

Society of Graduate Students
October 28, 2010 Council Meeting
UCC Room 56

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SOGS Council Meeting Agenda	Page	2
SOGS Council Attendance Report – September 30, 2010	Page	3
SOGS Council Minutes – September 30, 2010	Page	7
Orders of the Day	Page	12
SOGS Executive Report – President	Page	13
SOGS Executive Report – VP Academic	Page	14
SOGS Executive Report – VP External & Communication	Page	15
SOGS Executive Report – VP Finance	Page	16
SOGS Executive Report – VP Student Services	Page	17
SOGS Report – Disabilities Commissioner	Page	18
SOGS BCC Report	Page	19
Elections Table	Page	20
SOGS Committees	Page	20
Graduate Education Committee	Page	21
Robert’s Rules at a Glance	Page	22
Rules of Decorum/Debate	Page	23
Appendix A – October 7 letter from CFS	Page	25
Alternate / Proxy Form for Councillor	Page	27

SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COUNCIL MEETING

**October 28, 2010
6:00 pm**

AGENDA

- 1. Ratification of Agenda**
- 2. Announcements**
- 3. Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes September 30, 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. 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
- 6. Elections - Committees (Internal & External)**
- 7. New Business/Open Forum**

SOGS Council Attendance Report September 30, 2010

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Anatomy & Cell Biology	TaeEun Ahn			no signature
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Luis Quail			
Anthropology	Alyson Jaagumagi			
Anthropology	Dina Najjar			
Applied Mathematics	Susanna Hug			
Applied Mathematics	Walid Mnif			
Astronomy & Physics	Robbie Halonen			
Astronomy & Physics	Bushra Hussain	6:10		
Astronomy & Physics	Draco Szathmary			
Biochemistry	Kathryn Garside			
Biochemistry	Ben Kleinstiver	6:10		
Biochemistry	Stephanie Kvas	6:10		
Biology	Jason Brown	6:10		
Biology	Aniruddho C. Hoque			
Biology	Eridan Pereira			
Biology	Sonja Teichert	6:10		
Biology	Mathew Vankoughnett	6:10		
Biomedical Engineering	Erden Ertorer	6:10		
Biomedical Engineering	Corey Smith	6:10		
Board of Governors	Michael Dietrich	6:10	7:20	
Business (Ph.D)	Foad Hassanmirzaei	6:10		
Business (Ph.D)	Heather Spiegel	6:10		
Chemistry	Joshua Byers			
Chemistry	Jessica Dechene			
Chemistry	Tetyana Levchenko			
Chemistry	Radu Racovita	6:10		
Classical Studies	Daniel Levy			
Comp. Lit	Anirban Halder			
Computer Science	Andrew DeLong			
Computer Science	Taha Kowsari			
Computer Science	Beth Locke			
Computer Science	Vadim Mazalov			
CSD	Nimrit Grewal	6:10		
CSD	Bonnie Lampe	6:10		
CSD	Silvana Rotulo	6:10		
Disabilities Commissioner	Chelsea Mohler	6:10		
Earth Sciences	Saralyn Horvath			
Earth Sciences	Sam Russell	6:10		
Earth Sciences	Reynold Sukara			

