

Society of Graduate Students  
November 24, 2011 Council Meeting  
**3M Centre Room 3250**

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# **SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS COUNCIL MEETING**

**November 24 2011**

**6:00 pm**

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Ratification of Agenda**
- 2. Guest Speaker** – Stephen Jarrett, UWO Legal Council
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes October 27, 2011**
- 5. Elections** – Disabilities Commissioner and Pride Commissioner Committees (Internal & External)
- 6. Orders of the Day**
  - a. Motions arising from the President
  - b. Motions arising from Other Committees
  - c. Other Motions
  - d. Tabled Motions
- 7. Executive/Committee/Councillor Reports**
  - a. President
    - 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
    - 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. New Business/Open Forum**

**SOGS Council Attendance Report  
October 27, 2011**

<b>Represents (Dept)</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>In</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Out</b>
American Studies	Vacant			
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Vacant			
Anatomy & Cell Biology	Vacant			
Anthropology	Vacant			
Anthropology	Vacant			
Applied Mathematics	Piers Lawrence	6:15		
Applied Mathematics	James Marshall	6:15		7:30
Astronomy & Physics	Neven Vulic	6:15		
Astronomy & Physics	Vacant			
Biochemistry	Lance DaSilva	6:15	time short	7:06
Biochemistry	Stephanie Dorman	6:15	time short	7:06
Biochemistry	Ben Kleinstiver	6:15	time short	7:06
Biology	Kyle Dailey	6:15		
Biology	Jordan Epstein	6:15		
Biology	Mathew VanKoughnett	6:15		
Biology	Vacant			
Biology	Vacant			
Biomedical Engineering	Vacant			
Biomedical Engineering	Vacant			
<b>Board of Governors</b>	<b>Michael Dietrich</b>			
Business (Mgmt)	Noelleen Saldanha	6:15		
Business (Ph.D)	Majid Eghbali-Zarch	6:15		7:18
Business (Ph.D)	Yves Plourde			
Chemistry	Melissa Lewis			
Chemistry	Vacant			
Chemistry	Vacant			
Chemistry	Vacant			
Classical Studies	John Aniol			
Comp. Lit	Mehraneh Ebrahimi-Eshratabadi	6:15		
Computer Science	Forough Norouzi			
Computer Science	Besat Zardosht			
Computer Science	Vacant			
Computer Science	Vacant			
CSD	Martina Di Gioacchino	6:15		
CSD	Ian Gallant	6:15		
CSD	Andrea Gamble	6:15		
<b>Disabilities Commissioner</b>	<b>Vacant</b>			
Earth Sciences	Lianne Loiselle			7:40
Earth Sciences	Sam Russell	6:15		7:30
Earth Sciences	Laura Sanchez			
Economics	Youngmin Park	6:15		
Economics	Jin Zhou	6:15		7:40
Education	Jensen Caughlin	6:15		

Represents (Dept)	Name	In	Notes	Out
Education	Armita Hosseini			
Education	Maya Salloum	6:15		
Education	Vacant			
Education	Vacant			
Education	Vacant			
Engineering Science	Mumin M. Abdul	6:15		7:30
Engineering Science	K. Farida Akhter	6:15		7:30
Engineering Science	Mohammad Al-Amin			
Engineering Science	Farshad Anooshahpour	6:15		
Engineering Science	Mohamed Diab	6:15		
Engineering Science	Ahmed Elatar	6:15		7:15
Engineering Science	Muhmudur R. Faisal	6:15		
Engineering Science	Masoumeh Farkhondehkavaki	6:15		
Engineering Science	Ahmed Hamada	6:15		
Engineering Science	Chowdhury Jubayer	6:15	time short	7:10
Engineering Science	Muhammad A. Khan	6:15		
Engineering Science	Nedal Mohamed	6:15		
Engineering Science	Seyed K. Mostafari Yardi			
Engineering Science	Shamsul Siddiqui	6:15		
Engineering Science	Amir Takhmar	6:15		
Engineering Science	Omar Bin Yusuf	6:15		7:15
Engineering Science	Vacant			
English	Zeinab McHeimech	6:15		
English	Darren Monteith	6:15		
English	Emily Sugerman	6:15		
Environment & Sustainability	Mitchel Boughs	6:15		
Epidemiology & Biostats	Joyce Cheng	6:15		7:30
Epidemiology & Biostats	Michael Taylor	6:15		7:20
Executive - President	Saidur Chowdhury			
Executive - Speaker	Kevin Godbout			
Executive - VP Academic	Ashley Warnock	6:15		
Executive - VP External	Jahidur Rahman	6:15		
Executive - VP Finance	Duncan Sutherland	6:15		
Executive - VP St. Services	Désirée Lamoureux			
Family Medicine	Vacant			
Food & Nutrition	Vacant			
French	Emilie Pilon-David	6:15	Alt. – no form	7:38
French	Leah Roth	6:15		
Geography	Vacant			
Geography	Vacant			
Geography	Vacant			
Global Film Culture	Vacant			
Graduate Education Council	Andrea Davidson (I&MS)			
Graduate Education Council	Stephanie Dorman (Schulich)	6:15		
Graduate Education Council	Majid Eghbali-Zarch (Business)	6:15		
Graduate Education Council	Richard English (Music)			

Represents (Dept)	Name	In	Notes	Out
Graduate Education Council	Michelle Gibson (Education)			
Graduate Education Council	Clayon Hamilton (H&RS)	6:15		
Graduate Education Council	Erica Leighton (A&H)			
Graduate Education Council	Nedal Mohamed (Engineering)	6:15		
Graduate Education Council	Ryan Robb (Law)			
Graduate Education Council	Christopher Schultz (Soc. Science)	6:15		
Graduate Education Council	Mathew VanKoughnett (Science)	6:15		
GTA Union Representative	Rick Telfer	6:15	Alt. K. Fulfer	
Health & Rehab Sciences	Siamak Bashardoust Tajali			
Health & Rehab Sciences	Clayon Hamilton	6:15		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Linh Nguyen	6:15		7:15
Health & Rehab Sciences	Eric Sadowski	6:15		
Health & Rehab Sciences	Teresa Valenzano	6:15		
Hispanic Studies	David Brown	6:30		
Hispanic Studies	Vacant			
History	Dave Blocker	6:15		
History	Charles Mackenzie			
History	Christopher Schultz	6:15	time short	6:40
Journalism	Ashley Carter			
Journalism	Vacant			
Kinesiology	Matti Allen	6:15	time short	7:05
Kinesiology	Stephanie De Jesus	6:15		
Kinesiology	Torri Luchyshyn	6:15		
Kinesiology	DanielleTobin	6:15		
L&IS-M	Vacant			
L&IS-M	Vacant			
L&IS-M	Vacant			
L&IS-M	Vacant			
L&IS-M	Vacant			
L&IS-M	Vacant			
L&IS-PhD	Vacant			
Law	Tom Weihmayr	6:15		
Linguistics	Vacant			
Mathematics	Ali F. Baghbadorani	6:15		7:40
Mathematics	Vacant			
Media Studies - MA	Gabriel Elias	6:15		
Media Studies - PhD	Eric Lohman			
Medical Biophysics	Vacant			
Medical Biophysics	Vacant			
Microbiology & Immunology	Joseph Zeppa	6:15		
Microbiology & Immunology	Vacant			
Music	Vacant			
Music	Vacant			
Music	Vacant			
Music	Vacant			
Neuroscience	Sabeeha Hussein	6:15		

