

Council Meeting Minutes

April 5, 2013 (14:30-17:00)

Meeting 10 – EDUC Room 133

President Fernanda Soler Urzua, **VP Diversity & Equity** rosalind hampton, **VP Finance** Leron Lewis, **KPE Representative** Nora Macmillan, **VP Academic** Moksha Serrano, **PGSS councillor** Cora-Lee Conway, **Co-DISE Representative** Marcia Malcom, **VP Student-Life** Zahra Jalili, **MLISSA Representative** Rachel Legaspi, **Conference Coordinator** Moon-Jeong Kim .

Regrets **Conference Chair** Charlotte Sachs, **MATL Representative** Riley Drever, **VP Communication** Tom Fullerton, **ECP Representative** Steffi Mathes, **Co-DISE Representative** Stephen Peters.

* **AGSEM delegate Julian Mendez** - talked to us about support from the Faculty of Education for the establishment of a delegate council for the course lecturers. DISE, for example, is planning on cutting 5/6 course lectureships, coincidentally after the lecturers are asking for fair working conditions. Budget cuts are being used as the general excuse.

1. Approval of the April 5th agenda
 - a. **Unanimously approved**
2. Minutes approval extravaganza!
 - a. Approval of the Jan 28th, 2013 minutes
 - b. Approval of the Feb 13th, 2013 minutes
 - c. Approval of the Feb. 25th, 2013 minutes
 - d. Approval of the minutes from the online meeting on March 11th, 2013
 - i. **Unanimously approved**
3. Inquiry about approved Council Minutes
 - a. Where are the approved minutes? Can they be uploaded on the website soon, please?
 - b. Fernanda & Tom are on it
4. Post-conference report from MJ
 - a. Recap: Conference was a success! Registered # of participants was 157 (compared to approx. 193 last year, plus one more session taking place at a time, also more participants from outside of McGill) 56 ppl on the first day, 80-90 participants on the second day. Post-conference survey was sent out last week.
 - b. What were the causes of the lower turnout? Could it have to do with the lack of nominal fee? Likely more to do with the # of submissions to present. Timing is always tricky, too, with reading week being the week directly before. Childcare could be a reasonable idea, considering the number of people with children who present. Remember, the goal of having a free conference is not to increase turnout, it is more of a matter of principal.

- c. It would be nice to have a more physical component to the conference, as it involves a lot of sitting. This could a good way to involve KPE in the conference.
 - d. Overall a lovely experience, between the fascinating presentations, the GA and the sense of community. Great job!
5. Meeting with the Dean's Office on April 9th
- a. Fernanda requested individual contact. There was an email from the Dean's office with the meeting date sent on March 6. There has also been an email requesting agenda items – this is a good thing. It would be good to go into this meeting with a clear position
 - b. Recap of the last meeting can be found in March 11 minutes
 - c. Issue: Some resources have been purchased for the University with the money they have received from students – this is a way that they are 'bailing out' the University. This was brought up as a concern by Stephen, but is this a concern to bring up in this context? A similar incident took place with the library fund for graduate students last year. This was a PGSS fee and some students felt that this was a way of taking from PGSS funding, where the University has a budget for such constructions
 - d. EDUS should be contacted, but they have been notoriously difficult to reach. Does this type of communication fall under anyone's portfolio?
 - e. **Motion by Rosalind, seconded by Fernanda:**
 - i. Whereas EGSS and EdUS share interests as student bodies of the Faculty of Education;
Whereas the seat that has been provided by the EGSS for this academic year to the EdUS has been vacant for the past year;
BIRT VP Student-Life and President of EGSS share the responsibility for outreach and engagement of the EdUS council.
*** Unanimously approved**
 - f. Are there any concerns that EGSS council members would like to bring up at the meeting with the Dean?
 - i. Propose scheduled meetings on a regular basis
 - ii. VP D&E – anti-oppression statement, diverse representation.
 - iii. Departmental end-of-year reports
 - iv. Only EGSS and EDUS council has been invited, rather than the whole student body. We are being asked to give face to a structure that isn't necessarily representing what students want. We can't really speak FOR our members without consulting them. We should set up an online way that students can directly give their input to the Dean's office.
 - g. There's a big difference between consultation and getting free work done. This is how the last meeting where 'consultation' for the website felt more like being used.
6. EGSS Social for Winter term

