

Present: Fernanda Soler Urzúa (President), Rosalind Hampton (VP Diversity & Equity), Lerona Lewis (VP Finance), Charlotte Sachs (Conference Chair), Shalaka Shah (PGSS Councillor - via Skype), Jason Lister (VP Academic-elect).

Meeting commenced at 2:30pm without quorum.

J. Lister acted as secretary as a one-time favour to the Council.

Business arising from previous minutes: Assessment centre - ECP:

Shalaka Shah (SS) - There has been an unprecedented, complete overhaul of how this is done, and it will be at the school-wide level. The student poll conducted was therefore useless, as the decision has been taken out of the hands of ECP.

Fernanda Soler Urzúa (FSU) - What were the poll results?

SS - There were 35 votes - 68.6% agreed with fees, 20% disagreed, and 11.4% had no preference or were undecided.

Lerona Lewis (LL) - 35 of how many voters?

SS - Will get back to you on that

FSU - Any information on changes in policy?

SS - Email has been sent to **J. Lister (JL)**, and **JL** has attached it to the minutes as Appendix 1 - but there will be no fee increases for now.

LL - Students won't have access?

SS - No, they're fine.

FSU - Anything else to add?

SS - No, just curious to see what the process is actually going to be.

FSU - Ok, CRO report was to be tabled, but the CRO is not present. So, on to the Library Mobilization Committee. **The Dean of Education** prior to the meeting, gave a letter with needs coming from the Town Hall meeting: the faculty need access to audio/visual equipment and the curricular resources are also necessary. These will stay in the Education Building, while the stacks are being moved. The curricular resources will be in a closed area, accessible by student card at any time, while the audio/visual equipment will require an employee to be available to sign it out. Also, profs have been contacted for books to stay in the reserve collection. Initially the University wanted to also move the audio/visual equipment, but **the Dean** made a very strong case to keep those resources in the Education Building. However, there have been no other meetings and there is no guarantee that the Library Mobilization Committee will meet again.

LL - Yes, the course instructors were contacted, but only yesterday with a one-day deadline.

This email was sent by **Heather Phipps** at the request of **Dr. Teresa Strong-Wilson** - but the date **Heather** received it was June 19 and it was not sent until June 25. Also, only one of the Education library staff did not take the retirement package.

rosalind hampton (rh) - Yes, and the process looks irreversible, as evidenced by the article on the Medical Library in today's *Montreal Gazette*.

JL - Whatever happened to the student money that was given to the Education library?

FSU - Furniture and shelving was purchased - the furniture is staying in the Education Building, while the shelves are going down the hill. Also, University-wide, 25% of library staff took the retirement package, and central administration still doesn't know how much money is going to be saved by moving libraries, despite repeated requests for said information.

LL - There's also something fishy about people who were on a one year contract to move book stacks, and are still doing it five years later.

FSU - Concerning staffed hours for the fall semester, there will be one staff member either between 9am-5pm, or 10am-6pm, from Monday to Friday. Dean Cook said all changes can be revisited in 18 months.

LL - Is it possible to ask that the library be opened at 9am?

JL - But graduate courses start at 5:30pm - it makes no sense for the library to close at 5pm, especially for students who need to borrow audio/visual equipment.

LL - For people who need to visit the library early, 10am is too late.

FSU - Ok, we'll ask for 9am to 6pm. Also, there's some discussion as to whether or not it will be staffed by library staff or by security - Dean Cook doesn't know which would be more cost effective - suggested a camera in the resource centre.

LL - When will we know for sure?

FSU - There was supposed to be a deliverable for the working group prior to June 20, I'll be sure to ask whatever happened to it. Moving on to end of year reports - they are due by July 15 - members are to use the constitution for guidance. Concerning fellowship choices, they are now done. Concerning travel awards, very few people applied for the Spring session, so there's money left. We have two options: extend the deadline again, or allocate funds retroactively. VP Academic **Moksha Serrano** favours retroactive dispersal, with rationale outlined in her email in Appendix 2.

LL and rh - this has already been discussed.

FSU - ok, but I can't find anything in the minutes from any previous Council meeting about it concerning a decision actually being reached. Therefore, we will do an online poll of Council members with the following two options: 1. Extend the deadline to July 15, and 2. Retroactively grant awards based on the existing waiting lists. Moving on - is a full Council transition meeting necessary?