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Economics	Jacob Wibe	6:10		
Education	Jensen R. Caughlin			
Education	Magdalena Stepien			
Education	Zheng Zhang			
Education	vacant			
Education	vacant			
Education	vacant			
Education	vacant			
Engineering Science	Ahmed Alassuity			no signature
Engineering Science	Reza Azarderakhsh			
Engineering Science	Stephen Black	6:10		
Engineering Science	Mohamed El Marassi			
Engineering Science	Mohamed El Semelawy			
Engineering Science	Ahmed Elatar			
Engineering Science	Abdullah Hafiz	6:10	7:08	time short
Engineering Science	Ahmed Hamada			
Engineering Science	Md. Yahia Hussain			
Engineering Science	Christopher Hum			
Engineering Science	Mehran Mozaffari Kermani	6:10	7:10	
Engineering Science	Kai Pisters			
Engineering Science	Md. Jahidur Rahman	6:10	7:15	
Engineering Science	Ahmed Soliman			
Engineering Science	Islam Soliman			
Engineering Science	Mostafa Zaman			
English	Sally Colwell			
English	Kevin Godbout			
English	Erica Leighton	6:10		
English	Sherry Thompson			
Environment & Sustainability	Jean-Louis Charette			
Epidemiology & Biostats	Candi Flynn			
Epidemiology & Biostats	Sabrina Youash	6:10	7:45	
Executive - President	Duncan Sutherland	6:10		
Executive - Speaker	John Nater	6:10		
Executive - VP Academic	Natalie Szudy	6:10		
Executive - VP External	Saidur Chowdhury	6:10		
Executive - VP Finance	Jordan Harel	6:10		
Executive - VP St. Services	Christopher Hum			
Family Medicine	vacant			
Food & Nutrition	Jenille Hutchinson			
French & Linguistics	Michelle Andrighetti			
French & Linguistics	Paul Kim			
Geography	Matt Maltby	6:10		
Geography	Richard Sadler			no time

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Global Film Culture	Adam Szymanski			
GTA Union Representative	Reza Azarderakhsh	6:10	7:10	
Health & Rehab Sciences	Kristen Bishop	6:10		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Lizebeth Cox	6:10	7:15	
Health & Rehab Sciences	Charity Davy	6:10		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Amanda McIntyre	6:10		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Sarah Woolmore-Goodwin	6:10		
Hisp Studies	vacant			
History	Randy Kissack	6:10		
History	Adam Rochweg			
History	vacant			
Journalism	Lauren O'Neil			
Kinesiology	Stephanie DeJesus	6:10		
Kinesiology	Cameron Edgar	6:10	7:04	time short
Kinesiology	Chantelle Nielson	6:10		
Kinesiology	Alexandra Williams	6:10		
L&IS-M	Gary Collins			
L&IS-M	Katie Granton			
L&IS-M	Karen Hine			
L&IS-M	Gary Jermy			
L&IS-M	Monica Rhee			
L&IS-M	Stefan Todoroff			
L&IS-PhD	Lucia C. Serantes			
Law	Scott Armstrong			
Mathematics	Mohammad Hassenzadeh			
Media Studies	Kyle Asquith	6:10	7:05	Alt. H. Svec - time short
Media Studies	Maeghan Pirie			
Medical Biophysics	Udunna Anazodo			no signature
Medical Biophysics	Timothy Yeung	6:10		
Medical Biophysics	Geoffrey Zeni	6:10		
Microbiology & Immunology	Matt Rytelowski			
Microbiology & Immunology	Jessica Tong			
Music	Leigh Allen			
Music	Richard English	6:10		
Music	Michelle Garlough			
Music	vacant			
Neuroscience	Iman Janemi			
Neuroscience	vacant			
Nursing	vacant			
Nursing	vacant			
Occupational Therapy	Kevin Li			
Occupational Therapy	Val MacIntyre	6:10		
Occupational Therapy	Laura Mee	6:10		

Represents (Dept)	Name	IN	OUT	Notes
Occupational Therapy	William Tam	6:10		
Orthodontics	vacant			
Pathology	Christina Yang			
Philosophy	Mallorie Malone			
Philosophy	Nicolas McGinnis	6:10	7:10	
Physical Therapy	Stephanie Cornell	6:10		
Physical Therapy	Kelsey Maxymyshyn			
Physical Therapy	Stephanie Mills			
Physical Therapy	Chris Statten	6:10	6:15	
Physiology and Pharm.	Kim Beaucage			
Physiology and Pharm.	Jessica Osumek			
Physiology and Pharm.	Ryan Shugg			
Physiology and Pharm.	Sonia Volante			
Political Science	Robert Maciel			
Political Science	Chad Pilkington			
Psychology	Caroline Bennett-AbuAyyash	6:10		
Psychology	Paula Brochu	6:10		
Psychology	Pralle Kriengwatana	6:10	7:15	
Psychology	Neil McMillan	6:10	7:00	time short
Public Administration	Carolina Oteiza			
Senate	Gaston Keller			
Senate	Brent Sherar	6:10		
Senate	Duncan Sutherland			
Senate	Rick Telfer			
Social Work	Blaire Courville			
Sociology	Julie Peters			
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			
Women's Studies	Elizabeth Leinveer			

