

EGSS Winter 2013

General Assembly

EDUC 129

March 15th, 12:30-2:00

AGENDA

(suggested time)

1. Welcome message (2,5')
2. Rules of Order (10')
3. Approval of the Agenda (2,5)
4. Motion to amend the constitution – Appendix 1 (20)
5. Finances (20)
 - a. Financial report – Appendix 2
 - b. Motion to approve budget update – Appendix 3
6. Approval of Modified Logo – Appendix 4 (10')
7. Introduction of 2013-2014 candidates (20')
8. Council reports – Appendix 5 (5')

Appendix 1: Amendments and additions to the Constitution

Motion for Constitutional Amendment – Special Resolution – requires 2/3 majority to pass
(EGSS President)

WHEREAS the current constitution, in place since September 26, 2012, lacks some provisions to regulate certain procedures at EGSS;

BIRT the General Assembly approve the constitutional amendments and additions proposed below.

Amendments and Additions

Name of EGSS

WHEREAS McGill University does not allow for the use of its name by Student Associations,
BIRT Section 1.1. be amended to read:

“The name of this organization shall be Education Graduate Students’ Society (EGSS).”

BIFRT Section 1.2. be amended to read:

“The French version of the name of this organization shall be l’Association étudiante des cycles supérieurs en éducation (AÉCSE).”

1. Name

1. The name of this organization shall be Education Graduate Students’ Society of McGill University (EGSS).
2. The French version of the name of this organization shall be l’Association étudiante des cycles supérieurs en éducation de l’Université McGill (AECSE).

Composition of Council 1

WHEREAS current PGSS councillors representing EGSS at the PGSS council have no voting rights at the EGSS Council;

WHEREAS PGSS councillors fulfil an important role representing EGSS at the PGSS level;

WHEREAS PGSS councillors are democratically elected to serve in their roles;

BIRT Section 4.1. be amended to read:

“EGSS Council, hereafter ‘Council’, shall be composed of voting members and non-voting, ex-officio members.”

BIFRT “PGSS Councillors (3)” be moved from section 4.3. to section 4.2.

1. Composition of Council

3. EGSS Council, hereafter ‘Council’, shall be composed of twelve (12) voting members and eight (8) non-voting, ex-officio members.
4. The voting members of Council are:
 - The President;
 - The Vice-President Academic;
 - The Vice-President Finance;
 - The Vice-President Communication;
 - The Vice-President Student-Life;
 - The Vice-President Diversity and Equity;
 - Conference Chair;
 - Departmental Representatives from:
 - the Department of Integrated Studies in Education (DISE) (1);
 - Kinesiology and Physical Education (KPE) (1);
 - Educational and Counseling Psychology (ECP) (1);
 - Program Representatives from:
 - First Nations and Inuit Education (FNIE) (1);
 - The Master’s of Arts in Teaching and Learning (MATL) (1).
5. The non-voting, ex-officio members of Council are:
 - PGSS Councillors (3);
 - Departmental delegates (3) from the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM);
 - McGill’s Library and Information Studies Student Association (MLISSA) Representative (1);
 - Education Undergraduate Society of McGill (EdUS) Representative (1).

Composition of Council 2

WHEREAS AGSEM delegates fulfil an important role representing EGSS members who are employed as either Teaching Assistants or Course Instructors both at AGSEM and in Council;

WHEREAS AGSEM delegates are democratically elected to serve in their roles;

BIRT “Departmental delegates (3) from the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM) be moved from section 4.3. to section 4.2.

Number of PGSS Councillors

WHEREAS EGSS has no control over the Society Activities Manual of PGSS;

WHEREAS the Society Activities Manual regulates the allocation of seats to student associations in the PGSS council;

BIRT that the number in brackets next to “PGSS councillors” in Section 4.2. be amended to read:

“PGSS Councillors (The number of seats is contingent upon PGSS regulations)”

Roles of the President of EGSS

WHEREAS the President of EGSS, as the head of the society, should be responsible for overseeing the workings of the society;

BIRT that a new section 5.3.1.1., adjusting all subsequent numbering as necessary, be added stating:

“Ensure that all rules and regulations set out in the Constitution are followed.”

Roles of the Vice-President Communication

WHEREAS the EGSS email account receives high volumes of information constantly;

WHEREAS some of that information is time-sensitive;

BIRT that Section 5.3.5.4. be amended to read:

“Check the EGSS e-mail account at least once a day during school days and ensure that messages are delivered to the appropriate Council members within 36 hours.”

5.3.5.4. Check the EGSS e-mail account and ensure that messages are delivered to the appropriate members;

Quorum of Council meetings

WHEREAS the current quorum requirement for EGSS council meetings has made the decision-making process somewhat tedious and difficult,

WHEREAS a lower quorum would allow the EGSS council to make decisions more easily;

WHEREAS other student societies as PGSS have substantially lower quorum requirements;

BIRT Section 7.7. be amended to read:

“Quorum shall be at least fifty percent (50%) of voting members.”

