

## Minutes for the Council Meeting of

June 26, 2012, 10h30

### Executives

**President** Fernanda Soler, **VP Diversity and Equity** rosalind hampton, **VP Student Life** Zahra Jalili, **VP Academic** Moksha Serrano, **ECP Representative** Kevin Dugas, **DISE Representative** Stephen Peters.

### Regrets

**PGSS Councillor** Cora-Lee Conway, **Conference Coordinator** Charlotte Sachs, **Conference Coordinator** MJ Kim, **Conference Coordinator** Melissa Stern, **MATL Representative** Riley Drever, **MLISSA President** Ariana Ross.

### **Meeting start time**

10:40

#### 1. **Introduction**

President proposes to go around the table for members of the executive to introduce themselves. Every member then introduces herself/himself.

#### 2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Amendments to the agenda:

Move point **7. Constitution amendments/re-drafting** after point **4. EGSS funds and budget**

Agenda approved as amended.

#### 3. **Welcome to council members**

President welcomes all present EGSS executive members and expresses her will to work on several projects together with the EGSS executive. She then asks if any of the members has any possible projects to talk about or remarks to make regarding their mandate for the coming academic year.

- a. **VP Student Life:** expresses her will to work on building community among graduate students at the Faculty of Education. She also mentions lack of sense of belonging in the Faculty of

Education, and she expresses a need to create more opportunities for socialization and connections.

- b. ECP Representative:** expresses his will to become more closely aligned with EGSS, work on making connections with the ECP administration and work to support ECP students.
- c. VP Diversity and Equity:** expresses there is a need to develop faculty-wide membership. She mentions that as VP Diversity and Equity would like to work on events and activities that raise awareness of issues of equity both at the faculty and university level, she addresses critical engagement with the student movement and popular education activities. She also suggests that resources and materials addressing diversity and equity issues be developed, for example, a pamphlet related to bill C-31. She proposes to establish connections with QPIRG (Quebec Public Research Interest Group) and Rad Frosh, an alternative orientation event organized by QPIRG around issues of equity and diversity. She proposes that the EGSS collaborates with SEDE (Social Equity and Diversity Education) Office at McGill and promote workshops, and also offer diversity and equity workshops at the EGSS conference. She also proposes that a diversity and equity interactive exchange space be created (e.g., a tumblr site, a wordpress site). She proposes to implement an EGSS certificate program for EGSS members to facilitate workshops in the future after having participated in a certain amount of diversity and equity workshops themselves beforehand.
- d. DISE Representative:** States the important role graduate students play in the life of the university. Expresses two goals: To be a strong advocate for DISE students within his department as the department goes through changes this year; b) his desire to get more DISE students involved in EGSS and participate in the political processes and help to shape the community they are a part of and contribute to .

#### 4. MLISSA update

##### a. Referendum held last year

SIS students voted last year to stop contributing to EGSS with the student life fund fee and that is effective from this 2012-2013 academic year onward. President reads an e-mail from MLISSA president in which she states that MLISSA would like to retain ties with EGSS and would be

willing to co-sponsor events, such as the EGSS conference, but that MLISSA would no longer be contributing financially to EGSS. The MLISSA president also mentions in the e-mail that MLISSA will leave it to the EGSS executive discretion to decide whether SIS students will be part of EGSS or not.

**b. 2010-2012 funds**

President informs the executive that MLISSA contributed with 1,500 CAD for the 2011-2012 budget last May (2012), which is half of what they were expected to contribute. Their student life fund did not come in as expected, because PGSS retained their funds and advised them to hold a referendum to decide what they would do with their student life fund fee. After this process was completed, PGSS released the funds to MLISSA, and then they proceeded to give 1,500 CAD to our association.

**c. 2012-2013 funds**

**i. Participation in/collaboration with EGSS**

VP Diversity and Equity asks how membership will look like in the future and expresses that membership should be seen as and either “in” or “out” issue.