SOGS COUNCIL MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

September 30, 2010

6:10 – 8:10 pm

UCC Room 56

Speaker: John Nater

Recording secretary: Olga Sauer

1) Ratification of Agenda

Agenda ratified. (Pilkington/Sutherland)

2) Guest Speaker

None

3) Announcements

- Welcome to all Councillors to the SOGS September Council Meeting.
- Summer quorum is 22.
- Refreshments are available at the front. If anyone has allergies they should speak to Olga.
- Next meeting will be on October 28 in this room. All councillors will need to be re-nominated to continue next year.
- If full-time students are leaving Canada to do research, from September 1 they will be able to apply for "Insurance Extension". As long as the student has OHIP or the equivalent (i.e., UHIP), they will be eligible to apply for coverage.
- A reminder, you must sign with the correct time at the beginning of Council and if you leave the meeting prior to it 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.

4. Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes September 30, 2010

Minutes received and ratified (McMillan/McGuinness). Carried

5. Speaker's Ruling

Speaker outlined his ruling.

6. Vice Presidential Elections

VP Academic

Presentations were made by: Mehran Behazin (Chemistry), Jahidur Rahman (Engineering), Fiona Simpson (Physiology and Pharmacology).

Fiona Simpson elected.

Motion to destroy ballots – carried.

VP Finance

Jordan Harel (Sociology) Interim VP was acclaimed.

7. Orders of the Day

a. Motions arising from the President

BIRT Council authorize the hiring of two part time receptionists,

BIFRT Council authorize an increase in the payroll expenses line item to account for the new position.

Moved – D. Sutherland (President)

Seconded – S. Chowdhury (VP External)

Number of students has increased by 33% in recent years. Help is needed in the office.

S. Black (Engineering) – How much will it cost? (A) - \$41/day.

Budget line will be increased to accommodate the expenditure.

Carried

BIRT council financially endorse the tax clinic.

Moved – D. Sutherland (President)

Seconded – S. Chowdhury (VP External)

T.Ahn (Anatomy & Cell Biology) – international students have been able to receive this service in the past – what has changed. (A) – D. Sutherland – increase in number of students. USC has asked our assistance in offsetting costs about \$300-400.

C. Bennett- AbuAyyash (Psychology) – how many graduate students use this service? (A) – D. Sutherland – numbers aren't taken, but they noticed an increase in graduate student usage.

R. Kissack (History) – where will the money come from? (A) – D. Sutherland – It can be taken from the presidential discretionary fund.

S. Teichert (Biology) – our tuition pays for some services, does it go to cover this? (A) – D.

Sutherland – not that I am aware of.

No – 2

Carried

b. Motions arising from Other Committees

c. Other Motions

d. Tabled Motions

Whereas the Graduate Education Council (GEC) meets collectively four times a year and graduate student representatives to the GEC have the option to serve up to two years.

Whereas the majority of new graduate students arrive in the Fall Term (i.e. the new Academic Year).

Whereas in an attempt to recruit new graduate students to the GEC, the start of a new term of membership for graduate student representatives to the GEC will commence on October 1 and terminate on September 30 following the second calendar year.

Whereas there are eleven graduate student representatives to the GEC, one per Faculty (i.e. Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Health Sciences, FIMS, Music, Science, Social Science, Ivey [Business], Law, Education, and Schulich [Medicine & Dentistry]).

