...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Have a motion studied more before voting on it	I move that the motion be referred to...	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Postpone further discussion on a motion until later in the meeting	I move that the motion be tabled until...	No	Yes	Only to time	Yes	Majority
Postpone consideration of a motion until future meeting	I move that the motion be postponed until...	No	Yes	Only to time	Yes	Majority
Raise a matter previously tabled	I move that motion... be lifted from the table	No	Yes	No	No	Majority
Reconsider a motion already voted on earlier in the meeting	I move that motion... be reconsidered	No	Yes	Yes (if original motion was)	No	Majority
End debate on a motion	I call the question	No	Yes	No	No	2/3 Majority
Ask that everyone's vote on a particular motion be recorded in the minutes	I call for a roll call vote	No	No	No	No	No vote required, Speaker rules
Recess the meeting	I move that the meeting recess until...	No	Yes	Only to time	No	Majority
End the meeting	I move that the meeting adjourn	No	Yes	No	No	Majority

RULES OF Decorum/Debate:

Right of Council Members and Non-Council/Non-Society Members

- The Speaker has the right to deny a non-council/non-society member the right to speak. A non-society member is someone who is not a full or associate member of the Society. Only those that are full or associate members are given the right to attend and speak at any meeting of the Society according to the SOGS constitution.
- Robert's Rules state that a guest is not allowed to come to a Council meeting unless it is an open meeting, or unless they were invited to the Council to give input on an issue because that guest has special knowledge about the subject. In that case, after the guest has spoken and answered any questions, they would leave and would not be allowed to participate in debate.

Rules:

- **Direct any questions/comments to the Speaker.**
- **A member can only speak twice during the presentation. The second question will be asked at the end of the queue.**
- **Comments must be relevant to the topic and be of a general nature.**
- **Only one person speaking at a time.**

Removing an Offender from the Assembly Hall

- Anyone attending a meeting can be removed from the assembly hall. The Speaker has the power to remove a non-member at any time during a meeting, and this person has no right to appeal the Speaker's decision. (However, a member can make an appeal on behalf of the non-member.) An assembly vote is required to remove a member.
- If a person is asked to leave the assembly and refuses, the Speaker should take the steps necessary to see that order is enforced. The Speaker must carefully appraise the situation and act wisely. The Speaker can appoint a committee to escort the person to the door.
- Those escorting someone to the door must be careful how much force they use, because they can be liable for damages or be sued. If those appointed to escort the person to the door can't persuade the person to leave, they will call the police.

Though members have the right to debate, established parliamentary rules concerning the privileges of debate exist:

- A member must obtain the floor and be recognized by the presiding officer before beginning to speak. A member can't begin speaking until recognized by the Speaker, the presiding officer.
- The member who made the motion has the first right to speak to the motion. He/she does so by being acknowledged by the Speaker once the Speaker has placed the motion before the assembly for discussion.
- A member can speak twice to the motion on the same day, but he/she can take the second turn only after everyone who wishes to speak the first time has spoken. If debate on the motion is continued at the next meeting, which is held on another day, the member's right to debate is renewed. Debate must be relevant to the motion.
- Members must address all remarks to the Speaker; cross talk between members is not allowed.
- Members must be courteous and never attack peers or question the motives of other members. In controversial issues, the discussion should be focused on ideas, not on personalities. Members must not use inflammatory statements such as "it's a lie".
- When speaking to a motion, it is important for the member to first let the assembly know which side of the issue he/she is on. If in favour of the motion, the member states: "I speak for the motion" and gives the reasons why. If opposed, the member states: "I speak against the motion" and gives the reasons why. Doing so helps the Speaker alternate the debate.
On controversial issues, the Speaker should alternate the debate between those speaking for and those speaking against the motion. After someone speaks for the motion, the Speaker asks, "Would someone like to speak against the motion?" and vice-versa.
This practice ensures that all sides are represented, keeps tempers down, and prevents one side from dominating the discussion.

- A member can't read (or have the secretary read) from part of a manuscript or book as part of his or her debate without the permission of the assembly. However, the member can read short, relevant printed extracts in debate to make a point.
- During debate, a member can't talk against a previous action that is not pending, unless one of the motions to *rescind*, *reconsider*, or *amend something previously adopted* is pending; or unless the member concludes his/her remarks with one of these motions.
- During debate, member should take care not to disturb the assembly by whispering, talking, walking across the floor or causing other distractions.

