

Council Meeting Minutes

January 28th, 2013 (14:30-16:30)

Meeting 7 – Room 403 Thomson House

Council members

President Fernanda Soler Urzua, **VP Academic** Moksha Serrano, **VP Student-Life** Zahra Jalili, **Conference coordinator** Charlotte Sachs, **ECP Representative** Steffi Mathes, **VP Communication** Tom Fullerton, **DISE Representative** Stephen Peters, **MLISSA Representative** Rachel Legaspi, **KPE Representative** Nora Macmillan, **VP Diversity & Equity** rosalind hampton, **PGSS councillor** Cora-Lee Conway

Regrets. **DISE student** Leron Lewis, **PGSS Councillor** Yana Konokhova, **MATL Representative** Riley Drever.

1. Approval of the agenda of Jan 28th, 2013
 - i. **Approved unanimously**
2. Approval of minutes from Nov., 2012
 - i. **Approved unanimously**
3. Approval of minutes of Dec 3rd, 2012
 - i. **Approved unanimously**
4. Open Mic event
 - a. Recap: Overall, a success! \$400 for food & drink, \$100 for servers, \$40 alcohol permit. The alcohol permit was a lot of work to get; Zahra recorded the steps for future endeavours. Maybe we should post on the website how-to's of organising an event like this to facilitate the process. A car is necessary for purchases, etc.
 - b. Zahra expressed the difficulty of getting the EGSS membership to be present and questioned the merit of holding such events. Moksha confirmed that this is not the first time this complaint has been made.
5. Diversity and Equity Issues
 - a. Motion to endorse a 'yes' vote in the Daily Publication Society existence referendum (Appendix 1)
 - i. Recap: Importance of student-run press, not opt-outable to EGSS students. We can also use the Daily & Délit to publish articles, etc.
 1. Note: There are a lot of updates and reminders that EGSS will be sending out in the next short while, so we should be mindful of how many emails we are sending to students. Let's try to combine several items in one email.

ii. Approved unanimously

- b. Motion to denounce McGill's administration attempts to deny right to protest on campus (Appendix 2)

i. Recap: Motion to prevent protests and demonstrations is a violation of everyone's right to express themselves. It has been condemned by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. Very subjective, but who is making the judgements? Bypassing Board of Governors, etc. Other students groups are coming out against it (e.g. PGSS).

ii. Approved unanimously

- c. Motion to support rights of Indigenous communities and the Idle No More movement (Appendix 3)

i. Recap: This can be done in different ways – statement call for ethical investments, call for more research, call for divestment. Tar sands & Plan Nord to be included in support statement? Seems contradictory that McGill is supporting the destruction of native communities, yet that have many different academic relations with them. Supporting 'Idle No More' as a movement may not be the best idea, as movements go in ebbs and flows.

ii. Stephen – could we propose a new draft of whereas clauses before passing the motion, possibly dividing the motion, as it is quite packed. Idle No More support, and then look into McGill's financial investments, before we go denouncing them. Legal action has been taken to prevent us from finding those things out. How can we support Indigenous autonomy, but then tell them how to use it?

iii. Rosalind – can we amend motion to pass support of indigenous rights, and then table resource extraction at a later date? As we are late in tabling this issue, in the first place.

iv. Moksha - Could Rachel bring this up with MLISSA and see what kind of support there is there?

v. Approved in principle, open for friendly amendments that don't change the essence of the motion, Abstentions: Communication Tom Fullerton & KPE Representative Nora Macmillan

6. Business arising from the minutes

- a. Upcoming cyclical unit review

i. Moksha Serrano reviewed the information that has been sent out to Council via e-mails addressing concerns with the membership of the Review Committee for the upcoming Academic Unit Review for DISE. The biggest concern is that one of the review committee members is currently part of the Faculty of Education Administration which is a violation as outlined in the Cyclical Unit Review Office (CURO) handbook. She acknowledged that it may have been an oversight and that the Faculty member appointed to the review committee was not in an administration

position at the time of appointment.

- ii. Council agreed that Moksha and Stephen Peters, DISE Representative would contact Prof. St. Clair (Department Chair) and Prof. Winer (DISE GPD) directly as the next DISE Department meeting would occur after the Academic Unit Review.
- iii. Moksha also explained that graduate students from DISE will have the opportunity to speak with the Review Committee at some point during the 2-Day Unit Review for one hour and suggested that we hold a meeting for DISE graduate students to talk about their experiences and concerns before meeting the Review Committee. Common themes or concerns may also draw from the conversation and be brought to the review committee. It was also suggested that a similar event could be held for all EGSS Members pending the success of the DISE grad student meeting.

