

**Agenda for October 26th, 2011
4-6 pm, TH 404**

Attendance:

Heather
Marianne
Moksha (VP Academic accepted)
Alexis (President of MELISSA)
Emily (SIS treasurer & rep.)
Emily
Najme
Felipe
Jason
Ivy
Martin
Corey
Sophia
Eve
Cherie
Daniella

1) Welcome to new council members

2) Approval of agenda:

3) Minutes from last meeting – September 2011

Action notes from GA:

- Discussion of travel awards
- Discuss SIS

4) Budget for EGSS activities and events--Student Life Fund from PGSS (Sophia-VP Finance)

SIS & MELISSA

Fall: SIS students pay to EGSS

Winter: SIS student pay to MELISSA

Unanimous decision that MELISSA would like to maintain their autonomy.

They enjoy being connected to EGSS, however they also enjoy being separate.

Constitutions have to be updated. As for the money, the ideal situation would be to keep things the way they currently are.

- Student fees were increased a few years ago to 10\$ to serve all students in faculty (includes SIS students)- for things such as awards, conferences, etc. **It's important for us all to work together, it will be important to increase our communication between MELISSA and SIS. MELISSA's Internet communication officer will make awards available to SIS (and other faculty students) more obvious on their website.**
- Many students may not know that they are paying for EGSS- so all students should know that they are automatically part of EGSS- it's a resource for all students that they should know about. For next year's orientation- this can be emphasized for incoming new students. **Department reps. usually speak at orientations- and SIS**

reps. should begin to do so.

- More collaboration in the future between MELISSA and EGSS
- **In our next newsletter: we will include the list of EGSS members and let students know that for any questions/comments that they should contact their departments' representatives.**
- Going forward: we will need to **review the constitution** to verify that there is nothing needs to change- any changes will need to be through a formal process
 - **MELISSA is very student based, works a lot with administration and France Bouthilier. Susan Alma will be future person.**

5) Website/Newsletter (Mike-VP Info/Technology)

- **Mike is still waiting for bios and photos from some people- send by FRIDAY OCTOBER 28th- your position, your mission, short bio. + photo**
Fellowship awards
- Newsletters No updates have been received yet. **Please send information in advance so we can work on preparing a newsletter.** This will avoid having to send lots of messages over Listserv. If you send a message to Listserv- CC Heather & Mike so they know and can approve it. Mike is the administrator of the EGSS Listserv- protocol through PGSS- we can only send messages that are applicable to our Faculty, we can only send one welcome message at the beginning of each semester. Other protocols: Requirement of sending the General Assembly warning a week before. All messages should be sent a week in advance.
- Mike approves everything in tandem with Heather- feel free to ask them questions if you have any about what can go into a message. Is there the possibility of making it an inclusive process, or is there only one person who approves it- are you asking for approval of the action or approval of dissemination? President and person in charge of the Listserv are gate keepers and this filter is appropriate. If you aren't sure about something, feel free to bring something to council for discussion. E.g. message from EdUs and MUNACA survey. Some things could go into the Newsletter, or other Classifieds listings.
- SIS sends requests to administration which sends out the Listserv messages (opposite for EGSS). DISCRETION is important here ☺
- It would be great to connect the SIS site with the EGSS site.
- We can make announcements at the KPE mandatory seminars

6) Social Events (Najme-VP Student Life)

Coffee Mixer feedback: it was fun, intimate, and nice.

- Next event: hiking. Unfortunately it is supposed to snow soon.

Came up with another event idea: since we should try to connect with students from other faculties at McGill. **There is a hiking event for Electrical Engineering Saturday- Najme sent out the invitation.** 10 students have responded to the call- tickets will be provided for these people. 10\$ per student. They have a tour guide.

- Visiting schools. Need to submit a proposal. Draft can be brought to EGSS council for approval. Two teachers have accepted to have about 10 students visit their school and watch their classrooms. They would also greatly appreciate

visiting students to bring their own experiences to the classrooms. We may be able to have about 2-3 visits. The first one should be around November.