Represents (Dept)	Name	In	Notes	Out
Neuroscience	Mia Segal	6:15		
Nursing	Vacant			
Nursing	vacant			
Nursing	vacant			
Occupational Therapy	Michelle Chiu	6:15		
Occupational Therapy	Bronwyn Cormack	6:15		
Occupational Therapy	Jesus Estevez	6:15		
Orthodontics	Vacant			
Pathology	Rokhsana Mortuza			
Philosophy	Patrick Clipsam	6:15		
Philosophy	Michael Cuffaro	6:15		
Philosophy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physical Therapy	Vacant			
Physiology and Pharm.	Laura Aubrey	6:15		
Physiology and Pharm.	Zhi Feng	6:15		
Physiology and Pharm.	David Putman	6:15		
Physiology and Pharm.	Alex Stoianov	6:15		
Physiology and Pharm.	Thomas Velenosi	6:15		
Political Science	Amanda Vyce			
Political Science	Vacant			
Pride Commissioner	Vacant			
Psychology	Sara Caird	6:20		
Psychology	Vacant			
Psychology	Vacant			
Public Administration	Jared Zaifman	6:15		
Senate	Kai Pisters			
Senate	Duncan Sutherland	6:15		
Senate	Rick Telfer			
Senate	Michael Tiedemann			
Social Work	Vacant			
Sociology	Robert Nonomura			
Sociology	Jason Novick	6:15		
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Alex W. Ke	6:15		7:40
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Yu Lin	6:15		
Stats & Actuarial Sciences	Shuai Wang	6:15		7:40
Theology	Vacant			
Theory & Criticism	Vacant			
Theory & Criticism	Vacant			
Visual Arts	Cierra Webster	6:15		
Visual Arts	Vacant			
Women's Studies	Geoff Bardwell	6:15		

**SOGS COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Draft MINUTES**  
**October 27, 2011**  
**6:15 pm – 8:15 pm**

**1) Ratification of Agenda**

Schultz/Tobin  
 Agenda ratified.

**2) Guest Speakers – CFS**

Sandy Hudson and Michael Yam presented information from the CFS.

**3) Announcements**

- Welcome to all Councillors to the first SOGS Council Meeting for the 2011-2012 year. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new Councillors. Councillor Packages are available at the front if you haven't already received one.
- This year's quorum is 30.
- I would also like to direct your attention to the Councillor Orientation Package. Therein you will find valuable information about SOGS and your role as Councillors. Notice that certain sections also appear in the Agenda, and will continue to appear henceforth.
- Make sure that you sign in every evening with both the time when you arrive and your signature. If you leave before the meeting is adjourned, you must indicate the correct time on the Council attendance sheet. If you leave at the end of the meeting you do not need to sign out, but leave the cards in the front.
- Not all departments have full representation. If you are unsure of how many positions your department has, please see Olga after the meeting. Before a new Councillor can start, they will need to fill out a nomination form (available on line) and obtain the appropriate signatures.
- OSOTF, Out of Province and Grad Club Bursary applications are due on October 31. Peggy Collins Scholarship for part-time students is also due on the 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Opt out cheques are being sent to Department Graduate Assistants.
- Next meeting will be in this room on November 24 in this room.
- All Councillors are invited to a reception at the Grad Club following our meeting. Food will be served, and be sure to get a drink ticket from Olga for the bar.

**4) Reception and Ratification of the SOGS Council Minutes September 29, 2011**

Moved – S. Chowdhury (President)  
 Seconded – D. Sutherland (VP Finance)  
 Received and Ratified

**5) Elections – Committees (Internal and External)**

Academic Committee	Rajib Saha
Bursary & Subsidy Committee	Mansur ul Mulk Adnan Khan
Bylaws and Constitution Committee	Vincent Kuuire Geoff Bardwell
Grad Club Committee	Tom Weihmayr
Graduate Student Issues Committee	Ali Fat Hi
Graduate Student Teaching Awards Committee	Zunaid Haque
International Student Issues Committee	Maya Sau
Western Research Forum	Rifath Sharmin
Western Graduate Review	Rifath Sharmin Adnan Khan
SRBA	Erica Leighton
Student Services Committee	Teresa Valenzano Linh Nguyen
GEC Policy Committee	Andrea Davidson

Moved N. Mohamed; Seconded – Mathew VanKoughnett - carried  
 November 2011 Council Package

## 6) Orders of the Day

### **BCC**

Whereas Bylaw 9.4.1 directs each committee maintain a policy documents and;  
Whereas Bylaw 9.5.4.5.7 directs the BCC chair to maintain a policy database;  
BIRT that Council directs all Official Liaisons to instruct their committees to produce a policy manual by January 2012 to submit to the SOGS Office and the BCC Chair;  
BIFRT the policy manuals be made publicly available on the SOGS website.

Moved: E. Sadowski (BCC Chair)

Seconded: A. Hamada (Engineering)

Amendment –

BIFRT the Finance and Grad Club Committees be allowed to submit their documents by March 31, 2012.

Moved: D. Sutherland (VP Finance)

Seconded: J. Rahman (VP External)

Amendment passes

Whereas Bylaw 9.4.1 directs each committee maintain a policy documents and;  
Whereas Bylaw 9.5.4.5.7 directs the BCC chair to maintain a policy database;  
BIRT that Council directs all Official Liaisons to instruct their committees to produce a policy manual by January 2012 to submit to the SOGS Office and the BCC Chair;  
BIFRT the policy manuals be made publicly available on the SOGS website.

BIFRT the Finance and Grad Club Committees be allowed to submit their documents by March 31, 2012.

Motion passes

### **BCC**

Whereas SOGS Bylaw 9.5.4.5.8 state that: [The BCC shall have a chair who] "shall maintain committee descriptions on overhead transparencies for use in Council meetings;"

BIRT it is out-dated and be stricken.

Moved: E. Sadowski (BCC Chair)

Seconded: D. Putman

Motion passes

## 7) REPORTS – Executive/Commissioners/Committees/Councillors/Senators and BoG

### **President**

Saidur Chowdhury outlined his report. Mr. Stephen Jarrett, UWO Legal Council will be asked to attend the November council meeting to discuss Access Copywrite.

Disability and Pride Commissioners will be elected by Council next month.

