

Education Graduate Students' Society

Agenda-Monday, January 16, 2012
3-5 pm, Thomson House, Room 406

In Attendance:

Marianne, Heather, Michelle, Ivy, Cherie, Najme, Sabrina, Jason, Cora-Lee, Yana, Felipe, Sophia, Martin, Mark

Arrived later: Daniella, Moksha,

Regrets:

MJ, Melissa, Cory, Mike

1. **3:00 pm Approval of Agenda**
 - Addition of logo to varia (Michelle)
 - DISE meeting (Heather/Felipe)

2. **Welcome to new council members:**

Cora-Lee Conway-PGSS Councilor and Conference Coordinator (DISE)

Moon-Jeung Kim-Conference Coordinator (DISE)

Melissa Stern-Conference Coordinator (ECP)

Cora-Lee: PGSS councillor for DISE + conference coordinator (1st year PhD in DISE with Mitchell, studies the intersections of race and gender in girlhood studies in a development context)

Mark: from Kinesiology & Phys. Ed. (1st year Masters, Ice hockey research lab- here to observe)- interested in becoming our new KPE department Rep.

- 3) **EGSS 2012 Conference update** (Michelle Harazny, Conference Chair)

(e)Merging Knowleges: Classroom, Community, Culture

- Proposal Submission extended to January 23rd
- Conference planning is going well! There is a website up to look at for more information including keynotes, registration forms, awards, keynotes, program, everything you need to know about it- www.egssconference.com
- Posters advertising the conference have been put up all over the Ed. Building and in other universities.
- Please promote the conference in your classes, encourage students to participate by submitting proposals- submission deadline extended to next Monday, January 23rd. Also, please encourage professors and students to attend.

- Rates are: 25\$ early bird special until February 15th, after this it will be 35\$- includes two full days of attendance, lunch, snacks, coffee, wine & cheese events, and door prizes. Undergrads are being charged 10\$, and a one day pass that will cost 20\$.
- Martin was talking to the department chair- talking about funding from KPE to pay for KPE students to attend the conference, so in his departure newer KPE members will need to follow up. (*DISE has provided funding to the conference over the past two years, not to individual students, but to the conference budget. These funds were used to develop the Graduate Student Conference award last year*) We need to talk to SIS again about funding for the conference. For ECP< Students register and pay themselves and departments will reimburse them. ECP is still finalizing this- it is a bit complicated and this is the first time they are doing it, so they would like to give presenters priority- then attendees. Jason will follow up with this after Michelle sends him the information via e-mail.
- Najme suggested that it would be great to develop a list of tasks needed as help with the conference with the amount of time it might take. Your help is greatly needed! If you are a council member and you participate, your fee is waived. List will be prepared by the conference committee—there are many things you can do. Right now, you can really help out by promoting the conference. If you know people in other universities- it would be great to let them know about it.
- Peer review system to review proposals and award applications (multidisciplinary)
- Heather noted that lots of students and professors are submitting this year, there is a feeling of excitement in the faculty about the conference.
- For conference volunteers (including council members who volunteer—the fee will be waived). You will need to register and complete the volunteer form. Watch for an email soon about volunteering, and let the committee know if you are interested.

4) Faculty of Education Wine and Cheese—EdUS/EGSS (Najme Kishani, VP Student Life)

- January 24th, Thomson House Ballroom
- RSVP is required by email by midnight on Jan. 17th

We need to know the numbers for catering---make sure you RSVP.

- Next Tuesday- joint event with undergraduates and graduate students. Faculty and professors are invited- but only one or two profs. have replied thus far. Please invite your professors and advertise it. It would be great to have them in this informal event. *Students at our GA asked for chances to mingle with profs—here is a perfect opportunity.* Heather has tried to make personal invitations to professors. Najme has been as well. Everyone please invite their own supervisor, or a professor you have a class with, or know personally. If you send a note, please CC the e-mail in the advertisement to create a check of who has received one.

-Because we made a g-mail account to receive RSVPs, we can't distinguish between grad and undergrad students, which would be good to make a distinction between how many of each are coming. *However, many students are indicating their program or*

we recognize their names, so we do have a general idea. For next time: specify that people should let you know what their program was.

-It would be a good idea to have a sign-up sheet including program upon entry to the event.

