



## The Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society

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

Students' Council  
Minutes  
October 27<sup>th</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), Christopher Nzediegwu (Environmental Advisor), Lei Tian (Food Science), Maude Dagenais (Parasitology), Hilary Byrne (Parasitology), Krittika Mittal (Natural Resource Science), Ivy Mak (Dietetics), Naresh Gaj (Bioresource Engineering), Jaaved Singh.

Regrets: Laura Minieri (Food Science), Yasmin Schuermann (Animal Science), Laura Michalovic (Animal Science),

Absent: Yin Hong (Dietetics), Emmanuella Ellis (Agricultural Economics), Gabriella Djangmah (Agricultural Economics).

### Approval of Agenda

H. Gálvez asked to add two items to the agenda sent with the convocation. These items to be placed before item “4. Club Funding” are to be titled “4. Motion on reimbursements” and “5. Motion to amend the bylaws”.

*Be it resolved*, That the Agenda as modified be adopted.  
Moved by J. Ziegler, seconded by M. Dagenais.  
Motion carried by unanimous consent.

### Approval of Minutes from September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

*Be it resolved*, That the Minutes of the last meeting be approved with the time of adjournment being changed from 7:57 to 6:57.  
Moved by J. Ziegler, seconded by M. Kaji.  
Motion carried by unanimous consent.

### Reports

N. Chatel-Launay: See President's Report.



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H. Gálvez: The PGSLF breakdown has arrived, departments were made aware of the money they would receive. An update on September expenditures was done. PGSS will be holding referenda on the CKUT fee and on the PGSS member fee. SPF gives out a lot of money and we could use it for our campus initiatives.

J. Ziegler: Report of Faculty Meeting of October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Chris Buddle gave a presentation on student Wellness

Cameron Butler student wellness director funded by sustainability development fund:

- They ran the consent McGill program and are running the mental health week.
- In the winter semester will be focusing on resources for staff to direct students.

Tanja Beck - Asc director of OSD:

- Really into access for students to resources
- Provide support services and reasonable accommodation to students with medical documentation.
- Working on collaborating with faculty and staff.
- Nearly a tripling in students registered in OSD since 2006
- Mental health is the largest category.
- Opportunities for OSD collaborating with faculty- OSD will give presentations tailored to a given need, resources on how to deal with certain issues, and ways of reducing the stigma.
- Similar trends across universities of increasing students with office of students with disabilities.

Elizabeth Cawley-Fiset - Mental health strategy consultant for McGill:

- McGill has really been reactionary, they want to focus on skill building
- McGill students have higher rates of depression and substance abuse to the US national average.
- McGill doesn't have the resources to give students the help they need.
- Mental Health Working Group evaluating mental health services.
- Stepped care model for mental health is what they are going for
- Start by relying on information, self help , interactional online self-help, coaching on-line/drop in, then group therapy, then individual therapy, psychiatric consultations, etc.
- Alternative is Embedded Counselor Model which they've submitted funding for:
- Faculty based wellness managers.

Jan. 19th 2-4PM Workshop on student health and TAs can attend (Chris Buddle would have the details on that).

Bio resources GIS course now available for MSc students and available for integrated water resource management program

New IT investment will be phased in over the next few years

Hot cities tour of the world, looking for students including graduate students two spots for students. Partial funding, going to Chile and Columbia deadline is Friday's next week. Experience in agriculture.



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M. Kaji: MCSS presented their budget. It will be online. They received a presentation from the SPF.

### Business Arising

#### 1. Motion to Impeach a Member of Council

The following motion was presented at the previous council meeting (September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015) and was seconded by 10 Council members.

*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.

Yes: 10

No: 0

Abstention: 1

Motion carried.

### New Business

#### 1. Amendments to the MCGSS Constitution

Two motions were presented by N. Chatel-Launay. Pending approval, they will be presented to a General Meeting. Following that, they will go to referendum. Both must pass with 2/3.

##### **First amendment:**

*Be it resolved*, To amend Section IV, Article 4.3.12, of the Constitution of the Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society (MCGSS) by inserting "and the Master's Degree" after the words "the Graduate Certificate".

##### **Current article:**

4.3.12 Representative(s) for the Graduate Certificate in Biotechnology

##### **Proposed article:**

4.3.12 Representative(s) for the Graduate Certificate and the Master's Degree in Biotechnology

Moved by H. Gálvez, seconded by G. Limniatis.

Yes: 11

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried unanimously.



