



## **EGSS General Assembly**

**Date: April 6th, 2017**

**Room: 437**

Attendance: Dorelle Hinton (DH), Carole Spake (CS), Jessica Insogna (JI), Anna Otto (AO), Shalini Sivathasan (SS), Janet Amos (JA), Gwenaëlle Philibert-Lignerès (GP), Charlie Ohayon (CO), Erin Reid (ER), Paul Gomes (PG), Emma Clark (EC), Emily Michalovic (EM), Aiden Halihan (AH)

Late Attendance:

Regrets: Elif Wonders (EW)

21 attendees

1. Welcome Message - EC

2. Review of agenda

3. Approval of agenda

- Candidates for nomination speaking moved to fourth item
- Approved - JI, JA, AO, DH, CS, PG

4. Candidates for nomination

- Hadas (conference chair), Sam Sullivan (PGSS Counselor), Aiden Haligan (KPE rep), Magarita Meseros, Shannon Hutchinson (DISE rep), Gabriella (VP academic), EC (re-election) with Dylan Moran, R. Kumar (Diversity and Equity)

5. year overview

- discretionary funding
- Good year for student engagement and involvement
- reallocated money for speaker series to maximise funds for students
- secured more money from dean's office
- great turnout to social events
- successful conference - 133 registrants

6. Finance - CS

- biggest change in budget is spent less on speaker series
  - moved those extra funds to travel awards
    - had a large number of applications this year
- was conservative based on PGSS funds



- this year got a cheque for \$1000 less than usual budget
- luckily conference will cost less than anticipated
- budget at \$16, 611.70
- spending more money on solidarity funds
  - have been trying to give students more money
  - last year had a cap of 20% of reserves, ran into an issue when had already spent some of those reserves and there was a miscommunication and a project had already been promised from last year's council. Want to change that cap, increased from \$5000, to \$6,500.

#### 7. VP Academic - DH

- maximize number of awards
- gave smaller awards at speaker series and focused more money to winter travel awards
- 25+ awards provided to students in 2016-2017
- one more round of travel and fellowships awards in may
- DH will create a rubric and ranking system
  - JA - can this be done early so we are transparent about how we allocate
  - DH - will do that

#### 8. VP Communications - JA

- stats from website show number of clicks and views
- low number of clicks, 150, not reaching all students
  - however doesn't take into account social media and newsletters
- starting adding more graphics and images that are easy to share on social media
- connected more with Stephen Lala - advertisements on screen in lobby and posted on education website
- connected with EdUs students to promote events to undergraduate students
- most contact happens around awards
- suggestions:
  - sending more emails
    - but hard since people do not like receiving a lot of emails
    - most clicks are from sending out emails - does work
  - Wix website
    - easier to edit



- cleaner and modern appearance
- at events, conduct an informal survey about how people heard about the event
  - inform promotions
- changing facebook page to a fb group
  - easier for people to join and post
  - but need to monitor

#### 9. VP student life - JI

- Fall GA,
- Coffeehouse - food, coffee, tea, snacks for education students in grad lounge - october and january
- Education pop-up shop
  - with Jen, alumni relations for education
  - holiday pop-up shop, promoted to graduate students, could sell items and attend
- holiday party
  - 4-7 and thomson, 75 people attended
- mcgill 24
  - philanthropy and alumni relations - but there was a snow storm
  - had 43 donors, reached our goal
  - have to write thank you cards
- Conference wine and cheese
- Winter GA
- Upcoming
  - end of semester 4-7
    - april 12, thomson house
- Department discretionary funding for social events
  - 800 people in faculty of education with different schedules
  - very hard to do events that everyone want to come to or are able to attend
  - decided to take part of social budget and give it to the departments - \$500 each to throw their own social events for their students
    - better target specific departments
    - gave all depts the same amount based on attendance

