

EGSS Council Minutes
February 16, 2006, 4 - 5:30pm

Present: Marna, Jessica, Juan, John, May (late), Jen, Sam (late)
Regrets: Adeela, Angela, Rebecca, Alice, Allison

1. Adoption of the agenda and approval of last minutes

This item went out the window because the Conference Coordinator was not present.

2. Portfolio reports

Delayed 'til next meeting.

3. Conference

Delayed 'til next meeting.

4. MLISSA leaving

It turns out that no GSLIS students were paying our fee – but in finding out that they weren't, the PGSS became aware of it happening, and there was no way not to collect fees next year because of the March 1st deadline re fee collection.

Alice/MLISSA has requested a change to the EGSS constitution or a by-law that would allow the next year's MLISSA council to leave the EGSS if it so chooses. Ideally, this will be done by the end of this academic year. If not, it needs to be done in the Fall General Assembly, or we will miss the March 1 fee collection deadline (to get MLISSA out of paying our fee if they leave).

5. Merit Award and Travel Award

Travel Award hitches abound. The guidelines were updated to match the Alma Mater award better (October 15 rather than November 15). In order to solve the problem of possibly drawing an International traveller and being unable to give them an award because \$750-worth of winners had already been drawn (which is no longer fair or random), the rules will be adjusted so that up to \$1250 in awards may be given out if necessary.

No progress on Merit Award – Jessica is interested in getting it going, but everyone is too busy. A priority for the summer, getting a draft proposal ready for fall (maybe the award will be running by winter).

6. Feedback to PGSS re Thomson House

7. Health and Dental Plan Referendum coming up.

Done and noted.

8. EGSS Listserv

Allison had had received complaints that we send too many messages (and then they get sent again by departmental staff). Jen decided to try to send out a message no more than every 2 weeks. Sam is putting together a Multicultural Info list for interested parties, which will be advertised on the listserv.

9. ABCs of PhD workshops not well attended.

10. Issues around building shutdowns in awful weather

11. Thankathon – need volunteers.

Done and noted.

12. Room 513 update

The University will likely be paying for the upgrades to this room (ie, wall and door with cardlock), which would be good so the Fac of Ed can spend its money on other things. Requests for quotes on the work have gone out. With luck, construction of the wall will begin in the summer. The EGSS will be responsible for managing this space, and we will be expected to monitor its use. Apparently faculty members would prefer that the desk space be allocated to specific students (Jessica reporting from RGS committee).

13. Town Hall Meeting Feb. 15

Marna and Sam noted that it was a fairly good turnout, and it seemed like students were pretty straightforward. See the minutes.

14. 30 Hour Famine.

A student e-mailed, wondering if we could help her to organize an event like the 30 Hour Famine in support of social work that is currently being done in places like Haiti. Council members were concerned that a) World Vision is a Christian organization, and b) World Vision is notorious for using a lot of their funding for overhead costs (so not much gets to the actual relief).