

Education Graduate Students' Society

Thursday, January 28, 2010

2:00-4:00 (Room 203)

Chair: Jessica Toste
Minutes: Lisa Nelson
Present: Colin Campbell, Swan Kennedy, Lisa Nelson, Heather Phipps, Erin Sirett, Jessica Toste, Beverly Baker, Xi Li
Regrets: David Macaulay, Martin Picard

1. Approval of agenda
 - To add VP Student Life report. All approved.
- 2) Approval of minutes
 - Approval of meeting minutes – Colin motioned to approve, Beverly seconded the motion, all approved.
3. Business arising / updates
 - Student representation on DISE Graduate Program Committee – Beverly reported that Jonathon Lazares new representation. He will communicate issues with Bev and possibly attend EGSS meeting when necessary.
 - Erin has been communicating with ECP to get guidelines for how students are chosen in the department for Department Executive. She will pass along this information to Michael to be applied in DISE.
 - Graduate student profiles – we will post two new profiles. Colin to get ECP and Erin will talk to Ashley from KPE.
4. Portfolio reports
 - **VP Academic** – Jessica
 - No report, all included in agenda items below.
 - **VP Finance** – Xi Li
 - Reimbursed Erin for INJA workshop. Xi Li reported that she deposited \$5,000 from faculty for EGSS Conference.
 - **VP Diversity & Equity**
 - Natalie did an INJA workshop and it was well attended-15 people. The next workshop is Thursday, February 4th (Alma) and will focus on Cree story telling – taking on the role on researcher, 3-5pm. Two workshops in March. Emily (ECP) will present on meditation and relaxation. Then two students from DISE will present on non-violent approaches to community work.
 - Erin to meet with PGSS (CGSS) Council for Graduate Student Support (Ombudsperson) – Ulric. He deals with students directly on issues of discrimination and harassment. She will be meeting with him to discuss reporting procedures and documentation.

- Jessica suggested moving forward with FAQ document for the EGSS website – address questions/issues students need to know.
- **VP Info & Technology** – Swan
 - Nothing to report.
- **VP Student Life** – Heather
 - Pizza Night update – 50-80 people expected to attend.
 - Clothing Box in hallway does not belong to EdUS, Beverly reported that it has become a faculty wide initiative. All clothing for going to Sun Youth for individuals coming from Haiti.
 - Heather suggested a family-friendly event (maybe ice skating) and to look into different ice rinks. Lisa to get information re: Beaver Lake on Mont Royal. Group suggested outing for Friday afternoon, March 5th? Jessica suggested a trip to the Sugar Shack at end of March – we should see if PGSS is offering a trip.
 - Heather interested in going to PGSS as EGSS rep.
- **Department reps (DISE)** – Beverly
 - Staff crisis and resulting tension with Faculty administration – over 400 graduate students and only one graduate program director. Hugely understaffed in the fall; with only one half-time person who was managing awards and program coordinator/advisor went off on stress leave in December. Finally, approved a full-time position for Michael Lariviere, new graduate program coordinator, plus another full-time position (for 6 months).
 - New MA degree leading to Teacher’s Certification (Master of Arts in Teaching and Learning) starting this summer in science and math. Will be eventually open to all teachables – looking at a language option. Being run out of DISE.
- **Department reps (ECP)** – Colin
 - AV issues with closure of media centre – working towards finding a solution. ECP has launched new website and new pamphlets for program. Putting a push for applicants, including international students applying to PhD programs.

5. Conference 2010

- Erin reported that 53 proposals have been received. To review proposals and complete schedule on Monday, February 1st from 10-4pm. Erin to forward details. Erin reports they need someone to go to meetings on Tuesdays as a support. Have one keynote speaker confirmed: Fred Reed.
- Beverly suggested Donna Henchey, Development Officer may be able to help in respect to keynotes. Lisa has emailed Lydia re: PayPal info.

6. AV Task Force

- Swan attended task force meeting, but we need a representative. Beverly sent out a call to DISE graduate students and Swan sent out on listserv – no responses. Equipment in other departments – ECP and DISE, and library has laptops. Need space to store equipment.

7. Student space

- Beverly reported that there is no longer a space committee for the time-being. Jessica reported that Jeff (Executive Director of Physical Infrastructure) may be forming a new committee.
- Beverly reported that the basement study room was supposed to be a space for graduate students with locked study area (work stations). The room got cleaned, but when Jamshid left there was no one to follow-up.
- There are a lot of empty spaces – this is an administration/management issue in coordinating rooms that will accommodate more people. Mostly an issue for DISE it seems, as ECP graduate students have space allocated through assigned lab.
- 5th floor space – is computer lab for SIS only? Beverly to check with Pat Jackson. If it is open to all, then students should be informed.
- To move the study room project forward, Beverly and Jessica suggested EGSS to contribute (pay a portion) for workstations. EGSS has surplus and this would be a long-term investment, so perhaps we can put funds towards this project. Beverly to speak with Pat Jackson.
- Swan reported that graduate lounge needs to be wired for computers- Beverly to meet with Pat Jackson about all of this.

8. Instructor transparency/priority (one of EGSS objectives)

- Jessica reported that this was discussed at the Student Committee for Doctoral Students in Education. Priority to PhD students rather than hiring people from outside. For example, DISE has a number of highly qualified PhD students (many years experience in the field and they have come back to finish studies) – who is getting selected? All things being equal, priority should be given to PhD students. Beverly suggested sending a letter requesting that departments posts jobs.
- The ECP process seems to be more transparent as applications submit cover letter, expertise/course interest, and CV. However, there are no postings or spreading of information so mostly students “in the know” find out about teaching opportunities.
- Andy Large felt that this should be an EGSS issue and did not want to send decisions to Chairs based on SCDSE. We can send information through EGSS ‘did you know that as a PhD student, you can teach courses?’ – here is the information. Jessica to begin by approaching DISE and ECP to discuss.

9. EGSS commitment to charitable work

- Beverly suggested selecting one local/global organization to support per year. Dr. Bronwen Low stated a Montreal-area school is fundraising to help a Haitian school. “Supporting local/global community organizations” – this should be part of our mandate, mission, and vision.
- Perhaps we should put out on listserv and ask our graduate student body to nominate/select organizations.
- Jessica will make an amendment to add to our constitution and draft a motion for discussion at our next meeting.

10. EGSS Fellowships

- Defer – move to first item on next meeting agenda.

11. Schedule next meeting.
 - Schedule via e-mail.