Reaffirming the motion passed by Council in April 2010 stating that the SOGS Constitution 6.1.7 should be amended to: "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."

Whereas we believe elections to serve on the GEC to be democratic:

BIRT new graduate student representatives to the GEC are elected during the September SOGS Council meeting.

BIFRT SOGS email all graduate students ten (10) business days before the September SOGS Council Meeting to call for nominations for the positions that are vacant or for those whose current member has reached the completion of their term.

BIFRT graduate student representatives to the GEC-elect appear in person to the SOGS office within seven business days after the election, in order to verify a representative's student status and home Faculty.

BIFRT SOGS forwarded the names of the graduate student representatives to the GEC-elect to the chair of the Operations/Agenda and Nominating Committee of the GEC for ratification.

Moved – R. English (Music)

Seconded – N. McGinnis (Philosophy)

Brent Sherar presented information on the Graduate Education Council (GEC).

R. Azarderakhsh (Engineering) – Why is it 70% for funding? (A) – B. Sherar – 70% is required to be admitted to a graduate program, but until now, 78% was required for funding. Now it will be 70% for both.

S. Chowdhury (VP External) – Can GEC change policy? (A) – B. Sherar – SOGS Council can make suggestions to the GEC to make changes. Some policies might be influenced/changed within reason.

Carried

The following were elected/acclaimed to the GEC -

Arts & Humanities – Katie Fulford (Philosophy)

Education – noone

Engineering – Dan Dechene

Health Sciences – Chelsea Mohler

Information & Media Studies - Vincent Manzerolle

Ivey – John Diogenous

Music – noone

Schulich – Stephanie Dorman

Science – Brent Sherar and Gaston Keller

Social Sciences – Philip Baiden

Law – noone

8. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports

a. President

Motion:

Whereas the UWO graduate students compiled a petition on 15 October 2009 to the purpose that SOGS secede from the Canadian Federation of Students;

whereas the petition was served to the Canadian Federation of Students on 19 October 2009;

whereas serving the petition placed the Canadian Federation of Students under a legally enforceable obligation to cooperate in a secession referendum amongst the UWO graduate students;

whereas the Canadian Federation of Students has deliberately and persistently obstructed the secession referendum; and

whereas any further delay in the referendum would pervert the democratic rights of the UWO graduate students;

Be it resolved that:

(i) SOGS shall conduct a Referendum on Continued Membership in the Canadian Federation of Students [the "Referendum"].

(ii) SOGS shall conduct the Referendum in accordance with the bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students as they were on 19 October 2009, except to the extent that is reasonable to overcome any lack of cooperation from the Canadian Federation of Students.

(iii) Notwithstanding any departure from the bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students referred to in item (ii), SOGS shall deem the Referendum to be an official Referendum on Continued Membership, and shall be bound by the result.

(iv) SOGS shall allocate \$10,000 to pay any expenses that should arise in the course of the Referendum [the "referendum fund"].

(v) The SOGS Executive shall have the authority to conduct the Referendum, including the authority to allocate the referendum fund and to set the time and date of the Referendum, and the discretion to interpret the bylaws of the Canadian Federation of Students.

SOGS is trying to facilitate the call for a referendum which had been initiated by over 10% of the membership. CFS National has been slow in responding to our letter (dated June 15). We are attempting to follow CFS bylaws. In November, 2009, the referendum percentage was changed from 10-20%. This increase will require over 800 signatures on any petition that is sent to CFS. The sovereignty of SOGS is in question. By conducting the referendum, the voice of SOGS' membership will be heard and acted upon.

Moved – D. Sutherland (President)

Seconded – S. Russell (Earth Sciences)

G. Zeni (Medical Biophysics) – If we leave CFS what options do we have?

(A) – D. Sutherland – CASA is available, or we can go alone. WE are a small drop in the bucket.

Everything will depend on what Council decides.