- RSVP deadline is tomorrow night. So far there are about 35 RSVPs at the time of the EGSS meeting) (*We are up to 60 as of Thursday, Jan. 16th and replies still coming in until midnight*). Facebook tell us about 59 people are coming, although we do require that everyone sends an email RSVP. So, we are expecting more than about 100. :D We'll have to order more food than RSVP numbers to ensure there is enough.

- There will be a music show by grad student and folk singer Danny Vallee (ECP *student and conference committee member*)- two sets of 25 minutes, and we will have music playing from i-pod in between the musical sets. www.dannyvallee.com

We are estimating about 1000\$ for food and wine for the event. Plus an honorarium for the musician and the door prizes. It will likely to be coming from different funds. EdUS is contributing \$750 to the event. This has been a really fun event to plan, working collaboratively as a team and with EdUS. *Please be sure to RSVP—you won't want to miss out!!*

5) VP Diversity and Equity update on workshops (Chérie Moody)

- *Eve is at her practicum sites until 5 pm, Cherie gave the report.*

- This should be a busy and exciting semester for Equity and Diversity. --- ---

Maria DiStasio's presentation was great- there were 12+ people in attendance- presentation was a compilation of effective prevention programs for eating disorders, tied in with critical and feminist pedagogy. Great and motivating presentation!

- There is a tentative schedule for the rest of the semester- awaiting approval from the presenters. There should be an event per week tentatively for the semester. Feb. 6th is a possible date for a presentation.

- Hoping to do a week-long art installation with a student who has proposed to put up photos- where could we do this? Maybe the Ed. lobby? Easels would be needed, and we could store them in the EGSS office overnight.

Cherie is waiting to hear back from presenters to send out the schedule.

Then we could send the whole semester schedule with titles, speakers, abstracts (like ABCs of the PhD)- *nice for students to plan in advance.*

Heather notes that it is important to make sure dates don't conflict with the conference week and other EGSS events.

We have the option of running presentations in May since most grad students are still here.

Eve and Cherie hope to be at each event. If they are unable to be there, is it possible for others to be available to help set up/projector/snacks- and people accepted. So when the finalized schedule is available, they will cross check schedules and contact people if they need help. All session lengths depend on the presenter.

6) PGSS councillors report (Cora-Lee Conway, Ivy Sun, and Yana Konokhova)

- Provost was there to speak at PGSS last week and stay in touch, nice presentation to sum his plans for the changes at McGill anticipated for the next year. All available on his website through McGill.

PGSS also posted and finalized its budget. Very clear of where each dollar is going-online on PGSS website.

- Big chunk of the meeting was spent discussing the Jutras investigation which finished in mid-December- it is finished and available, and people are encouraged to share their opinions.

- There was also an independent student inquiry who have finished their first draft, anticipating final draft to be finished by end of January- they too have their own website- studentinquiry.com/org? *They have also sent a listserv message to all of McGill about it. It is easily Googled-within the first three hits.*

- One or two PGSS councilors are involved in writing this. PGSS council didn't approve or disprove, but Jutras' inquiry report will be publicly presented at Senate. Not sure if council will be voting to approve the report. EGSS council members make an effort to read the reports? There will likely be people looking for support of these. Jutras report very clear, everyone agrees that he did a good job of describing what happened minute by minute, and he has interesting recommendations- 6 in total.

For the Jutras report, you can read it and leave your comments on the White paper. . www.mcgill.ca/provost/asap2012

-Jutras report encouraged some debate- different opinions regarding what PGSS should respond to Jutras. Some questions were not addressed- like psychological and emotional impact on certain students. Some inaccurate information was described in the report, and accountability was not addressed.

-But Jutras said at the beginning that it was not his purpose to find accountability. What is conflicting between the Jutras and student inquiry is that the latter is looking for accountability, whereas the Dean's is simply a detailed account. A motion was put forward that should an incident like this occur in the future, a community review panel should be established, and a review of the process of putting in the security tech service should be done. Several motions passed that spoke to lessons learned should this happen again in the future.

- PGSS councilors will keep us updated about whether a committee will be appointed for review.

- What is the purpose of all this? There is about a split between people who feel that there are things we can do now to prevent this happening in the future, and a smaller proportion that say "can we respond better in the future?" And then an even smaller proportion that says that these events are not ok and people should be held accountable. One problem is disagreement as to whether the James building is private or public- since if it's private the students should not have been there. Also, are security/police allowed to forcibly remove people? Moreover, there was discussion over the matter of other student bodies endorsing the student inquiry and making an official statement about it, which PGSS has not done. Mostly people are looking for more information, and people are situated differently in the context of the event. International students nervous about not knowing their rights in terms of protesting and being arrested and the possibility of having their visas revoked. Graduate students were hoping in that forum to get some answers.

