

Education Graduate Students' Society

EGSS Annual General Assembly

Thursday, October 6, 2011

4:00-5:15 pm (Room 233)

Attendance: Separate sheet

Heather Phipps
 Marianne Christie
 Mike Sornberger
 Eve Allemand
 Moksha Serrano
 Cory Deegan
 Jason Hartley
 Felipe Mendez
 Lily Han
 Michelle Harazny
 Ivy (Kingyan) Sun
 Emily McHugh
 Sabrina Hepworth
 Sophia Kapchinsky
 Martin Picard
 Najme (4:30)
 Cherie Moody(5:00)
 Brad Evans
 Jennifer Thompson
 Katie McEntee
 Stephen Peters

1. Welcome

2. Diversity and Equity workshops

- Eve presented what she and Cherie were working on:
- Workshops happening this year.
 - Honorarium for students interested in participating in the organization of workshops. E-mail sent this past week inviting students to participate.
 - One creation: ask PGSS to extend an invitation to people from other faculties to attend/present at the workshops in order to take advantage of multidisciplinary activities. Suggested that she get in touch with the equity commissioner
 1. Get proposals in by 17th of October. One person per month ideally, or one per two months.

- Question: Any thoughts or initiatives in terms of interpersonal relationships? Within faculty, are there issues of inequality, discrimination? What's going on in terms of interactions between us as students and faculty? Feel free to approach if you have any particular issues or if you would want anything addressed. This would be worth opening up to students if they are interested in expressing anything. It could be a seminar or session for discussion, or a proposal by a group of students to talk about in a session. It is important for us to consider the separation between the academics and real life. **We could send an e-mail to students in the faculty to open up any issues about equality/discrimination.** People may feel the effects of separation, would be interesting to figure out where these separations are coming from and how we could address them: in a more active vs. reflective way. It is Important for us to have a focus on action. Our programs are very separate- this should be something that EGSS should address- how to bring these programs together, since we are all part of one faculty. Encouraging cohesion/community.

3. Budget approval

- Proposed budget 2011-2012
- Student fees collected 16,000\$.
- Amounts allocated to different portfolios:
 - 5,500 for Travel Awards: Extra three awards we can give this year.
 - EGSS fellowships: 3,000\$
 - VP Academic: 500\$
 - VP Student life: social events for EGSS and faculty/department: 2,000\$
 - VP Diversity/Equity: 800\$
 - VP Info/Tech: 200\$
 - Conference budget: low: 3,500\$ (Conference committee fundraises and this brings a lot of money for what they need for keynote speakers and other necessities)
 - Welcome BBQ: with EDUS- already happened
 - Donation to community: Sustainable contribution: 200\$ We can fundraise if we would like to donate more or for other causes.

Questions: The budget is hypothetical as we are not sure what our actual budget is yet. PGSS: when students pay fees, PGSS collects 10\$ from tuition- is ancillary fee- which goes into Student Life fund and goes to EGSS, all departments are joined under EGSS- which is its own Graduate Student Association.

Question of whether School of Information Sciences/Library Studies will join us or stay as a separate GSA. In the rest of McGill, Most GSAs are departmentally based, Education is one which is faculty-based. But one of our departments is its own GSA- so we need to decide if they will join us and benefit from our association. This issue still needs to be discussed. The biggest impact is that if each department has its own GSA- it will have its own money to spend for its own benefits, but less money. As a faculty we combine all fees so we have more money, but we are trying to benefit

all departments. This is why we have department representatives on our council.

Department representatives should talk to their departments to see if they would like to share, or if they want to have their own GSA. Department reps. work on making sure that each of their respective department's needs are met.

Many students value the EGSS activities in ECP. No interest in EGSS being dissolved in favour of having separate GSAs.

Kinesiology: most students are not very involved- located a ways away. Students are not interested in creating their own GSA.

There will be a meeting with MLISSA/EGSS Presidents, our VP Finance, and SIS reps. and the new student life coordinator at PGSS to clarify questions and discuss the GSA fund distribution.

DISE: is the core of the association since it's a large department. Interested in maintaining EGSS.

SIS: considers itself part of EGSS.

We should increase the participation of the departments in EGSS: like KPE and SIS!

Donation decision made 2-3 years ago- we started to support an initiative in supporting a school in Haiti- was important to continue our support: "Solid' Ayiti" We also did some fundraising for the Japan tsunami last year. We were very interested in increasing our donations, some department representatives also decided to donate from their own portfolios. We are keeping it open right now, possibility of doing more fundraising this year, and supporting groups that EGSS students participate in/events that students organize. We are open to hearing about organizations you would like for us to connect with. Last year we raised over 300\$ in fundraising, so the budget outline is not the final number. Our contribution to Haiti could be specified as a percentage. Last year we had a surplus from the conference in our budget, and all of the money went into donation to the Red Cross (for tsunami relief). It would be important to make it a sustainable fund-which would require consistent fundraising. EGSS' role has not historically been to fundraise. Could we save a percentage towards a long-term vision for a donation fund to a non-profit? Does this respond to the mandate of EGSS by which we get money from students to enhance student life and redistribute to students? Is it ok for us as EGSS to decide to take money from students and give it outside? There are some issues there.