S. Russell (Earth Sciences) – for – from Univ. of Manitoba. CfS is good at blocking debate. CASA sued U of M for fees.

J. Nethery (Public Administration – visitor) – Point of Information (PoI) – are there broader problems?

(A) – D. Sutherland – CFS doesn't follow their own referendum requirements.

A. Alassuity (Engineering) – last year there was a lot of time spent by GSIC to consider the differences between CASA and CFS.

S. Black (Engineering) – for – CFS does offer some services; but the democratic process is encouraging.

J. Nethery (PA – visitor) – against – this may be nasty; wants a month for consideration.

S. Chowdhury (VP External) – for – CFS representative. At the Ontario AGM last month, CFS executive members were asked to reply to the letter SOGS had sent in June. They said they will reply within 10 days – nothing has been received yet.

R. Kissack (History) – PoI – how was the allocation of dollars arrived at? (A) – D. Sutherland – 3% of the surplus. If CFS are not compliant, CFS friends will have to speak for them.

R. Kissack (History) – PoI – can we just decide to willy nilly spend our surplus? (A) – D. Sutherland – last year the renovations ate up our surplus. This will not push us into deficit.

R. English (Music) – for – strongly support – lack of professionalism and disrespect. Shouldn't be ignored.

J. Brown (Biology) – when will this happen? (A) – D. Sutherland – “friends” will be chosen at next council meeting.

C. Bennett-AbuAyyash (Psychology) – for – will SOGS be endorsing either side? Will the \$10,000 be used for SOGS propaganda? (A) – D. Sutherland – the money will be used for room rentals, pro and anti CFS materials, etc.

S. Woolmore-Goodwin (Health & Rehab Sciences) – is there any money for legal fees? (A) – D. Sutherland – a motion was passed earlier this summer to allocate \$20,000 for legal fees.

S. Teichert (Biology) – called the question

Seconded – R. English (Music)

Question called

For – 35

Against – 2

Motion passes

b. VP Academic

N. Szudy thanked her committees, executive and staff. Reminded departments to apply to Joint Fund for support.

c. VP External & Communications

S. Chowdhury reminded graduate students to join the official SOGS facebook page.

An Equity petition is being circulated to show support to the University and City that audible traffic signals be installed along Western Road.

d. VP Finance

Things are going smoothly. J. Harel is looking forward to productive year.

- e. VP Student Services
Horseback riding will take place on October 16.
- f. SOGS Commissioners' Reports
Disabilities Commissioner
C. Mohler asked Councillors to take the petitions seriously and get other students to sign.
- g. Councillor Reports
none
- h. Senator and Board of Governor Reports
None

9. Elections – Committees (Internal & External)

10. New Business/Open Forum

Orders of the Day

a) Motions arising from the President

b) Motions arising from Other Committees

Whereas in June 2010, SOGS council directed the BCC to review the impact of automatically voting on the performance of SOGS Executive officers or Commissioners when two consecutive reports are not submitted to Council and

Whereas Executive officers (except the President) are subject to recall procedures as laid out in Bylaw 7.2.

Whereas the BCC provides its recommendation with regards to Commissioner report delinquency in the report above.

BIRT that the following Bylaw be introduced after 1.1.14 to read

1.1.15 Any Executive member other than the President is to be in dereliction of duty if he or she fails to submit a written or oral report to Council for two consecutive regular council meetings.

BIFRT that the following By-law be introduced between 7.2.3 and 7.2.4 to read

7.2.X A motion for recall is automatically included in the following regular council meeting agenda for any Executive Officer in dereliction of duty as defined in Bylaw 1.1.15.

c) Other Motions

Submitted by: Speaker, John Nater

BIRT Council re-elect the oversight committee.

BIFRT in case they are no longer members of the Society, Council elect additional individuals to act as replacements

BIFRT Council elect additional members in the event that the CFS does not involve itself with the referendum.

Submitted by: Speaker, John Nater

BIRT the CRO sets the spending limits for the referendum.