- a. In the wake of the successful Open Mic, which people really enjoyed, we would like to have an Open Mic/Art show, food and wine will be served. April 26, 6pm @ Coach House
 - b. We wanted to give the opportunity to people who create art to have the opportunity to share. Let's put the pressure on the Faculty members and course lecturers to come.
7. Solidarity fund
- a. HANDS support for PhD DISE students
8. Budget update (see Excel attachment)
- a. This is not the same thing that was showed at the GA – there was a mistake made in the entire funding available.
 - b. Some new receipts came in – it would be nice to have the receipts follow much sooner after the completion of an event.
 - c. Lerona will be writing cheques on Fridays, so please let her know by Thursday of whichever week that something needs to be paid
 - d. Lerona only wants a requisition form if she needs to write a cheque. Otherwise, make sure that she is aware of money that PGSS will be taking out.
 - e. Fernanda went to Ikea yesterday for the lounge improvement.
 - f. Should the new version of the budget be made available for the membership to view online? That can be done after the conference money is sorted out.
 - g. There is left over money from the conference, and that money should go towards the conference next year. Would this rationale apply to other allocations? Next council will have to discuss this.
9. Concern for reduction of library hours
- a. Library now has reduced staff. Library is going to have reduced hours over the spring and summer.
 - b. Lerona is willing to petition for increased access to the library.
 - c. Cora sits on the Senate committee for Libraries and can bring it up there. They are still taking money from graduates for library improvement. We have a graduate program in Information Studies, so we should have no problem finding people to take night shifts
 - d. This is a direct consequence of the so-called budget cuts
 - e. **Motion moved by Fernanda, seconded by Tom:**
 - i. Whereas Education graduate students require physical access to the Education Library in the evening, on weekends and in the summer,
Whereas library access includes librarian services,
Whereas the majority of Education graduate students take classes in the evenings until 8:30pm,

Whereas many of the Education graduate students are working during the day, the time that they need access to these facilities is in the evening, on weekends and during the summer,

BIRT EGSS formally requests, on behalf of their membership, access to the Education Library and library staff until 11pm,

BIFRT EGSS formally requests that the Education Library and library staff be available on the weekends and in the summer,

BIFRT EGSS formally requests to be consulted regarding any further changes to Education Library hours.

***Unanimously approved**

- f. This can be communicated to students via email? Facebook? We can bring it to Faculty council, the next MLSSA meeting, meeting with the Dean (probably won't be discussed)

10. PGSS update

- a. AGM took place last month – not so widely attended.
- b. As Ed students, it is important that we remain involved. There is a lot of upheaval at PGSS.
- c. Cora can give more detailed updates, if individuals so desire. E-mail her.
- d. **Read the Daily!!!**

11. VP D&E update on FEDEC study follow-up and anti-oppression statement follow-up

- a. Fernanda and Rosalind met with delegate for FEDEC study and asked questions about the limitations of the study and subsequent dissolution of the FEDEC. Professors seem to need us to do the pushing and then they can take it further. These issues continually come up every few years.

12. Problematic/ oppressive behaviour by panelist/s at what was framed as an anti-racist event at McGill on Thursday March 28th 2013

- a. Julius Gray – civil libertarian: who is he and who was allowing him to be there? Many comments he made were offensive to members of various groups.
- b. Open letter being drafted with other equity commissioners, and VP D&E is asking for council's support. The letter is not yet finished, but when it is Fernanda will put it to an online vote so that we can support it as a body.

*Motion from EGSS President to extend the meeting to 5:10

Not passed

13. EGSS Travel Awards - Additional awards for 2012 - 2013 Year

- a. Tabled for next meeting

14. 2013 EGSS Fellowship Awards

- a. Last 2 consultations have not be very well attended
 - b. Moksha would like to set a date for a 3rd consultation on changes to be made to the fellowship
 - c. Save the date: June 3rd – EGSS fellowship review
15. VP Academic Event for Winter Term
- a. Having body-moving academic event with yoga instructor (who is incoming VP student life).
16. CRO Elections report
- a. Tabled for next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 17:03