7. Quorum shall be at least sixty percent (60%) of voting members.

Attendance to Council meetings and removal for absence

WHEREAS Section 5.2.3. states that the responsibilities of Council members include “Attending and contributing to EGSS meetings throughout the academic year”;

WHEREAS attendance to EGSS council meetings is vital to be up-to-date on EGSS matters,

BIRT Section 15.1.1. be amended to read:

“They are officially absent from three (3) consecutive Council meetings over the course of the year, barring medical, family or other valid reasons at the discretion of Council;”

15.1.1. They are officially absent from four (4) consecutive Council meetings over the course of the year, barring medical, family, or other valid reasons at the discretion of Council;

PGSS councillors’ roles

WHEREAS the attendance of PGSS councillors to PGSS council meetings is vital to have representation at the PGSS level;

BIRT that a new section 15.1.3, adjusting all subsequent numbering as necessary, be added stating:

“In addition to the provisions stipulated in 15.1.1. and 15.1.2., PGSS Councillors are automatically removed from office should they lose voting rights at the PGSS council.”

Impeachment

WHEREAS Council should ensure that Council members remain accountable to the Membership;

WHEREAS Council members might be substantially more familiar with the work of other fellow Council members than the Membership at large;

WHEREAS EGSS has no procedure in place that allows Council itself to make decisions regarding the removal of a Council member for delinquency of duties and violations to the Constitution;

BIRT a new Section in Article 14 with corresponding subsections, adjusting all subsequent numbering as necessary, be added stating:

“A Council member may also be removed from office if they have previously been censored by Council twice or more during their term. In such cases, impeachment shall require the signatures of at least five percent (5%) of the Membership or a motion to impeach be passed at Council with the support of at least seventy percent (70%) of voting members”.

Eligibility for re-election for automatically removed officers

WHEREAS our current constitution has no clear provisions regarding the re-election of Council members that have been impeached or automatically removed from office in terms of the position such a member could fill in the future,

BIRT section 14.4. be amended to read:

“Should a Council member be impeached for any reason, that member is not eligible for re-election in any position in Council.”

BIFRT section 15.2. be amended to read:

“Should a Council member be automatically removed, that member is not eligible for re-election in any position in Council.”

Listserv use

WHEREAS both the President and Vice-President Communication are responsible of the EGSS email account and sending out information over the listserv;

WHEREAS EGSS is committed to try to minimize the volume of information being sent to our members through the listserv;

WHEREAS EGSS receives many request for messages to be sent out over the listserv by both EGSS members and entities external to EGSS;

BIRT section 16.5.2. be amended to read:

“The President or Vice-President Communication shall acknowledge the receipt of the e-mail and, upon mutual agreement, send it over the listserv within two (2) school days.”

BIFRT that a new section 16.5.3. be amended to read:

“In the event that the President or Vice-President Communication refuse a request or do not come to an agreement on sending a message over the listserv, a motion to approve or overturn the refusal or solve said disagreement must be brought to Council.”

BIFRT that a new section 16.5.4, adjusting all subsequent numbering as necessary, be added stating:

“In the event an entity external to EGSS request that a message be sent out over the listserv, the President and Vice-President Communication shall evaluate the relevance of the message and, upon mutual agreement, send it over the listserv within two (2) school days. If no agreement is reached, the procedure stipulated in Section 16.5.3. shall be followed.”

Use of the EGSS name

WHEREAS the use of the EGSS name holds the Education Graduate Students' Society and its Council as a whole accountable for any action taken or any information disseminated using the EGSS name;

BIRT a new Article be added after Article 16, adjusting all subsequent number as necessary, named "Use of the EGSS name", whose first Section state:

"No member shall use the name of EGSS without permission of Council."

BIFRT a second section be added, adjusting all subsequent number as necessary, stating:

"In the event an EGSS member desires to use to EGSS name for any purpose, this member shall bring a motion to a Council meeting following the rules stipulated in sections 7.7 and 7.8."

BIFRT a third section be added, adjusting all subsequent numbering as necessary, stating:

"Members of Council are authorized to use the EGSS name in their signatures provided they use their name and position in Council"

BIFRT a fourth section be added, adjusting all subsequent numbering as necessary, stating:

"Members of Council may not create email accounts associated with the EGSS name unless mandated to do so by Council, and if so, that a minimum of 2 members have access to that account."

