Annual General Meeting

Minutes

April 19th, 2016

12:07 pm – R2-045

**Attendance:** See H. Galvez’s Attendance sheet. Over 30 members attended.

H. Galvez calls the annual general meeting to order.

H. Galvez reads over the agenda. Quorum was not reached; the AGM will be unable to move motions.
H. Galvez and N. Chatel-Launay stated that the MCGSS council will accept indicative motions (any motions made during the AGM will be carried to council).

**Approval of the Agenda.**

**Executive Committee Reports:**

Note: The more detailed report can be found on the slideshow created by Hector Galvez.

N. Chatel-Launay (President): He described the history of MCSS/MCGSS/PGSS split and the fallout/benefits of the lawsuit between PGSS/MCGSS and MCSS. He stated that graduate students now have full access to MCSS services. He clarified that the faculty did not lose money with the rental of a new shuttle bus. N. Chatel-Launay went over the results of shuttle service survey. He stated that student services at MAC was reviewed and how the reporting structure at MAC won’t allow for reform. The structure of the MAC student services will be reviewed. He announced McGill will be getting a nurse practitioner but not sure how many hours will of the nurse practitioner will be at MAC. There will be hours at MAC. He explained the goal of the Faculty planning committee and the importance of grads being active in the consultation process. He described the how Mac wellness committee will now be focused on graduate student issues. He ended his report stating that PGSS has cut its usual funding of MCGSS.

N. Chatel-Launay moved acceptance of his report but is unable due to the AGM not achieving quorum.

M. Ghasri (Vice-President): M. Ghasri was not available to give her report in person. H. Galvez reviewed her report pointing out achievements such as her work with multi-faith room accommodation and negotiating a cheaper price for Ste-Viatuer bagels.

H. Galvez (Treasurer): H. Galvez went over, in detail, the MCGSS finances. He explained why certain sections went over-budget. He also described why PGSS is no longer sending funds to MCGSS and the impacts it will have for the future. Future budgets will be very conservative.

J. Singh (Secretary): He described the role of secretary and the few tasks he did do. He stated he tried to be available to hear grad students concerns but was limited. He indicated the need to hear more from grad students and to use the Secretary as a point of contact to meeting with executives, councillors or attending council meeting which are open to all members. He then described a Wilderness First Aid training session he hosted, the goal of a graduate student workshop he’s involved with (Societal Literacy for Scientists) and that he is currently on the hiring committee for the NRS Resource Economist.

G. Limniatis (Public Relations Officer): She was unable to attend the AGM. H. Galvez described the role of the PRO in announcing events and opportunities for grad students and publishing the MCGSS newsletter. He also thanked G. Limniatis for answering all the emails MCGSS receives and that members should utilise her position to find and distribute information.

Jacob Ziegler (Faculty Representative): He described his role and duties. He reported on the faculty meeting to MCGSS. He also served as the NRS representative on council along with Krittika Mittal who both ran a department wide logo design contest. They also purchased shirts, hoodies and pizza for NRS members.

Marcus Kaji (MCSS Representative): Marcus explained the roles of MCSS and MCGSS. He pointed out the importance of sharing the campus and advocated for graduate students to join and create clubs. He also stated MCSS offers services that are very useful to grads such as their linkedin workshop, interviews workshop and life skills workshop. He ended stating he reports MCSS council meetings to MCGSS.
 H. Galvez pointed out that MCSS cannot restrict you to their services, you can attend their events and activities. If they restrict access to you, TELL MCGSS.
 J. Singh added that MCSS events are cheaper than PGSS referring to the sugar shack trip.

Christopher Nzediegwu (Environmental Advisor): Chris was not able to attend the AGM. H. Galvez Chris’s report pointing out that Christopher sat on committees relevant to his role and always brought detailed thought and ideas to council and all meetings he attended.

**Question Period:**

H. Galvez announces that the AGM is now moving into a question period and encourages members to ask and illicit answers from the MCGSS council.