Limitations on Debate or "Call the Question"

- Only the motion to *limit debate* can limit debate; and debate can be closed only by the motion *to call the question*. These motions need a second, are not debatable, and require 2/3 vote to adopt.

To Amend a Motion

- Purpose: To change the pending motion before it is acted upon; proposed amendments must be relevant to the main motion.
- Needs a second
- Amendable, but the secondary amendment must be relevant or related to the primary amendment.
- Debatable. Debate goes only to the amendment.
- Majority vote required to adopt. If amending a motion or document that takes a 2/3 vote to adopt, the proposed amendment takes only a majority vote.
- Can be reconsidered.
- **Result:** If adopted, the proposed change becomes part of the pending motion.

Appendix A



SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

SOCIETY of GRADUATE STUDENTS

University Community Centre, Room 260, The University of Western Ontario
London, ON CANADA N6A 3K7
Telephone: 519-661-3394 • Fax: 519-661-3374

Website: www.uwo.ca/sogs • Email: sogs@uwo.ca

June-15-10

Ms. Katherine Giroux-Bougard, National Chairperson
Canadian Federation of Students
338 rue Somerset Street Ouest/West
Ottawa, ON K2P 0J9

Dear Ms. Giroux-Bougard,

In response to your letter dated January 14, 2010, we have attached a signed affidavit by the process server used to distribute the referendum materials dated October 19, 2009. This package, addressed to you, included the petition and confirmation of the validity of the signatures by the University of Western Ontario. We have attached the letter confirming the status of graduate students, which is signed by Dr. Linda Miller, the Vice-Provost of our School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

While we do understand that your bylaws regarding continued membership specify that no referendum shall occur between April 15 and September 15 (Referendum on Continued Membership 6.b.ii.), we believe that extenuating circumstances exist due to the petition having been verified and submitted in mid-October of 2009, and your delay in contacting us. As per bylaw 6.b.i., the referendum should have occurred 60 to 90 days after receipt of the verified petition. Since we are now in mid-June, we request a referendum to be held this summer.

We await your reply regarding the scheduling of the referendum. We send this letter as an offer of good faith for we are not encouraging succession from the CFS. We feel it is important that you recognize our right to exercise our freedom of choice and applaud us for our independence of thought.

Regards,

Duncan Sutherland
President

Natalie Szudy
VP Academic

Saidur Chowdhury
VP External Affairs & Communications

Jordan Harel
VP Finance

Christopher Hum
VP Student Services

Appendix B

The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO
SENATE

Subcommittee on Priorities in Academic Development (SUPAD)

Terms of Reference:

To recommend to the University Research Board allocations from the Academic Development Fund New Research and Scholarly Initiatives Award in accordance with the ADF Guidelines or as otherwise determined by Senate.

To undertake other activities related to academic priorities and planning as requested by the University Research Board.

Composition:

Twelve persons appointed by the University Research Board, no two of whom may be from the same academic department, and one of whom shall be a graduate student, to be structured in three discipline-oriented subgroups of four members each. Terms of elected members will be three years, except for the graduate student member, whose term will be one year. The graduate student will be selected from a different discipline area in the following order: Arts/Humanities/Social Science, Biosciences, Physical Sciences.

Ex officio:

Vice-President (Research & International Relations)
Associate Vice-President (Research), who shall be Chair
Vice-Provost (School of Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies), who shall be Vice-Chair
Secretary of Senate (non-voting)

Members of SUPAD may apply for grants from the Academic Development Fund New Research and Scholarly Initiative Award, Major Grant Competition and Small Grant Competition, subject to the [conflict of interest policy and procedures](#) approved by Senate.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Membership Cycle: July 1 - June 30.

New Members: Appointed by URB in April for terms to start July 1.

Meetings: Minimum of two formal Committee meetings annually. Retreats held in February and March (approximately) to consider ADF Major Grant applications. It is the aim of the Subcommittee to finalize its decision in early March so that they may be presented to Senate through URB by April. Additional meetings scheduled in December and June for the panel review of Small Grant applications; deadlines are October 15 (Fall Small Grant competition) and March 15 (Spring Small Grant competition) respectively. [Conflict of Interest Statement: Senate Agenda of September 19, 1996, Exhibit I, page 5.]

Rev. 2008 07



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