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### **Second amendment:**

*Be it resolved*, To amend Section IV, Article 4.9.5, of the Constitution of the Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society (MCGSS) by striking out "or to the Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS)" after the words "to the Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS)".

### **Current article:**

4.9.5 Anyone removed from office shall have the right to appeal to the Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) or to the Macdonald Campus Students' Society (MCSS).

### **Proposed article:**

4.9.5 Anyone removed from office shall have the right to appeal to the Post Graduate Students' Society (PGSS).

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

Yes: 11

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

## **2. Promenade Urbaine Consultation**

N. Chatel-Launay: If you can be downtown at Thomson House from 7 to 9 pm, be there. The City of Montreal is holding public consultations on the renovation of McTavish and Sherbrooke streets. This involves the relocation and permanent establishing of a Mac shuttle bus stop, with a real shelter. If someone could force the City and McGill to commit to it publicly, that would be great.

## **3. PGSS Executive Committee at Mac**

N. Chatel-Launay: PGSS executives will meet on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm on our Campus. It will be in the Faculty Lounge. Although we cannot vote, we are welcome to attend and voice Mac-specific concerns. It's time to be heard. Be there if you can. The Executives will then come for a drink in the Ceilidh (which is also our Ceilidh Drink event, so you should be there). It's a good occasion to directly mention your concerns to those who run PGSS in both formal and informal contexts.

**\*\*L. Tian arrives at the meeting\*\***

## **4. Motion on reimbursements**

H. Gálvez presented the following motion.



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*Whereas*, the ongoing legal dispute between MCGSS and PGSS over the Building Maintenance Fund and Memorandum of Agreement [MoA] is still unresolved.

*Whereas*, there is much uncertainty on what will happen to MCGSS's sources of revenue when/if an agreement is reached.

*Whereas*, the legal expenses associated to the case have already gone above \$5,000.00 CAD.

*Whereas*, the MCGSS executive is unable to plan its finances properly until this issue is resolved.

*Be it resolved*, That MCGSS will suspend, until further notice, payments and reimbursements associated with the following line items of its 2015-2016 budget: PGSS Activities, Club Fund Requests, Grad Room Improvements, Other and Activities (Others) .

*Be it further resolved*, That MCGSS will lower the amount budgeted for legal expenses to the original \$5,000.00 CAD originally promised to PGSS.

*Be it further resolved*, That all MCGSS activities (including Council and Executive meetings) will continue to go forward with the understanding that their budget might be reduced at any future MCGSS council meeting.

*Be it further resolved*, That the MCGSS Travel Grant program and Peer Helper Program will continue to go ahead as planned, until further notice.

Moved by H. Gálvez, seconded by G. Limniatis.

J. Singh asked how it would affect clubs. K. Mittal asked how it will affect clubs that already had expenses. H. Gálvez answered that no promise was made to any club yet this year. K. Mittal asked if clubs who applied get a notice if their demand is rejected. H. Gálvez said that he did it for as long as he has been treasurer.

*Be it resolved*, That the motion be amended to merge the "MCGSS Travel Grant program and Peer Helper Program" to the first list of activities cut "PGSS Activities, Club Fund Requests, Grad Room Improvements, Other and Activities (Others)".

Moved by C. Nzediegwu, seconded by K. Mittal.

Amendment carried by unanimous consent

A vote was held on the amended motion:



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*Be it resolved*, That MCGSS will suspend, until further notice, payments and reimbursements associated with the following line items of its 2015-2016 budget: PGSS Activities, Club Fund Requests, Grad Room Improvements, Other and Activities (Others), but that the MCGSS Travel Grant program and Peer Helper Program will continue to go ahead as planned, until further notice.

*Be it further resolved*, That MCGSS will lower the amount budgeted for legal expenses to the original \$5,000.00 CAD originally promised to PGSS.

*Be it further resolved*, That all MCGSS activities (including Council and Executive meetings) will continue to go forward with the understanding that their budget might be reduced at any future MCGSS council meeting.

Yes: 12

No: 0

Abstention: 0

Motion carried unanimously.

### 5. Motion to amend the bylaws

*Whereas*, the ongoing legal dispute between MCSS and PGSS over the Building Maintenance Fund and MoA is still unresolved.

*Whereas*, there is much uncertainty on what will happen to MCGSS's sources of revenue when/if an agreement is reached.

*Whereas*, there is concern on the part of the MCGSS Executive Committee that the portion of the PGSS Membership Fee currently allocated to MCGSS activities will be reduced by the PGSS Executive Committee.