Could this be an amendment that the donations go to community groups in which students in our faculty are participating? Therefore it supports students in their endeavours- organizations in which EGSS members are actively participating. Motion to start a long-term fund for long-term goal of financially supporting community or non-profit organizations. **Begin this dialogue in council.**

4. Executive Council

- Current members of the EGSS Exec
 - SIS Co-Reps. Sabrina and Emily:
 - Sabrina: Information Studies: Education faculty representative for Melissa. Secretary for ABQLA. Library assistant at Trafalgar.
 - Emily: Co-chair of Librarians without borders (SIS). Increase collaboration between SIS and EGSS.
 - Najme: VP Student Life:

- First coffee break on Oct. 13th. Main focus: new students have a lot of problems when they are coming here internationally, they don't feel support from other students or faculty members since they aren't assigned to any particular professor. This first coffee break is for these students to become familiar with EGSS, faculty members, etc. Should we have these coffee breaks every 2 weeks or once a month? **Once a month is probably the best idea. If every time we have something special to talk about/theme- is a better idea. Suggestions are welcome about topics/themes.** Would be interesting to have them in the different department areas: like in KPE building or in library. Najme is thinking about having joint activities with other departments.
- Other activities we would like to organize: Hiking trips- with possibility of competition to make it exciting. Movie 'nights'. **Najme would love to hear suggestions for movies related to our field that students can also learn from.** Students should e-mail Najme if they are going to be attending so she can know how many people will be there. We should have one faculty member from each department. Najme would be happy to hear of new faculty in our departments as well as any suggestions we might have to help students, what we would like to see happen.
- In KPE: organizing a run/walk- Montgomery run: it would be great to promote this for other departments in Education. Will be on the mountain- and is also a fundraising event- 10\$ for students, 20\$ for non-students. Is also in memory of an influential faculty member in KPE. We could send a Listserv message to students in Education. No need to run (you can walk!) :D
- Suggestion of sport intramurals. We could get involved or create them?
- We could subsidize the price of skiing on the mountain by renting equipment for students.
- Would be very interesting to organize visiting schools around Montreal. Cory works at Selwyn! Sabrina thinks it would be great to get the Librarians at schools we visit involved too for SIS students.
- Graduate Program Committee: DISE: Surplus of 60,000\$ that committee is trying to figure out is the best way to use it. It will need to be assigned by February 15th. They are inviting suggestions from students about how they would like for this to be distributed. Send suggestions to Felipe. Tends to be

- focused on PhD students.
- Students can also make suggestions about how they feel EGSS should distribute money.
- Open positions
 - PGSS Councilor for DISE- 2 more seats (Ivy holds the third)
 - Moksha nominated as VP Academic
 - Bachelor of Music and Voice Performance. OISY: Bachelor of Ed. Undergraduate association at U of T. Did a lot of fundraising- benefit concert annually originally for Japan Tsunami (continued annually for different organizations). Could be interesting for us to collaborate with music faculty!
 - Yana: KPE PGSS councilor nominated

5. Student Awards

- Travel Awards
 - 500\$ international
 - 200\$ local/North America
 - 3 deadlines a year. We'll be extending the fall deadline: message will be sent when applications can be submitted, probably first will be in November. Application form is online. VP Academic works with associate dean. Winners are chosen by lottery. Last year it came to our attention that on our award form, we should include a section for students to write special circumstances or financial situations- for example having to pay babysitters for a parent to go out of town.
 - Right now the form asks for date of conference, when you are going, supervisor's signature, etc.
 - Suggest that it should be limited- people who won in previous years should not be able to apply. Can ask students to be the ones to judge for themselves- if they have government funding (SSHRC, Vanier, etc.)- please keep in mind that others may have more of a need. But everyone should have equal access, so we cannot bar those who have fellowships. Therefore, we cannot enforce it, but we could ask people to respect this...except that people may see this as a guideline- so we would need to be careful about where this information is included and how it is worded. It is important to consider the perceptions on including this. Some scholarships actually have travel awards attached to them. Is there a possibility of having a fund for those who are in dire financial need? Should we allow students to write a letter with extenuating circumstances? This may put our peers in a vulnerable position. The faculty does not consider needs based aid- is not allowed because it's an infringement of privacy. Inviting disclosure is a touchy subject. **So the note asking for students who get major funding to apply elsewhere might be the best idea.** There is a faculty cap of 40,000\$ (though the faculty does make exceptions to this), so we could follow this. It needs to be based on an honour

system, “We encourage you to look elsewhere”. Is there a way to advertise in specific places which may target specific people? Perhaps the best way to avoid disclosure and not allowing certain people would just be asking people not to apply if they received it in previous years. International students are not eligible for funding locally. Could we have two lottery systems? One smaller for those holding funding, and another for those without- this may be overcomplicated. **Council should continue to talk about this. Please send your comments to the council.**

- EGSS Fellowships
 - Based on merit, rigorously reviewed.

6. Conference update

- March 9th & 10th, 2012- all day Friday-Saturday
- Paper and poster presentations and panel discussions.
- Committee composed of 12 graduate students.
- Goals: increasing participation of students and faculty. Bringing together all departments.
- **Please participate in promoting the conference in your departments.**
- Conference theme has still not been chosen.
- Keynotes are being decided upon.
- **Suggestions absolutely welcome. Please send them to Michelle as soon as possible.**

7. Social event-October 13th, Thomson House @ 3:30 pm

- Coffee (see above for discussion from Najme)

8. Open forum

Course lecturers are unionizing.

Students may always email council members with ideas/input for EGSS.