VP Student life asks whether MLISSA had proposed how a potential contribution would look like.

President proposes that a per-member contribution could be calculated so MLISSA could participate in events like the conference (as previously suggested by DISE representative).

**ii. Use of graduate student spaces by SIS students**

VP Student Life asks whether maintaining spaces would cost money from the EGSS budget and proposes that if money from our budget is spent on the maintenance of spaces, SIS students or MLISSA should help fund that.

VP Academic mentions that it will be problematic to deal with SIS student participation in EGSS when dealing with travel awards and fellowships.

VP Diversity and Equity clarifies that SIS student participation being discussed was about the use of physical spaces and that political decision making should be limited to full members. Something in the constitution about MLISSA / EGSS student.

DISE Rep reminds council of the value in having a faculty wide student association vs.

department wide, these include working with a larger budget, as well as pooling reduction in duplication of efforts as a joint body.

Steps forward: EGSS will prepare the budget not counting on MLISSA's potential contribution and will contact MLISSA to know how and what EGSS services they want to contribute to.

VP Diversity and Equity mentions that EGSS could look for contribution from Music Education graduate students.

## 5. EGSS funds and budget

### a. 2011-2012 funds/budget

The budget prepared by EGSS previous administration is shown and discussed among members of the executive.

VP Academic suggests including an item for council-related expenses for the coming year.

### b. 2012-2013 funds/budget

President explains that the financial year-end report has not been sent by the former VP finance, Sophia Kapchinsky, so we don't know how much money we have for the coming year. She also explains that there are two sources of funds. The first one is the BMO account, which is the account in which PGSS would deposit the student life fund allocated to EGSS in the past. All the money in that account has been carried over from previous years, so it does not grow. The other place where EGSS has money is PGSS, which now manages funds of all graduate student associations at McGill. President explains that requesting money from our student life fund at PGSS takes times (one or two weeks).

DISE representative suggests that EGSS uses the money in the BMO account to have quick access to funds when need arises, and then put back the money withdrawn requesting the necessary funds to PGSS. He also proposes not to buy capital items from the BMO money, but from the PGSS student life fund. The reason is that eventually the BMO account will be depleted and EGSS will no longer have quick access to funds if need be.

VP Diversity and Equity proposes that the EGSS budget for the coming year be prepared according to the projects of each portfolio, instead of allocating funds to each portfolio and then solve what to do with the money allocated.

Executive members agree and will present projects in the next council meeting and a proposed budget.

President mentions that for the next council meeting, we will have the final balance of the PGSS account as well as BMO account.

Business arising: VP Student Life asks for year-end reports from previous officers. President explains she has received only a couple of reports, that she will distribute those she has and that she will send each officer an e-mail with the e-mail address of each previous officer to put them in touch and request their reports.

#### **6. Constitution amendments/re-drafting**

- a. VP Academic gives history of constitution and the origins of the impetus to revise the document (questions about the usefulness of the document) and the revision work that has been done so far.
- b. DISE Rep discusses the nature of the changes that have been so far identified:
  - i. Straightforward, unproblematic changes to inconsistencies, redundancies, are out-of-date sections. These include French translation of EGSS name, the inclusion of MATL and FNIE, as well as updating sections such as the article on Finances so that they fall in line with changes at PGSS; election rules.
  - ii. More significant changes that have to do with the vision and purpose of the society the framework that will help to achieve that vision. These include possible changes to composition of executive/council, rules for the inclusion of special programs; membership; access to services.
- c. DISE Rep discusses procedure for going ahead: Follow the rules set out in the old constitution for preparing the new constitution; plan for two consultation forums (one early and one closer to the final document). Ask Reps to consult within their departments. Notice of amendments to go out at least one week before the fall GA.
- d. Continue to invite EGSS members to participate in the re-drafting process.\
- e. A final draft shall be sent to all EGSS members 10 days prior to the GA.

