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# SOGS COUNCIL PACKAGE

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As Compiled on February 21, 2018

By the Speaker Martin R. Lefebvre



THE SOCIETY OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

*The University Western Ontario*

LONDON ONTARIO CANADA

2017

# Contents

# Orders of the Day

## Motions from the Policy Committee

1. BIRT the Society replace Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.4 of the Society's Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Documents with the corresponding Sections 3.1, 3.2, and 3.4 of the Policy Committee's proposed "Chapter 3: Operations Policies" document.

# Reports

President



**SOGS President Report**  
**Mary Blake Bonn**  
president@sogs.ca

Dear Councillors,

Here is a summary of a few things that have come up since the AGM or are on the horizon.

**SOGS/PVP Meeting:** On March 5<sup>th</sup>, the SOGS Executive will be meeting with Amit Chakma (President & Vice-Chancellor), John Capone (Vice-President Research), Jim Weese (Acting Vice-Provost International), Glen Tigert (University Registrar), Helen Connell (Associate Vice President Communications), John Doerksen, (Vice-Provost Academic Programs), and representatives from SGPS. Our presentation will focus on five key points: government relations, graduate student mental health, graduate student supervisory issues, the Not All the Same campaign, and the Grad Club renovation. We also look forward to hearing from these university leaders about how we can collaborate with them to help serve graduate students better.

**Parking:** Since the way in which parking permits are sold to graduate students changed this fall, a number of members have contacted me with concerns about the price increase that went along with the fee structure change. While SOGS does not have a say in parking prices in any official capacity, we do take issues affecting graduate students seriously. As such, we have been assisting a group of graduate students who have come to us to ask for help in making their case. The students drafted a letter, which is included here as an appendix. In addition, the VP Advocacy and I spoke about the issue on CTV News. Our interview can be seen here: <https://london.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=1320531>

**Policy Committee:** As you can see in their report, as well as the appendices to the package, the Policy Committee is proposing revisions to Chapter 3 of our unified Constitution/Bylaws/Policy document, the Operations Policies.

**New Office (MC8):** We officially open in our new office (Middlesex College, Room 8) on March 1<sup>st</sup>. We'll be showing the space after Council, so come by and see it!

**Wellness Centre:** On Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, our Provost and Vice President (Academic) sent a memorandum to me and the USC President to inform us that the Board of Governors has approved the proposed renovation of Thames Hall to build a Wellness Centre. The Provost expressed disappointment that both SOGS and the USC had rejected the university's proposal for a financial partnership, but also excitement that the project will be going forward regardless. To provide debt capacity for the project, the university will delay other capital projects, including the Integrated Learning and Innovation Centre.

For a fuller report on this year's projects, see my report in the AGM package, and as always, feel free to contact me at [president@sogs.ca](mailto:president@sogs.ca).

Mary Blake