

EGSS Council Meeting

Minutes-Monday, February 13, 2012
Room Education 133 3-5 pm

Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail.
-Emerson

In attendance:

Jacinthe
Yana
Mark
Heather
Marianne
Najme
Cherie
Sophia
Michelle
Mike
Jason
Moksha
MJ
Daniella

1. **Call to order: 3:04**
2. **Approval of agenda**
Najme & Sophia
3. **PGSS-Student Life fund (Jacinthe Deschênes-PGSS)**
 - a. Jacinthe Deschenes: Student life coordinator for PGSS-funds for all GSA's at McGill
New process: Regulation handed out.
Summary: events, seminars, workshops, etc. that we might be doing with money from the funds now goes through PGSS. This regulation was passed at the PGSS council- voted and approved by peers.
Two mains things: 1) for any event, you need to make sure that your participants are insured. The persons who are in charge of the event need to sign a form. The event form needs to be signed for any event/activity- needs to be done two weeks ahead of time and sent to Sophia and Heather before being sent to Jacinthe. Jacinthe will

check for insurance for you. If it is a weekly/recurring event, you can do one form for the entire set of them. The amount must match the amount that is in the EGSS budget. Very important: Contact person needs to sign as testament to the truthfulness of the event. (The event form will be changed in response to feedback: "if the event will take place at McGill- really at Thomson House".)

Liability: If ever there is an event where this may be called into question, everyone involved will be called (event organizer, PGSS, EGSS executives). You would be personally liable only if you caused an accident, however, so don't worry.

Feel free to contact Jacinthe for any questions, even if you need help with planning events. Contact her directly (only need executive for change of budget).

We are mostly covered by PGSS insurance if it is on campus. If it is off campus, bus insurance companies, city insurance, ski insurance- no need to worry about insurance for events, unless an event is somewhere small/outside/without insurance. If you have a keynote speaker- PGSS covers them (lest they go bungee jumping :D) other than very extreme situations. If a place doesn't have insurance, we should reconsider where we are holding the event- Jacinthe will inform us.

2) Alcohol: McGill & Quebec law. Quebec: You have to have an alcohol permit to have more than 10-12 people drinking. The permit is 40\$. Need approval from McGill (which should take about a month). You then need to go to the police station behind the Planetarium with a lady who makes her own schedule for form approvals. Then you need to go to the government with the police and McGill approvals- so you need at least two months beforehand to get this all in order. You can't have an event in someone's house if there is alcohol involved. Alcohol is not allowed in any public place. BYOA's also require permits. Always remember to go to a licensed establishment. Jacinthe will check for permit and for insurance.

Refusal from Jacinthe will only come if procedures are not respected, or against McGill's student handbook, or the province & country's law (including moral issues...). Jacinthe does not discriminate or judge your decisions of money spending (except for legal and insurance issues).

- For reimbursement, go directly to Jacinthe but CC Sophia as VP Finance. If the budget amount and the asking amount is discrepant Jacinthe will have to check to EGSS executives.
- Pre-approval: for money needed beforehand, Jacinthe can make the check beforehand and you would need to give her the receipt later. Only Heather can do this, and only one pre-approval per department at a time. We can decide at the beginning of the year what event we want to have pre-approval for. This all needs to go through the executive. If you have an event, the amount will be reimbursed to you. Always get the event form the week beforehand. For Travel Awards: Jacinthe needs the e-mail confirming with individuals that they have received the amount.
- Event forms MUST have original signature. You can send through e-mail a copy, but be sure to keep the original and bring it to Jacinthe when you have the time (can come at any time, but must come!). Always keep original receipts too. Sophia will also keep a copy of the event form, with receipt/invoice/cheque requisition stapled.
- Please don't go to Jacinthe with receipts of only 20\$. Over 50\$ is a reasonable amount. Wait until you have receipts that amount to over this. (Makes a lot of paper work!). (Thus there can be multiple events/event forms for one cheque) If you need reimbursement, Sophia will reimburse you from EGSS petty cash and she will take care of the business with Jacinthe.
- Be sure to print your name legibly on the event form so no mistakes are made on your cheques!
- For the conference: all of the events can be included, and since the wine and cheese is at Thomson House it can be included on the event form. Jacinthe only needs to know the money that is coming out of the accounts that she is managing. Mary-Lou takes care of grant money issues.
- Internal transfer: if you do your event at Thomson House- ASK FOR AN INVOICE! Must be arranged with Bliss a week before! - you will receive an invoice the day after your event- then send it to Jacinthe and how much you want her to pay on it (not all necessarily comes from her). Don't forget to CC Sophia. If you're having an event at Thomson house don't worry about sending something a bit late- just don't make it a habit. Best thing to do

is to e-mail Bliss (TH Manager) when you e-mail your event form (he will ask you some questions for invoice details).