### **VP Academic**

Ashley Warnock discussed her report. A question arose on what can the Joint Fund be used for. Ashley pointed out that this funding opportunity is to help with financing on campus conferences for graduate students.

### **VP External & Communications**

Jahidur Rahman informed Council about the UWO Harassment policy which the university hopes to implement by December. There will be two workshops during Open Access Week. ISI Cards will be distributed Friday in the Grad Club from 10-4.

### **VP Finance**

Duncan Sutherland restated the Finance Committees desire to have the budgeting process completed before January. Both the Grad Club and the Sustainability Committees will have a survey going out to grad students soon. A concern was expressed about the slowness of the interact machine. This has been noted, but a faster machine is on hold at the money.

**VP Student Services**

Desiree Lamoureux invited grad students to a Halloween party at the Grad Club tomorrow, hosted by the History Department. IGSIC is co-hosting a dinner at the Grad Club for international students on November 12 from 6-8 – family members are invited.

The Health Plan Committee is looking into start up issues with the new broker/insurance company and working on creating a policy document.

The Orientation Committee is working on a policy document as well as a handbook policy document. Plans are starting to come together for an end of term event in December.

**Speaker**

Kevin Godbout told council that the Speaker's note, requested last month, is included in this month's package.

Alternate Councillor Form is the last page of every council package.

Kevin reminded Councillors to pick up a drink ticket before heading to the Grad Club.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved – D. Sutherland

Seconded – J. Epstein

Council adjourned 8:15 pm

## Orders of the Day

### a) Motions arising from the President

### b) Motions arising from Other Committees

- I. Whereas the forthcoming policy change will affect the method by which Council deliberates regarding bylaw changes; and  
Whereas the BCC wishes to expedite Council proceedings regarding bylaw changes;  
BIRT the BCC submit any bylaw amendments and motions in an omnibus format to SOGS Council;  
BIFRT Council may sever and debate discrete bylaw changes, or items, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and as the necessity arises.

- II. BIRT the following motions be adopted in an omnibus format:

- a. Bylaw 9.2.4 be amended from:

"be responsible for advertising open positions on the committee as necessary"  
to;

"shall notify the Speaker immediately of any vacancies on the committee with the intent of advising the Speaker to advertise said vacancy in relevant SOGS media (e.g. SOGS newsletter, Council package, etc). Please refer to the Speaker's responsibilities, Bylaw 2.2.17."

- b. BIRT the following new bylaw be adopted:

"10.5 The President and VP Finance, with at least one additional executive member, shall strike a subcommittee of at least three executive members to convene and conduct performance reviews of all SOGS salaried office employees, in addition to the Grad Club Manager, excluding SOGS Grad Club employees. This subcommittee shall conduct this review annually by the end of March and prior to a contract renewal discussion."

BIFRT, in consultation with UWO Human Resources department, the executive produces a performance review template for all salaried SOGS employees.

- c. BIRT the following new bylaw be adopted:

"5.1.4 Nominations for the elections of the Vice-President External Affairs and Communications, Vice-President Academic, Vice- President Student Services, and Vice-President Finance, shall close one week before the scheduled election time. In the event there are no candidates for a position, a candidate may run from the floor."

### c) Other Motions

#### **Geoff Bardwell, Councillor for Women's Studies**

Whereas the pathway south of the Grad Club patio is currently not paved,

Whereas many people (including students, faculty, and staff) utilize the pathway to access the stairs and sidewalks,

Whereas the ground often becomes perilous due to weathering (freezing and thawing; slippery from rain, ice, and snow, etc.),

Whereas these conditions could result in injury to customers of the Grad Club, and

Whereas the safety of Grad Club customers is important to SOGS

BIRT the Grad Club Committee (GCC) develop a proposal addressing a solution to the issue, and

BIFRT the Grad Club Committee make a recommendation to SOGS Council outlining a plan-of-action.

**Leah Roth and Émilie Pilon, French Studies Councillors**

Whereas most graduate students must travel in order to attend conferences which further develop their career; and

Whereas the current allocation methods of this travel subsidy are unclear because the amount received is not justified, refusals are not explained and the demonstrated need is not explicitly stated.

Be It Resolved That the Finance Committee review the current process.

Be It Further Resolved That the Finance Committee propose a new allocation method for February council.

**d) Tabled Motions**



**President**  
**November 2011 Report to Council**  
**Saidur Chowdhury (sogs.president@uwo.ca)**  
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors,

Thanks. Here is an update of what has been happening in November, 2011.

Our Executive meeting was held on November 15<sup>th</sup> in the SOGS office. We discussed the SGPS agenda and SOGS Policy Committee. Mr. Steve, Western Legal Councillor, will present Copyright Issues at the November Council meeting. The Finance Committee has been preparing the 2012-13 budget. The Grad Club survey has been sent out and the GSTA form has been posted on our SOGS website. The deadline for any Fall GSTA submission is Thursday, December 22, 2011.

### **SOGS-SGPS**

A SOGS-SGPS meeting was held on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The agenda items for the November meeting were: course registration deadlines and the good faith safe disclosure policy. I pointed out an issue regarding course registration and Western regulation. SGPS is in the process of collecting all departmental information. GEC and SGPS will work together to find out the solution regarding the deadline of graduate course registration.

### **Meeting with the Administration**

A campus council meeting was held on October 31, 2011 in the Support Services Building. President Chakma presented a brief report regarding Western's ranking. He mentioned that on the international front, Western has elevated its status with [QS World University Rankings](#) to 157<sup>th</sup>; and Western improved in a number of categories, most notably in Arts and Humanities up 247<sup>th</sup> to 235<sup>th</sup> on a world scale. According to the 2011 Globe and Mail University Report, the lowest marks given to Western were Bs, in the areas of research opportunities, information technology and environmental commitment.

The workplace summary 2011 report was also presented at the meeting. For more information, please visit the link: [http://www.uwo.ca/equity/docs/workforce\\_analysis\\_report\\_2011.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/equity/docs/workforce_analysis_report_2011.pdf).

On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, we met with John Magyar and Sharon Farnell, the Internal Audit Director, to discuss Western Safe Disclosure policy. We urged Western administration to improve the existing policy by incorporating a GSIC recommendation.

The Senate meeting will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> in the IR-40 Ivey Building at 1:30 pm and The Student Services Committee (SSC) will meet on November 25, 2011. In January, I will present to Council any relevant discussions from this meeting.

### **Canadian Federation of Student (CFS)**

The CFS National Annual General Meeting will be held on November 22-25, 2011 in Ottawa. I shall attend the meeting on behalf of SOGS. Please feel free to contact me if you have any question about the CFS.

Cheers

Saidur R Chowdhury  
SOGS President



**VP Academic  
November 2011 Report to Council  
Ashley Warnock (sogs.academic@uwo.ca)  
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>**

Dear Councillors,

The past month has been busy! All of my committees are comprised of exceptional graduate students with great ideas. Important points of business are discussed below.

