

EGSS Council Meeting

November 19th, 2021 (13:00-15:00)

Zoom: <https://mcgill.zoom.us/j/85856361053>

Attendees: Marta, Shikha, Marianna, Robin, Stephanie, Shannon, Azadeh, Emily, Welly, Hannah

Regrets: Jen, Rudy, Aisha, Ali

Notetaker: Emily

Agenda Items

13:00-14:00

1. Land Acknowledgement: McGill University is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. McGill honours, recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.
2. Hellos and any celebrations
 - a. Azadeh shared recent commitment by the Dean's office for \$10,000 contribution to EGSS
 - b. Azadeh introduces Hannah as our new member
3. Council Members' Reports
 - a. **Marta:** We'll go over PGSS report towards the end of the agenda, bringing up access to reports by council members, ensuring students have the proper resources for advocacy
 - b. **Marianne:** shared progress on conference; conference mission/theme/logo, virtual/in-person discussions; starting to think about communication in the first few weeks of December; shared conference team
 - c. **Robin:** continuing to work on emails/website/social media; brought up idea of potential future website re-design
 - d. **Stephanie:** APA 7 workshop, PRD award sent out, inquires about sending out honorarium, shared that students were so excited to receive small gift cards, attending meetings (e.g. APC, FRAC, ECP departmental meetings), brings up REB applications - new motion coming forward that one should not wait longer than 2 weeks to get their first round of feedback
 - e. **Jen:** Arts based teaching workshop - suggested honorarium of \$150 to be discussed by council, idea of a smaller gift was brought up in lieu, idea brought up of basing monetary gift on quality/time put into the workshops (another ideas could be to decide on a fixed amount for all presenters?); question brought up about payment for students facilitating workshops

Motion for \$100 approved for Dayna's honorarium (1 hr workshop)

- f. **Shannon:** making sure there's an EDI component on classroom evaluations; what does EDI look like for student advocacy and EGSS (is our role support, advocacy), need to revise our constitution based on our experiences with students/faculty; brings up Shut Up and write (more information in item 9 of agenda); workshop ideas (e.g. QC educational context)(more in item 9)
- g. **Welly:** builds on Shannon's comments about providing support to the MATK student that reached out
- h. **Azadeh:** discusses FEEDIC (e.g., need for improved physical spaces - room B180 renovations so students have study space, accessibility for all students in terms of physical access/things like gender neutral bathrooms); working on a 5 item plan (Anti-Black racism, Indigenous students' experiences, experiences of students with disabilities, evaluations for pre-service educators' field experiences); ensuring students are aware of all the support and tools at their disposal
- i. **Emily:** DISE EDI committee, health and wellness programming - Shannon brings up getting support from the local wellness advisor, Marianne brings up integrating some of this programming into the conference, Hannah is comfortable chairing yoga, Shannon shared this [link](#)
- j. **Hannah:** report from PGSS -- finding ways to improve attendance to have enough members present to vote (is there a way to promote this? A Facebook group for example), finding ways to make language more accessible in documents (in terms of gender, for example), brings up issue of members' attendance re being booted out of positions for lack of attendance; Azadeh brings up sharing any award opportunities with students; question brought up about quantity of applications for these awards (there seems to be a smaller number of applicants - how can we ensure students feel applying for these awards is manageable? Seems to be a lot more opportunity for students in thesis programs versus non-thesis)

14:00-15:00

4. General Assembly Items

- a. Proposal to create a specific email for EGSS award submission (e.g. egssawards@gmail.com?or McGill.ca?), to ensure only the reviewers have access to the awards, and EGSS members are able to apply for the awards without a conflict of interest arising. Proposal to have external reviewers for these awards applications (e.g., professors, students in other departments).
 - i. Emily raises Stephanie's idea about working with counsellors.
 - ii. Marianne and Welly bring up that they agree with this movement
 - iii. Nadia brings up that this should be added to the constitution if we do move to pass it.

Decision not to pass this motion for now, but to offer it as a suggestion for next year's committee

- b. Motion for amendments to EGSS's constitution
 - i. Proposal to form a "Conflict of Interest Management committee": Consisting of three council members in case of conflict among members (e.g., VP Student Life, VP EDI, and a 3rd member chosen collaboratively). This committee will mediate and take any necessary action in response to arising conflicts (e.g., new proposals to be voted upon by council, impeachment). In case of conflict in the subcommittee, the signing officers will assign another VP to act on this committee.
 - ii. Motion to mandate council members to fill out the "Conflict of Interest Disclosure form": Objective: to ensure members carry out their duties and have no negative impact to the interests of council or the student body; Suggested frequency of form completion would be twice each period of their service. These forms would be reviewed by the Conflict of Interest Management Committee, who will decide on appropriate resolutions, and archived up to five years from the time of disclosure. In accordance with McGill's Code of Conduct, these members must "disclose Conflicts of Interest as soon as she or he is aware of them and address or manage them in the best interests of the University community"

