

Steward's Council Meeting  
October 16<sup>th</sup> 2014

Chair: Chris Cochran  
Minutes: Stéfy McKnight

Attendance: Travis Skippon (MECH), Andrew Law (ENGL), D. Houghten (GNDS), Lekhnath Ghimire (GEOG), Sarah Budd (ARTH), Caleb Miller (PHYS), Chris Twigg (CHEE), Stephanie McKnight (CUST), MaryClaire Pappas (ARTH), Nathan Townend (CUST), Craig Berggold (CUST)

Approval of the Agenda

Changed Order: Matters arising from Social Justice Committee switch with Matters relating to Municipal Election.

Agenda Approved

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1. Intro to Steward's Council

Importance of Steward's council, quorum of at least 8, we have 11 signed in. The importance of quorum is that we can vote on resolutions. Explanation of action and levels. Importance of having Steward's involved instead of only Executives.

Showing of graph, with the number and total of Stewards in the department – in comparison to the Executive.

Big thank you.

Departmental introductions

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2. Departmental Issues

Chris T: For the TA's who are doing two TA ships, first TA ship you get full amount but if you do two TA ships, you get half of the amount for the second. Increasing the amount of TA ship. It is believed to be not fair.

Chris C: how is the second paid?

Chris T: RA's are not unionized so they are making less.

Craig: is it topped up from the initial finance package? Is the number increased or decreased, work more but the number is not changing.

Nathan: TA for full year, but doing two courses. Second TA ship for the second semester, so only getting half because only doing one semester extra of work.

Craig: are they doing TA work?

Chris T: not definite contract, no set amount of hours to work.

Travis: RA ship is defined as doing your research work.

Chris C: I will follow up on this.

MaryClaire: We should refer to the contract.

Chris C: This may be a departmental problem.

Craig: What are traditional issues?

Chris C: issue on the contract, that if there are no numbers on the contract (work hours, hours of pay, work hours) , if they supervisor refuses or doesn't meet with you within the first two weeks- supervisors should meet with you. If marking and hours change, you need a new contract.

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### 3. Matters arising from Social Justice Committee (MaryClair)

The Childcare center has closed which housed 54 spaces for Queen's. TA's, TF's and Postdocs had first priority to use the facility before professors. Day care is hard to find in Kingston and is expensive. We are trying to collect information from our members who this may affect.

We are asking, to have permission to write and circulate a letter that will be uploaded onto Facebook, the website and social media. Once we get more information, we would like to have you support us to write a letter asking Queen's to fix this building and the issue.

Travis: What building is it?

Chris: The building does not meet fire code standards and the Childcare program was not relocated.

MC: There is no time line or plan in place. We are asking that you ask your departments, if there are any members who are affected by this change.

Motion from the Social Justice Committee (October 9<sup>th</sup> 2014)

*Stéfy motioned:*

*Ryan Second:*

*I suggest from social justice committee, that we ask the exec to send out an email that request information from the members who have been affected by the loss of the childcare center. I recommend that we bring it to the Stewards council, and that we ask the Stewards council for their support in distributing a letter throughout the Internet and social media for the affected members.*

*Motion has passed unanimously*

MC: Social justice committee is making a sub committee that will allow us to discuss how to distribute the bursary of \$10,000, that has been provided.

Craig: It comes out of the member's dues and it is being redistributed to them. We are trying to make this process more democratic, while gaining information from the members.

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**Motion:** Letter re: Childcare Centre

By: MaryClaire

Second: Stéfy

I motion that the Social Justice Committee compose a letter (after two week consultation with Stewards after the consultation, the letter will be distributed) to Queen's University and their representatives in support of those affected by the closure of the childcare center and reinstated the services as soon as possible. (in response to the motion posed in the SJ meeting)

For: 9

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 2

Danyel (GNDS) left the meeting.

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**Motion:** Childcare Committee

By: Travis Skippon

Seconded: Sarah Budd

BIRT Steward's Council endorse the proposal put forward by SJC to strike a sub-committee that will administrate the distribution of the Childcare Bursary.

For: 10

Sarah: would like to see the email and have it circulated to us before hand.

Travis: hesitant to vote, unless we see the letter.

MC: Wants to have information from the department members before composing the letter so that it is geared towards the membership issues.

Craig: Agrees that bringing a letter to the next meeting even if incomplete would be beneficial.

Noted: MC's email: [equity.psic901@gmail.com](mailto:equity.psic901@gmail.com)

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SGPS Health Care

MC: How are healthcare changes influences colleagues? Birth control price raised? Report back if your department notices any problems within it.

Sarah: The initial aim was to become cheaper, it becomes cheaper when using it at the campus drugstore.

MC: If you receive any information, positive or negative, please report with the executive.

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#### 4. Matters relating to Municipal Election (Nathan)

27<sup>th</sup> of October, advance voting already open.

Issues relevant to members: at large elections proposal, district Sydenham Ward.

Two of the councils that voted to disfranchise Queen's are running for elections.

Still relevant today.

Second, trying to find jobs to enable graduates to stay in Kingston, talked a lot but very little done.

Question candidates about and look up their platforms.

Ask, are there any issues that would be relevant to the TAs TFs in a municipal context.

Chris T (CHEE): the method by which they investigate claims of wrong doings with the city, and Queens campus. City student relations.

Nathan: Code of conduct, in terms of dealing with the city, unique context to Queen's. Require piece of identification. Have the register, but can register at the poll and city hall.

Chris C: International students, bring pay stub from an employer.

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Chris C: Next Meeting –Either November 20<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup>.

MC: Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Second by Stéfy

Meeting Adjourned