***Academic Committee/Western Research Forum***

The Academic Committee has met and started planning the 2012 WRF. We are currently in the process of choosing an available and affordable keynote speaker and a date for the event. Any suggestions for the WRF are appreciated and encouraged!

***Graduate Student Teaching Awards***

GSTA nominations for the fall term are now open and will remain so until the end of term, Thursday, December 22, 2011. Please encourage students, faculty, and staff to nominate you and other worthy TAs using the online nomination form at [www.uwo.ca/sogs/Programs/gstaForm.html](http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/Programs/gstaForm.html).

If there is anything that you would like to see added to or changed on the form in the future, please e-mail me at [sogs.academic@gmail.com](mailto:sogs.academic@gmail.com).

***Western Graduate Review***

The editorial board met on November 8, 2011 and has plans to publish the first issue of the WGR in January 2012.

***Joint Fund for Graduate Research and Scholarship***

The Joint Fund is actively receiving applications for funding for events at UWO and in the London community that support the research and active participation of graduate students. Please be encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. More information can be found through the SOGS website at <http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/Programs/jointFund.html>.

Remember: If you or your colleagues have any questions or concerns about academics at UWO, I am a resource for you to use to address these issues.

Please note that I can be contacted anytime at [sogs.academic@gmail.com](mailto:sogs.academic@gmail.com) and my office hours are Wednesday mornings at 9am in the SOGS office, UCC 260.

All the best,

Ashley Warnock  
*VP Academic*



**VP External & Communications**  
**November 2011 Final Report to Council**  
**Jahidur Rahman (sogs.external@uwo.ca)**  
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

**Update on Safe Disclosure Policy:**

As an official liaison of Graduate Students Issues Committee (GSIC), I, accompanied by John Magyar and Saidur Chowdhury, attended the meeting with Sharon Farnell, Director of Internal Audit and Jim Loupos, Internal Auditor at Western. We presented the recommendations of GSIC in an effort to improve our existing policy. In particular, we have recommended to appoint an independent safe disclosure officer, to include a prescribed process in order for filing a disclosure, to submit a mandatory annual report to the board of governors, to include the aspects of “academic and research misconducts” in addition to financial misconducts. They will discuss our recommendations within their policy committee. I will keep the council updated on this as it happens.

**Drop Fees Campaign:**

Students in Ontario pay the highest tuition fees in Canada. In an effort to raise our voice against this, the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario has launched the *Drop Fees* Campaign across the province. There is a fact sheet prepared by CFS-Ontario attached in the appendix, which outlines the details of the fee reduction promise made by the Liberal Party during the election and the students' concerns. Considering the fact that graduate students and students in professional programs are not eligible for the up-front grant, it is no help for us. In the process, we have launched a petition drive in support of this *Drop Fees* campaign. Please spread the words and try to collect as many petition signatures as possible. If you need petition sheets, please feel free to contact me or drop by SOGS office.

**Letter of Solidarity for Quebec Students:**

Thousands of students across Quebec took the streets on Thursday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> in a massive protest against rising tuition fees. The Quebec government has approved a plan for an increase of \$325 in tuition fees each year for 5 next years and by 2016, tuition fees for Quebec students will be \$3793, whereas the current tuition fee is \$2168. Quebec is a model of affordable education in Canada and we should support the students' movement there. In an effort, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS)-Ontario sent a letter to Quebec's minister of education Line Beauchamp urging to listen to the students and stop increasing tuition fees. Please find the attached letter in the appendix.

**Round-table Discussions:**

In order to provide a forum for all graduate students to express their views and concerns relating to issues such as services and programs, communications, advocacy, student involvement within our society, a round-table discussion was held on Nov. 10th, 10am–2pm, in the SOGS office. I participated in the discussions on communications and advocacy. Although the members' turn out was not exciting, there were some important suggestions made, such as compiling past motions and put them in the website, facilitating the submission of councilors' reports to their constituents etc. I would like to thank our members who participated in these discussions.

**National General Meeting of the CFS:**

The national general meeting of the CFS will be held in Ottawa from Nov. 22 to Nov. 25, 2011. I am going to attend the meeting.

Since I am going to attend the national general meeting of the CFS, I will not be able to attend the council meeting this time. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [sogs.external@gmail.com](mailto:sogs.external@gmail.com)

Sincerely,  
Jahidur Rahman



**VP Finance**  
**November 2011 Report to Council**  
**Duncan Sutherland (sogs.finance@uwo.ca)**  
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Council,

**Finance Committee (FC)**

The FC is in the process of reviewing the portfolios of all the VPs. They have already reviewed the VP finance portfolio, and will review the remaining ones in the coming weeks. The FC has also begun the process of creating a policy manual, subject to council approval. Tasks have been assigned and the manual will be brought together as the budget progresses.

**Grad Club Committee (GCC)**

The GCC survey has been distributed and I encourage you to fill it out. These results will be used to determine if the current Grad Club business model needs adjusting. Following the results of the survey, the GCC will evaluate their current policies and formulate new ones.

**Bursaries and Subsidies Committee (BSC)**

The BSC will be meeting later this month to review current policies and practices.

**Sustainability Committee (SC)**

The SC will be meeting to review its policies and the committee mandate. The SC has also compiled a survey regarding sustainability on campus that will be released shortly.

Cheers,

Duncan Sutherland  
VP Finance, SOGS



**VP Student Services**  
**November 2011 Report to Council**  
**Désirée Lamoureux (sogs.services@uwo.ca)**  
<<http://www.uwo.ca/sogs/>>

Dear Councillors!

I hope you are all doing well. Thank goodness, the end of the semester is quickly approaching, and we can all take a breath during the December holiday!

#### **Orientation Committee**

The Orientation Committee last met on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October to approve its new Handbook Production Policy. This policy determines a time-line to follow in order to ensure that the production of the handbook goes smoothly. It also highlights components of the handbook which are important to seek out, such as an ethically-made and sustainable product. The policy document is included in this month's council package if you want to take a look. At this meeting, it was also decided to hold a December holiday event. The committee decided to hold a cocktail party with toonie bar. The event will take place at the Grad Club on December 15<sup>th</sup>. I should be able to give you more information at Council proper.

The Orientation Committee will be meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> to further discuss the Holiday event and to finalize planning for our Night at the Knights event, taking place on November 25<sup>th</sup>. This new initiative consists of bulk-purchasing and subsidising London Knight Hockey tickets and selling them to our students at a fair price. We are almost sold out, so if you are interested, please buy your tickets as soon as possible.

#### **Health Plan Committee**

The Health Plan committee met on October 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss Opt-in and Opt-out issues. We also discussed the recurring issues that students have been facing with the coverage of prescription drugs. We have been in communication with studentcare.net about these issues, and it was decided to switch from the National Drug Formulary to Formulary 88, which should provide us with more comprehensive coverage.