Motion to table this item for now, a form can be sent out for all committee members to express desired changes/additions to the constitution, these can be compiled into one document and voted on at a later date

- c. Support for students dealing with any emergency crises, such as the present crisis in Afghanistan (funding/emotional support). Budget from social and department funds can be used for these events, peer mentorship or one-on-one talks.
 - i. Jen's monthly report touches on this point
- d. Reporting and discussing the summary of the Equity Survey that has been completed yearly since 2019.
 - i. Ongoing
- e. Supporting students new to Montreal (e.g., peer support/mentorship opportunities, introduction to places in the city).
 - i. Shannon brings up the issue of not making anything an official DISE event, but that these can be informal. International student services can collaborate with us for these. Jen brought up that a discussion with Michael that we need to have specific caps on events. Stephanie brings up [guidelines](#)
 - ii. Ongoing
- f. Getting students connected (e.g., featuring student profiles on our website with contact information).
 - i. Ongoing
- g. MATL students - ensured all students within the faculty of Education are receiving all correspondence/information.

- i. Ongoing - EDI co-VPs are helping a students through a particular issue with the MATL
- h. Office spaces in EDUC building. Waiting for a response from the associate Dean of Infrastructure; FEEDIC also has a subgroup to assist this issue
 - i. Emily brings up [Flex spaces](#) - this is something we should post on the website/social media/email
 - ii. Proposal to set up a shared calendar to track various E
 - iii. EGSS events proposed and office hours for student drop-in.
 - iv. Ongoing - Azadeh is communication with head of infrastructure
- 5. New Budget Items -- Budget for EGSS Council Meetings (\$800 annual)

Motion approved by all present council members

- 6. Motion for a survey for PHYSICAL SPACE NEED (for FEEDIC)

Motion approved by all present members

- 7. Changes to the constitution (as per discussion with EDI VPs)
 - a. Student representation, using external services (e.g. Ombudsman, PGSS)
 - b. Changing constitution language to make it more precise

Tabled for now, we will work on the constitution changes in the future

- 8. MATL advocacy and representation (e.g. rep in their first year)
 - a. Ongoing issue currently being addressed by co-VPs of EDI
- 9. Academic/social programming
 - a. Shut Up and Write:
 - i. staring back December 2021 on Mondays/Wednesdays/Saturday/Sunday as possible days
 - ii. Volunteer facilitators
 - iii. Zoom and in-person (restrictions permitting): suggested venue of La Dependance on St-Denis (accommodates 12 people max in a rented space at \$45/hr) -Checking with PGSS StudentLife for venues
 - b. Workshops: thesis-based (deblocking writing/self-care); jobs in education; education in Quebec 101; community outreach (e.g. how do we mobilize out research to local communities?)
 - c. Other items: Meetups at TH, social hours, virtual trivia with drawings
 - d. [Framework](#) on meetings/events

Items approved by all members present

Motion to extent until 3:15 approved

Other Items

- 1. Newsletter committee

All council members present (6) agree to give Hannah the lead on this committee, with help with whoever else would like to join

2. Surveying students on:
 - a. their ideas/needs for educational/wellness tools
 - b. their areas of concern (e.g., intro to MTL, organization tips, strategies to cope with winter) for potential workshops/informational posters

Tabled for now, will find a way to merge these ideas with our EDI survey

3. EDI in classrooms (e.g. holding instructors accountable for upholding the pillars described by FEEDIC)

Ongoing Meeting Items

1. Deciding on fixed honorarium amounts (based on length?)
2. Future project: changes to constitution (form will be sent out to council members to indicate any desired additions/changes)
 - a. Student representation, using external services (e.g. Ombudsman, PGSS)
 - b. Changing constitution language to make it more precise
 - c. Collective and individual representation
3. Academic/social/health-focused event ideas
 - a. Shut Up and Write
 - b. Workshops: thesis-based (deblocking writing/self-care); jobs in education; education in Quebec 101; community outreach (e.g. how do we mobilize our research to local communities?)
 - c. Other items: Meetups at TH, social hours, virtual trivia with drawings
4. Supporting students
 - a. MATL students
 - b. students dealing with any emergency crises
 - c. students new to Montreal (e.g., peer support/mentorship opportunities, introduction to places in the city).
5. Ideas on what to survey students on (e.g., need for education/wellness tools, areas of concern of confusion to address in workshops potentially merging these questions with our EDI survey)