

Education Graduate Students' Society

Tuesday, Sept. 13th, 2011 in Room 203

4:00-5:00 PM (Room 203)

Present:

- Michelle Harzny: EGSS Conference organizer
- Marianne Christie: Secretary
- Heather Phipps: President,
- Jason Harley: ECP representative,
- Daniella Goldberg: PGSS ECP Representative (left at 4:15)
- Sophia Kapchinsky: VP Finance
- Felipe Mendez: DISE representative
- Najme Kashini: VP Student Life

Regrets: Chérie Moode (VP Diversity & Equity), Eve Allemand (VP Diversity & Equity), Mike Sornberger (VP Info & Technology), Kingyan Sun (PGSS Councillor-DISE), Martin Picard (KPE), Emily (SIS)

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Introductions/updates of council members
3. Committee representation (Heather)
 - Committee Representation
 - Need members
 - Faculty Council- (all professors, department chairs, Deans meet)
 - Najme, Jason & Heather will attend. Michelle and Felipe will be a back up in case someone can't make it.
 - Dean's Meetings with EDUS/EGSS
 - Each member will receive e-mails about these meetings, they take place twice a semester and we all attend.
 - PGSS Councillors—Kingyan (Ivy) Sun and Daniella Golberg

- 2 DISE seats and KPE seat are vacant.
- Faculty Space committee
 - Felipe will attend
- DISE Meetings: Felipe Mendez
- ECP Department meetings: Jason Harley
- KPE Department Meetings: Martin Picard
- SIS: Emily (new candidate)- will be joining us for the next meeting
- Conference committee: Direct questions to Michelle

Suggestion: We could have more information for new members on their roles. Make an amendment to the constitution based on new developments, such as the DISE rep. sitting on the GPC committee. In addition to the constitution, we need detailed narratives of what each position does, what committees you sit in. Suggested that representatives write up a list of their responsibilities for documentation, prepare a template or report for the next year to facilitate transition.

4. General Assembly

- Set date and agenda (late September or early October)
- All council members should attend the GA to share info and meet students.
 - Events
 - Travel awards
 - Approving the budget
 - Areas of concerns for students/open forums
 - Heather will add to the agenda and send out to us for approval
 - Event planning
- To be scheduled for Late September/Early October
- We discussed having the meeting on Sept 29th at noon, and then found that is the same day as the DISE Talks session.
 - Thursday, October 6th from 4:00-5:15 pm
 - Book room 233 or coach house rm. 200- Expect 25-30

Mike VP Info Tech: Website and newsletter issues. Once we are up and running with the website again, each council member will send him info about ourselves for the website- picture and short biography/statement (200 words or less). Wait for email about this before sending.

5. Financial report

- Operating budget for 2011-2012
 - 16,000\$ from student fee collection (only an estimate)

- Distribution to individual portfolios
 - 5,500 for Travel Awards: more than last year
 - EGSS fellowships (2 PhDs, 2 Masters)
 - VP Academic: 500\$
 - Student Life: 2000\$ for events
 - Equity and Diversity: 800\$
 - VP Info and Tech: 200\$
 - Conference budget: 3,500\$ (to be spent on conference. The conference committee also applies for grants/funding)
 - Welcome BBQ: 300\$
 - New addition: Donation to community/international organization: 200\$ - To be chosen throughout the year
 - The portfolios which do not spend all of their funding can donate to travel award or organizations.
 - Biggest student concerns tend to be travel for research.

Can gift certificates from BBQ come from Student Life? Yes! (around 90\$ total- 75\$ gift certificates, 10/15\$ candies).

We've included community/international support in our budget. Over the past two years we have donated to Solid'Ayiti, an educational organization in Haiti. -Interest in continuing to support this initiative as well as others through fundraising and events where possible.

- Conference allocation: 3,500\$

Could we meet with past VPs? Possibly by email, if they are available, depending on their schedules. General assembly would be a good opportunity for people taking over similar portfolios to chat.

6. Vacant EGSS council positions

- VP Academic: need to fill this position in EGSS. We will post the vacant position.

7. Sharing ideas for EGSS activities/events/workshops

Student life: Potential for departments to have a social events twice a year, offer students an opportunity to meet with their department representatives, ask questions. Create a venue for students to have the opportunity to do this once or twice a year.

Informal. Would be useful to test something like this out to begin. Possibility of RSVPing.

Heather reported on Eve & Cherie suggestions: Student talks and workshops about diversity and equity. Inviting SEDE to give Safer Space workshops. Inviting a faculty member once a semester to speak on diversity and equity issues. Creating a resource guide. E-mail them with any feedback, suggestions for talks, workshops, etc.

Najme: VP Student Life:

- New students seem to be very concerned about meeting people to talk to in their departments/faculty. This is especially a concern for international students. They really need a venue to get to know other students and professors.
- Informal meeting: gatherings/coffee time to meet with new students. We could also invite a few faculty members to join us for students to get to know.
 - Hiking and other outdoor activities to invite students to.
 - Ice skating or skiing- can go cross country and rent equipment from the Currie gym- possibility of subsidizing rentals. Hockey watching. Restaurants.
 - Movie watching.
 - We can find great movies in our field. Need suggestions for good movies. Professors are also interested in doing this (such as the Tarzans) + pizza.
 - Paintball
- Setting up buddy systems for new students
- Inviting new students to meetings with faculty members
- Important to connect students with resources. There are department liaisons and program representatives. This would be something we should find out more about. Set up events to meet all these people.
 - This could be part of the guide that Cherie and Eve are putting together. Add these resources. We can also put this on our EGSS website (to replace the past handbook). A meeting time might be less useful in case someone can't make it, but the website can be greatly useful in providing information about the people to speak to, ways to find answers, etc.

- Website suggestions: FAQs, questions for different departments. Offering human resources to whom students can be directed. Social events really help as well.
 - Estimate students who might show up. Depending on our advertising, if we do a lot we might get 60 students. The general number is more like 20.
 - Monthly meetings of different activities.
 - Let's start with coffee time. Najme will e-mail us with date suggestions. We need to brainstorm fun ideas for naming these events- people need to feel comfortable and interested with the name. Would be great to have regular dates
 - Potluck fundraisers for scholarships or travel awards, etc.
 - PhD orientations have raised the questions of having writing buddies- would be great to have a "buddy writing" program or database to match people up with others for peer revision and feedback.
8. EGSS meetings
- Availability/dates for the fall meetings
 - Suggestions of dates
 - We will be in touch about scheduling for the fall.
9. Other business

Thank you!!!!