#### 10. VP Equity and Diversity - EC on behalf of EW



- university wide accessibility wide checklist that will be adopted by egss
- attended meetings with the dean
  - discuss issues of equity and diversity in education
- amendments to constitution
- supporting greater consideration for inclusion and egss events
- liaison between student complaints and egss committee
- providing students with resources

#### 11. ECP Student Rep- GP

- updated faculty on events
  - EGSS conference
  - School psyc summer institute
- wanted faculty participation in events however was minimal
- all events were promoted through listserv and ecp office
- discretionary funds
  - part used for an awards night for school psyc
  - future suggestion - pet therapy,

#### 12. KPE rep- AO

- inform KPE on opportunities available
- act as liaison between KPEG and EGSS
- events
  - orientation hike on mount royal
  - grad student orientation
  - elections social
  - linked-in headshots
  - holiday potluck
  - research blitz
  - what is grad school event
  - 3-min thesis competition
  - end of year social
  - beers and science

#### 13. DISE Rep - ER

- hosted focus groups on doctoral student experiences



- a lot of interest from students
- conducted survey about doctoral student experiences, compiled data
  - responses indicate lack of community
  - had a lot of responses and interest from students of various years in program
- attended DISE departmental meetings
- unofficial DISE doctoral student association
- organized a doctoral student event
- organized/helping with recruitment
- had faculty involvement at events

#### 14. MATL Rep -DM (video)

- goal was to ensure that MATL students are represented
  - on committees
    - often MATL students cannot due to stages
- Issues with ISA office
  - people having challenges with their stages
    - solicited student feedback
    - contacted ISA director

#### 15. PGSS councilors - EM, AH, PG

- go to thomson house meetings
  - events, reports from VPs of pgss, motions
  - EGSS gets 4 votes
  - voted on
    - legal information clinic
    - athletics fee increase - did not pass
    - innovation @Mcgill
    - continuation of funding for midnight kitchen - passed
- great opportunity to get involved with the university
  - egss needs more reps so that we can have more votes

#### 16. Secretary

- plans meetings
- creates meeting agenda
- writes meeting minutes



## 17. EGSS conference chair -SS

- Conference theme: culture and community in canada
- 133 registrants
  - 28 DISE
  - 64 ECP
  - 14 KPE
  - 13 other depts
  - 12 other universities/community
- \$725 in student awards
- keynotes by: Dr. Yuka Nakamura (York U) & Dr. Suzanne Stewart (UofT)
- overall spending: \$6,288.02
  - EGSS only contributed \$2819.62
  - grants from PGSS, canadian society for the study of education, faculty of education, bake sale
- Concerns and complaints following event - EC & SS
  - transparency regarding recipients of awards and popularity vote at elevator pitch
  - had blank pieces of paper that were collected in a cup
  - concerns were double voting and whether it was based on quality
  - Claims of discrimination
    - yet to be elaborated
  - EGSS is open to having these conversation and exploring how we can be inclusive to all students
  - EW is in touch with students who voiced concerns
  - motions for amendment to constitution
  - recognize concerns of the popular vote
    - recommend that judging panel should be used potentially in conjunction with popularity vote
      - and voting papers will only be distributed after all presenters have gone
      - will count attendance and number of votes to ensure no double voting
- Questions



- re: issues with elevator pitch, what is the idea behind it? - EM
  - It is a fun informal way to present research, only started last year. Understand that might need to be restructured but will look for other ways that will help international students.
  - JI - noticed that all 3 presenters had different structured presentations, for future conference committee, need a more formalized set of rules so that it can be more transparent
  - PG - what is make it without a financial award? Can stay informal that way and reduce the pressure
  - Hadas - maybe find a different type of award to offer, something different
  - 3 minute thesis proposal- AO, have videos online
  - 20x20 - CO, 20 slides, each one timed for 20 secs
  - JA - take videos of next set of presentations to show examples on website

