

Education Graduate Students Society
General Assembly
March 26, 2012, Currie Gym, Room 408/409
Speaker: Jonathon Mooney
Minutes: Adam Bouchard

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Chair asked if any objections to Jonathan Mooney from PGSS chairing to meeting.

Approval of the Agenda

1. Heather Phipps asks for any objections to J. Mooney to preside over GA. \
2. Creation of Agenda – moved S. Peters/ S. Moodey
 1. Approval of the Agenda
 2. Motion for 5-day renewable EGSS Strike
 3. Vote: Approved
3. Roberts Rules basics from J. Mooney.
 1. GA polled for creation of a line for speaking rights F. Ferdiz. Carries
4. 5 day renewable EGSS strike F. Ferdiz/()
 1. Motion to limit debate.
 1. Move to limit debate of motion to 30min G. Fisercelli.
 2. Vote: 46 in favour/ 30 against (requires 2/3 majority)
 3. Does not carry
 2. Motion to limit debate
 1. Move to limit debate per person to 5 minutes k. lafere/ j. sis
 2. Carries
 3. Reading of Motion, J. Mooney
 4. Motivation F. Ferdiz: Whereas clauses show the purpose, in addition this will show solidarity with other students in Quebec. This will greatly affect accessibility to higher education. As educators we need to ask ourselves is having money necessary for learning. Economic pressure on the government has been successful in the past. For those concerned about a delay of a semester Quebec has never canceled a semester in its history. This will pressure discussion of the Government with the students. This is a call for solidarity with those who will be most affected.
5. Move to amend the Motion Lily. Han/A. (): Move to change the dates: strike to run from April 2-6.
 1. Motivation – if this is to be effective and logistically productive we should give ourselves time to organize and generate press.
 2. Against S. ()
 1. The time is now and we must start now. Mobilization should not require this time for preparation. The Media knows about this and a delay is unnecessary.
 3. Against F. Ferdiz: A week is a long time. We need to move now.
 4. Against C. Conway: As a council member – This meeting is a testament to our ability to organize and people are waiting for our student voice to come out of this meeting.
 1. Point of Information – Please clarify what you mean by “faculty”
 1. C. Conway – All of education
 5. Against G. (): This is a climactic moment for the movement and that this should happen now.

6. Favour H. Phipps: Although we had a message for the faculty, it did not go out to the entire faculty today. The office of the Dean decided that not all faculty would be emailed about this student strike meeting. So not all faculty are aware of the strike vote.
7. Point of Information. M. Serrano: I went to the deans office to let them know that this would be occurring and to ensure that students would be helped.
8. Pol F. Ferdiz: Will the executive committee be participating in the mobilization committee that would be formed. Is that a reason for the in favour debate.
 1. H. Phipps: The executive will be involved directly and indirectly no matter what happens here.
9. Against Pascal: This isn't about us, this is about all students.
10. Point of Clarification (): There is no consensus about what professors in ECP believe.
11. Calling the Question ()/Taya.
 1. Vote: Carries
12. Vote: Does Not Carry
6. Motion to have the vote on the strike vote happen by secret ballot. Amar/Alexa
 1. Vote: Carries
7. Favour (): as an educator it is incredibly important that we recognize how this will change the classroom and the diversity of the group.
8. Motion to Amend Shari/Jason: Submitted to the chair to have a 2 day ballot box to vote on the strike. Motivation: For students not capable of being here to vote it is important that we give the ability to others to cast their vote.
 1. Motion to Amend to have times changed from 9am to 6pm.
 2. PofOrder Steve: will the strike begin after the Ballot? Secondly, will this supercede the decision of the privous GA
 3. Pol, Lauridana: Please clarify if we can make a decision here, how does this 2 days of ballot box affect the process.
 1. Shari – This would create a second vote for a ratification
 4. Pol F. Ferdiz, the dates will need to change to make this happen? Why does this matter.
 1. J. Mooney – this is placing a condition on the strike motion.
 5. Against F. Ferdiz, the previous GA decided that the strike vote should happen today, not by ballot box. It has also been made clear by previous votes that we do not want to delay the start.
 6. For S: we are using this process to circumvent the very ideals we are trying to move for with the strike. This would mean that the EGSS Can be more inclusive
 7. Amendment S: – Have the vote here today count and then add in the later votes.
 1. J. Mooney – that is out of order.
 8. Against C. I can see the issues at hand, but I am insulted that this strike has not happened yet.
 1. Point of Personal... S. – Please do not judge those who cannot be here.
 9. Against Rema – I believe that the fact this is a renewable strike is important to remember and that those who could not come today can come next week.
 10. Against A. Forgette – we need to take a more nuanced look at democracy and participation and I believe that extension invalidates what is happening here tonight.
 11. Neutral D. Library students believes that GA's and the system is inherently
 12. Motion to Limit Debate to 10min D./Lauradana
 1. Vote: Carries
 13. Against L. students still have a chance to show their decision by striking or not.

