



## The Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society

Room R3-043, Raymond Building  
21,111 Lakeshore Road  
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec H9X 3V9  
mcgss.mcgill.ca | mcgss.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

### Students' Council

#### Minutes

September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

4:30 pm – Macdonald Faculty Lounge

### Attendance

Present: Nicolas Chatel-Launay (President), Georgia Limniatis (Public Relations Officer), Héctor Gálvez (Treasurer), Jacob Ziegler (Faculty Representative), Marcus Kaji (MCSS Representative), Lei Tian (Food Science), Maude Dagenais (Parasitology), Hilary Byrne (Parasitology), Yin Hong (Dietetics and Human Nutrition), Naresh Gaj (Bioresource Engineering), Laura Michalovic (Animal Science), Meaghan O'Neill, Anja Geitmann (Dean of FAES and Associate Vice-Principal Macdonald Campus), Jaaved Singh

Regrets: Christopher Nzediegwu (Environmental Advisor)

Absent: Andrew Blakney (Vice-President), Laura Minieri (Food Science), Yasmin Schuermann (Animal Science), Kritika Mittal (Natural Resource Science), Ivy Mak (Dietetics and Human Nutrition), Emmanuella Ellis (Agricultural Economics), Gabriella Djangmah (Agricultural Economics).

### Approval of Agenda

*Be it resolved*, That the agenda, as sent via email with the convocation, be modified with the addition of an item 5 in new business titled “Maintenance Fund”.

Moved by M. O'Neill, seconded by H. Byrne.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

*Be it resolved*, That the agenda, as sent via email with the convocation, be modified with the addition of an item 5 in new business titled “Lounge Entertainment Options”.

Moved by J. Ziegler, seconded by H. Gálvez.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

*Be it resolved*, That the agenda, as modified, be approved.

Moved by M. Dagenais, seconded by H. Byrne.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.



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### Guest Speaker: Dean Anja Geitmann

Prof. Anja Geitmann, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and Associate Vice-Principal Macdonald Campus, began by covering her past work history. She worked 14 years for Université de Montréal at the Montreal Botanical Garden. She is a plant cell biologist and will soon move her research laboratory and personnel to our campus. She has taught many courses and organized summer schools in microscopy. She did not come to Macdonald with a vision, but rather with a new set of eyes to potentially make changes.

A discussion followed where Council members informed the Dean on various needs of students. The main points covered were the shuttle, health services on campus (including mental health) and the new Student Life and Learning Building. On the shuttle, the main demand, considering that there will not be more financial resources, was to change the pick-up location downtown so that people waiting for the shuttle could do so in a warm place. As for health and mental health, the main demand was to provide summer services. Also, to work with downtown to obtain part of the funding they received from the Bell Let's Talk fund. Finally, the fear of MCGSS to see an athletics-centric building materialize was brought to the new Dean's attention.

**\*\*Dean Anja Geitmann left the meeting\*\***

### Approval of Minutes from August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

*Be it resolved*, That the minutes of the MCGSS Students' Council held on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 be ratified as presented.

Moved by H. Gálvez, seconded by M. Dagenais.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

### Reports

N. Chatel-Launay: See President's Report

H. Gálvez: The finances had to be modified due to the \$600.00 now budgeted for Orientation and covered by the Dean's office. We also received the bill from PGSS for social activities. It amounts to \$2,116.94. We are spending too much on pizza. H. Gálvez explained the PGSLF funds to new councillors.

G. Limniatis: We are now sending one newsletter a month to avoid filling up our members' inboxes.

M. Kaji: The first MCSS Council meeting was mostly covering issues affecting MCSS alone. Their new website was discussed as well as Consent Week.



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M. Dagenais: The Parasitology department held a BBQ which the Dean attended.

N. Gaj: Bioresource engineering is facing serious space issues for its graduate students. Only some graduate students now have access to desks.

### Business Arising

#### 1. Peer Helper Program

N. Chatel-Launay explained that, because the PHP only received half of what was asked from the work-study program, they would need \$258.00 from MCGSS per term to close the year.

