



## 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

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016

4:40 pm – Dietetics' Study Room

#### **Attendance**

Present: Nicolas Chatel-Launay (President) entered at 16:51, Mahsa Ghasri (Vice-President) Héctor Gálvez (Treasurer), Georgia Limniatis (Public Relations Officer), Jacob Ziegler (Faculty Representative), Marcus Kaji (MCSS Representative), Jaaved Singh (Secretary), Lei Tian (Food Science), Gabriel Lambert-Rivest (Plant Science), Hilary Byrne (Parasitology), Ivy Mak (Dietetics), Krittika Mittal (Natural Resource Science) left at 17:11, Maude Dagenais (Parasitology), Laura Michalovic (Animal Science), Kathelyn Li Zhou (MCGSS Representative),

Regrets: Laura Minieri (Food Science), Naresh Gaj (Bioresource Engineering), Chris Zealey (Biotechnology), Evan Marcolefes (Biotechnology)

Absent: Christopher Nzediegwu (Environmental Advisor), Yasmin Schuermann (Animal Science), Emmanuella Ellis (Agricultural Economics), Gabriella Djangmah (Agricultural Economics), Yin Hong (Dietetics)

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Be it resolved, that the agenda, be approved as presented.

Moved by H. Gálvez, Seconded by N. Chatel-Launay.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

#### **Approval of Minutes from November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Be it resolved, that the agenda, be approved as presented.

Moved by H. Gálvez, Seconded by N. Chatel-Launay.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

#### **Approval of Minutes from December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Be it resolved, that the agenda, be approved with addition of M. Ghasri to Present of Attendance.

Moved by M. Kaji, Seconded by H. Galvez.

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

#### **Reports**

M. Kaji: Re-announced the create of the mac drone club. Advised that there is an oral agreement with downtown bookstore and MCSS over the Mac Bookstore's future and stock. Advised that MCSS is in the process of finalising their Memorandum of Agreement with the Royal Institute for the Advancement of Learning (McGill) and that MCSS removed room ownership to reduce their rent.



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Hector introduced kat from mcss

H. Galvez: Introduced Kathelyn Zhou who will be today's MCGSS representative from MCSS. He state there were no modifications to the budget but has made cuts to spending. He also received the invoice from lawyers in regards to the settled legal dispute between MCSS/PGSS and stated there was no support from legal support fund. He announced that Meghan O'Neill has resigned from council. He called for departments to contact him for their PGSFLF.

J. Singh: He met with Cameron Butler over the future of the MAC Wellness project. They are trying to arrange long term sustainable funding. J. Singh stated MCGSS is unable to host referendums about fees for only MCGSS members. C. Butler will re-evaluate funding strategy. J. Singh will email the remainder of his report.

J. Ziegler: Reported on the creation of an innovative entrepreneurship website for students to access.

### **Business Arising**

#### **1. Election Results**

H. Galvez welcomed the new councillors, new Vice-President and new secretary.

#### **2. Referendum Questions**

H. Galvez reported that both referendum questions passed. The first question being on the creation of the 2 biotechnology department reps and the other on a constitutional cleanup that referred to MCGSS reporting to MCSS.

#### **3. Holiday Trivia and Ceilidh Drinks**

J. Singh reported that the executive decided to host a trivia and Ceilidh drinks instead of a holiday party. This was done in order to save money while still providing a social event for our members.

H. Galvez requests N. Chatel-Launay send the invoice of the event.

#### **4. Biotechnology Representatives**

H. Galvez previously announced the new reps but requests to meet them about their PGSFLFs and how they can attend the council meetings. Both reps are unable to attend Tuesday Afternoon/Evening meetings as regularly scheduled.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Bagel Breakfast/Wine and Cheese**

H. Galvez: We are cutting back on expenses as we have no guaranteed source of income. We can pay for all our events (due to our savings and the MCSS settlement) but next year's council will have no money. We changed source of bagels to Costco to be more fiscally conservative. With that stated, Bagel breakfast should continue without impacting our budget or funds.



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J. Singh: Reported J. Ziegler's suggestion that we host a wine and cheese but cancel the February bagel breakfast to lessen the financial impact of event hosting.

H. Galvez stated there are 3 options to choose from:

One wine and cheese, all bagel breakfast

One wine and cheese, cancel 1 bagel breakfast

One wine and cheese, all bagel breakfast, entrance charge or subsidised wine

The last year wine and cheese was well attended. Multiple members do not want to cancel any bagel breakfasts. It was acknowledged that charging for event will set a precedent for charging from now on.