14. Against Helen: This debate needs to happen right now. We should not decide that it is too scary and limit the discussion to a box. This will give a negative connotation to the concept of discourse.
15. Calling the Question ()/F. Fediz
 1. Vote: carries.
16. Vote to accept the amendment (For 38/ Against 56)
17. Amendment does not Carry.
9. Favour Shari – A) Equity and diversity – there are many views of the impact of the monetary commitment, and we should consider whether or not education is a right, or something that we should be in debt to receive. B) Education has been shown to be a determiner of health. By limiting education we are affecting the health of a class of people. C) Counseling Psychologist – What do we believe in as a group D) On a personal note: as a woman I will make less, as a queer I will also make less, and as an SES I am lucky to be at school. Higher education is important to limit the disparity of these groups and to not further the gap.
10. Amendment D./Matty BIRT that a ballot box be used to further the strike every week. This will replace a general assembly that will happen each week.
 1. Friendly amendment Maddy – change dates, Thursday and Friday March 29/30 in order to allow the voting to occur before the current strike has finished.
 2. The amendment as proposed-to switch from a GA to a ballot.
 3. Point of information-Rosalind-as this is a renewable strike, it would be a five day strike until it is voted to discontinue.
 4. Yana-call to question.
 5. Jonathon-the assembly would like to discuss first, let's hold back on this first.
 6. Cora Lee-point of personal privilege-let's discuss logistical issues to make this very clear.
 7. Jonathon-yes, anyone who would like to submit text can do that now.
 8. Rosalind-concern about the dates of the strike.
 9. Personal point of privilege-Moksha-people just walked in, can we look at the motion again. Tuesday, March 27th.
 10. My honorable colleague has proposed that the date is not part of the strike. Change the dates to Friday, March 30th and Monday April 2nd. A vote to whether students choose to discontinue the strike.
 11. Michael Sornberger-in favour of the amendment, this would give us a widespread message of solidarity.
 12. Steve Peters-Against the amendment Quebec movement to get more students out.
 13. Marcella-SiS-In favour of the amendment. Does not have time to attend meetings each week, graduating in two weeks.
 14. Yana-Call to question.
 15. 70 in favour of the amendment. 27 opposed. That motion carries by a vote of 70 to 27.
 16. Vote on the amendment. A period of voting will be held in the Educaiton building on Friday, March 30th and Monday, April 2, the results of which will determine whether or not students wish to discontinue the strike. The voting shall be administered by the Executive council of the EGSS.
 17. 76 in favour. 27 opposed. That motion carries.
 18. Point of clarification-Time for the voting.
 19. Haidee Lefebvre-If we have a soft picket line, last week experienced having students saying not to do Academic work. How are we going to get to the table to negotiate with the Quebec government? If we are striking, what is that you are expecting me to do.

20. Steve Peters-prepared a talk about what it means for us to go on strike. To strike means to cease to engage in academic work, that means courses, committees, and research work (including conferences). Making yourself visible, joining protests and picket lines. What we are doing here is voting on whether or not we are going on strike and joining what is a movement in Quebec. Student Associations have not won the right to have picket lines. Choosing to go to classes, conferences, or do your academic work, is effectively choosing to cross picket lines. This is what we risk when we go on strike. This will put pressure on the administration and the Quebec government. Delaying your comps, rescheduling your defense. What we do individually is important for how the university operates as a whole. When we put pressure on the administration it shows how valuable the work that we do is. If you want to talk to your professor tomorrow, there is nothing that prevents you from doing that. It does mean that you do not do your academic work.
21. Jonathan Mooney-If you want to ask a question, line up here.
22. Haidee-How would you get to the table with the Quebec government?
23. Fernanda-
24. Haidee-Does anyone know how we would get to the table?
25. There are no negotiations now, that is why we are going on strike. There are associations to which we belong.
26. Veronique-How would this affect practicum?
27. Alex-This would not affect R.A. or T.A. ships, and my sense is that this would not affect outside institutions. This can be discussed.
28. SIS Student-There is a lot of talk about thesis writing and research work. Our program is not thesis based. We have four classes, and countless group projects. If one of us chooses to on strike, they not only make . We have a lot of international students in our program. This is so outside of this, they have visas, they have lives. Please notice that there are masters programs that do require full time course work and are not thesis based.
29. Alex-I want to speak of the educational impact. As educators it is our responsibility to think about what learning is. The most salient moments take place outside of the classroom. While we strike, we are putting our education on hold. Instead of regarding our time on picket lines and in teach ins as a waste of time, we should see them as opportunities. Many of the people who will be voting tonight will see that. Education should be seen as a sacred trust, and not as a bottom line. I would also argue that is more than spending time in class. I see such an opportunity here to put these skills to good use, through being in GA, people are waking up to something. What they are waking up to is their own values and their own world views. The more informed I feel about not only what is going on not only out there, but right here. The student movement is about self actualization. This is missing at McGill. Question this and get in touch with your values on this issue. What does it mean to be educated? What kind of experiences help us understand ourselves?
30. Yana-We have had several hours of debate, can we limit the debate to the speakers .
Seconder-Wayne.
31. Motion carries
32. Jason-A few more points to add. The first is that, the boundaries between the R.A. work and thesis work is not a clear divide. With the conditions as they are would grind everything to a halt. There are a variety of different perspectives. One thing that does concern me, is the drive to provide people with a venue to provide pressure to the government. We do not want to apply pressure to other students, we do not hurt each other. Concerned with the soft picket lines. I think a lot of people agree, it is wonderful