7. Travel awards

a. Winter awards

- i. The Winter round of EGSS Travel Awards will be in a few weeks, with a deadline of February 15th. Information advertising the Travel Awards should be included in the February newsletter and should be submitted by the end of the week (end of January) so that it can be sent out during the 1st week of February.
- ii. There was also a request to increase the Travel Award Fund by \$500, which would be allotted to the Winter Semester, as EGSS will be receiving more money this year than already benchmarked in the Fall when the budget was first proposed. This means that \$5500 would be allotted to the Travel Awards for the entire year; \$1500 for the Fall Awards, \$2000 for the Winter Awards, \$2000 for the Spring Awards (the same allotment as the 2011 – 2012 Academic Year). **Council approved this decision**

b. Winter/Spring awards and MLISSA

- i. MLISSA has expressed interest in participating in the EGSS Travel Awards and Moksha Serrano has met with their President, Ariana Ross and MLISSA Representative to EGSS, Rachel Legaspi. Following their meeting, Moksha received enrolment numbers for EGSS members and has calculated that each member currently contributes \$5.75, on a budget of \$5000 for Travel Awards, and \$6.33, with the budget increase to \$5500. MLISSA is interested in participating in the Winter 2013 and Spring 2013 Rounds and their 224 students would contribute \$4.60 each (on a yearly budget of \$5500). If MLISSA were to participate, this would increase the Travel Awards by an additional \$1030.40 which would be divided with half going to the Winter Awards and the other half going to the Spring Awards. Moksha has contacted the MLISSA President and MLISSA rep with the budget breakdown and is waiting for their response. Rachel mentioned that MLISSA will most likely make a decision within the next week through an online vote and will get back to Moksha.

8. Conference update

- a. Next meeting on Thursday, Jan 31, at noon, rm. 203.
 - b. If anybody else has questions, please e-mail Charlotte
9. Budget update
- a. Extra \$500 allotted to conference, and \$500 for travel awards
 - i. Approved**
 - b. Extra money to go towards conference – Charlotte can't really come up with a breakdown until she knows how much money she's getting.
10. Protocol for allocating funds to groups
- a. Solidarity Fund Policy - \$500 allotted on first come first served basis, document from Lerona
 - i. Issues: Cora – how is this being advertised to Ss?
 - ii. Steffi – What happens to extra money?
 - iii. Tom – Do we want to make a big deal about it in the newsletter? Or do we just want to put it on the website? Please send in anything to put in the newsletter to Tom.
 - b. Decision to do it on Survey Monkey, so everybody can have a chance to look at it.
11. EGSS 2nd General Assembly
- a. We need to hold election before April 1st; GA is a good opportunity for potential candidates to go and present themselves
 - b. We should use a portion of the upcoming conference to hold the GA. It will be suggested at the next conference committee meeting.
12. EGSS Elections 2013-2014 period
- a. Elections must be held before April 1st. We need to make call for candidates soon.
13. EGSS Council meetings for the remainder of the year
- a. Fernanda will put up a doodle to see about Wed/Thurs/Fri to try and organise the next 3 meetings
- Meeting adjourned at 16h30

Appendix I

Endorsement of a “yes” vote in the Daily Publication Society existence referendum

(VP D&E, rosalind hampton)

Whereas the Daily Publication Society (DPS) is an independent, not-for profit, student-run organization that publishes The McGill Daily and Le Délit;

Considérant que Le Délit est le seul journal étudiant francophone de McGill;

Whereas, for more than 100 years and 35 years respectively, The McGill Daily and Le Délit have provided a forum for students to express their opinions and keep informed of important campus events;

Whereas all registered students on the downtown campus except for students in the School of Continuing Studies, and students in Graduate Medicine and Dentistry are members of the DPS;

Whereas the DPS hosts annual general meetings every Spring, in which any and all DPS members can propose changes to the society or constitution, as well as raise questions about both publications;

Whereas both newspapers welcome writing and artistic contributions from the entire McGill community;

Considérant qu’aucune expérience précédente n’est nécessaire afin de participer aux deux journaux;

Whereas McGill does not have a journalism program and The McGill Daily and Le Délit provide a journalistic learning environment, exposure and training for design and publishing software, and an annual journalism week, all of which can lead – and have led – to future employment;

Considérant qu’une presse libre et critique est essentielle à une communauté étudiante active et à une saine démocratie;

Whereas both papers are supported by a non-opt outable student DPS fee of \$6 per undergraduate student per fall and winter term **and \$3.35 per graduate student per fall and winter term**, without which both papers would cease to exist at McGill;

Resolved the Education Graduate Students’ Society (EGSS) endorse a “yes” vote in the DPS existence question in the winter 2013 Referendum;

Resolved starting January 28th 2013 this endorsement be posted prominently on the EGSS website for the remainder of the campaign period until 5pm on January 31, 2013;

Resolved that the link to this endorsement be sent out over the EGSS listserv in an email reminding people to vote in the referendum.

