

EGSS council Meeting Agenda Nov. 30th 4-6 PM, Thomson House room 404

In Attendance:

Moksha
Yana
Heather
Alexis
Michelle
Marianne
Felipe
Martin
Jason
Najme
Emily
Eve

Guests:

Steve Peters
Roslyn Hampton

1. **Approval of agenda and minutes.** Approved & seconded

2. **MUNACA Strike and Education Students**

Steve Peters will be visiting to speak to our council. Possibility of Education bake sale.

Role of EGSS in providing student leadership. General Assembly-thoughts/ideas.

a. There is a letter written by a teacher trying to stop Jutras' inquiry about the police being on campus. – there are structural problems with this. Choice of the person conducting the inquiry was unilateral by the principal; without consultation. Jutras is part of the administrative body- Dean of Law- so Principal thinks he is in a good position to perform this inquiry. His faculty budget goes to the James Admin. (higher admin at McGill)- so there is a conflict of interest. There is 0 negotiation or consultation with faculty or students who were affected by the police being on campus. This letter includes a number of high profile education professors have already signed it. There are probably more signatures now. The letter writers are also looking for student council signatures. What are some of the recommendations of things that should have been done differently? They are calling for suspending the investigation and an immediate, multidisciplinary ad hoc council to be put together.

What is the problem with the person who has been appointed, aside from the conflict of interest? They are asking for a bipartisan committee to be put together of all levels at McGill. Will be across all stakeholders here.

The Principal's defense is always about Jutras' character. But it's not against his character, but about his position and the resulting conflict of interest. So this has been materialized in a constitution. There is also a student investigation going on. This letter is not advocating that we follow the students'- it's calling for a new investigation made up of different representative of all levels of the McGill community. The student investigation: lots of work has been done. No one from senior admin. has agreed to be involved in students' investigation. There is a lack of participation and transparency, so this is a way that we can address the general climate of unhappiness in the university.

- Any more conversation about signing Jutras inquiry? What is the worst case scenario if the investigation continues unilaterally as it is now? Best case: Jutras does what inquiry is said to do. Worst case: Jutras inquiry does nothing to resolve the deep issues that have emerged because of what happened on November 10th- rise in student dissatisfaction, faculty & student alienation from decision making. It's all about how the institution is run and how people's voices are heard. Students here don't wield much power. What would be the BEST case scenario if something that students, admin, faculty and support staff participated in the inquiry- how would the campus be a better place to be?- there is a lot of tension right now. What are the ways that we go about making this a safer place to be? To put together an inquiry which includes all the different voices is essential in considering the abuse by police which happened. Worst thing that could happen is that the inquiry doesn't really investigate what actually happened and really we just move forward and not look into what happened. Principal doesn't want there to be finger pointing- those kinds of conversations can be difficult. wW are challenging the norm that we are not involved given that we are the direct recipients of these issues. Worst is that nothing happens and our foundation and circumstances remain the same which would allow that kind of situation to happen again. What really happened and why? We need to talk about that.
- Is anyone in charge or heading this committee? The proposed ad hoc committee. Mechanics have yet to be determined- different representatives would be voted upon by their student representatives. We don't know how governing this committee would look just yet.
- If EGSS were to sign the petition- is this saying that the EGSS council is in support or that the student body is in support? Would we need to consult all students? Or is it that each council members is in support? It would be the council on behalf of education. Individual students can sign freely under their own name, as well.

b. Is EGSS prepared to take a statement re: the MUNACA strike. There is one from PGSS and SSMU. AUS- Arts Undergrad Society as well has made a statement.

MUNACA: We have different views on our council, just like EDUS. The Ed-teach in was a great event, but a GA is not necessary right now. Not taking a stance right now. We don't need to support one group or another. We are in support of human connections. The bake sale should be lumped together as community support for EVERYONE. Message to be sent out about this?