#### **7. Grad student spaces updates**

**a. EGSS office changes**

The office was cleaned and organized. President bought office supplies and cleaning supplies out of her pocket. A recycling bin was purchased. President mentions there are 7 keys to be made available to people who would use the office. She also mentions there are no opening hours.

**b. Student lounge changes**

PGSS Councillor and President cleaned the student lounge and purchased cleaning supplies, and also a new coffee maker. A recycling bin was purchased. President talks about the need to have a cleaning system.

VP Diversity and Equity and DISE representative propose to use the lounge for future executive meetings and clean it ourselves after/before every meeting.

Step forward: we will leave labels for students to label their food in the fridge. The policy that will be adopted is that no labelled food is communal. We will also post fridge cleaning dates for students to take out their food.

**c. Study space changes**

Study room was cleaned. A recycling bin was purchased. President proposes to buy lamps for the desks, because the room is too dark. The money to buy the lamps will possibly come from our operating budget and not the BMO account.

**8. Vacant positions in council**

**a. By-elections in the fall**

President mentions we have five positions to fill (VP finance, VP Information and Technology, Secretary, KPE representative, a conference coordinator). President also mentions she asked someone to act as VP Information and Technology Interim until we hold the elections in the fall. She also informs this person has not made a decision yet, and will report back if there is any updates.

President proposes to make a call out on the listserv, also seek nominations in the BBQ event (as proposed previously by our PGSS councillor), have candidates introduce themselves at the coming GA and hold a vote afterwards.

Council decides:

- i. to have the BBQ event on September 18<sup>th</sup>, during the second week of classes (EGSS by itself, not with EdUS)
- ii. to hold the first GA on September 26<sup>th</sup>, during the third week of classes.
- iii. Hold elections during the first week of October.

## 9. First General Assembly of the year

### a. Date

Date was set in previous discussion for September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

### b. Subjects to be addressed

- i. We will introduce the new executive and show the way we want to work.
- ii. Budget for the year needs to be approved by the GA, so it needs to be ready before then.
- iii. The candidates for vacant position will have the opportunity to introduce themselves
- iv. We will announce the elections for the vacant positions as well.

President proposes to modify the rest of the agenda because of time constraints. Point **12 EGSS communications is moved after point 8 First General Assembly of the year**. She also proposes to send the information about the remaining points via e-mail to council members.

## 10. EGSS communications

### a. Phone (voicemail), e-mail, facebook

President mentions that EGSS voicemail is fully operative, and distributes the phone number among members (514-398-6008).

President mentions that all e-mails from the two previous years have been deleted from the EGSS e-mail account, even though previous administrations have left all the correspondence stored in the archive of the account. She also mentions that the account has no quota issues, because the storage capacity of the account is large.

VP Diversity and Equity expresses her concern about this action and calls to make a public statement via the listserv, facebook and the McGill Daily and the Tribune to let the community know how serious this situation is.

DISE representative also mentions it is a good idea because EGSS would then have a backup in case there were requests that were not handled by the previous administration.

VP Diversity and Equity mentions it is an issue of transparency. All members of the council agree.

Step forward: rosalind will draft the first version of the communiqué to be distributed among council members.

President tells council members to advertise our facebook page.

**b. Website**

**i. New page and server**

President explains that the current EGSS website is scheduled for deletion. She also mentions that we have a new space in the McGill server, but someone needs to be trained to make the website available.

**ii. Info about new council members**

President asks each council member to submit a bio of no more than 150 words and a picture to put on the new EGSS website at some point.

**iii. News (not dealt with)**

**iv. Minutes (not dealt with)**

**c. New logo for the society**

President presents proposal of a new logo. She explains that the new logo was made thinking of diversity but also in a sort of convergence. VP Student Life asks whether any McGill symbol could be used in the logo, such as the martlets, but President mentions there are restrictions to McGill's official symbols use.

DISE representative proposes to post the new logo on facebook and let students provide feedback.

**Meeting is adjourned at 1pm.**