

Education Graduate Student Society

Wednesday, October 31, 2007

12:00-1:30 (Room 631)

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

1. **Housekeeping**

- EGSS office keys have been signed out to the President (Jessica Toste), VP Student Life (Frances Helyar), and the Conference Committee (c/o Liz Roberts).

2. **Approval for agenda**

- Motion carried.
- Items #6 and 7 will be addressed in President's report. Item #8 will be addressed in VP Student Life's portfolio report.

3. **Meeting minutes**

- Jessica is behind on preparing and distributing past meeting minutes! ☹ The minutes for the September 11th Executive Council Meeting and September 20th EGSS General Assembly will be approved at the next council meeting.

4. **Conference 2008**

- The dates for the 7th Annual EGSS Conference "Making Education Count" will be March 14th and 15th, 2008 (Friday and Saturday). The Freire Project will host a kick-off event on the evening of Thursday, March 13th, including a wine&cheese and panel discussion.
- There will be a keynote panel on the 14th including some of the speakers already coming in for the Freire Project opening. The Conference Coordinators are hoping to arrange for a second keynote speaker that is more "general" (e.g., creator of Degrassi, Robert Munsch). If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact Liz, Sarah-Jane, or Ashleigh. Liz will e-mail the entire Executive a list of possible presenters for feedback on who would be most "interesting."
- The call for proposals is scheduled for distribution next week. This will be sent to all undergrad/graduate students, faculty members, and Canadian universities.
- A small announcement regarding the dates and theme of the conference will be distributed ASAP to provide some general information and to get people thinking about proposal submissions.
- An opening meeting will be held in the next month in order to garner interest from potential volunteers.

5. **Portfolio reports**

- President's report

- *Faculty Council*: The three EGSS representatives on FC will be Jessica, Sarah-Jane, and Dana. The next meeting is on Wednesday, November 21st.

There is nothing to report at this time as the October meeting was cancelled.

- *Selection Committee for the Dean of Education*: Nominations for this committee are submitted to the PGSS. It is important that we have a graduate student representative on this committee as the Dean will play a critical role in the future direction of the Faculty. The first meeting will be November 26th and meeting may become more intensive in the late winter/early spring when candidates are being interviewed. It was mentioned that Allison Gonsalves might be interested in representing graduate students on the committee. Jessica to follow-up with Allison – and also, will ask PGSS for a description of the position and details for submitting nomination. This information should be distributed on EGSS listserv.
- *EGSS Website*: The website designers are in the process of changing the main page to have a flash image and include the 150th image that we were able to get a copy of for use on our site. The content needs to be written up and sent to the designers. Jessica will write up general content when possible and will distribute to all for feedback and comments.
- *Student Awards*: The October 15th deadline for the EGSS Travel Awards has been extended to November 15th due to difficulties with listserv. Many incoming students were not included on list and did not receive information. For the next deadline (Feb 15th), all information fill distributed at the beginning of January along with details regarding the Alma Mater deadline.
- We will also need to revisit the EGSS Fellowships guidelines and criteria. This can be done at our first meeting following the holidays, so that information can be distributed to students by early March.
- *Space Committee*: It has been decided that the Law Mansion will be allocated to SIS (to accommodate the move of their faculty, administration, and students up to the Education Building from the McLennan Library). The Coach House is “up for grabs” in terms of room allocation. We can visit the Coach House and present a proposal from EGSS; however, Jessica sits on the Space Committee and will note the importance of considering graduate student space in addition to any other plans that are made.
- *RGS Committee*: The new MIDAS program for international doctoral students was implemented as of the fall semester. This program allows international students (at the PhD level only) to be receive reduced tuition fees, now at the same rate as Quebec residents. It is hoped that this initiative will draw more international students to McGill.
- The Differential Fee Waivers (DFWs) are supposed to continue to be awarded to Master’s students each semester.
- Vice-President Student Life report
 - Reported that the Open Mic Night on September 27th was very well-attended. The cost of renting the sound equipment was approx \$350. The Games Night on October 23rd had only one person turn out. Dates have been scheduled for Smoothie Socials on November 26 and March 19 (room 233), Sing-Along Movies on December 7 and April 18 (Jack Cram), as well as another Open Mic Night on January 24 (Thomson House).

- Frances presented EGSS poster at Faculty's 150th Anniversary Open House.
- Received information from Bindy regarding last year's Wine Tour. Frances asked that if there was interest, someone help with organization.
- Please spread the word regarding social events, even if you can't be there!

■ Vice-President Diversity & Equity report

- The Diversity & Equity in Education Committee will be hosting a series of three REF presentations next month. This will include a guest speaker from University of Toronto (Canada Research Chair), Dr. Ronaldo Walcott, on November 7th at Thomson House. He will discuss issues of equity and affirmative action within the context of Quebec.
- On November 14th, there will be a presentation by members of the committee focusing on a "snapshot" of how our Faculty responds to diversity. This will be followed up with a session by Dr. Jennifer Gilbert from York University on November 21st – she will look at our data and discuss the next steps.
- The EGSS will be funding lunches with both guest speakers and organizing members of the Diversity & Equity Committee.

- No other reports were presented at this meeting.

6. **Requests for financial support**

- A request was received from Allison Gonsalves for a small amount of financial support for the Graduate Group for Feminist Scholarship. She wrote:

As you may know, I am one a member of the GGFS (graduate group for feminist scholarship), and one of our annual activities is to hold a meet and greet at Thomson House to recruit new members (crucial this year, because all of the remaining four are at the end of our degrees). The MCRTW usually funds this event (typically 75\$ in food), but this year the new director has refused to give us money. This is ironic, given that one of her requests was that GGFS renew the kind of activity it had two years ago in order to maintain our status in the MCRTW, but that's another story. I'm wondering if you know of any source of a small amount of funds for us. Our meet and greet is scheduled for October 24th. GGFS is a group that typically attracts many education students, so I thought I'd contact you to see if you were interested in supporting us.

- It was unanimously agreed that the EGSS would support this initiative up to \$75. Jessica will contact Allison regarding reimbursement of costs for this event. It was decided that we would support this event and it would give us the opportunity to discuss creating a program that could fund graduate student initiatives. Hopefully this will act as a springboard to developing guidelines for such a program. To bring this idea back to next EGSS Executive meeting.

7. **Other business**

- Jessica to distribute announcement from Antonella Nizolla regarding the need for graduate student volunteers at the Faculty's Open House (late January). Will be sent via the listserv.
- Ozlem asked about how she can find out dates of departmental meetings. Jessica to follow-up with Samantha and Alex (Educational & Counselling Psychology) to ensure that announcements for all departmental meetings are distributed to students.

8. **Meeting adjourned.**

Minutes of October 31st EGSS Meeting