c. Should EGSS organize an education baking & coffee run for MUNACA employees on the picket lines? EDUS can't organize the bake sale- it would be up to us as EGSS. Everyone is very swamped. It's a matter of liaising with PGSS and see if they are on board to order coffee and creamers and lend out percolators and large thermoses. The days needs to be organized with PSAC- either on the 9th or the week after. A number of people need to participate in it. Would be great if this could be across the faculty of education. It was done last week- for 3 hrs- it's important to get to know what it is like to be there for them. This is an action you can get involved with even if you don't agree with it because these people have been unpaid right now, times are hard for them. May also be a way to repair the wounds that have been created as we recognize what they are going through and that we miss them and recognize the work they do for us. But what are we doing for those who are left behind in the offices? They are being overworked! If EGSS were labelled as being involved in a bake sale- we would want to make it more about the individuals that we miss, but also we need to show (in the interest of NOT taking a position in the strike) support for those who remain. As a student society we have a role to work with EVERYONE in our faculty- faculty, admin, support staff, etc. It's not just about how it looks- it's about the message behind it.

This event will take place on December 9th or after: some people will be gone (may hinder the number of people we can have). It may be really hard this time of year with all of the work to take time off. A lot of people enjoy baking though- we can suggest that people drop off baking. PGSS will help with the coffee.

The real payoff for this is getting out onto the picket lines and supporting people who have not been allowed to be on campus and do their jobs recently. Do a bake sale beforehand to get money to provide these things?

DISE REP: supports the value of human connection. But cannot commit any time. The undertext is supporting MUNACA- it isn't really neutral. On the other hand, these are valued members of our community.

This is an easy way to join. We can help spread the news. We should have a message that we send out as a council- supporting staff on BOTH ends- supporting the humans on both ends. Michelle will help bake sale by baking. We are not sure if we will do the bake sale to raise money for more baking. To be confirmed with Steve depending on the money we get for the event.

As for the GA- we are too swamped right now. We can't do this right now. In our constitution- we can only have one per semester, anyway. McGill has a school-wide GA happening- an open forum for students to share and discuss. Agreed. It's important for us to listen to all different perspectives and be open to these.

Teach-in: was great to see people talking about issues going on around campus.

3. S.I.S Rep. –Emily McHugh

- Update on MLISSA general assembly and ideas concerning the Student Life Fund and collaboration between MLISSA/EGSS.

SIS:

-General assembly: AGM (general assembly): bad turn out because it's a bad time of year. However, a lot of ideas came out with a lot of different opinions and many expressions of lack of information.

- Proposed idea at aforementioned meeting: creating a committee which can focus on the issue. The people who are MLissa executives don't always have time to devote energy to certain topics which need to be looked at closely. The major issue for our budget is that the new student life fund that the university has developed means that funds are being directed from EGSS to MLISSA: EGSS will have about 4,000\$ less. MLISSA used to have 750\$ which they don't have anymore. How can we both survive- the two societies- with less money than we used to. We want to maintain these societies but it's a touchy situation. We have certain things that are for all students- awards, lounge, GAs, social events, etc. But MLISSA is the McGill library and info science student association for all students in SIS and provide very SIS specific events like orientation and support other student groups within SIS- special libraries, librarians without borders, etc. Students can apply to MLISSA for funding, for end of term parties, web conference etc.. We want to maintain ties and to make sure that both committees survive. Would like to involve the first years in SIS and faculty in this decision. This issue has big ramifications and it would be good to involve people with different experiences and perspectives. PGSS is leaving it up to us completely. In student life fund they didn't realize and our deans weren't consulted. SIS students who are all part of MLISSA were the only students in the faculty paying two fees- MLISSA and EGSS (17.50\$)- its gone now. There is only one fee per association - for all GSA's- 10\$ per student per semester. It's actually from upper level admins- no McGill student can pay more than 10\$ because Law and Business were paying a lot more. Now part time students are only paying 2.50\$. We still haven't received our budget from PGSS because they are waiting for our answer. We also need to take down our own receipts. A committee would be a good idea:

Heather, Emily & Jason are willing to be on it. Are all EGSS departments paying the same amount? Looking at possibility of doing an online referendum- students are very enthusiastic about online voting, but not about showing up to meetings. Heather proposed that MLISSA and EGSS could join. Part of our budget could be for MLISSA. Other suggestions: 2 with support: 1- MLISSA runs on a very tight budget this year and gives EGSS their expected money and for next year do planning and coordinating to adjust budgets to match money we actually get 2- give EGSS same percentage, instead of being out of 35\$, being out of 20\$ for EGSS, - so give same percentage but out of less money than 35\$. Committee is a good idea because it has been difficult to reach a decision. Meetings will only begin next year, for now we will probe for interest.

