

EGSS Council Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2006

Present: John, Juan, Angela, Adeela, Jessica, Allison, Marna, Jen, May (late), Alice (late), Sam (late),  
guest Krista Redden (ECP)  
Absent: Rebecca

1. Meeting schedule approved:

Lunch with Roger Slee in the not too far future, on a Friday and not too late in the morning (12ish)  
February 9 @ 4pm  
March 2 @ 4pm -> depending on needs of conference  
March 9 @ 4pm -> depending on needs of conference  
April 6 @ 4pm

**VPs will look at their schedules and choose an office hour for the rest of this term by Monday Jan. 23, and send it to Jen to be advertised.**

The following people currently have keys:

Jen Davies, Marna Lew, May Tan (will be returning it around Reading Week), Juan Abrile, Rebecca Houwer, Sam Veissiere, Kaixin Cao (will be giving it to John Cournane next week).

**If you know of any other keys from old execs that might be floating around, please ask them to return them asap – the deans have asked me to find out where they all are.**

2. Portfolio Reports (in very brief)

Departmental reps did not have anything to report, although the MLISSA component of GSLIS is still investigating leaving the EGSS.

VP Student Life plans to go to Ikea to get some homey stuff (fake plants, dishes) for the lounge.

VP Academic Affairs submitted a report and requested help with Open House January 29.

President submitted a report on interviews with the deans, and added thanks for responding to e-mail requests for info (important) and that she is stepping down from her PGSS seat, but Angela is stepping into it.

3. Room 513

Council requested a card lock door. The space will not be allocated and we will see what happens to it. The rooms at the back will be available through a paper booking system that we will put up like the basement clinic booking system. These will include a statement re respecting the space, preference for group work and academic activity, and if it becomes necessary, a time limit.

**Future issue: how can we make the study room in the basement more accessible? Should the students who have “moved in” be asked to “move out”?**

#### 4. Conference

Coordinator absent, but Juan voiced the concern that a student will be presenting outside the theme of the conference. The overall tone of the ensuing discussion is that it is his prerogative to do so, and it often happens at conferences.

#### 5. Merit Award and Travel Award

Travel Award applicants from Nov. 15 will finally be reviewed Jan. 18. If there is a tie and not enough money to go around, Marna will do a draw.

**Marna is too busy to do Merit Award, so she will contact faculty and students about criteria and a committee.**

#### 6. Advocacy

The council was comfortable with promoting the EGSS as a source for peer support, but would like some training on that. **Jen is looking into it.**

#### 7. Town Hall Meeting for International Students

The council recommended that Dean Bracewell hold this town hall before Reading Week, and around lunchtime since most international students can't work off-campus, and offering food at lunchtime is bound to get some attention.

#### 8. Incorporation

There were lots of questions in response to John's report about the impact incorporation might have on our relationship to other bodies, especially the PGSS. **John will find out more.**

#### 9. Engaging ECP in EGSS

Jessica's report sparked some heated discussion. Her recommendations include tapping into labs/cohorts, and highlighting the relevance and/or gains associated with being involved. The feedback she collected offers some good ideas for promoting the annual conference too.

#### 10. REB report

Yes, we would like a rep, but we need the dates. **Jen will contact Dean Bracewell about it.**

#### 11. Welcome Back Party

**2 weeks from now, said Juan, so around Jan. 26.** Can't wait!