Submitted by: Dan Dechene, GEC Member - Engineering

Whereas the University of Western Ontario's (UWO) minimum funding guarantee for PhD is \$12,000 plus tuition, and

Whereas this level was established in 2005, and

Whereas while tuition increases due to inflation are accounted for in the above model, but the \$12,000 cost of living component is not, and

Whereas the cost of living component of the funding guarantee should be indexed to CPI to maintain the real monetary value of the guarantee.

BIRT SOGS formally adopt the stance that UWO's funding guarantee's cost of living component be indexed to CPI and

BIRFT SOGS executives, graduate student senators, board of governors representative, and GEC members be encouraged to support this stance.

d) Tabled Motions



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

Dear Councillors,

Graduate Education Council (GEC)

The Council met for the first time with an expanded representation of graduate students. I am pleased to say that we currently have eight of the possible eleven faculties represented. There are three positions currently available in education, law and music. I encourage any interested parties to e-mail sogs@uwo.ca, so that we can fill these positions.

At the meeting council voted in favor of recording both graduate external scholarships and donor scholarships on academic transcripts. The following transcripts were included in the motion: Vanier, NSERC-CGS, OGS, SSHRC-CGS, SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship and CIHR (once paid through the Student Information System). This motion has to be approved by the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards (SCAPA) before final ratification by Senate. Updates will be provided as the motion passes through these groups.

SOGS-SGPS

SGPS is currently analyzing funding patterns in each faculty in order to determine if an increase in minimum funding would jeopardize any current programs. It is my hope that this analysis will result in an increase in the minimum funding package of graduate students, and ideally lead to a funding package that is adjusted on a yearly basis based on inflation.

CFS Referendum

David Molenhuis, the current chairperson of the national branch of CFS, recently mailed a letter to our organization (received by e-mail October 7th 2010). The letter is attached in an appendix to the council package. Mr. Molenhuis states that SOGS has not remitted all outstanding fees, bylaw I section 6.j, and as such cannot hold a referendum until such a time as these fees are paid. It is my position that the CFS is in violation of bylaw I section 6.b.i, which states that a referendum must be held within 2-3 months after receipt of a verified petition. Since the petition was verified by the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (October 15th 2009), at the latest this referendum should have been held during the winter term of 2010. SOGS has paid all membership dues for both the fall term of 2009 and the winter term of 2010. The CFS' inability to respond quickly to our request for a referendum, and their delay in accepting The University of Western Ontario's verification has placed SOGS in the position of paying potentially unnecessary membership fees.

UWO contract negotiations

Several unions at the university are currently in the process of negotiating new contracts. I have been in contact with individuals on both sides of negotiations and while the potential for a strike exists, it is my belief that the unions and the university will be able to come to an agreement.

Sincerely,

Duncan Sutherland
SOGS President



VP Academic
October 2010 Report to Council
Fiona Simpson (sogs.academic@uwo.ca)
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors,

I'm really excited to be the new VP Academic for the 2010-2011 school year. I am currently working to get all of the initiatives that I discussed in my platform underway.

Committees:

I'm actively looking for new members for all of my committees. New membership is really important as events like the Western Research Forum and the GSTA Awards don't happen without active committee members. Please encourage your friends and colleagues to join these committees, as they look great on your CV or resume. Members also benefit from receiving a \$5 Grad Club voucher for each meeting they attend!

Academic Committee/Western Research Forum:

The Academic Committee will be meeting shortly to set the date for the WRF and to discuss possible keynote speakers. Any suggestions for a speaker would be appreciated.

GSTA Awards:

The committee for this event currently does not have enough members to meet quorum. Please encourage your constituents to join, because we can't make any decisions about this event without committee members.

Western Graduate Review:

The WGR will be publishing a double issue on student athletes and the 2010 WRF winners shortly. I'd love suggestions for individuals or events to profile for upcoming issues.