4. **VP ACADEMIC- Moksha Serrano**

- Travel award update
 - Travel awards update: with Andy Large- 12 applications for travel awards in Fall were considered. Took budget to separate it as enough money per term. Randomly drew until ran out of money- 6 awards for 5 given within North American and one in South Africa. Most of the awardees have picked up their awards. 6/12. You need to be presenting at the conference. What happens if they don't get the award and thus can't present? The application asks for confirmation that you are participating. When students apply for funding- it's not guaranteed because it's a lottery. There will be another winter draw- due February 15th. Each deadline during the term covers a specific amount of time during which the conference occurs. There are three a year. If we have more money, we could put more into it- but this will be decided later.
- M.A. thesis supervisor lunchtime talk
- Lise Wiener- director of grad studies supports our initiatives. She is currently inviting current 2nd year masters students to talk about their experiences; about looking for their supervisor, experiences with them, etc.. Lise will act as facilitator for this meeting. Hoping that this will happen Wednesday, February 1st. This is for all departments. Daniella would very much like to be on the panel. This is geared for Master's students. We will do a different topic for PhD students- such as relationship with your supervisor. This is a great idea- could it be made into a series? This would be awesome. Please send these suggestions to Moksha!
- World AIDS Day/Day without Art

World AIDS Day: Is ANYONE FREE on Dec. 1st?! Day without Art from 9-6. We have been connected and supported by faculty. A bunch of people will come in and help and provide us with posters. We will also be able to make our own wall of hands. We did not get artwork from anyone. So we are getting AD campaigns from all different places/continents to be printed and posted around the building. 12 sheets of 8x11 for posters. Other events will be happening in honour of this day.

We really need to support each other and be conscious of how we can support each other. Maybe our council should take leadership training to deal with different things that come up, like emergencies. EDUS is 100% on board. Perhaps we could do this in May for incoming and outgoing council. We would need to have a committee to organize this. Vanessa in EDUS, Yana, Moksha, Najme. We need leadership training. How can we help each other more?

In SIS: Librarians with Borders: should set up mentorship opportunities for incoming/outgoing members. We should start our elections and informing people about positions for next year early on (during early Winter semester).

EDUS really wants to have the wine and cheese with us in January. Heather will work on it with Vanessa, we need to set up a committee about it. EDUS would like to do it in Thomson House and will pay the money to be there. Do we still want the December Wine and Cheese? Najme has reserved the room but needs to order it in advance- December 12th is the planned date: for all Education Grad students Wine and Cheese in the basement.. This is the best time. Since the room is reserved- we should go ahead with it.

The website needs to be updates, some coding has been a little tricky.

5. **EGSS Conference-Michelle Harazny**

- 11th annual EGSS Conference, *(e)Merging Knowledges: Classroom, Community, Culture*. March 9th-10th, 2012 in the Faculty of Ed.
- Purchase of EGSS banner for conference (and other events)
 - They would like to request a banner, about 5 x 2 feet, in colour. To be used to attach to the registration table. Martin to get information about printing a banner- can come out our surplus budget (not conference budget).
- Discussion and input from EGSS council regarding the conference goals/objectives.
- Conference preparations ongoing despite the strike—things to consider (room bookings, etc.)
 - Conference planning is going very well. E-mail sent about conference info. Please continue to promote it with students and faculty. Call for

papers will go out tomorrow. For the future: it would be nice to have a set of goals and objectives about planning- there are some, but it would be easier to have more specific ones for planning. Do we want it to be the same number of people? Or do we want it always to grow and improve? Partly it's a low key event, it isn't always about having a huge number of people but more about the quality; we should keep the numbers up and not lose quality. Conference is a place of networking and to share students' work. For a lot of students it's a first place to present their work. It's often very congenial. The committee is working on improved networking, like speed networking to sign up for meetings and meet with professors. Send Michelle an e-mail after we look at the website. Michelle will send out the website link tomorrow with the call for papers. The EGSS website is also attached to the conference website. There is worry about what would happen if the strike continues such as where to hold the talks if we can't reserve rooms. We can make special arrangements for a Saturday if necessary. DISE and Kinesiology are super excited about the conference and its title. Dates: March 9th and 10th. There may be a bit of a budget crunch with funding- maybe talk to Lise Wiener to see if there may be some money for EGSS. We may get help because our budget is tight this year.