#### **International Graduate Student's Committee**

The IGIC held, in collaboration with the Student Development Center, an International Graduate Student dinner at the Grad Club on November 12<sup>th</sup>. About 70 students came and ate, played games and mingled at the Grad Club on the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup>. It was a great success. I would like to thank all committee members and the folks from the SDC for planning such a great evening for our international students.

The IGSIC will be holding its next event next semester and is open to suggestions from international students about what it will be. However, the committee has decided to hold a bowling event, so look out for information pertaining to that in January 2012.

#### **Canadian Association for Graduate Studies Conference in Vancouver, BC**

I attended, along with graduate student representative from across Canada, the 49<sup>th</sup> annual CAGS conference in Vancouver from November 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> on behalf of graduate students at Western. Prior to my attending the meeting, the SOGS executive committee sent a letter to the President of CAGS, John Doering. This letter was in response to an email Mr. Doering had previously sent stating that it had come to the attention of the CAGS executive that there was no national voice for graduate students. The SOGS executive felt that this was untrue, as our members, along with 75,000 other graduate students, are represented nationally by the National Graduate Caucus of the Canadian Federation of Students. Therefore, the SOGS executive wanted to state that our students are represented by the NGC, and furthermore, that our members have chosen through referendum to be represented by the NGC. This letter was sent in the name of the executive committee and is included in this council package. If you have any questions about it, please address them to our president, Saidur Chowdhury.

The CAGS annual conference is mostly a chance for Graduate Deans from Universities from across the country to get together and discuss different issues pertaining to graduate studies. In the past, student involvement was encouraged, notably through a voting seat for a student from either the CNCS (Conseil National des Études Supérieures) or the NGC (National Graduate Caucus) on the Executive committee of CAGS. However, at this meeting, a motion was put forward by the Executive Committee of CAGS to get rid of this student seat, and to therefore get rid of any meaningful student representation from the organisation. In response to this, Laurent Viau, the student representative from the CNSCS on the executive committee decided to resign in protest. At the annual general meeting of CAGS, held during the conference, the only debate on this issue came from our sole student representative present with speaking rights: Kimalee Phillip, chairperson of the NGC. Despite vocal student protest and a motion to table the proposed motion until further consultation with student groups could be had, the Graduate Deans of our universities voted unanimously to get rid of student representation in CAGS. Instead, there will be a series of “round-table discussions” held to consult with graduate students. However, when asked what format these would take, the Executive Committee of CAGS had no answer. Further, when asked how graduate students from smaller universities, without the means to pay to come to such discussions, would attend, the Executive Committee also had no answer.

### **Round-table discussions**

The VP External and Communications and I met with a few students to discuss different issues pertaining to the services, the communications, and the governance of SOGS. Many good and constructive suggestions were made. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the VP External and Communications, Jahidur Rahman.

As always, if you have any questions on these or other issues, do not hesitate to contact me at [d.lamoureux.sogs@gmail.com](mailto:d.lamoureux.sogs@gmail.com).

Regards,  
Désirée Lamoureux

## 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		
SOGS	Bursary & Subsidy Committee		
SOGS	Bylaws and Constitution Committee		
SOGS	Equity Committee		
SOGS	Finance Committee		
SOGS	Grad Club Committee		
SOGS	Graduate Student Issues Committee		
SOGS	Graduate Student Teaching Awards Committee		
SOGS	Health Plan Committee	Jacob Wibe	Economics
SOGS	International Student Issues Committee	Ahmed Fahmy	Civil Engineering
SOGS	Orientation Committee		
SOGS	Policy Committee		
SOGS	Referendum Oversight Committee		
SOGS	Sustainability Committee		
SOGS	Western Research Forum		
SOGS	Elections Appeal Board – Arts & Humanities		
SOGS	Elections Appeal Board – Biological Sciences		
SOGS	Elections Appeal Board – Physical Sciences		
SOGS	Elections Appeal Board – Social Sciences		
SOGS	Western Graduate Review		
<b>OTHER</b>			

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Thought</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Conditions</b>
1	Point of Order	Council (or a member thereof) is not following correct procedure	Raise placard, state "Point of Order!" and wait to be recognized, address the issue	Speaker rules; Council does not vote
2	Point of Privilege	I cannot participate at Council under these adverse conditions	Raise placard, state "Point of Privilege and wait to be recognized, address the issue	Speaker rules; Council does not vote
3	Object to a motion	I object to this motion under consideration, it is out of order	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, address the issue	Requires a vote by council, the vote passes with a 2/3 majority
4	Amend agenda	We have adopted the agenda, but we need to address a later issue now	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest the change to the agenda order	Must be seconded; requires a vote by council, the vote passes with a 2/3 majority
5	Overturn Speaker	The Speaker's ruling on this matter is incorrect, I want to challenge the ruling	Raise placard, state "Speaker, I challenge your ruling" and address the issue	Must be seconded and can be debated; requires a majority vote
6	Amend a motion	This motion is acceptable, but it requires an adjustment	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest the change to the motion	Must be seconded and can be debated; requires a majority vote
7	Refer a motion	Council should not vote on this motion, it requires further study by a committee	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council refer the motion	Must be seconded and can be debated; requires a majority vote
8	Table a motion	There's another pressing matter to attend to, we should debate this motion later	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council table the motion	Must be seconded and CANNOT be debated; requires a majority vote
9	Raise a motion	Council should resume debate on a tabled motion	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council raise a tabled motion	Must be seconded and CANNOT be debated; requires a majority vote
10	Postpone debate	Council needs to postpone debate of this motion	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council postpone current debate	Must be seconded and can be debated only on its timeframe; requires a majority vote
11	Reconsider a motion	Council must reconsider the motion debated earlier, it's important	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council reconsider a motion	Must be seconded and can be debated (if the former motion was); requires a majority vote
12	End debate	We have exhausted debate, it is time to vote on this motion	Raise placard, state "Speaker, I call the question;" remember, this ENDS debate	Must be seconded; CANNOT be debated requires a 2/3 majority vote by council
13	Roll call vote	We should record Councillor votes in the minutes	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest the roll call vote to Council	Speaker rules; Council does not vote
14	Call for recess	This has been a long meeting, we need a recess	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, suggest Council have a recess	Must be seconded and can be debated only on its timeframe; requires a majority vote
15	Call to adjourn	We have completed the agenda, it is time to end the meeting!	Raise placard, wait to be recognized, move to have Council adjourn	Must be seconded and CANNOT be debated; requires a majority vote

## 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.



SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

## Statements for position of Disabilities Commissioner November 2011 Report to Council

### Bassam Farah

I am interested in serving as a SOGS Disabilities Commissioner for the following reasons:

1. I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> year Business PhD candidate at Ivey with a challenging disability. According to Canadian law I am considered legally blind (I see 5%). I face this challenge daily inside and outside of the PhD program and I believe that I have been very successful overcoming it. Thus I believe that I can very well understand the challenges that students / people with disabilities face and as a SOGS Disabilities Commissioner with my successful experience I can be very creative in helping students find solutions for overcoming such challenges.
2. Before coming to Canada and Ivey in 2008 I had a PhD in Psychology from Lebanon, my country of origin, and worked as a psychologist, trainer, consultant, and university professor for more than 9 years there. I worked as psychologist in my own private practice, in the country's Central Military Hospital with the army, and in the Catholic tribunals as a relationship / divorce psychologist with the clergy. Moreover, I taught business courses at 2 universities, provided training and consulting services to different groups and organizations, and was hosted at almost every TV channel in Lebanon around twice a month on average for the last 5 years before coming to Canada (I did more than 100 psychology TV interviews during that 5 years). In my capacity as a psychologist in my clinic and in the Central Military Hospital I helped hundreds of adolescents and adults overcome their psychological and physical challenges. So as a SOGS Disabilities Commissioner I can build on this rich experience to help provide students with disabilities with solutions to overcome their challenges.
3. I am married – my wife is also pursuing a PhD in Business at Ivey – and I am a father for 3 children. I have always believed that the only kind of leadership that works is leadership by example. However, when you raise children for 7 years now this belief becomes a conviction. So as a SOGS Disabilities Commissioner I hope to demonstrate being a leader by example.

## Jeff Haveman

### Relevant Skills and Abilities

Caseload Management, Independence, Organizational Skills, Assessment and treatment plan development, team liaison, critical thinking, contract management, outcome focused, able to negotiate service deliverables, reliability, highly motivated, team driven and goal oriented.

### Education and Training

- Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, UWO Goal: August 2012
- Bachelor of Community Rehabilitation, University of Calgary, Calgary AB 2007-2010
- Diploma in Classroom and Community Support, Douglas College, New Westminster BC 2003-2007
- Occupational Therapy Practice Experience

### **Parkwood Hospital (Geriatric Rehabilitation Services) London, ON – May 2011**

- Discharge planning, kitchen assessment, ADL assessment, treatment planning and evaluation, team communication, equipment recommendations, Interprofessional education, wheelchair seating and liaison with community service resources for family's and clients, advocacy.

### **Superior Health Services Nipigon, ON January – January 2011**

- Community health services, School health services, Interdisciplinary practice with community Hospital and Aboriginal Affairs, Cognitive and Sensory/Motor assessment, ADL and IADL assessment, equipment recommendations.

### Employment Experience

### **Behaviour Consultant - Cbi consultants ltd, BC 2008-2009**

- Caseload and contract management, Functional assessments of behaviour and developing multi-elemental positive behaviour support plans
- Developing person-centred plans, including comprehensive individualized goals and support strategies for home, school, work, recreation and community
- Implementation of evidence-based support strategies, including augmentative and alternative communication strategies, visual support strategies, peer mediated learning, imagery and relaxation
- Provided direct instruction to individuals and families
- Training team members to implement strategies and support recommendations

### **Childcare Worker - Ridge Meadows Association for Community Living, BC 2004-2007**

- Functional Assessment and support for challenging behaviour
- Individual and family centered planning
- Child and Youth Support Services
- Employment advocacy and transition planning
- Positive behaviour support and data analysis
- Liaison for individuals, families and the community
- Career development for people with disabilities
- Augmentative communication strategies - PECS
- Reinforcement and motivational program planning and development
- Autism behavioral support and intervention
- Conflict resolution and anxiety management strategies

### **Autism Behaviour Interventionist - Gateway Society, BC 2003-2005**

Autism behavioral support, recreation therapy, relaxation training

### Volunteer Experience

#### Volunteer Participant - Canada World Youth (Cuba & Canada) - 2002 – 2003

- Technology Instructor for Jose Marti secondary school
- Education planning for CWY participants and community development
- Recreation therapy for seniors and people with disabilities
- Event, recreation and social planning for elementary and secondary students in the Miramichi community
- Program development and Aboriginal studies
- Media relations and community awareness outreach



## Statement for position of Pride Commissioner November 2011 Report to Council

### Sarah Jane Saska

I wish to join SOGS as a **Pride Commissioner** for the next year, while finishing the final two years of my PhD in Women's Studies and Feminist Research at the University of Western Ontario. I believe I have a lot of great experience to bring to such a position, both academically and on the ground.

Throughout my academic career, I have studied a variety of queer and feminist issues. Given the multi-disciplinary nature of my degrees, I was able to explore many of the legal, philosophical and political perspectives of feminism, as well as some more general issues of social justice and human rights. However, my Masters thesis worked on transgender legal rights in North America and my current doctoral thesis focuses on violence against transwomen, as well as the greater LGBT community.

So much of my own education has been a result of working with people on an intimate and personal level. Whether I was volunteering at the Sexual Health Resource Center – where I promoted safe sex, counselled individuals struggling with issues of sexuality and gender indifference, and supported victims of sexual assault through abortion counselling and accompaniment—or I was working for HIV/AIDS Regional Services to help people, including recently released prisoners, struggling with HIV/AIDS, drug addiction, or issues of gender indifference. Additionally, I took on the role as educational facilitator for the Positive Space committee where I gave seminars that defined inclusiveness in terms of racial, sexual and gender differences, teaching fellow students and members of the community. My work with the Gender and Women's Issues Committee also allowed me to raise awareness about women's issues, particularly involving violence.

I have also interned with Oxfam Canada (under the guidance of Ms. Joanna Kerr), and Climate Action Network Canada working on creative campaigning, as well as volunteer engagement and media relations in the Ottawa area. Through my internship with Oxfam I put together media tool kits, supported the Women's Rights and Climate Change campaign, coordinated special events and developed backgrounders and policy statements, particularly in regards to the proposed 'Rape Free Cell Phone' campaign in regards to the violence in the DRC. Through my position as a political consultant with CAN during the Copenhagen conference, I worked to lobby MP's, I engaged media outlets, distributed press releases and worked on policy and action alerts. I have also recently left a job with the Canadian Youth Climate Coalition where I worked on Green Jobs policy and advocacy in Canada, working with youth across Canada.

I am confident that I will connect and communicate well with members of the community on campus and in London on a variety of different levels. I believe that I can contribute in a meaningful way to this position and to SOGS and I am able to be extremely flexible and available to do well in this position.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my application.

## Appendix I



SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

# SOCIETY of GRADUATE STUDENTS

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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](http://www.uwo.ca/sogs) • Email: [sogs@uwo.ca](mailto:sogs@uwo.ca)

October 25, 2011

To: Mr. John Doering

### Re: NGC Representation at the CAGS

Dear Mr. Doering,

We, the Executive of the Society of Graduate Students (SOGS) at the University of Western Ontario, are writing to affirm our recognition of the Canadian Federation of Students' National Graduate Caucus (NGC) as our national representative body.