Joint Fund for Graduate Research and Scholarship:

The Joint Fund is actively receiving applications for funding for UWO events that support graduate research and scholarship. I've noticed that many of the applications that we have received have been late; please notify your constituents that applications have to be submitted at least one month before the event, or it jeopardizes the likelihood that great events will not be funded.

Cheers,

Fiona Simpson
VP Academic



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

Dear members:

Here is an update of what has been happening under my portfolio.

a) Equity Issues Committee

Committee meeting was held on Thursday, 7th October at 5:30 pm. Chelsea Elizabeth Mohler has been elected committee chair. Members discussed existing events and issues. Members are collecting signatures from grad students to support the petition. Then members discussed about CFS report on “Task force on Campus Racism issues”. Please visit <http://www.noracism.ca/> for more information. Finally, Committee has decided to invite Campus Equity members on upcoming Committee meeting.

b) Graduate Issues Committee

Committee meeting was held on Thursday, 14th October at 5:30 pm. Committee has elected Jahidur Rahman as a committee chair. In addition, Committee selected three SOGS members for upcoming CFS AGM held on 24-27th November in Ottawa. Committee also discussed GSIC ongoing issues.

c) SOGS Official Face book

SOGS has official face book group. If you are interested to join this group, please email me at sogs.external@gmail.com.

d) CFS information

CFS executive meeting was held on 2nd and 3rd October, 2010. The meeting involved review and discussion of CFS services as well as on-going future campaigns. One new campaign “*Education is a right*” has been endorsed by Ontario executives. Executives has decided to publish monthly E-newsletter from CFS Ontario Component. When I receive this E-newsletter, I’ll post this on our SOGS website. CFS national observed “National lobby week” in mid October. I’ll include a detail reports on my November council report.

Open Access Week

Open access week is from October 18 to 24, 2010 and is part of a global movement to promote access to scholarly works and research. For more information visit www.openaccessweek.org.

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

Regards
Saidur R Chowdhury
VP External of Affairs & communications



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

Dear Councillors,

Sustainability:

After meeting this month, the sustainability committee has decided on a change of strategy with respect to the sustainability audit. Rather than hiring someone to conduct select portions of the audit, the committee has decided to pursue the path of volunteering, wherein members of the committee will be conducting the audit themselves in a volunteer capacity. We will be looking at delegating portions of the audit at the next meeting.

Also, several members of the sustainability committee will be volunteering their time and promoting SOGS' sustainability initiatives at enviroweek this month.

Finance:

On the finance front, Duncan and I were made aware of several potential new endowment options which we will be looking into and analyzing in the coming weeks. I will be meeting with Carole Stinson later this month to discuss these options in further detail.

Grad Club:

The committee will be meeting this month to discuss the purchase of a new ice machine for the Grad Club.

Bursaries and Subsidies:

The committee will not be meeting this month.

Sincerely,

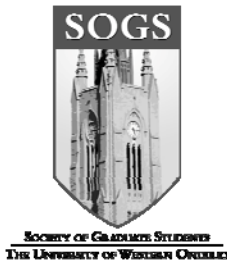
Jordan

Jordan Harel BA, MBET
VP Finance
Society of Graduate Students
The University of Western Ontario



SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

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



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

1) Accessibility Plan 2009-2010

The Human Rights and Equity Services has now posted the Accessibility plan online. It can be found at: www.uwo.ca/equity and by clicking on "accessibility plan". The plan is prepared in accordance with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA, 2001). The plan includes sections on the identification of barriers, specific barriers that have been removed on the UWO campus, identification of how specific barriers on campus will be removed, and present a plan for how new barriers can be prevented in future.

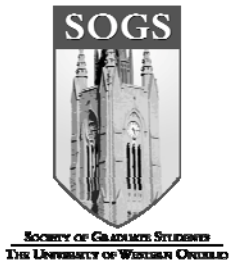
To see previous reports, go to: <http://www.accessibility.uwo.ca/wodac.htm>).

