

Council Meeting Minutes

October 10th, (4-6pm)

Meeting 4 – Room 133

Council members

President Fernanda Soler, **VP Academic** Moksha Serrano, **VP Student-Life** Zahra Jalili, **Conference coordinator** Charlotte Sachs, **ECP Representative** Steffi Mathes, **DISE Representative** Stephen Peters, **KPE Representative** Nora Macmillan, **MLISSA Representative** Rachel Legaspi, **PGSS Councillor** Yana Konokhova, **DISE student** Lerona Lewis.

Regrets

VP Diversity & Equity rosalind hampton, **VP Communication** Tom Fullerton, **PGSS councillor** Cora-Lee Conway, **Conference coordinator** Danny Vallée , **Conference coordinator** Melissa Stern, , **Conference coordinator** MJ Kim.

1. Approval of the agenda October 4th, 2012
 - i. Approved unanimously
2. Introductions by newly elected members of council.
3. Approval of minutes of September 13th, 2012
 - i. Approved unanimously
4. Business arising from the minutes (30 mins):
 - a. Liability insurance
 - i. Recap: We pay double insurance (EGSS and PGSS). President has been trying to get out of EGSS insurance.
Update: Everything is underway for cancelling, should get approx. \$1000 of overpayment.
 - b. Email accounts for EGSS
 - i. Update: Email requested for every councillor. Jacinthe will get back this week. Fernanda will follow up.
 - ii. Listservs & OVS for departments. DISE Rep to follow up with Jacinthe.
 - c. Study space
 - i. Desk providers will come in and drill the whole tomorrow.
 - ii. Discussion: Are last term study space holders eligible for the next term?
 - iii. **Motion: Priority will be given to applicants who weren't holders previous term (unanimously decided)**
 - iv. To get out: VP Academic says tell students to apply for new graduate library carrels.
 - d. Appointment for VP finance.
 - i. Lerona presents herself for VP finance.
 - ii. **Motion: Lerona appointed VP Finance unanimously by council.**
 - e. Past events (GA, BBQ and movie night) assessment.

- i. Discussion about increasing KPE and ECP participation and EGSS relevancy for to those depts.
 - ii. BBQ bad time for grad students
 - iii. Movie night update
 - iv. Discussion about ideas for future social events to include KPE and ECP students (intramurals sporting events, dodge ball discussed. KPE Rep will follow up on gaining access to gym)
 - f. Travel Awards update from VP Academic
 - i. Travel Award update: Changes to form: from 4 to 3 pages; section on “Research Education Forum” out; Supervisor section changed to: supervisor need to sign off that conference is valuable and that other funding not available; enrolment status now from Minerva; \$5000 in this year’s budget supporting four to eight students per semester.
 - ii. Discussion around moving towards needs based; families, international students, students with fellowships.
 - iii. **Motion: Priority for travel awards is given to students who do not receive grants or fellowships of over \$15 000 total.** 5 for, 2 Abstentions: VP Academic, President. VP Academic will include section noting the new regulation with a check box for students to indicate if they are receiving over fellowships of over \$15 000.
 - iv. Action: VP academic will take out “master’s, phd students, and postdoc” requirement to state only EGSS members since FNIE undergrads have access to awards.
 - v. VP Academic and SIS Rep will meet to talk about SIS involvement in travel awards.
 - g. Letter of Complaint to Student Accounts (Appendix 1)
 - i. **Motion to approve letter passed unanimously.**
 - ii. Action: DISE Rep to send letter to President to sign and send.
5. Faculty Council and CGS updates from VP Academic (5 mins)
- i. Lines of dialogue are open between faculty and EGSS
 - ii. Looking for Education representative on Council of Graduate Studies (fellowships, funding, awards for students); Education representation
 - iii. Action: Councillors will seek students from their respective dept. to fill the position.
 - iv. Education Faculty will provide English language courses for international students, start in January; funding for the writing centre pulled; hope to demonstrate the value of language courses;
6. By-elections
- a. New members, Steffi; Nora; Tom; Jana; Danny
7. New Constitution (10 mins)
- a. Call out for secretary position