A lot is about what kind of recommendations students are making for the future.

A challenge in all of this is that it is a very emotional issue for a lot of people, and tough, but we are trying to move forward with decisions that are not emotional and reactionary. A lot of politics are involved.

It is important as council that we help students, rebuild community, and make the experience at McGill a positive one.

7) **EGSS council posters for visual display in Education Building**

- Sharing of activities/events of council through posters, etc.
- Professional photographer
- Meeting with associate Dean Elizabeth Wood last December. She thought that it would be nice if we were more visual in the building, so it would be nice for students to know about the great work that students are doing (such as EGSS support of Haiti). We should make a nice professional display case that can stay in the building. It is something we could invest in as a surplus- we could hire a photographer and have council photos taken. Decision: to send out a call to grad students for someone who likes photography- please submit application with cover letter. We can also offer an honorarium. Indoor and outdoor photos? Maybe we can do it at our next council meeting? We are hoping to take pictures at our next council meeting, please make sure you are there and ready!
- A photographer is also needed for EGSS conference, so we can make a call for photographers for both of these. Will be sure to make a list of what is needed + time required. Do we need more than one? We'll see how the applications go when they come in. Conference set up starts at 8, first keynote at 10. Saturday wine and cheese finishes ends the entire conference. It may help to have one photographer for each day, or for half days. Everyone coming to the conference will have photo waivers so we can use their photos.
- Does anyone want to help with display case and posters? Michelle and Moksha are already helping. We could promote our activities, include our mission, vision, what kind of activities we have throughout the year, conference poster, Bulletin board, etc. Would in fact be nice to have a photographer at all of our events on a regular basis.
- Vote on buying a standard, point and shoot camera of about 100\$ for EGSS to have (also sign out possibilities)- APPROVED
- Could people also send their own photos/publications, etc. so we can highlight all of the student body. Featuring students! A couple of years ago we were doing this- putting profiles of students on our website after interviews. It would be a good idea to have a point person accountable and responsible for the student profiles. It would be helpful to create a template for a consistent format for these profiles- Core-Lee will create this and share it.
- Felipe asked: *What about the display case on the 1st floor by the library by the former Paulo Friere Project?* It's inexpensive and already there, and not being used. Michelle and Heather will check with Jeff.

8) Varia

DISE Logo:

Michelle will order a banner for EGSS to use at the conference. McGill admin. has put restrictions on using the university name in logos. Our logo has McGill in it. Najme remembers a .pdf file of all the rules for flyers- so she or Cherie will share that. The logo has to have the right dimensions/scaling. To be checked with the Dean's office.

- DISE meeting concerning funding : Lise Winer and students- meeting about funding for faculty of Education, DISE specifically. Lise was interested in talking to students about how money was dispersed, which is coming from the University. There are about 60,000\$ (maybe more) to be spent to support students either through research incentives or based on merit for awards and such. The meeting was well attended by about 12 people. Lise wanted to consult with students about how to expend the money, since many students are concerned about if there's enough and who gets it. It was decided that they would have a second meeting for consultation about how the money should be spent. This Thursday will likely to be the meeting- confirmation will be sent out by e-mail. If you are interested in contributing to how money is handed out in DISE- it will be 3:30 on Thursday- probably in room 233- awaiting confirmation. There is more information which may not all be positive. Lise is trying to make it very transparent, so whoever is interested can attend. She is really advocating for students to receive funding and such. Perhaps creating awards for student community involvement, etc. If you would like to see specific awards being created for students, come and voice your opinion.

- Cora-Lee spoke about the Student mobilization group- grad students in all departments and faculties in the university. Specifically advocating the point of accessible education. Last week they found out that McGill's faculty of Education is one of the lowest funded programs in all of Canada. Absolute value is lowest. We need clarification about specifics about those statistics, but we should find out how we can discuss and advocate or intervene about these issues. McGill also has the lowest TA salaries. Cora-Lee and Michelle went to the faculty meeting, Provost was there to present the budget and the White paper- he's been speaking with many student groups, but hasn't spoken with us as a council yet. We discussed this possibility and decided that we need a more holistic picture of what is going on in regards to funding. It would be more likely an AGM- after we look into the White paper.