6. **Equity and Diversity-Cherie Moody/Eve Allemand**

- First Equity and Diversity Workshop! Date is to be announced!
 - Equity and Diversity: Workshop with Cherie: planning for Dec. 12th from 5:30- 7:00. This conflicts with Wine and Cheese date and time. Maybe we can move it to Tuesday, the 13th- we just need to find a room. 233 or TH. The person speaking will be alright with either of these days. So the Workshop will be December 13th. Send announcements to Heather as Mike is feeling a little under the weather right now. The title: School based Eating Disorder Prevention Programs: Identifying effective elements by: Maria DiScala.
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- Amnesty International –possibility of letter writing event on Dec. 10th, input needed from council.
 - Cherie's idea: Amnesty International Newsletter: Write letters to people who are underrepresented to advocate for them. Planning for a Saturday. Would be nice to gather in a room and have people drop by to write a letter and then send them. Maybe since its a Saturday it will be hard to get people together- we could just send a letter to education students and let them know about it and ask them that if they have time to write their own letter and e-mail it to us. May be hard to get people here on

Saturdays. So, we will send information out to everyone. Our campus may have an Amnesty International Group which will be useful to communicate with.

7. Dept. Rep (ECP)-Jason Harley

- International Coffee Student update (>2 min.)

Invitation extended to other departments

- International student coffee meeting. They are ok with opening it up to other departments. For next meeting scheduled- Jason will send a message out to the other departments. It will be in January sometime. We may want to talk about in our next meeting if other departments should contribute or EGSS should to this.

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- IPSA Conference (>2 min.)

Opening Invitation for volunteers: quick description of conference and invitation

- IPSA conference- this summer- if we are interested in organizing another conference- to volunteer and organize- the professor chairing this will get back to Jason about this and will then communicate information with us- maybe we can also send over listsserv.

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- Suicide Prevention Training (>5 min)

Association with EGSS. I will briefly describe the program, its benefit to students (interest and reducing price for student registration) and details of the contract

- Suicide Prevention Training: this group just passed a new resolution yesterday, the organization has said that if you do it through the school, you pay half price. EGSS doesn't need to be affiliated for students in the department to pay less. If people might be interested, it is open to everyone. Accreditation is also official for this, and can also be counted for school credit- Jason will be in contact with these final details. One workshop is full, and another will be set up.

- Other ECP updates (time permitting / 2 min.)

Collection of student feedback on department chair appointment / re-appointment (1 min.)

Organization of Listserve for ECP student (1 min.)

- Updates: ECP department chair is ending- so there is a survey of student opinions about what should be considered in terms of candidacy. A Committee appointed by the Dean is set up to discuss reappointment procedures and other candidates. What qualities are looked for in department chair? Heather served on a search committee. There is the

option of reappointment.

8. Varia (holiday dinner?!)

- a. Yana: The PGSS representative for Kinesiology. PGSS meeting is next Wednesday. We will hear about what happens there. It is very important to have a liaison there so we know what's going on with them.
- b. Do we want to have a Holiday Dinner, before we take off? Najme, Eve and Michelle are leaving on the 15th. There is A LOT going on. No one is leaving earlier than the 15th. LETS NOT HAVE IT DECEMBER 10th, 12th, 13th, or the 14th. What about the 9th? Could work. Heather will propose two dates. Hopefully we can find one that works for everyone. Doodle to be sent.
- c. Lise Wiener requesting to have a consultation with grad students about how to use 60,000\$ in funding for DISE students- it must be spent by Feb. 15th. Lise would like to have an open forum. EGSS is invited- she wants us to suggest ways in which the money can be spent. She is willing to follow what we think should be done. Very transparent.
- d. Number of courses required for PhD: they are thinking of increasing the number of courses in DISE by three. This is only in its proposal stage right now. People might need more foundational work on a specific topic. What do people in DISE think about this?

Minutes will be sent soon. Followup on getting committees going.

We need a google calendar so we can all be on top of the dates that are going on. Najme will set it up. It will work with our McGill e-mails.

If anyone has ideas or thoughts for Heather and/or our council, please feel free to e-mail them.