- i. VP Equity wrote up proposed D&E section of the call out; students who self-identify as participating from marginalized communities particularly encouraged to apply.
(Approved unanimously)
 - b. Honorarium for last GA secretary
 - i. No opposition to giving honorarium between 25\$ to 40\$ to volunteer GA secretary
President will follow up.
 - c. Composition of conference committee
 - i. Committee needs to decide who will chair, Charlotte will get back to us.
- 8. Student lounge (10 mins)
 - a. Cleaning schedule
 - i. Proposal to put a note “There is no cleaner, this is our space, let’s keep it clean”
yours truly Karma Bank Steffi will follow up.
- 9. Access to Information request re. Faculty of Education’s budget (Appendix 2) (10 mins)
 - i. MOTION: EGSS will sign Access to Information request. Unanimous**
 - ii. DISE Rep to follow up re. any problems sending ATI as a body.
- 10. PGSS open council meeting
 - i. ECP and KPE reps seeking representatives from their respective dept.
 - ii. Motion: to appoint Fernanda as interim pgss council (Unanimous)**

Appendix 1

Education Graduate Students Society of McGill University Council
3700 McTavish Street
Montreal, QC H3A 1Y2

October 10th, 2012

Student Accounts
Room MS-55
McLennan Library Building
3415 McTavish St.
Montreal, QC H3A 0C8

cc. First Year Office
Suite 2100
William & Mary Brown Student Services Building
3600 McTavish St.
Montreal, QC H3A 0G3

cc. First Year Office
Re. Tuition due date change

Dear Mary Jo McCulloch,

The Education Graduate Students Society of McGill wishes to express its concern regarding the change in the student fee schedule for first year students that came into effect this year, specifically moving the due date from the end of September to August 31st.

We can only speak on behalf of Education students, but we are sure that some of the difficulties students experienced are not unique to our faculty. Bringing ahead the student fee due date raised a number of real and potential challenges for graduate students. First, tuition was due before first year graduate students would have access to either internal or external grants. The problem is compounded when we account for the number of other expenses that come up at the beginning of September, including rent and, particularly for first year students, costs associated with moving to Montreal. Moreover, many graduate students, especially in our faculty, have families and incur many other expenses at the beginning of September. September, we all know, is a tight month. We feel it cannot be overstated the financial relief September grant and aid payouts provide students; moving ahead the due date exasperates an already difficult time of the year, as a number of students in our faculty can attest.

The response from your office that *technically* the student fee due date and student aid payout timeline was not an issue this year because students were not charged interest on unpaid tuition until after aid and grant money was to be made available we feel is inadequate to the concerns raised. Are we to presume similar loopholes will be present in years to come? Even if this year the early tuition deadline is

not as big of a problem as we might feel it is, unless students are aware of the technicality, many would have felt the anxiety and obligation to pay their fees when they are said to be due, and many would have already made cuts to other areas of their life to make the official deadline. Should we be informing new students that while student fee due date is posted as coming due at the end of August, they actually do not need to pay it until sometime later? And even if we do, this year, the window between aid/grant payout and interest starting to accrue was less than 48 hours; it is a stretch to say this is a reasonable time frame for students to manage.

Furthermore, student aid and grants are only one source of income for graduate students. Many students will count on TAs, RAships, or jobs outside of the University to make ends meet. And many will need to see income from these positions to cover all the costs associated with a new school year, particularly if they are first year students. Undoubtedly, in years past McGill recognized these financial needs, which is why special accommodations had, up until now, been made for first year students.

Of course, many of the concerns identified above are not unique to first year students or grad students. A large proportion of the student body would benefit if student fee due dates came at the end of September for all years, giving students some breathing room between first of the month expenses and student fee payments. If the concern was to bring everyone inline, why not push the due date back for everyone? A generous and much appreciated gesture by the University, but not an extraordinary one considering that Universities across the country do not charge their students tuition fees until later in the year or charge in instalments, recognizing, as we are sure they do, the reasons identified above.

Sincerely,

Fernanda Solar, on behalf of EGSS Council

(This letter was approved unanimously at the October 10th, 2012 EGSS council)

Appendix 2

Fernanda Solar, EGSS President
Student I.D: 260475783
Email: fernanda.solar@mail.mcgill.ca

October 10th, 2012

To:
Mr. Stephen Strople, Secretary-General
University Secretariat
James Administration Building
845 Sherbrooke Street West, Room 313
Montreal, QC H3A 2T5

Dear Mr. Strople,

I am contacting you in your capacity as McGill's administrator of access to information requests. As per the *Act respecting Access to documents held by public bodies and the Protection of personal information*, I respectfully request that the University provide me with:

- Access to Faculty of Education budget documents. Recognizing that salaries expenses are confidential, we request access to budget documents which detail budgeting / expenditures other than salary expenses.

I respectfully request as much of this information as possible be available in electronic format. Please contact me if you have any concerns or require clarification. Email is my preferred method of communication. Thank you for your time and prompt response.

Sincerely,

Fernanda Solar, EGSS President
On behalf of EGSS Council