*Be it resolved*, That the MCGSS allocate \$258.00 per term from last fiscal year's savings to the Peer Helper Program.

*Be it further resolved*, That the MCGSS express concerns for the long-term sustainability of the program, and that it has a high cost per student helped.

Moved by H. Galv ez, seconded by J. Ziegler.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

M. Kaji informed Council that MCSS has not voted yet on their part of PHP's funding.

J. Singh demanded that MCGSS push McGill to contribute.

#### 2. Graduate Orientation Wrap-up

N. Chatel-Launay mentioned that orientation was a great success. Of the 227 new graduate students, 115 attended. 130 attended the BBQ.

J. Singh proposed that PGSS and MCGSS work together for next year's orientation. One PGSS orientation activity should bring downtown graduate students to Mac.

M. Kaji mentioned that, although we were supposed to have one, MCGSS had no table at the Redpath Hall orientation day. About 10 new students from Mac were there.

#### 3. Ceilidh Drinks

N. Chatel-Launay mentioned that the last Ceilidh Drinks went very well and that all tickets went out in 7 minutes.



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### 4. PGSS Council

N. Chatel-Launay mentioned that no one except himself attended the previous PGSS Council. Councillors must fill in the attendance sheet on the google drive.

H. Gálvez pointed out that many councillors don't have access to the google drive.

### New Business

#### 1. McGill Tree-Planting Challenge

H. Gálvez explained that MCGSS was invited to participate in a tree-planting challenge with other groups in McGill. Should C. Nzediegwu be in charge? J. Singh mentioned that both CERES and Peter Knox should be contacted. H. Gálvez added that tree fact videos could be produced. J. Ziegler added that the PGSLF funds could be used.

*Be it resolved*, That an ad-hoc committee be formed, composed of \_\_\_\_\_(blank).

Moved by N. Chatel-Launay, no seconder.

Motion failed.

H. Gálvez will talk to C. Nzediegwu about the matter.

#### 2. Cross-Country Skiing

N. Chatel-Launay asked if anyone at Council wanted to lead the cross-country ski day for PGSS. No one at Council was able to. An announcement will be in the next MCGSS newsletter.

#### 3. MCGSS Vice President and Secretary Positions

*Whereas*, Andrew Blakney has not performed any of his duties nor attended any meeting of the MCGSS since August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015,

*Be it resolved*, That Andrew Blakney be removed from office as Vice-President and Departmental Representative for the Department of Plant Science for delinquency of duties according to articles 4.9.1, 4.9.2, 4.9.3 and 4.9.4 of the Constitution of the Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society.

Moved by Nicolas Chatel-Launay and 9 other voting Council members.

Motion to be presented again at the next regular meeting of the Students' Council.

An election for the position of Secretary will be held at the same time as the by-election for a Vice-President.



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### 4. Bagel Breakfast

N. Chatel-Launay and G. Limniatis: Due to the cost implications, MCGSS will now buy bagel from Costco.

### 5. Lounge Entertainment Option

Nothing to report

### 6. Building Fund

\*\*N. Chatel-Launay left the meeting for this item due to a conflict of interest, J. Singh left as a closed session was voted, confidential minutes were taken and are not publicly divulged\*\*

### Miscellaneous Announcements and Discussions

1. The Mac Campus blood drive will be held Wednesday September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:30am to 3:30pm in the Ceilidh.
2. Consent Week will be held at Mac from September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Next meetings

PGSS Students' Council: October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6:00 pm, Thompson House Ballroom


MCGSS Executive Committee: October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 12:00 pm, Faculty Meeting Room

MCGSS Bagel Breakfast: October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:30 am, Faculty Lounge

MCGSS Students' Council: October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 4:30 pm, Faculty Lounge

### Adjournment

*Be it resolved*, That the meeting be adjourned.  
Moved by H. Galv ez, seconded by M. Dagenais.  
Motion carried by unanimous consent at 6:57 pm.

  
Nicolas Chatel-Launay  
President