- Jacinthe also takes care of council and committee business.
 - Jacinthe's e-mail: studentlife.pgss@mcgill.ca

4. **Housekeeping-office keys**

- a. Mike, Cherie, Marianne got keys.
- b. If you need a key to the office, we can make copies.

5. **EGSS Council planning-(Heather)**

- Ordering desks/setting up space for grad students
 - Lockable desks so students without an office can keep their things here. But who gets them? There a lot of details.
 - One semester would be a better idea as a result of changing schedules: voted- APPROVED. So there will be three time slots (Fall, Winter, Summer).
 - How should the desks be allocated? A random draw for a lottery. Masters vs. PhD? There are fewer PhD students and they likely have more office space. We should go proportional depending on who applies.
 - * We agreed that it would be completely random. There ought to be some merit as well- for people who actually need it for work (not just a locker). Applicants should have to write a few words about how often they will be working there. Felipe and Mike will work on this together.
 - Total approximate amount coming from our surplus budget would be about 5000\$ for 6 desks which will be put together and delivered from a local company. EGSS has money that is surplus for sustainable improvement- desks can continue to be used. (Student lounge was renovated with these funds, bought computer & laptops).
 - When desks are no longer needed, we should get them as donations. This is something to think about! There is a student space committee.
- Leadership resources (books/workshops)

- Lifecoach run leadership workshop that Heather went to. It was great.
 - Most books are on loan. Ex. "Emotionally Intelligent Leadership"
- Date for *General Assembly* in Spring (March?): probably sooner is better than later. We usually have them twice a year. There needs to be a two week warning. After the conference makes sense in order for us to prepare. Quorum is 2% of student body. What topics will be included? We all need to decide together. A chance for candidates to represent themselves. Constitutional changes and referendum for online voting. There is quite a bit of prep that goes into this. If we want to run the elections at the same time, we need to appoint one person to be the election commissioner- Mike will do this-
 - I would like to put forward that Michael Sornberger will be the election commissioner- APPROVED by all.
- Nominations can be sent very soon. Constitution says that the election should be before March 1st. Mike will begin to take in nominations asap- he will include this in the newsletter. Give people 3 weeks to get their forms in. Two notices will be sent- one will be included in the newsletter and then a separate form in a separate email dedicated to the topic. Date to submit forms will be the date of the *GA*. We can even make posters. They will be due Wednesday, March 21st: which will also be the *GA*. *GAs* need to be planned ahead of the time and possibly during the time of the conference. Should we have a separate *GA* to actually address the issues going on on campus right now? It will be more encouraging for people to come with just one *GA*- make it two hours and put all of our energy into it. Agreed that one is good enough, especially as it's difficult to get people to there, plus we have budgets. If students are interested and ask- can they call a *GA*? We should share the information with students as to how they do it. In our constitution the only way a *GA* can be called is by the council.
- It will be President Heather moderating and open forum for discussion. They are generally friendly and low-key.

- Majority voted agreement on having only one GA. From the turnout and the topics we will judge if we need another.
- Only having one avenue to having a GA may be an issue. The constitution should allow for several avenues of activity to occur- we should revisit how a GA can be called as it is in our Constitution.
- Nominations for EGSS Council 2012-2013
- Reports on council activities for transition to next year
 - This year, we should all write a report on information (completed BEFORE GA)- summary of what your job entails, what important information you need to know (such as there is a password, how to book events, etc.). This will be helpful for new members. A binder with how and what to do. It's also really great to know what works and what doesn't work.

6. **Campus issues discussion-(council)**

- recent events on campus (including James Building occupation). Occupation is over. Students rallying today.
 - The e-mail that was the impetus of the discussion: conversation around the lab office, education building, among students- it's tricky because there are many dissenting viewpoints. Having an opportunity to talk to many students gives you a sense of what people are and are not aware of, how they feel about things. Particularly, the role that people feel their student council should take in terms of a body that facilitates information sharing or is a political body...
 - Beyond this issue- there needs to be discussion about the trajectory of council and what kind of idea/notion the council has about how they see the role that they play in terms of mitigating these spaces/discussions/discourse about particular issues.
 - We try to do so quickly. Heather sent out a message really quickly outlining services students can seek which was greatly appreciated.
 - We do need listen to what all people have to say.

