

Education Graduate Students' Society

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

2:30-4:30 (Room 203)

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

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes
 - Approval of meeting minutes for September 29th and the EGSS General Assembly minutes for October 8th – Heather motioned to approve, Colin seconded the motion. All approved.
3. Portfolio reports
 - **VP Academic** – Jessica reported on the status of Travel Awards. 10 applications received. One recipient declined the award (had received alternate funding). We were able to give travel awards to 7 students.
 - Following our discussion (General Assembly), do we want to propose an increase of \$500 for the EGSS Travel Awards? We decided that it would be difficult to change the award amount for the next deadlines because we have already given them out this year valued at \$250 and students can only apply once per academic year. In our last EGSS meeting in May 2010 (before summer break), we will approve the increase for next year's budget.
 - **VP Finance** – Xi reported that she picked up the membership fee levy cheque from the PGSS. The cheque was in the amount of approximately \$8,800 (for the fall term). This has been deposited into our bank account at BMO. We have paid invoices for PGSS/Thomson House for Wine & Cheese.
 - **VP Diversity & Equity** – Erin proposed a series of “student-led” workshops to promote community building through the engagement of students from each of the four units across the Faculty in creative workshops. This will not be a space to present research – the focus will be on engaging and creative presentations. November's workshop will be presented by a doctoral student in DISE, on collage. Erin to promote and advertise upcoming workshops by including in EGSS newsletter and Facebook. Facilitators to receive \$50 honorarium, plus up to \$30 to cover expenses/materials needed for the workshop.
 - **VP Info & Technology** – deferred. Swan sent questions regarding distribution of the computers and availability. To be discussed under 7.
 - **Department Reps** – Beverly (DISE) nothing to report. Colin (ECP) nothing to report; the next departmental meeting was rescheduled for October 29th. David (SIS) reported that students from SIS are not on the EGSS listserv. This will hopefully be corrected when we update the list this year.

4. Executive Council

- Jessica reported that we have one new representative – Heather Phipps, VP Student Life. Heather also expressed interest in being EGSS rep to the PGSS. Jessica to follow-up with another student who expressed interest in sitting on the council.
- We will see if any other students come forward and have formal acclamation in November, 2009.

5. PGSS/Motion to request access to student list

- In order to obtain our new student list from PGSS and update the listserv, we must officially pass a motion at our Executive Council meeting.
- As such, Jessica motioned that the EGSS request access to the student list from PGSS. This list will be obtained by Jessica Toste, VP Academic, or Swan Kennedy, VP Info & Technology, as the “administrator of the list for the EGSS.” Seconded by Erin. All approved.

6. Response to closure of media services

- Beverly took the EGSS “response to closure” letter into the Dean’s office. EdUS sent their letter as well, although they had difficulty delivering a hard copy to the Dean’s office. Following, the Dean’s office sent off a letter to EGSS/EdUS in response stating there was a consultation process with key stakeholder, budget issues related to the closure, etc. She said that further feedback can be sent to Romy.
- Dean Perrault’s message also indicated that her office would be following up with the questions asked at Faculty Council on September 25th (re: where all of the equipment would be going, how services will be accessed).
- At the next meeting with the Dean (November 23rd), we should have some information prepared – e.g., a list of questions/response from students.
 - Jessica to send personal reply to Dean to thank her for the message. Let her know that we will be consulting with students to collect data about the needs/equipment used by students.
 - Send listserv message to collect data from students. Jessica to draft message asking for response regarding specific concerns and services needed/used by students.

7. Distribution of computers

- Swan needs help to distribute computers to students (20 winners from the draw). The best plan would be to schedule 1-2 blocks of time – Swan can send off messages to winners and let them know these times. If those don’t work, winners can request a different day/time and then we can see who from the EGSS is available. Jessica to e-mail Swan with this update.
- The computers are currently being stored in Rom 513. The room renovations begin next week and we have been asked to clear out the computers by Friday afternoon. Beverly suggested that we move the computers to the basement study room (Room B180), where they can stay during distribution. Beverly to ask Pat Jackson to remove the card access to Room B180 so only EGSS Executive have access. Everyone who is available to meet on Friday, October 30th from 11:00-12:00pm in Room 513

to move the computers down to the basement.

8. Graduate student survey results

- Beverly distributed the summary of the results of the graduate student survey. She focused on the main issues brought out from survey and the possible implications for EGSS. We have a diverse student population in terms of age and number of students working.
- We need to expand our goals and priorities document to present at the next meeting with the Dean. Beverly to integrate her findings with our drafted goals and priorities document.
- Some ideas for other priorities/implications for EGSS:
 - If funding/fellowship applications is important, the EGSS can get involved in the mentorship program. Currently being funded by the Faculty of Education for one year.
 - Course instructorships – push for priority for qualified graduate students and transparency in assigning positions. Jessica has asked for this to be put on agenda at the next SCDSE meeting.

9. Conference 2010

- Erin reported that a second meeting with students interested in coordinating conference to take place in graduate student lounge on Tuesday, November 3rd at 3:00pm (8 students to attend).
- EGSS Executive members cannot be organizers (we are all limited in time), but will assist with planning as part of our position responsibilities.

10. EGSS Fellowships

- Jessica circulated application, guidelines, and adjudication procedures for the EGSS Fellowships. We will discuss the documents at the next council meeting, and decide if there is a need for revision (e.g., clarity and consistency for how awards are distributed).

11. Professional development

- Jessica presented the idea of organizing informal professional development sessions for grad students (with a faculty member or senior grad student at each session as “expert”). The first session can focus on building an academic CV and have two sessions – for example, 11:30-12:30 and 4:00-5:00pm, so we engage both our daytime and evening students. Jessica to draft an announcement for the first session.

12. Graduate student profiles

- Beverly suggested a fun way to “humanize” our website (e.g., who are our students?). We can profile two students, ideally from different units, and we will change every month or so. This profile would be a short bio (100 words) about their life/research, photo, and answers to fun/interesting questions. Erin to draft top 10 questions and send to EGSS members for feedback.

13. Other business arising

- Lisa and Erin to meet to discuss queer positive issues in Faculty of Ed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 12, 2009, 1:00-3:00pm (Room 203)