*Whereas*, a loss of revenue from the PGSS Membership Fee would amount to a financial shortfall that would require the suspension and/or downsizing of the majority of MCGSS activities.

*Whereas*, in July 2015, a total of \$5,561.53 were collected by MCGSS from unused and unbudgeted PGSLF funds from previous years.

*Whereas*, MCGSS has been advised by PGSS that it is the only PGSA to currently receive money beyond its PGSLF funds and that other PGSA's fund their activities exclusively through their PGSLF.

*Whereas*, currently, there is no way to ask a referendum question to raise PGSS fees only for Macdonald Campus graduate students.

*Be it resolved*, That the MCGSS By-Laws be amended as follows:



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| Article    | Current   | Proposed   |
|------------|---|--|
| 3.2.3 - 2) | 2) Post-Graduate Student Life Fund (PGSLF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Upon request by departmental representatives, this grant is given to fund social activities involving graduate students of that particular department.</li> <li>b. The amount accorded to each department shall be calculated in September, according to enrolment data.</li> <li>c. Guidelines pertaining to eligibility, fund allocation and budgeting are in accordance with the Macdonald Campus PGSLF Regulations.</li> </ul> | 2) Post-Graduate Student Life Fund (PGSLF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Upon request by departmental representatives, this grant is given to fund social activities involving graduate students of that particular department.</li> <li><b>b. This fund will also fund a portion of the activities organized by the MCGSS for all Macdonald Campus Graduate students.</b></li> <li>c. The amount accorded to each department shall be calculated in September, according to enrolment data.</li> <li><b>d. Each department will return 30% of their allocated amount to MCGSS for partial funding of its activities and programs.</b></li> <li>e. Guidelines pertaining to eligibility, fund allocation and budgeting are in accordance with the Macdonald Campus PGSLF Regulations.</li> </ul> |

Presented for ratification at the next regular Council meeting by H. Gálvez.

J. Ziegler asked if it would affect the current term. H. Gálvez said it would only be the following term.

**6. Club Funding**

Applications were received from MISA and Bio-Connect. G. Limniatis told them that it would be discussed in Council. H. Gálvez mentioned that it would not be prudent to allocate funds at this point. K. Mittal asked to discuss it again in future meetings.

*Be it resolved*, That no funds be allocated to clubs for the moment, keeping in mind that the results of the PGSS referenda may affect this decision.

Moved by H. Gálvez, seconded by G. Limniatis.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

M. Kaji informed council that MCSS will fund MISA.



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### 7. Referendum\* and By-Elections for the positions of Secretary and Vice-President\*\* (\*See New Business point 1, \*\*see Business Arising point 1)

*Be it resolved*, That according to articles 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3 of the Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society, the referendum questions be presented to the membership at a Special Meeting of the Students' Society held on November 10th, 2015 at 2:00 pm.

*Be it further resolved*, That the referendum questions be voted upon by secret ballot on November 17th, 2015 from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm.

Moved by N. Chatel-Launay, seconded by G. Limniatis.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

### 8. PGSS Referendum

A rather long discussion was held on the PGSS fees, including fees that are not to be voted upon in this referendum. There is a discontent amongst our members about those fees that only fund downtown services.

*Whereas*, many PGSS fees end up funding services that are only provided downtown and that some of these fees are opt-outable.

*Be it resolved*, That we build a tutorial on how to opt-out from fees and publicise it in our December newsletter.

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

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

### 9. Building Fund

Nothing to report

### Miscellaneous Announcements and Discussions

J. Singh will be presenting at the Joint Annual BOG-Senate Meeting.

### Next meetings

4 O'Clock Forum: October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 4:00 pm, R3-048

MCGSS Executive Committee: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 12:00 pm, Faculty Meeting Room

PGSS Students' Council: November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 6:00 pm, Thompson House Ballroom

MCGSS Bagel Breakfast: November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 9:30 am, Faculty Lounge





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PGSS Executive Meeting: November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 4:30 pm, Faculty Lounge

MCGSS Ceilidh Drinks: November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 4:30 pm, Ceilidh Pub

MCGSS Students' Council: November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 4:30 pm, Faculty Lounge

### Adjournment

*Be it resolved*, That the meeting be adjourned.  
Moved by G. Limniatis, seconded by H. Gálvez.  
Motion carried by unanimous consent at 5:50 pm.

  
Nicolas Chatel-Launay  
President