M. Ghasri stated the importance of having social atmosphere after work associated with wine and cheese and offering at least one free glass of wine. A member proposed that we offer 2 free drinks at the wine and cheese.

*Be it resolved*, that the March 17<sup>th</sup> Wine and Cheese be cancelled

*And Be it further resolved*, that MCGSS only organises 1 wine and cheese at a later time.

Moved by H. Galvez, seconded by ?

Yay: 13

Nay:

1

Abstentions: 0

Motion is carried.

A discussion on sponsorship for bagel breakfast was had but previous attempts for sponsorship were unsuccessful.

*Be it resolved*, that MCGSS offers 1 free drink to MCGSS members at the Wine and Cheese.

*And Be it further resolved*, that for further drinks a certain amount will be charged.

Council debated the item. It was stated the event will require proper record keeping to determine how many people attended and how many drinks were consumed.

*Amendment* moved by H. Galvez, seconded by ?

*Be it resolved*, that MCGSS offers 1 free drink to MCGSS members at the Wine and Cheese and charge \$1 for any following drinks

*And be it further resolved*, that the event will cost, at maximum, \$500 CAD that MCGSS will charge \$1 for drinks

**Amendment** carried by unanimous consent.

### **Final Motion:**

*Be it resolved*, that MCGSS offers 1 free drink to MCGSS members at the Wine and Cheese and charge \$1 for any following drinks

*And be it further resolved*, that the event will cost, at maximum, \$500 CAD



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Discussion that there should be no charges on cheese and that juice and pop be supplied for non-drinkers. Organisation and spending for the event will be handled by the Executive.

Moved by H. Galvez, seconded by ?

Motion carried by unanimous consent.

There was no motion on cancelling the bagel breakfast.

## 2. PGS LF Discussions

H. Galvez stated a motion is needed for to separate the PGS LF between Parasitology and the newly created Biotechnology PGSA (under MCGSS).

G. Limniatis requests that H. Galvez confirm that Parasitology and Biotechnology members pay the same fee.

N. Chatel-Launay pushes for a conditional motion.

*Be it resolved*, on condition that Biotechnology members pay the same fees as Parasitology members, that the MCGSS Treasurer allocates the proportional amount of the PGS LF to Biotechnology.

Moved by H. Galvez, Seconded by G. Limniatis

Motion carried by unanimous consent

H. Galvez is still waiting on agreement with PGSS. H. Galvez reaffirmed he won't sign an agreement without consent from MCGSS unless he's being forced to. No funds have been received from PGSS yet.

Motion on MCGSS PGS LF Re-allocation

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.



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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 it's 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:

<i>Article</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
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>

Yay: 12  
 Nay: 0  
 Abstentions: 0



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Moved by H. Galves, seconded by ?  
Motion carried by unanimous consent.  
Motion will come into effect as soon as the PGSLF from PGSS is received by MCGSS

### 3. Faculty Planning Committee

N. Chatel-Launay: The committee is running a campaign to raise funds what the campus should do/have within the next 20 years. Every department representative needs to go to departmental seminar and give presentation for the funding campaign. Topics and items for the campaign include but are not limited to amount of students on campus, areas of research, buildings on campus. There will be focus groups for students and faculty/staff as well as a general focus group. This will be a long process but it is inherently important we have as much graduate student participation as possible.

### 4. Ceilidh Kitchen sub-committee

M. Kaji: MCSS has created student space renovation sub-committee that reports to the MCSS Business Operations Committee. The sub-committee will determine the spending of 140k to renovate ceilidh. Renovations are to be completed by Sep 2016. He is looking for committee members. N. Chatel-Launay inquires if there are voting positions on the committee. M. Kaji responds that there is no voting as it is a sub-committee but we should have a graduate student on the sub-committee as we now have regular access to the Ceilidh for hosting events.

## Miscellaneous Announcements and Discussions

N. Chatel-Launay sincerely apologises for being late.

### Next meetings

PGSS Students' Council: February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 6:00 pm, Thompson House Ballroom

MCGSS Executive Committee: February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 12:00 pm, Faculty Meeting Room

MCGSS Students' Council: February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 at 4:30 pm, Faculty Lounge

Bagel Breakfast: **TBD** but scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 9:30am, Faculty Lounge

Wine and Cheese: **TBD** but currently scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>



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### Adjournment

*Be it resolved*, That the meeting be adjourned.  
Moved by H. Gálvez, seconded by J. Ziegler.  
Motion carried by unanimous consent at 17:47.

Jaaved Singh  
Secretary