Passed unanimously

Appendix II

Denouncement of the McGill senior administration's attempts to deny the right to protest and demonstrate on campus

(VP D&E, Rosalind Hampton)

Whereas the *Provisional Protocol Regarding Demonstrations, Protests, and Occupations on McGill University Campuses* released by Provost Masi and Vice Principal DiGrappa on 12 February 2012¹ is a breach of McGill community members' rights to freedom of expression as guaranteed in the Quebec and Canadian Charters of Rights and Freedoms;

Whereas Provost Masi and Vice Principal DiGrappa's revised version of provisional protocol released to the McGill community on 30 November 2012 with the intention of making it permanent policy through bringing it to Senate and the Board of Governors in January 2013 was an even further breach of McGill community members' rights such that students², Unions³, and indeed the Canadian Civil Liberties Association⁴ issued public statements and took actions condemning it⁵;

Whereas in the face of such mounting and public pressure senior administrators withdrew the draft protocol on 16 January 2013 stating that they had concluded that "the McGill community will be best served by an agreed-upon statement of values and principles, rather than a protocol of operating procedures, which, by definition, must be sensitive to context and determined by judgment"⁶ BUT confirming that the provisional protocol issued in February 2012 remains in effect⁷;

Whereas *despite the above quoted statement* VP Administration and Finance Michael DiGrappa announced at Senate on January 23rd, in addition to a Statement of Values and Principles, plans to put in place *operational procedures* regarding protests and demonstrations on campus *without* the approval of said procedures from either Senate or the Board of Governors⁸;

Whereas the Post Graduate Student Society at McGill representing EGSS members passed a motion at the January 16th 2013 Council to raise awareness about concerns regarding the protocol and to provide support and mobilize for the wide scale protest of the Protocol that took place on January 23rd 2013⁹

¹ <http://www.mcgill.ca/channels/news/provisional-protocol-regarding-demonstrations-protests-and-occupations-mcgill-university-campuses-214062>

² <http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/McGill+student+files+grievance+over+code+conduct/7797841/story.html>; <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2013/01/detached-disturbing-and-vague/>

³ <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2012/11/unions-denounce-mcgill-protest-protocol/>

⁴ <http://ccla.org/2013/01/15/ccla-speaks-out-on-right-to-protest-on-campus/>

⁵ <http://protesttheprotocol.com/>

⁶ "Update to the Community on the Protocol Regarding Demonstrations, Protests and Occupations" (McGill MRO) 16 January 2013

⁷ <http://mcgilltribune.com/statement-of-values-to-replace-provisional-protocol/>

⁸ <http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2013/01/university-to-adopt-permanent-demonstration-regulations-with-no-approval-from-senate/>

⁹ <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/protocol-statement>

Resolved the Education Graduate Students' Society (EGSS) denounce the Protocol and all operational procedures intended to restrict McGill community members' rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association on campus;

Resolved starting January 28th 2013 this denouncement be shared widely with the EGSS membership until the Protocol is withdrawn and there are no operational procedures in place that restrict the right to protest and demonstrate on McGill campuses.

Resolved this denouncement be submitted to the administration via the consultation process that has been instituted.

Passed unanimously

Appendix III

Support for the rights of Indigenous communities and the Idle No More Movement

(VP D&E, Rosalind Hampton)

Whereas Canada represents a settler colonial state established through the ongoing dispossession and oppression of Indigenous peoples;

Whereas the Conservative government led by Stephen Harper is expanding a colonial agenda by pursuing **the material enrichment of imperialist corporations through resource extraction on unresolved land claims and as demonstrated in the omnibus budget Bill C-45 in contravention of First Nations' Treaty Rights**¹⁰;

Whereas the Idle No More movement represents Indigenous led opposition to the Canadian government's racist and assimilationist policies that perpetuate neo-colonial relations;

Whereas the Idle No More movement represents Indigenous led call to build a more equitable and sustainable society where the most vulnerable populations have access to basic rights such as appropriate housing, food and clean water, education and autonomy;

Whereas the notion of "education" was used as a violent weapon against Indigenous people through Canada's residential school system and access to quality education continues to be a struggle for Canadian Aboriginal peoples¹¹

Whereas education is seen by the Faculty of Education at McGill as a avenue to increase sovereignty;

Whereas the McGill University Faculty of Education benefits from long standing research relationships with several Indigenous / First Nations communities and many of its faculty members and graduate students are committed to research in the fields of Aboriginal / Indigenous education and social justice¹²;

Whereas the McGill Faculty of Education, further asserts its commitment and ties to Indigenous communities through offering the [Bachelor of Education \(B.Ed.\) - Kindergarten and Elementary Education - First Nations and Inuit Studies \(120 credits\)](#), and Continuing Education programs in [Education for First](#)

¹⁰ <http://www.firstperspective.ca/news/2579-first-nations-say-omnibus-bill-violates-treaty-rights>

¹¹ http://www.ei-ie.org/en/news/news_details/2232

¹² <http://www.mcgill.ca/dise/about/academicstaff>; <http://www.mcgill.ca/edu-ecp/people/academic>;

[Nations and Inuit](#), [Aboriginal Literacy Education](#), [Middle School in Aboriginal Communities](#), [Aboriginal Education for Certified Teachers](#) , [First Nations and Inuit Student Personnel Services](#), and [First Nations and Inuit Educational Leadership](#);

Resolved the Education Graduate Students' Society (EGSS) endorse the current Idle No More movement;

Resolved starting January 28th 2013 this endorsement be shared widely with the EGSS membership