Appendix 2: Financial Report and Budget Update

Revenue	budgeted	actual		
Student Life Fund (PGSS)	\$15,000.00	\$16,958.00		
BMO Account (internal account)	\$10,959.78	\$12,023.78		
Student Life Fund Expenditures				
Proposed Expenditure	Annual	Updated Annual	Expenditure to date	Over/Under to Date
EGSS Travel awards	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$1,500	\$3,500.00
EGSS Fellowships	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0	\$3,000.00
VP Academic	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0	\$200.00
VP Student Life	\$1,000.00	\$1,400.00	\$174	\$826.34
VP Diversity & Equity	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$46	\$454.01
VP Communications	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$197	\$2.79
Council related expenses	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$38	\$361.95
EGSS Conference budget	\$3,300.00	\$3,800.00	\$0	\$3,300.00
Study Space/Lounge Improvement	\$200.00	\$258.00	\$85	\$114.52
Solidarity fund	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0	\$500.00
Secretary Honorarium	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0	\$500.00
Upcoming Council		\$300.00		
Office & Lounge Maintenance	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$15	\$185.13
Total	\$15,000.00	\$16,958.00	\$2,055	\$12,944.74
Internal Account				
Proposed Expenditure	Annual		Expenditure to date	Over/Under to Date
Liability insurance	\$1,063.00	\$0.00	\$0	
Annual account maintenance fee	\$66.00	\$66.00	\$0	
Total	\$1,129.00	\$66.00		

Appendix 3

Motion to approve the budget update

WHEREAS EGSS received a larger amount of money than anticipated from the Student-Life Fund administered by PGSS;

BIRT the budget update provided in Appendix 2 be approved by the General Assembly.

Appendix 4: Updated EGSS Logo



Appendix 5: Council Reports

EGSS Council reports

Introduction

It is great my pleasure to present the reports of Council members. This year, we have decided to provide our membership with brief reports of the work we have done so far. We have decided to do this as a way to comply with our transparency and accountability mandate. Full reports will be made available to our Membership by the end of the academic year, and they will be posted on our website.

As you will see, this has been a very busy year for EGSS, and I should certainly mention that I feel very proud of the effort all Council members have put into the work they do at EGSS. It is Council members' commitment and enthusiasm together with the participation of our Membership in our social and political life what helps us build a better student society every day. Thank you very much and keep up the good work!

Fernanda Soler Urzúa

EGSS President

Reports

President: Fernanda Soler Urzúa

In my capacity of President, I have been in charge of undertaking and coordinating several tasks. Besides participating in a number of meetings with previous EGSS Council members and PGSS officers (e.g., former President, VP Info & Tech, VP Finance, MLISSA President, PGSS Student-life Coordinator) to familiarize myself with the workings of EGSS, one of the very first projects I participated in was the drafting of a new Constitution for our student society, which was later approved at our Fall General Assembly in 2012.

Given the fact that EGSS did not have an updated website and that the old one was scheduled for deletion, I designed and build the new website that is now hosted on the McGill server under egss.mcgill.ca.

In an attempt to refresh the image of EGSS, I also coordinated the creation of a new logo.

Until the hiring of a new Secretary by the end of January this year, I coordinated all Council meetings. I also coordinated the improvement and oversaw the use of the study space until very recently.

Among many other tasks I can't address here because of space constraints, I have also collaborated with the Conference Coordinators by putting together this year's program and by assisting in the design of the Conference webpage.

Vice-President Academic: Moksha Serrano

This year as VP Academic, one of my major projects was chairing the review and amendment of our Constitution, as mandated at our Winter 2012 GA. This work began in May 2012, and continued over the summer with the help of both EGSS Members and Council, with the final redraft approved at our Fall 2012 GA. I now sit on Faculty Council, in addition to other academic committees at the Faculty level. In an effort for representation from our entire Faculty, I consulted MLISSA to invite a PhD student from SIS to also sit on the Committee on Graduate Studies (CGS).

As an extension of my "Searching for a Supervisor: Things to Consider" Winter 2012 Academic Workshop, I co-authored an F.A.Q. sheet for DISE. I also worked with the DISE Department Representatives to facilitate discussion spaces for students for their department's Cyclical Unit Review.

Another major project has been the revision of the EGSS Travel Awards and the EGSS Fellowships applications in order to make the process more streamlined for both students and supervisors/departments. The revised Travel Awards process was implemented in Winter 2013 and a consultation process for Fellowship applications will begin shortly after the 2013 EGSS Conference.

Vice-President Communication: Thomas Fullerton

I volunteered with the EGSS Council after the start of the school year to help with communications. In that capacity, I've been maintaining the website that was built over last summer: < <http://egss.mcgill.ca/> >

I was able to get a functioning listserv in January and since then, I've been sending out a monthly newsletter to our members. I created a twitter account for EGSS < <https://twitter.com/EGSSatMcGill> > and have been updating the Facebook page < <https://www.facebook.com/mcgillegss> >. After consultation with the Secretariat, I updated the EGSS logo to reflect McGill policy.

