

Council Meeting Minutes

February 25, (14:30-17:00)

Meeting 9 – EDUC Room 624

Council members

President Fernanda Soler Urzua, **Conference Chair** Charlotte Sachs, **VP Diversity & Equity** rosaling hampton, **VP Academic** Moksha Serrano, **PGSS councillor** Cora-Lee Conway, **ECP Representative** Steffi Mathes, **DISE Representative** Marcia Malcom, **DISE Representative** Stephen Peters,.

Regrets, **MATL Representative** Riley Drever, **VP Finance** Lerona Lewis, **KPE Representative** Nora Macmillan, **VP Communication** Tom Fullerton, **MLISSA Representative** Rachel Legaspi, **VP Student-Life** Zahra Jalili.

Please take turns to speak

1. Approval of the Feb. 25th, 2012 agenda
 - a. Pending quorum
2. Approval of minutes of Jan 28th, 2012
 - a. Pending quorum
3. Approval of the minutes of Feb 13th, 2013
 - a. Pending quorum
4. EGSS elections
 - a. Moksha is now acting as CRO, since it is unconstitutional for Robyn to co-CRO.
 - i. **Online vote to nominate Cora-Lee Conway as co-CRO: Approved unanimously**
 - b. A spending limit per nominee is to be set **before** nominations, so it would be logical to delay the nomination period for at least a day. Since we don't have quorum, we will have to have an online vote to set the limit. The call for nominations will have to be taken down from the website, and not put up again until we have found the spending limit. **Tom took it off the website.**
 - i. **Online vote results: Majority agreed to set the spending limit for campaigning to \$50**
 - c. Can we have the nomination period re-opened for Wednesday, February 27th, please?
Thanks, Tom.
 - d. New dates:
 - i. Nomination period for ALL positions: Feb. 27 – March 14
 - ii. Second nomination period for positions with no nominees: March 15-26
 - iii. Campaigning: March 15-20
 - iv. General Assembly: March 15
 - v. Elections via online vote: March 21-26

5. March 15th GA

- a. Structure – not discussed
- b. Chair – President does not want to do it, so she will try to find someone. Request for Joel to be offered the role first. The person who fills the role should be given an honorarium, similar to that of the secretary.
 - i. Online vote to agree that someone other than Fernanda can chair the meeting: Majority agreed**
 - ii. We need to make an agenda-making committee
 - iii. We need to make a GA sub-committee. Can that be on the online survey? **Cora** will be in charge of that committee.
 - iv. The March newsletter is coming out next week, so if we want non-council members to be a part of that committee, we should write something up to publish.
 - v. We also should put a call-out for agenda items in the newsletter.
- c. Robert's Rules – not discussed
- d. Council attendance and reports
 - i. Reports are not required before the end of the term, but it is good practice to have a small paragraph prepared on the things we've done. Constitution says report has to be available – not read out loud.
 - ii. It would be a good idea to at least stand for questions at the GA, to increase member interest
 - iii. How many council members will be present at the GA?

6. PGSS update

- a. Yana is no longer part of EGSS council, as she missed 4 meetings in a row without ever sending regrets. So, her seat is now open.
- b. At last week's PGSS meeting, council voted-in the motion for new EGSS seats.
 - i. So, we are getting one extra seat – we will have 4 seats starting June 1st. These seats are open for the elections.
- c. Accreditation
 - i. PGSS executive has put forward a campaign to seek accreditation. Requires 25% of members to vote 'YES.' It would give PGSS legal students as per gov't of QC, without having to go through McGill to get things approved. It would prevent them having to go through McGill admin to change fee levees. This could be a good thing or a bad thing. The 1% 'bad debt-fee' would still be picked up by McGill, since they would still be dealing with the fee collection. Increases power as a Student Society.
 - ii. Since they need so much of a vote, it is a big deal. They are putting it as an extra question on the election vote. It is not very neutral, as it seems that PGSS is running a 'YES' campaign, with little acknowledgement of potential drawbacks

to the motion. This lack of neutrality is problematic, as many of the PGSS council members are not even aware of the drawbacks. The supposedly 'neutral' publicist of the vote is technically an employee of the PGSS council members, who is not neutral.

- iii. There are a number of student societies that are accredited, so it wouldn't be a completely new thing.
- iv. What role does citizenship have in the union? Is there any stipulation around the nationalities of the council members and executives, etc.?