for people to agree that is wonderful for people to have their point of view expressed. In terms of respect, we need to consider that.

33. Carl St. Denis-Being discouraged to the class is a symptom of the strike, this is the purpose of the strike. Jean Charest is doubling the tuition fees in five years. Comfort is not something I am expecting. We are putting pressure. It is not supposed to be a pleasant moment. In the 70's, our parents made the decision to freeze the tuition fees. It is feasible elsewhere in Europe. If your parents have a combined income of 60000 a year, you have no bursaries. Even though I have been many times against strike at UQAM. We haven't had a protest so big. IN the English press, I read tens of thousands. The issue is being diminished, in the Globe and Mail. Please be in solidarity with the rest of Quebec.
34. Student asked students pause to snapping.
35. Jonathan Mooney-asked for decorum and snapping to snap.
36. Fabille Miloso from KIN-I am against the strike, but if we strike this is against me.
37. Riley-I didn't want to be the last speaker. I heard a lot of good points. In my program (MATL), it is course based and practicum based. We can make this up. A lot of people in my program walked in late. The govt. has never cancelled a semester. We might miss a week, we might miss two weeks. It is a bigger issue. A vote for a strike doesn't mean we give up a semester.
38. Jonathon Mooney-Debate is over. Five people to be scrutineers. Haidee, Yana, Moksha, Cherie, and Amar.
39. Jonathon-Three Options: Y for Yes, N for no, or A for abstain.
40. Voting procedure
41. Voting closed at 8:11 pm, Jonathan directed the scrutineers to tally the ballots.
42. Number of votes cast: 116
43. Number for adoption: 59 (50% + 1)
44. Votes for motion: 66
45. Votes against: 44
46. Attestations: 6
47. We are informing faculty of the result of this information.
48. Cora-we are responsible to inform faculty. We all have the right as students. Faculty have a right to know. As council we have a responsibility to send the information.
49. Jason-we can send the information through the departments.

BIRT the Executive Committee of the EGSS Council of the EGSS be mandated to send a message to all the members of the EGSS and send a request to inform all members of the Education faculty (professors, course instructors, and students) of the results of the strike vote via email by 9 AM. The EGSS will further inform members of upcoming strike activities is informed as soon as possible.

Micheal-question about the message being sent out.

Rosalind-the idea is to inform all faculty by 9 am, the motion is on the screen.

Jason-We have sent a request that the message has been sent by 9 am, have sent a request to inform all members of the Education Faculty.

BIRT any obstacles to the sending of the message be communicated to the EGSS council.

Cherie: Would it be wise to inform them of the whole context.

Jonathan: All in favour of this amendment? Motion carries. Any further questions or debates on this motion? That motion carries.

Alex: Within the original clause, we discussed forming a strike committee. We don't have the energy now, can we meet at 10 am in the Education Lobby?

Student: It needs to be decided what to do after the next vote.

Jonathan: There needs to be a motion to be decided on what to do next.

Jason: Can we decide on voting for the next one at the ballot box, or if people want to bring other issues forward can we vote on them?

Esther: I would suggest that the EGSS hold a GA on April 10th.

Jonathan: The assembly could be in between such dates.

Michael: WE never specified what date, how about it you suggest that it take place in the week of April 9th.

Mover (Esther) and Seconder (Michael)

BIRT the EGSS Executive Council be mandated to hold a General Assembly during the week of April 9 to discuss a further business regarding the EGSS Strike should be in effect at that point. Should the ballot vote to discontinue the strike on March 30th and April 2nd NOT pass, the strike will remain in effect up to and including this general assembly.

Jonathan: If this motion passes, it is planning what is going to happen, if the vote to discontinue does not pass, and the strike continues.

Moksha: Who will chair the meeting? Jonathan will you chair^

Jonathan will chair the meeting if he is available.

Moksha: BIRT the next General Assembly employ Robert's Rules.

Cora: BIRT the minutes from this GA and the previous GA be finalized and approved.

Jonathan: The chair would make a motion to adjourn.

135 students in attendance.