Communications and marketing has shifted drastically in the last 5 years to one that is highly mobile, user-controlled and based on relationships. In order to represent our membership effectively, we need to reach them where they are. Digital communications, while able to reach many quickly, may not be the most effective for us. I would appreciate feedback from the membership at large as to how we might enter into dialogue with you and best communicate with you.

Vice-President Diversity & Equity: rosalind hampton

My goals as VP Diversity and Equity include raising awareness of issues of diversity and equity in the faculty of Education and at McGill overall, and promoting critical approaches to diversity and equity in education. My work is guided by questions such as *How can we work to understand, value, respect and when appropriate work across our differences towards promoting diversity and equity? How can we work actively to recognize, critique and correct discrimination and oppression in our thinking, interactions and practices?*

I continue to work in collaboration with fellow EGSS councillors and members, other student groups, and faculty members on various initiatives addressing these questions and goals.

During the Fall 2012 semester I initiated the ***Diversity and Equity in Education Exchange*** (D&E EdX) program, through which students can share academic and community-based resources and engage in discussions related to a wide range of issues related to diversity and equity. The D&E EdX is currently located on the EGSS website (<http://egss.mcgill.ca/community.html#/>). I continue to raise awareness about the program and encourage the participation of EGSS members and students at all levels and across faculties.

Another awareness raising initiative was the creation of a document titled: **Q&A: Issues of Diversity and Equity at McGill** now available on the DISE and Faculty of Medicine websites (http://www.mcgill.ca/dise/sites/mcgill.ca.dise/files/faqde14_jan.pdf; <http://www.mcgill.ca/medadmissions/eq-div/equity-and-diversity-fags>)

Vice-President Student-Life: Zahra Jalili

Your VP Student Life, with the support of other EGSS council members, has organized the following events till now:

The Welcome BBQ was organized on September 18th in front of the Education Building, as an opportunity for EGSS members to get together, socialize, and better know each other as well as the community.

Movie Nights were organized on the last Friday evenings in Fall (with an exception of November which was cancelled), as opportunities to get together, watch a movie related to an aspect of education, and discuss it in an informal environment. “Who killed the Electric Car?” was screened on September 28th and “The Forbidden Education” on October 26th, at Thomson House.

The OpenMic (Wine & Cheese) event was a Welcome-Back-to-School gathering for graduate students and faculty members, held in the Coach House in late January. It was a wonderful opportunity to share a piece of performing art with others in a friendly environment. Around 10 people performed and shared their music, songs, poetry, or piece of writing.

If you have missed the above events... no worries! Heads up for the new events coming soon. :)

Conference Chair: Charlotte Sachs

The conference coordination has been successful project once again. We managed to secure funding from the Administrative Office, all four departments in the Faculty, as well as external funding from PGSS, McGill alumni and CSSE. The main goal of the conference committee, to ensure that the conference is free has been met with great success, all the while maintaining a balanced budget. Other activities of the committee of note:

- Developing workshops on conference preparation and abstract submission processes with Skillsets, Concordia's GradProSkills and Concordia's Education Graduate Student conference committee.
- Developing a simplified online registration processes.
- Promoting the conference to other Quebec universities, particularly by inviting the Deans of Education from UdeLaval and UdeMontreal to participate in our panel keynote.
- Re-instating an award for excellence in graduate student research, in collaboration with the McGill Journal of Education.

The full report of the Conference Committee will be available online before the end of Council's term.

Department of Integrated Studies Co-Representatives: Stephen Peters & Marcia Malcolm

This year has so far been a busy year for DISE. Along with regular attendance at EGSS council, DISE Dept. Meetings, and the Graduate Program Committee (GPC), this year the two DISE Reps were able to play a leading or supporting role in several initiatives. At the University and/or Faculty level, these include: formulating and passing a new EGSS constitution, accessing the

Faculty Budget and distributing it to the Dept. Chair and Graduate Program Director; co-drafting a letter to student accounts raising concern over earlier tuition due dates, which prompted student aid to release award money to incoming students earlier; and working with PGSS councillors and VP Academic towards fair representation for Education students on PGSS. At the Department level initiatives include, initiating a new DISE-student listserv; clarifying and communicating DISE policy around course lectureship hiring; ensuring student representation on DISE hiring committees, working alongside VP D & E towards implementing a Dept. Equity and Anti-Oppression statement to be included on course syllabus; working with VP Academic to ensure student voice on University imposed dept. cyclical review; alongside President and VP D & E, pressuring dept. to retract automatic withdraw policy for late comprehensive exam policy; and leading Colloquium review within GPC. Thanks to Marcia Malcolm who has recently come on as co DISE-Rep.