7) **VP Academic Report** (Moksha Serrano)

- February 1st, Lunchtime Talk - *Searching for a Supervisor: Things to consider-* for Master's students, presentation tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 1st. Daniella from ECP, XX from DISE will be speaking. Dr. Lise Winer will help facilitate from a faculty point of view. *Chairs or GPD's from other departments will also be invited.* It will be a lunchtime talk around noon. For KPE and LS- had to apply with a supervisor. Should it be geared to project/thesis or would KPE students be interested in it? If we added relationships with supervisors like communication- it would be more broadly applicable. Searching for and fostering relationship/searching for and what to do when you have one. How to keep your supervisor. One question students have is choosing between non-thesis or thesis based masters. Sophia organized a topic about this. It's a very heavy topic. Faculty will be present, which may prevent students from bringing

up any conflict situations. Conflict management and searching for supervisor are two different topics. The purpose of the present one is things to consider while searching for a supervisor. Each topic needs its own special session. Contact GPS - are supposed to help you about choosing supervisors, and there is also information on their website- to help organize topics/discussion for the workshop. The first portion will be a panel of presentations of specific practices, and after will open up to a Q&A session. 12-1 BYOL.

- Winter EGSS Travel Awards-due February 15th

12 people applied to the last travel award. They were able to award 6 different ones. Used 1500\$. 2000\$ for each of the winter and spring semesters. Winter includes April.

Najme pointed out that two of the most important Education conferences are in April- expect lots of students are going there- should we increase the amount for winter? Jason said that we just had a lot of psych. conferences in the fall, and so the budget was split up almost equally. If there is a surplus in any budget, we can award more awards later.

- Fellowships are coming out. This year we should put them out earlier than usual. They'll be put up right after reading week or after our next meeting.

- World AIDS Day/ Day With(out) Art recap and reflection

Recap: Thanks to everyone to helped out! Support is very appreciated. It came together very quickly (less than 18 days) but there was a great faculty and student turnout. Aside from starting earlier next year, is there any feedback? Yana suggested that we should maybe focus on more than just the artists with AIDS. Moksha pointed out that it was about using art as the medium to express AIDS issues.

- *We should definitely do it again and then integrate lots of different facets. We need to start further in advance and have a committee, have much more participation.*
- Moksha raised the issue of working together as council and knowing about what is going on, providing reports, communicating.
- Felipe mentioned that it is okay sometimes to say that you don't know, and to check with the council members. There is always someone who is informed.
- Jason pointed out that we have different roles on council. Perhaps a good idea to secure support when organizing a large event to reduce stress levels.
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- We should, as a council, be aware and supporting each other. Are there ways for us to broaden communication amongst council members?

Heather acknowledged that we are all working very hard. But it's important that we all be involved and communicating with each other. We should try to pair up and have people working on things. For example, for the Wine and Cheese we have a small committee, so that no one is left alone as it is a large event and the planning is going well. *Please speak up if you do feel like you are working on your own for EGSS events.* In the future, in planning an event, we should make sure that there is enough support for it before going forward.

- We should consider have committees for which we can sign up beforehand (such as a social committee, academic, or community involvement). Sophia suggested that if “committees” aren’t possible, at least have a backup person/people—someone to talk to. We should send each other updates, as well, about what is going on, such as after important meetings (PGSS, Faculty Council), especially when there is time-sensitive news. Important to be informed.

Next meeting Monday, February 13th from 3-5 pm. (Location TBA shortly—most likely in the Education building) Please remember that we plan to take a photo of our council at the next meeting, for the website, posters and newsletter.

Council members:

Please read, review and be familiar with our EGSS constitution:

<http://www.education.mcgill.ca/egss/images/EGSSConstitutionJuly2010.pdf>

(Please note that attendance at EGSS council meetings is important for all council members. It is impossible to participate in the discussion, and to be active on council if you are not able to make the meetings. Obviously, we are all busy as grad students. If you are unable to make a meeting and you need to miss one meeting, be sure to send your regrets in advance so that we know you didn't forget. Council members are responsible to find out about the information they missed at the meeting as well any tasks assigned to them.)

Thanks, everyone, for your incredibly hard work!

Best wishes to Martin Picard on his research exchange in the UK from February-June.