JL - I don't think so - there are many people returning to their posts, and for those of us who are incoming, it's probably easier to meet one on one with our predecessors.

FSU - Ok, so it's up to the person currently holding the position to contact the incoming member to set up transition meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35pm.

Appendix 1

From: Shalaka Shah <shalaka.shah@mail.mcgill.ca>

Subject: Fwd: EGSS Fee request
Date: June 26, 2013 2:42:10 PM EDT
To: Mr Jason Lister <jason.lister@mail.mcgill.ca>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: PGSS Chief Returning Officer <elections.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca>
Date: Fri, Jun 7, 2013 at 12:58 PM
Subject: EGSS Fee request
To: "Rachael Muncaster, Ms" <rachael.muncaster@mcgill.ca>, Shalaka Shah <shalaka.shah@mail.mcgill.ca>
Cc: PGSS Operations Manager <operations.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca>, Studentlife Pgss <studentlife.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca>

Afternoon Rachel, Shalaka

After speaking with our Operations Manager, our Secretary General, and Mary-Jo from McGill, we have determined that for the time being we can put a hold on this process.

Given the recent changes to the law and our recent accreditation, the processes for these fee changes are a bit ambiguous. Mary-Jo will be meeting with various administrators to determine McGill's plan on the matter. From our side, we believe that PGSS has the ability to administer a referendum on the PGSA level as to approve any fee increases (as per the law), and then put those results to McGill for implementation. As the Chief Returning Officer, I am permitted by the society to approve the premise for referendums concerning increases to auxiliary fees as requested by McGill. I can then set up an online voting system to administer the change.

The role of the Advisory Fee Committee, and thus their deadlines, may be a bit irrelevant in the new process, but this is, to my understanding, under investigation at the moment.

In a word, I believe that we can simply hold up on any matters concerning this deadline. I will handle the burden of the referendum when the time comes that we need to address it.

Thank you again for your ongoing patience with this confusing new process. I hope it is not causing too much trouble.

Please let me know if you have any further concerns

Regards

Colby Briggs

PGSS Chief Returning Officer

~~Please note the contents of this email are, unless clarified as otherwise, to be considered confidential.~~

Appendix 2

Dear Council,

The 2013 EGSS Spring Travel Awards deadline concluded on Monday, June 17th, 2013 at 4:30pm (generally applications are due on June 15th, but since that fell on a weekend, we accept applications until the next Monday/ business day).

According to my liaison in the Dean's Office, this year we received a total of three applications, requesting in total \$1250 (Two awards at \$500 and one at \$250). The applicants' paperwork still needs to be verified when I return to campus on July 2nd, as the offices and mailbox was closed the last time I was in.

This year, we as council decided to allot \$2000 for the Spring Travel Awards, based on my recommendation in the Fall on how to divide the \$5500, plus received an additional \$500 (\$400 from the Conference Committee + an additional \$100 from this year's funds) to make it a total of \$2500.

Based on the number of applicants that we have received, we will still have an additional \$1250 to award for 2012 - 2013 Travel Awards. I recommend that we:

- Use the remaining \$1250 and award it to applicants who submitted applications on time for the Fall 2012 and Winter 2013 Travel Awards - specifically \$500 for the Fall Term, and \$750 (divide into three) for the Winter Term. These would be awarded to applicants who were placed on the "reserve" list in the event a selected award winner declined their award (which has happened in the past).

- I strongly discourage extending the application period for the Spring Travel Awards because this information has been on our website throughout the entire year, these dates have not changed, and we notified the membership in advance in our May 2013 Newsletter.

When we approved our budget last Fall at our GA, the membership agreed to allot \$5500 towards Travel Awards for this 2012 - 2013 Academic Year, and not per term. I think it would be ideal to use our funds for this year, without a rollover, and once again reiterate that we award it to prior applicants who submitted their application on time.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via cell phone, which I will be able to answer during the meeting today (but not Skype in).

Best regards,

- Moksha

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Moksha Serrano
VP Academic - Education Graduate Students' Society
Masters Student, Education and Society, DISE
McGill University