#### 18. Suggestions for incoming council

- to ensure transparency during travel and fellowship awards as well as awards during the conference, create a rubric and post on website
- For a pet therapy event during exam time, contact the pet therapy organizations early
- Suggestions for VP communications:
  - send more emails
    - most clicks are from sending out emails - does work
  - Change EGSS website to Wix website
    - easier to edit
    - cleaner and modern appearance
  - at events, conduct an informal survey about how people heard about the event
    - inform promotions
  - changing facebook page to a fb group
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#### 19. Open discussion period

- equity and diversity - what is the support for first generation graduate students? - PG
  - EC will connect PG with EW through email

#### 20. Amendments for condition



- Removal of MLISSE rep
  - no longer part of faculty of education
  - all in favor - unanimous
- Formally recognize KPE, DISE, and ECP subconstitutions
  - Formally recognize these student associations
  - do not want to remove themselves from EGSS
  - finances would stay the same as present
  - formalizes discretionary funds
  - would be recognized by EGSS but not PGSS
  - formalizes student advocacy to EGSS
  - DH - what about other schools/groups that have no formalized group?
    - Fine, as long as they have a constitution
    - EGSS rep would have to sit on the various different councils
      - add to the constitution
    - DM -motion that constitution has to be approved by  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of EGSS council
  - SS - what would happen with discretionary funding?
    - EC - new EGSS council would have to adopt a framework
    - SS - could make a due date for applications per semester, operate as a solidarity fund
    - JA - how could we make sure that there are not certain programs that always get more than others due to involvement?
    - CS - person who is applying for that money as the rep will need to be proactive
    - DM -undergraduates have a similar structure, SSMU holds events for everyone (like EGSS would) and departments have their own events
  - Vote: approving the amendment: unanimous all in favor
  - vote: all in favor of amendment to constitution : 13 for, 5 abstaining
- Discretionary funding
  - allocated to equity and diversity to be used at their discretion
  - creation of international student fellowship or an event
  - DH & GP - would be under VP academic, money should come from EGSS





- JI - or money could come from student life for an event, VP - equity would promote event
- Needs to be further explored and amended
  - could create focus group
- EM: formal motion to move this to next fall GA
  - JI seconds EM motion
  - unanimous supporting vote
- Refine description of VP equity and diversity
  - needs to be consulted or informed of any claims involving unequal treatment or conference issues that are brought to another member of the counsel within 24 hours
  - are instructions in constitution for emails
  - JA - what about weekends, change it business day hours
  - DM: what if the complaints are regarding the rep?
    - Directed to PGSS
    - AO: there is a PGSS equity and diversity team
      - can direct to them
  - vote to approve the amendment to the amendment
    - unanimous all in favor
  - all in favor of amendment
    - unanimous all in favor
- Anonymous surveys sent to all EGSS members once a semester as well as one specifically for the conference
  - Needs more context and a sample
  - EM - Motion to move to Fall GA, JI seconds motion, all in favor
- Reserve Funds - CS
  - previous council had decided on 20% cap
  - want to encourage spending on student awards and long term funding
  - want to increase it to 25%
    - had issue with initiative that was promised from former council
    - had to increase it to 25% for that issue
  - there is no clear point in minutes if it was passed and not in the constitution -



therefore technically there is no cap

- We are going to put 3% into the reserves
- there is nothing in the constitution about required savings
- DM: constitution doesn't talk about physical capital
  - do we want to set a minimum balance?
- CS: minimum amount would be \$2000, have to wait for PGSS cheque in October
- vote for : capping 25% fo reserve spending: all in favor, unanimous
- Vote for: include long term expenses: unanimous
- vote for reserve funds being used for student initiatives, long term expenses involves all members, office supplies and expenses - unanimous
- vote for: spending on reserves must be approved by 75% of quorum council, unanimous
- Approval inclusion of amendment of minimum amount
  - all in favor of minimum amount of \$2000, 11 in favor, 4 opposed