Emery Hartley NRS: requests further explanation as to why PGSS is not funding CGSS.
 H. Galvez: PGSS is broke and is in the process of restructuring. PGSS are restricting the budget on everything. It is a point of contestation within PGSS as well. PGSS wanted to cut the MCGSS budget. PGSS decided the funds they give to MCSS (as per the lawsuit) would be the money they would have given MCGSS.

Jacky Lee NRS: Why does PGSS give money to undergrads?
 H. Galvez: This was done because MCSS runs activities and services that

can grads can utilise (ceilidh rental, clubs, events, activities, ect.)

Jacky Lee NRS: Why doesn’t PGSS give money to MCGSS then to MCSS?
 H. Galvez: The PGSS Financial Affairs Officer wouldn’t allow it. It was partially due to less bank fees. H. Galvez tried to make Jacky’s suggestion a reality but the FAO would not consider it. The new FAO to PGSS is a MAC graduate student though, H. Galvez hopes this new FAO will be more flexible with MAC concerns.

Mi Lin NRS: How can graduate students use funds (PGSLF) available to each department?
 H. Galvez points out NRS reps and stated they organise events so you can ask your reps to utilise their PGSLF for certain things. H. Galvez stated the use of a departmental PGSLF must be available to all members of that department. Alternatively, a member can bring an event/service/activity idea directly to MCGSS and MCGSS can fund said item with the appropriate PGSLF.

MCGSS Member: She is unable to use the MAC athletic facilities and wonders if the fee can be opt-outable similar to the downtown campus’s athletics fee?
 N. Chatel-Launay: He explained history of the fee and how historically, how MAC and Downtown differed in their approach to the fee. He ended stating it’s a McGill fee and MCGSS is unable to change it through a simple referendum.
 N. Chatel-Launay suggested to bring this issue to new council and for the new
 council and MCGSS members to lobby McGill to make the fee opt-outable.
 The member suggests the money can be used for transportation.

MCGSS Member: There is only 1 shuttle bus trip (morning/evening) for all of MAC campus. It is illogical.
 N. Chatel-Launay: We can lobby for another shuttle bus for the summer service. It should be noted that it took over 5 years of lobbying before McGill added a new shuttle to the regular school year service. It is unlikely we can get a new shuttle before summer service starts.

Jacky Lee NRS: He was surprised by $900 ebill for a summer semester even though his 2nd year is not up.
 H. Galvez: Master’s are 18 months, not 2 years. You have entered an additional session.
 ` N. Chatel-Launay: The length of a Master’s program and associated fees is determined by the province and not McGill.

MCGSS member made a comment.

MCGSS member: What happened to OPUS student-rate for students older than 25 years?
 N. Chatel-Launay: The bill is still in Assemblée Nationale. The bill will

most likely pass but it is only at its second reading. It will apply to all of Quebec.

MCGSS member: Are PGSS events free?
 H. Galvez: Most likely not, but PGSS events are normally heavily discounted. You can always attend MCSS events too.

MCGSS member: How do the MCGSS travel awards work?
 H. Galvez: He describes the purpose and application process. There are 3 deadlines which are at odd times of the year. They are awarded for national and provincial travel not tied to research (normally for conferences). There is a priority pool for candidates depending on if it’s the first time the applicant will be attending a conference. The award is administered by the Treasurer. H. Galvez thanked the member for bringing up the topic of travel awards.

Krittika Mittal NRS: How do we (an applicant to the travel award) have received the award or not?
 H. Galvez stated he tries to reply to all candidates whether they have received the award or not.

**New Executive Announcement.**

 H. Galvez announces the members of the 2016-2017 MCGSS Executive. N. Chatel-Launay explained the process acclamation vs election as there were no elections for these executive positions. All positions were acclaimed.

J. Singh requests H. Galvez describe councillor positions and there are still more opportunities for grads to get involved with their students’ society. N. Chatel-Launay reiterated that all MCGSS and PGSS meetings are public.

**Announcements:**

N. Chatel-Launay motions for the consumption of pizza. Seconded by J. Singh.