While we are aware that the University of Western Ontario is a member of the GG15, which claims to represent graduate student interests, the SOGS has had very little involvement with this organization. Not only does this body meet only once a year, but these meetings are not financially accessible to all graduate student unions. Moreover they only include representation from students hailing from the select universities who are members of this organization.

On the contrary, the NGC meets on a regular basis, coming together a minimum of three times each year. These meetings represent an ideal time for graduate students from across the country to come together and discuss issues that are relevant on a local, provincial and national level. Further, these meetings foster discussion which leads to concrete actions such as national campaigns on Open Access, Fair Copyright and Increased Funding.

In contrast to the GG15, the NGC produces several materials that are essential to the national representation of graduate students. Making budget submissions, policy recommendations to the House of Commons Standing Committee, and educational material for distribution to graduate students, the NGC is a body that not only represents graduate students at the federal level, but that seeks to educate its members about pertinent and relevant issues.

In brief, if the CAGS is truly seeking a unified student voice, we encourage you to reconsider the NGC as a voice for graduate students across the country. With over 70,000 members from 31 campuses, the NGC is the only body which seeks to represent its members in a democratic and transparent way. We urge you, therefore, to permit the NGC to become a member of your organization. To do otherwise would be to undermine the legitimacy of the NGC, as it has been given democratically by its members.

Respectfully yours,

Saidur Chowdhury, SOGS President

On behalf of The Executive of SOGS at The University of Western Ontario (London, ON)

cc: [sogs.executive@uwo.ca](mailto:sogs.executive@uwo.ca), [chair@graduatestudents.ca](mailto:chair@graduatestudents.ca)

## Appendix II

# SOGS Handbook Policy

## The Orientation Committee

Adopted : Wednesday Oct. 26, 2011

*This policy is also a part of the Orientation Committee's Policy Document.*

This policy is a procedure for the production and distribution of SOGS handbook and dayplanner. It covers timeline and tendering procedure including minimum requirements.

### 1. Timeline

The following timeline should be followed for handbook production:

Phase	Activity	Timeline	Remark
1	Calls for tender	Up to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of January	Refer to Tendering procedure below
	Evaluation of tender and award of contract	3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of February	Refer to Tendering procedure below
2	Cover page design	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of March	Invite submission from members
	Seek Advertisements	Mid-March - May	Percentage of handbook to be filled with adverts TBD
3	Editorial Works	March - May	Must be completed by end of May
4	Printing	June – August 31	Finalized handbook must be received on or before August 31; in time for the Fall term start.

### 2. Tendering procedure

- The Orientation Committee initiates the tendering process.
- A minimum of three printing companies should be invited to tender for the handbook creation
- The *minimum requirements* from tendering companies include:
  - Sustainable materials
  - Ethical production (i.e. Union-made product)
  - Affordable price
- The selected company must show considerable commitment to the timeline above for Phase 3 and 4; these will be communicated to tendering companies in a tendering guideline.

*\*Affordable price will be determined by comparing cost with previous cost plus appropriate inflation factor and available budget.*

## Appendix III CFS Information



### BACKGROUND

Students in Ontario pay the highest tuition fees in Canada and have long advocated for more affordable post-secondary education. As a result of students' hard work promoting our issues in the 2011 provincial election, each party made commitments to improve the sector. The Liberal minority government made one of students' key priorities, up-front grants, the cornerstone of their election campaign. During the election, the Ontario Liberals announced a \$430 million investment into up-front grants for some college and undergraduate university students.

However, the commitment to create an up-front grant for some students was referred to by the Liberal Party as a 30 per cent tuition fee reduction. This confused Ontarians, journalists and students alike. Students have expressed several concerns regarding the grant such as the absence of a tuition fee commitment, and that many low-income students will be ineligible.

### THE FACTS:

- Tuition fees will still continue to rise despite the introduction of this grant.
- The current government committed to creating a grant worth \$1,600 for undergraduate and \$730 for eligible college students. The government has said the grants will be available to more than 300,000 students.
- Students who attend an institution that charges more than the average tuition fees will still receive \$1,600. If a student attends a college but pays undergraduate tuition fees, they will only receive \$730.
- Students who do not take a full course load but who are still considered full-time as defined by the government should still receive the grant.
- The grant will not be renewed for students who drop from clear standing (as defined by each institution) or who move from full-time to part-time status.
- Grant eligibility should be automatic; students will not have to apply for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) to receive it. It's unclear as to how the government would determine students' family income, though, in absence of an OSAP form. The administration costs may be considerably higher than anticipated.
- Nothing about the Liberal announcement will affect OSAP eligibility or administration. Debt can still rise to \$29,200 per student and Ontario Student Opportunity Grants will still be distributed.
- There has been no commitment by the Liberals to improve graduate student education, research or funding. There was no money promised for research at all during the 2011 Ontario Election campaign and the Ministry of Research and Innovation has been eliminated.
- There was no promise made by the Liberals to hire more faculty or reduce class sizes.
- Satellite campuses were promised in Barrie (Laurentian), Milton (Laurier) and Brampton (a York, U of T, Ryerson supercampus). These campuses will offer undergraduate teaching only.

### GRANT ELIGIBILITY

The following is a list of students who will NOT be eligible for the grant:

- **Students in professional programs**, who pay the highest fees. Because the highest cost programs won't be included, the least accessible fields of education will remain further out of reach for low- and middle-income students. This is undefined and may include nursing, social work, fashion, architecture, music, engineering, pharmacy, medicine, law and dentistry. Only those students who can afford to pay will have access to these professions.
- Students who **fall from clear standing** will lose the grant.
- **International students**, who pay much higher fees than domestic students.
- Students who are studying **out-of-province**.
- **Part-time students** and students who move from full-time to part-time status will lose the grant.
- **Students whose parents make over \$160,000** annually, even if their parents do not subsidize their education.
- **Students who are independent from their parents** as defined by OSAP, including students over the age of 21 and students who have been out of high school for at least four years before the start of their study period.
- **Graduate students**, even though they have less access to provincial student financial assistance and pay higher fees.

Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario | [federation@cfsontario.ca](mailto:federation@cfsontario.ca) | [dropfees.ca](http://dropfees.ca)

## IS THE PROMISED GRANT A 30 PER CENT TUITION FEE REDUCTION?

**No.** This grant will not stop tuition fees from rising and no commitment has been made regarding tuition fees. As with other student financial aid schemes, this grant may actually help justify further tuition fee increases, which will impact all students and make college and university less accessible.