- Movie watching: has spoken to different profs. in the faculty for movie suggestions. **Planning a movie watching event in November- On Friday, November 4th, from 7-9 pm** would probably be the best. Have some movie suggestions, so looking to rent a room either in Thomson House or Education Building (Jack Cram auditorium) to watch the movie. PGSS shows movies- we could find out where they play theirs? It would be easier to rent rooms in the Thomson House for now. We could probably expect about 30 or fewer students to show up. Najme will decide on the movie.

- December: Thursday, Dec. 8th. 4 – 7. End of term breakfast to celebrate the end of term? Suggestion of Holiday Wine and Cheese? An early January Wine and Cheese has already begun to be planned. We would like to have a joint event for EdUs and EGSS for undergrads & grads to get to know each other- this is probably going to be a Wine and Cheese. EdUs has a budget for this, we could fund about 200\$. Last year this event fell through because it requires a lot of organization: they wanted to send personalized invitations to faculty and professors. This would be a great idea for faculty, grad students, & undergrads. It would require the entire council to be on board. Thomson House is not available for undergrad students- they have to pay about 300-375\$ (depending on room). The undergrads have about 400\$ as a budget for their Wine & Cheese. It will be necessary to figure out how much money we will contribute in addition to how much EdUs will contribute + overhead. We will NOT pay fees for them to be at Thomson House- let them know that they will need to pay for the room fee if there are more Undergraduates. These are popular & well attended. It is worth our time. If we want to promote collaboration between undergrad & grad- faculty wide wine & cheese in January from VP Academic fund. Would be nice to have an end of year one with just grad students- but what budget will we draw from. Students have expressed really wanting opportunities to sit back, blow off steam, relax and get to know people socially.

- If we don't have this event in January, we could have our own Wine & Cheese. We will need to book that space immediately because space is going like hot cakes. If we don't end up having the undergrad and grad combined, we can have our own. Do we want to have a Wine & Cheese in January? We will just have one wine & cheese, whether it is combined or just for us.

- End of term Wine of Cheese would be a better idea. Breakfast as a welcome back.

EGSS end of December- event just for graduate students. It will be acceptable to use VP Academic funds for events. Would be wonderful to have VP Academic involved as well.

Motion for having funds from VP Academic & Student Life: accepted

7) International Student Coffee Meeting (Jason-ECP)

- Began by Dr. Nancy Heath since there are many students coming in Internationally, and students began expressing the need for meetings to connect,

peer mentoring, awareness of resources. It is not for other students to drop in, it is specifically for International Students- support group. First meeting was in September. Coffee is being provided out of professor's own budget. Proposed that we provide some money for snacks, even if it very small- is a nice touch and a good way to have students see the EGSS' input. Within EGSS there is a mandate of collaboration- should occur at faculty level as well as at department level- which will facilitate the two. It will go on for 8/12 months. 10\$ a month- looking to split it between Diversity & Equity and Student Life. How could we contribute more to this event? The coordinator of the event will discuss with Jason the outcomes from these meetings, what issues are students presenting, and what can we do in EGSS and in department to address these issues from multiple points of view.

- Important to have faculty and department wide events. Since students are paying for multiple EGSS initiatives, they should benefit from this in different levels. Especially for department events, representatives are at events, but students will attend what they see as important to themselves, and students usually have absolutely no connection apart from funding us. Could this fall under Student Life, Academic, Diversity & Equity budgets? Can we split between each of these?

- We should also provide info about resources students can access through EGSS.

- Important to work with faculty so they know we're here too. The concern is how can we do this for all departments?

- Najme would like to make this a faculty wide event (not necessarily all together). We should organize both faculty and department wide events. For each department, it would be a total of 320\$ out of the total budget.

- **If anyone has heard from International Students having issues or if you have any problems, or other resources, please let Jason know.**

- **Will ask if students from other departments can join Dr. Heath's International Student Coffee meetings**

- SSMU, student clubs. They do a lot of cheap classes and activities that are great for international students to get involved in. McGill International Student Network (MISN). Also on facebook!

