

Education Graduate Student Society

Thursday, January 31, 2008

10:00-11:30 (Room 631)

Chair: Jessica Toste
Minutes: Jessica Toste
Present: Sandra Chang-Kredl, Frances Helyar, Ryan Ouckama, David Pickup, Sarah-Jane Renaud, Elizabeth Roberts, Kerri Staples, Tomoya Tsutsumi,
Regrets: Alyssa Baxter, Ozlem Erten, Dana Salter

1. **Approval of agenda**

- Motion carried.
- Item #7 to be addressed in VP Student Life report.

2. **Approval of meeting minutes**

- Minutes from General Assembly (September 20, 2007) and last two EGSS Executive Council meeting (October 31 and December 4, 2007).
- Three sets of minutes were distributed via e-mail, no additions or revisions. Motion to approve package of meeting minutes was moved by Liz and seconded by Frances. Motion carried.

3. **Portfolio reports**

- President:
 - *Academy Policy Committee:* Program reviews by the provincial governing body (CREPUQ) are ongoing. Various programs will be having site visits in which a visiting academic reviews the report and meets with faculty members and students. This is an important process and all graduate students are encouraged to attend if their program has an upcoming review. KPE had their site visit completed earlier this year and ECP (Inclusive Education and Special Populations) will have their visit on March 17th, 2008.
 - *Student Awards:* The February 15th deadline for the EGSS Travel Awards is soon approaching. We have allocated \$2500 for this period due to increase number of applications always received (AERA, CSSE, CPA). We will also need to distribute the application information for the EGSS Fellowships soon. To be discussed later in agenda, but in general, we are looking at advertising in mid-March with a deadline of Friday, May 2nd.
 - *Research and Graduate Students Committee:* New coordinator for ABC's of the PhD has been selected – David Roemmele, PhD student in DISE. Discussion regarding doctoral student progress statistics – a new procedure has been suggested to inform students at the end of PhD5 year that if they do not think they will finish within one year, they should withdraw (e.g., students would avoid entering PhD7) and apply for reinstatement when ready to submit. New fellowships program has been established by McGill – the Principal's Graduate Fellowships. The PGFs will be replacing all McGill Graduate Student Fellowships (MGSF) and Recruitment Excellence

Fellowship (REF), the Faculty of Education will have 53 units of \$2500 to allocate to new and continuing graduate students; with an emphasis on recruitment. This is in addition to the Faculty Fellowships (Guha, Stansfield, Victor) and one Tomlinson Fellowship which has been newly allocated to the Faculty of Education (recruitment of PhD student at \$20,000/year for 3 years).

- *Space Committee:* Space allocations have been made for the Coach House and SIS will officially be moving into the Law Mansion. In the Coach House, the library room set-up for events with moveable furniture, rooms will be assigned as ECP clinics and to DISE projects, some graduate student offices (although it is not clear how this will be assigned). For the use of graduate student office space in Room 513, Jessica has sent a message to all occupants asking if they were still using their desk space; two students replied that they have newly assigned offices as TA/RA and three other students have yet to respond at all. We will reassign those two desks to students on “wait list” until May 31st. When building renovations/changes begin, the EGSS Study Room in the basement (B180) will be converted into a secure filing room for data storage.
- *ATM in Education Building:* There was a request made by a PhD student to look into this. Jessica was in touch with PGSS to find out the McGill procedures and guidelines for this and received a contact name for the person in the Treasury Office. [Note: heard back from the Treasury Office in early March. Their response is that ATMs have been strategically placed across McGill campus in order to ensure adequate access and that Education students can easily access the machine in Medicine.]
- VP Student Life:
 - Sing-along movie night was held in December. There were only a few people who attended, but it was nonetheless a fun event. Open Mic Night in January at Thomson House was a great success with a half dozen performers and many attendees from DISE and ECP.
 - Frances would like to change the February event from Games Night to another Open Mic Night. This would be advertised as a fundraiser for the conference with a \$2 cover charge and would be open to undergraduate students as well. All agreed that this would be a fun event. Frances to confirm availability of Thomson House for February 21st or 28th.
- VP Diversity & Equity:
 - Dana was unable to be at the meeting, but sent a brief report. As part of the Faculty’s Diversity and Equity Committee, we will be writing an article about the November REF series and hopefully having it published in the McGill Education Alumni magazine.
 - In honour and acknowledgment of Black History Month, the Diversity and Equity Committee will be sending announcements about activities around the community organized by the Black Student Network. We are also partnering with local high schools and our own recruitment office in order to encourage a more diverse body of students to apply to the teacher education program. More information to come throughout the remainder of the year.
 - Allison Gonsalves, PGSS Equity Commissioner and DISE doctoral candidate, has proposed an “EduTea” to be held at Thomson House every other Thursday. This would be a time for faculty and students from all departments to gather in an informal setting to discuss a selected article. Allison is

finalizing the details of this initiative and it would be great for the EGSS to be involved. More information will be provided when it becomes available.

■ Department representatives:

- In DISE, recent discussions have focused on undergraduate issues. The only item to report is that Kevin McDonough will be taking on the role of Graduate Program Director for 2008-2009 while Mela Sarkar is on sabbatic.
- A new Department Chair has been announced in KPE – Dr. Ten Milner.