7. Motion to advocate termination of PGSS' employee Brock Rutter and suspension of PGSS elections (see Appendix 1 for amended motion)

- a. The whole PGSS vote was illegal, according to this CRO. He called someone names in an email, as well as at the (illegal) hustings last week.
 - i. Hustings were technically illegal, as they are constitutionally supposed to give a week's notice, but they only gave 2 days.
- b. He resigned as CRO.
- c. Moksha wants to amend the motion
 - i. We can hold an online vote

8. DISE Comps motion update

- a. Motion was awkward when brought forward. They decided to discuss the issue at their 'May Retreat.' DISE Rep Stephen argued that this would be too late, but since it's only EGSS that is bringing this motion forward, they don't need to do anything about it.
- b. This 2-year-limit is not a GPS rule, but a GPD issue that can be changed. DISE Rep Stephen and President Fernanda have been trying to call an open meeting with GPD, but they are not having any success. GPD said it's coming from GPS; GPS says it's not coming from them. This kind of policy exists in neither SIS nor KPE. GPC has a meeting on March 1st, where it will be brought up. They want to have the open meeting after the GPC meeting.
 - i. This is essentially a non-policy, as it is not written anywhere.
- c. VP Academic Moksha and PGSS Councillor Cora-Lee would like to bring a similar motion to the meeting with the Dean, as well as bringing it up tomorrow at an external committee.

9. Appointment of the Dean

- a. Follow up: Moksha, Fernanda & Charlotte met with Mariusz. All of the concerns brought up by EGSS are concerns that have already been brought up. Student Life is a relatively small issue when considering the reappointment of the Dean.
- b. It would be nice to have more clarification as to the relationship between the Dean and EGSS.

- c. Faculty Council is quite oppressive by nature. Some Faculty have been pushing to prevent certain things coming out of the Dean's office...

10. EGSS Communications

- a. Update from February 13th meeting
 - i. Gmail.com email is still being used, despite the mandate. What gives?
- b. Council minutes – decision to eliminate use of gmail.com address
 - i. This seemed backhanded motion to have been passed in his absence. We need to clarify how we want Communications to be working, but this is certainly something that we can resolve. We should be more conscious of what discussions we bring up when relevant council members are not present.
 - ii. VP Communications Tom would like to amend the motion, but we don't have quorum.

*** We need to revisit the quorum issue, as we are having trouble meeting quorum far too often.**

Meeting adjourned at 16:45

Appendix 1

Motion to advocate termination of PGSS' employee Brock Rutter and suspension of PGSS elections (Fernanda Soler Urzúa)

WHEREAS EGSS is committed to work within an anti-oppressive framework;

WHEREAS EGSS represents the interests of EGSS membership;

WHEREAS the EGSS membership comprises more than 10% of the PGSS membership;

WHEREAS matters at the PGSS level affect all EGSS members;

WHEREAS the employee acting as Chief Returning Officer (CRO) of PGSS until February 21st, 2013, Mr. Brock Rutter, did not comply with the regulations established in Chapter 9, Section 2, #1.4. of the Society Affairs Manual (SAM) with regards to elections;

WHEREAS the Appeals Board of PGSS ordered, on February 21st, 2013, the extension of the nomination period for Brock's failure to meet the requirement stipulated in Chapter 9, Section 2, #1.4. of the SAM;

WHEREAS Mr. Rutter did not follow the rules stipulated in the SAM with regards to elections;

WHEREAS Mr. Brock Rutter, acting in his capacity as CRO, verbally assaulted the Equity Commissioner on Feb 20th, 2013 via written communication and again in public at the hustings held at Thomson House.

WHEREAS Mr. Rutter displayed a complete lack of regard for both councillors, students and colleagues in his aggressive behaviour, statements and actions, his ability to oversee a referendum as it pertains to the question of accreditation is seriously compromised;

BIRT EGSS advocates for the immediate termination of any and all employment contract/s between Mr. Brock Rutter and PGSS and any other position he might be holding in the present in PGSS;

BIFRT EGSS advocates for the discounting of the hustings held on February 20th 2013, and the suspension of the PGSS elections process until a new CRO is hired.

BIFRT EGSS sends a letter to both the PGSS Executive and the PGSS Board of Directors to express EGSS council's concern and disappointment for the lack of intervention by the Secretary General of PGSS, Jonathan Mooney; the Internal Affairs Officer, Michael Krausse; and the Academic Affairs Officer, Adam Bouchard, against the inappropriate behaviour of Mr. Rutter at the hustings held at Thomson House on February 20th, 2013.