The grant is also not 30 per cent of the up-front cost of post-secondary education. The Liberals excluded tuition fees from professional programs in their average calculation, which are higher than other programs. The average undergraduate tuition fee in Ontario is \$6,640, according to Statistics Canada, but the Liberal Party says it is \$5,400. Professional programs have the highest tuition fees, and excluding them from the calculation skews the average to be lower, and denies students enrolled in them from needed financial aid. If you were a student in business administration at the University of Toronto, this grant would only comprise 13 per cent of your fees. This grant also does not cover ancillary or other incidental fees.

## UP-FRONT GRANTS & AFFORDABILITY

The best way to increase the accessibility of college and university is to reduce tuition fees. This grant will help many students afford the high cost of tuition fees, but it may also justify more tuition fee increases, and more student debt. Up-front grants are good and students have long been calling for more, but real accessibility means reducing and eliminating core financial barriers.

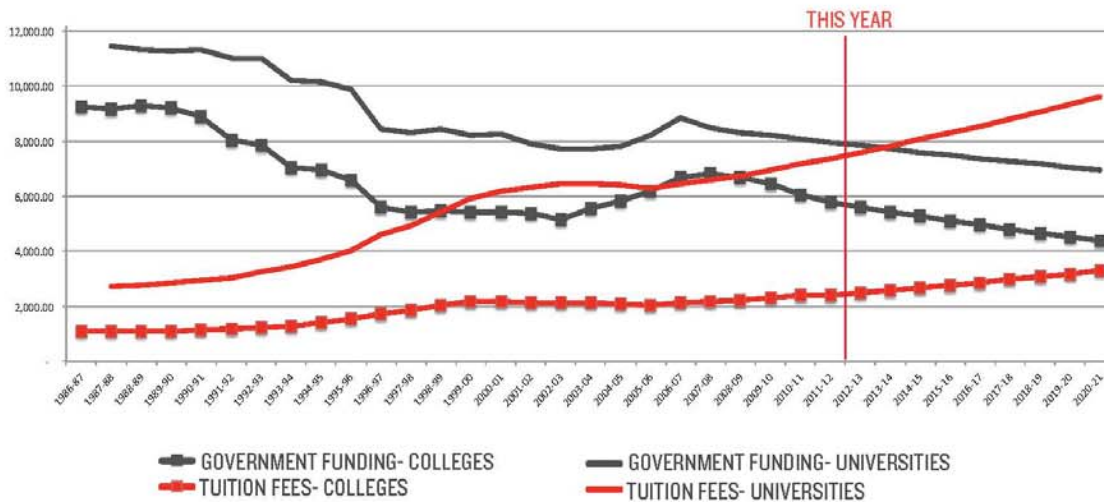
## SATELLITE CAMPUSES

Existing satellite campuses in Ontario have been plagued with low educational quality and confusing governance structures where local autonomy is trumped by decision makers in another region of the province. Students have been highly critical of any plans to expand undergraduate education while at the same time not hiring more professors or guaranteeing that all the courses students require to finish their degrees will be available at all campuses. The Liberals promised that these campuses will be undergraduate-only: there will be no graduate education or research opportunities. This could translate into two-tiered education and mean that quality in the classroom will suffer, as most professors try to work where they can teach and research together.

## PRIVATIZATION OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Liberal promise is a substantial investment in post-secondary education. However, in the absence of a commitment to drop fees or increase funding, this grant will move Ontario closer to the United States model of education; where fees skyrocket and students must rely on significant financial assistance to get their foot in the door. By allowing fees to continue increasing and per-student funding to remain the lowest in the country, the Liberal promise will do nothing to stop privatization of colleges and universities. In 1990, 20 per cent of university and 13 per cent of college operating budgets was comprised of funding such as tuition fees. Today more than 50 per cent of university and 41 per cent of college operating budgets are private funds. Offering this up-front grant will not stop this trend. In fact, this results in the slow privatization of institutions.

The grant will also mean that institutions with a greater proportion of high-income students will receive less government funding than institutions comprised of more low- and middle-income. This means that prestigious institutions that attract higher-income students and colleges which attract mature students - both ineligible - will be receiving less funding from the government overall. In the absence of a commitment to drop fees and increase per-student funding, this policy will lead to two-tiered education and the privatization of higher education in Ontario.



Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario | [federation@cfsontario.ca](mailto:federation@cfsontario.ca) | [dropfees.ca](http://dropfees.ca)



Thursday, November 10, 2011

The Honourable Line Beauchamp,  
Minister of Education  
16<sup>th</sup> Floor, 1035, rue de la Chevroitiere, Quebec, QC  
G1R 5A5

Madame Beauchamp,

Today, more than one hundred thousand Quebec students have walked out of class protesting the proposals of your government to introduce tuition fees at CEGEPs and to increase tuition fees at Quebec universities. Students in Ontario stand in solidarity with Quebec students and supporters, and oppose the proposals of your government.

The Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario represents more than 300,000 college and university students in Ontario and works closely with our provincial counterparts across Canada to promote high quality, accessible public post-secondary education for all. As students studying in the province with the highest fees, the lowest quality, and the largest class sizes, we warn against any plan that seeks to increase tuition fees. In all Canadian jurisdictions, tuition fee increases have supplanted public funding, privatizing our post-secondary education system by stealth.

As a result of high tuition fees, Ontario students owe, on average, \$37,000 per student in public and private debt. We collectively owe more than \$9 billion to the federal and provincial government and even more to banks and credit card companies. This is placing tremendous strain upon the economy and on an entire generation of students and their families. Low- and middle-income students are increasingly unable to access college and university education as a result of financial barriers.

Ontario students look to Quebec's free college system as a model that should be the goal of policy makers in this province. We urge you to listen to the students of your province and reject any plans that will further privatize your public system.

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**Canadian Federation of Students–Ontario**  
**Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants–Ontario**  
900 - 180, rue Bloor Street West / Ouest • Toronto, Ontario • M5S 2V6  
Telephone / Téléphone: (416) 925-3825 • Fax / Télécopieur: (416) 925-6774 • [www.cfsontario.ca](http://www.cfsontario.ca)

On behalf of the 300,000 students who are members of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario,



Sandy Hudson,  
Chairperson  
Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario

cc:

M. Jean Charest  
Premier Ministre

Léo Bureau-Blouin  
Président,  
Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec

Martine Desjardins  
Présidente,  
Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec

Conseil exécutif de l'Association pour une solidarité syndicale étudiante

Minister Glen Murray, Training Colleges and Universities, Government of Ontario

Roxanne Dubois  
Présidente  
Fédération canadienne des étudiantes et étudiants



**Society of Graduate Students  
Alternate Councillor Form**

**The purpose of this form is to assign Alternate Councillor Designation:  
(Please fill in completely and accurately)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*First and last names of Issuer (Councillor) (please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student No.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Department, unit, or constituency of Issuer*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*E-mail address of Issuer*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Duration of leave (dates)*

**Alternate Councillor**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*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 bring completed form to the next meeting of Council.  
For additional information go to  
Room 260 University Community Centre • Fax: (519) 661-3374**