■ PGSS Councilors:

- Recent discussions at council meetings have focused on renewal of the TA contractual agreement. This includes information regarding hours worked overtime and fair assignment of TAships by department administrators.

4. **Conference 2008**

- Fred Penner has been secured as the keynote speaker for the 7th Annual EGSS Conference. The two keynote presentations will take place on Friday morning (Dr. Henry Giroux, in collaboration with the Freire International Project for Critical Pedagogy) and Saturday morning with brunch at Thomson House (Fred Penner).
- The call for proposals has been redistributed with an extended submission deadline to February 6th. It was not distributed in time through the Faculties of Education across Canada – so the extension is to accommodate interest coming from this and will include an announcement about Fred Penner as the keynote.
- There will be a volunteer meeting on Friday, February 1st at 3:00pm to review the proposals that have been submitted. All help would be appreciated. Pizza and wine will be provided!
- Received \$600 from the PGSS Grants Program to support the conference events. The PGSS is going to submit a motion to consider an increase (as \$600 is usually the maximum allocated) due to securing Fred Penner as the keynote.

5. **Referendum**

- As stipulated in the EGSS constitution, all graduate students pay membership fees (\$10 per term). These fees are collected through the PGSS and we are required to approve the mandate for fee collection every three years. Jessica has been in touch with Brian Cardillo, VP Finance for PGSS. We need to hold a referendum before March 1st, 2008 to renew our fee collection. We have actually been offered use of the Online Voting System (OVS) and will be “guinea pigs” in this process, as PGSS would like all grad student associations to start using this system for elections and referendums. Due to use of the OVS, we have been granted an extension – results must be submitted to Brian by April 1st, 2008.
- Jessica to organize details including 350-word blurb that provides background information, the referendum question, and the student list to be loaded on OVS. Referendum question presented for approval. [Note: referendum will run from Wednesday, March 26th at 9h00 (9am) to Sunday, March 30th at 18h00 (6pm)]
- Suggestion made to change wording of the question to ensure that it is clear that this is simply a renewal of the membership fee collection (not a new fee that the EGSS will be collecting). It is also important that we tell students that we have elected not to increase fees at this time. Motion by Kerri to approve wording of referendum question as presented below, seconded by Ryan. Motion carried.

- **BIRT the EGSS continue to levy a mandatory fee of \$10 (ten dollars) per term to every member as described in the EGSS constitution, effective Fall 2008 to Winter 2011.**

6. **EGSS Fellowships**

- The end of the winter semester will be soon approaching and we need to be prepared to advertise for the EGSS Fellowships. The guidelines/ application form will be distributed in mid-March with a submission deadline of May 2nd, 2008. Do we need to change any of the criteria or guidelines from last year? Everything seemed to be clear with submissions, but because we are in our second year it is important to indicate whether or not students can receive the award twice (e.g., two consecutive years during Master's or Doctoral degree). It was agreed that students should not be eligible to receive the same award twice. On the application form, in checklist section, statement added *"Please note that students are eligible to receive individual awards once per degree."*
- It was also agreed that we would put additional funds into the fellowships because of the surplus being maintained by the EGSS. It was suggested that an additional \$1000 be dedicated to these awards and agreed that this would go to a second doctoral award (so that there will be two awards at each level). The section on "Doctoral Awards for Research and Professional Excellence" will be rephrased to represent this change, as follows: Two awards for research and professional excellence are granted to outstanding PhD students in the Faculty of Education. These awards, valued at \$1000 each, recognize students who have applied their research or academic learning and have made distinctive contributions to the profession or wider community. The award recipients will be selected on the basis of: (a) academic merit in terms of grade point average and other academic distinctions, (b) aptitude for research, and (c) leadership, as assessed by the student's curriculum vitae and personal statement demonstrating research excellence and professional involvement above and beyond program requirements.
- Motion to approve changes to EGSS Fellowships by Kerri and seconded by Frances. Motion approved.
- Once applications are received at the beginning of May, they will all be reviewed and ranked by Bob Bracewell's office and members of the RGS Committee. Two members of the EGSS Executive will sit in on the selection meeting; ideally they will be at different levels (Master's and PhD) and/or different department. Tomoya and Kerri expressed interested in being involved with the selection.

7. **Funding program**

- The EGSS provided a small amount of funding to the Graduate Group for Feminist Scholarship for their wine & cheese event held at Thomson House in October. This funding was provided after the event, but it was approved with the understanding that it would be a "springboard" for future discussions regarding the development of an EGSS Grants Program. This would be a program that has a small pocket of money each year – graduate student initiatives can apply for some funding to help cover minimal costs (e.g., max \$200). Jessica distributed copies of PGSS Grants Program information, which we could use as a model.
- Item tabled for discussion until next council meeting.

8. **Recruitment for 2008-2009**

- Please start thinking about whether you want to continue to be involved with the EGSS next year. Also, if you know of any graduate students who are interested

in getting involved (or who you think could make a great contribution), please let Jessica know so that we can start discussions about recruitment.

9. **Meeting adjourned.**