Motion Approved: for department allocation coming from several funds (see above).

8) Travel Awards

Procedures. All students should be able to apply. No need to change the procedures. The deadline is extended until this Tuesday. Moksha and Sophia will be in touch with Andy Large to review the applications next week.

9) MUNACA

Lots of e-mails from grads and undergrads about the current issue. The student society should be discussing this. It affects students. An Undergrad student creating a survey approached EGSS to disseminate their survey over our Listserv. This issue affects everyone, but we don't have a specific role to play in this issue. It's not part of our mandate.

If we send out this survey, we would be taking a position- the one that the student is taking. We are only hearing one side of the story.

As a council we can be concerned and help students navigate the frozen system, but we should not take a position. Academic amnesty was not approved by McGill.

Considerations of not admitting new graduate students next year.

Majority opinion NOT to disseminate the e-mail survey.

10) Conference update (Michelle-Conference coordinator)

This year's conference theme: eMerging Knowledges: Classroom, Culture and Community. **The conference committee would really like to involve the department reps. in spreading the word-** They have decided on two keynote speakers: one from OISY in gender studies. Not yet officially our keynote. Other speaker- First Nations Woman, lawyer. Not yet confirmed, either- will speak about Indigenous Rights and Education.

- We as the council can have input into conference. The conference community consults with professors, and there are 15 people on the committee. **As council members, if we want to have input into conference decisions- attend the meetings.** The conference committee would love to have our faculty members and labs involved as speakers or panels, etc. Reducing conference fees this year has led us to book only two people as keynotes.

We may want to book smaller rooms for a more intimate experience (if available) Michelle would love to hear anyone's suggestions for the conference.

11) Equity and Diversity (Eve/Chérie)

Update on workshops

- Equity and Diversity workshops, for students, by students. 8 presentations so far, on a wide range of workshops. Asked students about their preferred presentation dates- so next step to organize it to map out availability and preferred dates. Eve and Cherie are both on internship- if there is a date where either of them can't be at the workshop, will any other council member be willing to be there for logistical issues? Several people are willing to do so- Heather, Daniella, Moksha, Felipe.

- Hoping to have one in November, and re-start in January and be each month through end of Winter semester. A program will be sent out for whole year after a preliminary meeting between presenters and Eve & Cherie. Topics include: Photographs of LGBT Arab community members in April to coincide with international event. Islamophobia and pop culture. Decreasing and demystifying **intelligism**. Prejudice against teachers of their second language. Very diverse topics. These talks can be added to CV's- useful for presenters to know. Would be great to offer certificates.

12) Felipe's role with DISE

GPC meetings. Weiner is highly supportive of student initiatives.

2 major concerns for students.

One of them is time to completion for graduate students and how that can present many problems because people need to sometimes take time off, or have problems with their supervisors, or any other situations/issues. They don't necessarily know where to go for help, who to address, be reluctant to go to directors, intimidation by the system. One of the ideas that came out of these meetings- is there anything EGSS can do to help students who may not know what to do? Moksha suggested workshops on relationship with Supervisor- SkillSets might have workshops on that. We should be encouraging people to talk to senior students. No one person exists that student's might be 100% comfortable going to talk to. So students should know what resources are available to them.

- Maybe we should try to put more on our website about these. Diversity & Equity is working on a handbook for resources so that students have one central place for information on resources. Suggested that we piece together existing resources and links to websites. Better than hardcopy since info is constantly updated.
- There have also been suggestions of mentorship programs for new grad students. Students in DISE are interested in doing this. Counselling services also has 2 PhD support groups. **This should be in the EGSS newsletter: remind Mike & Heather.**

One suggestion from Weiner & group: should we make a position in EGSS who will be a point person for people to approach.

“This person” should be department representatives. Students should contact any council member they might want.

13) Varia