2) Western's Ontarians with Disabilities Accessibility Committee (WODAC)

I have been in contact with Larissa Bartlett, the individual responsible for scheduling the WODAC meetings; to date, there is no meeting scheduled.

3) Petitions for Accessible Street Crossings

Thank you to those who have been collecting signatures for increased accessible street crossings on campus. I am still working to collect signatures in my department, and will be providing copies of the petition to both the university and city representatives responsible for maintaining accessible crossings on the UWO campus.



**SOGS BCC Report
October 2010 Report to Council
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>**

As the Commissioner is an employee hired by the Executive, they should not be hired or removed from their position by Council but rather by the Executive as in bylaw 2.5.2 and 2.5.4. The election which occurred last month to fill the position of disability commissioner was invalid, as it is not an electable position as stated in bylaw 2.5.2. However, the Executive should respect council wishes by treating the invalid election as a straw poll.

Elections Tables

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

Type	Position	Nominee	Department
SOGS	Academic Committee – Western Research Forum	Erden Ertorer	Biomedical Engineering
SOGS	Bursary & Subsidy Committee		
SOGS	Bylaws and Constitution Committee		
SOGS	Elections Appeal Board		
SOGS	Equity		
SOGS	Finance Committee		
SOGS	Grad Club Committee		
SOGS	Graduate Student Issues Committee		
SOGS	Graduate Student Teaching Awards Committee	Reza Azarderakhsh Alison Braley	Engineering Political Science
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)

Graduate Student Representation GEC

Faculty	Student	term starts	term ends
Education			
Music			
Law			

The role of the Graduate Education Council of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is to:

- serve as a central forum to propose academic policies to be approved by Senate,
- guide the development of graduate and postdoctoral studies at Western, and
- provide a representative and open forum to give advice on any aspect of graduate education.

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



October 7, 2010

Duncan Sutherland, President
Society of Graduate Students
University of Western Ontario
University Community Centre, Room 260
London, ON
N6A 3K7

Dear Mr. Sutherland:

We are in receipt of your letter of June 15, 2010 responding to our letter of January 14, 2010, sent by my predecessor, Katherine Giroux-Bougard, concerning the petition submitted by a portion of the Canadian Federation of Students' member graduate students at the University of Western Ontario seeking a referendum on the question of continued membership in the Federation.

As you may be aware, Canadian Federation of Students Bylaw I, Section 6.j, states that "...in order for a referendum on continued membership to proceed, a member local must remit all outstanding Federation membership fees no less than six weeks in advance of a referendum". In fall 2009, the point at which the Federation's board received a petition from a group of its individual members at the University of Western Ontario seeking a referendum on the question of continued membership, your Society was already delinquent with respect to the remittance of membership fees that it had collected in trust on behalf of the Federation. In the period since, the delinquency continued to grow to the point that your Society was more than a year behind in the remittance of Federation membership fees that it had collected in trust on behalf of the Federation.

Although your Society recently remitted membership fees it had collected in trust on behalf of our Federation for the summer 2009, fall 2009 and winter 2010, summer 2010 semester fee collected in trust remain outstanding and, therefore, the conditions do not yet exist whereby a referendum on the question of continued membership could proceed. Please let me know when your Society expects to remit those fees so that we can commence the process of scheduling a vote that will not have to be postponed.

Additionally, please submit a list of dates of upcoming events or activities on campus, including any scheduled elections or by-elections of your Society. This will help the Federation's board to avoid any scheduling conflict between these dates and dates for the referendum campaigning and polling.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind your Society of its obligation to uphold the Bylaws of the Federation. Amongst other things, the Bylaws of the Federation limit participation in referenda on continued membership to "...individual members and representatives of the member local association, representatives of the Federation and individual members and representatives of Federation member local associations."



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338 rue Somerset Street Ouest/West · Ottawa, Ontario · K2P 0J9
Telephone/Téléphone: (613) 232-7394 · Fax/Télécopieur: (613) 232-0276 · www.cfs-fcee.ca



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