- For council to take any one stance doesn't represent EVERYONE. Providing information is, directing students to services they may need. SSMU does this well too (provision of lots of information on their website). SSMU made a statement which is on their website
- We need to be neutral and inclusive. For us to pick and choose what we think is appropriate is bad. Some societies have actually taken a stance- disapproved the strike, or approved of tuition hikes. But we need to represent everyone.
- Protocol by Principal is opening up conversation- which is important. Important to show dissent without doing things that are illegal, and more extreme measures result in loss of support even from people who may agree with the cause.
- Discussion of these issues.
- Should we realign our meetings to have them before PGSS meetings?- To correspond with them, so that we can discuss the issues and therefore our PGSS representatives can reflect the voice of EGSS. Also a meeting afterwards. Could be done either way?
- There are times when neutrality is no longer possible.
- What is democracy? Town hall vs. Representative. In a representative government, only majority consensus leads to resolutions.
- There are different voices in different departments and between them.
- We are not defining neutral as not discussing this or not doing anything, but what we mean about neutrality is that we don't have a consensus. If we don't have a majority consensus, we can't do anything. Lack of consensus is not something to be ashamed of.
- If we don't take a stance, how will people believe in council? If my council takes an opposite stance to issues than my own, I will believe in them less. This was discussed.
- *** We should provide the message to students that we do discuss and address these issues, but that we do

not reach consensus. We are allowing that people can express themselves. We want students to know that we are discussing this and taking in their messages, and that we are open to all their opinions, but that we cannot reach consensus.

- How can we move ahead on these topics? What are our values? Issues for minorities. Rarely consensus on issues which resonate with minorities. Are there activities happening that reduce inclusivity/ accessibility? Lack of consensus does not mean that we cannot act. We do care about social issues.
- Mandate on website- welcoming for all students to come together to share insights, expertise, and fellowship, social. Vehicle for collective voice of student body. Augment graduate student experience by making info, resources, and opportunities available.
- We hope that McGill has respectful conversations which listen to all voices.
- We may want to have another meeting to discuss these issues.
- Can we also send some reports/updates over e-mail? Like Student life.
- Tuition hikes and possibility of student strike in March
- Graduate student mobilisation
- Education Town Hall-Thursday, Feb. 16th (hosted by EdUS)
 - Michelle will likely go.
- Communication and response
- **PGSS report from councilors**
 - Lots of disagreement about the issues at PGSS.

7. **Student Life (Najme)**

- Upcoming activities-movie night,skating,hiking, and more
- Possible collaboration with Art History/Communications GSA-interested in participating with us on an activity. Low cost events! Yay!

8. **Info/Technology (Michael)**

- Newsletter and website: Newsletter will be going out on the 15th. Please send your updates by yesterday :)

- Lots of work behind the scenes. There is a lot going on
- Please add that everyone on council can be contacted- names, positions, and e-mails. We are here to listen to them.

9. VP Academic Update (Moksha)

- Workshop February 1, 2012 - Recap and Next Steps
- Winter EGSS Travel Awards
- EGSS Fellowships

10. Equity and Diversity Report (Chérie & Eve)

- Equity issues raised by students
- Invitation for workshop presenters to transfer their presentations to the EGSS conference & EGSS Conference registration fee
- Proposed E&D committee (proposed by Felipe by email)
- The E&D workshop schedule
- McGill Equity Community Social
- Dean's meeting

11. EGSS Conference-(Michelle, MJ, Cora-Lee, Melissa)

- **Friday March 9 & Saturday March 10th @ McGill**
- **Keynotes: Dr. Sharene Razack and Dr. Jessica Ruglis**
- Registration \$35/Early bird until Feb.15 \$25
- All council members will be able to attend without paying IF they are volunteering for the conferences.
- Jason is taking care of the plaques- the department is doing so.
- **Please help to promote the conference!!! Make announcements in your classes, to professors, etc. Really counting on registration fees.**
- Everyone needs to register with the form- at registration desk.
- Registration table in lobby this week Mon.-Wed.
- Conference Awards (Proposal and Travel Awards)
- Conference volunteers/tasks for council members
- Information and online registration: www.egssconference.com
- We are looking for sponsors if you can think of any businesses that may want to! Pubs are very supportive of McGill students!

12) **Community event-** Engaging Black community cultural resources: A community-university talk forum on Saturday, March 3rd 2012 from 10am

- 6pm @ McGill University, Coach House (3715 Peel Street): Cora-Lee & Rosalind are planning this event. Last year a great conference was put on for Black history money and unfortunately this year they weren't able to. Free day-long conference. Creating a model that helps the university and community come together in a talk forum to discuss issues of resources/ cultural capital in communities of colour- individuals with personal, academic, research interests in this areas- amazing professors and performers with interests in this area. Will be great communal space. Will send blurb to Mike for this month's newsletter. Cora-Lee will send out an e-mail about volunteering opportunities. We have 200\$ in our budget to support a community event, do we want to donate it all? The event will be in Coach House....is there a building fee? If no building fee and excess monies. Motion put forward to support this event- APPROVED.

Next meeting: Monday, February 27th! 3:30-5:30

13) **Varia**

- Kinesiology event (smoothies?)

Meeting Closed: 5:03

14) **Happy Valentine's Day!!**

