



The Macdonald Campus Graduate Students' Society

Room R3-043, Raymond Building
21,111 Lakeshore Road
Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec H9X 3V9
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Students' Council

Minutes

April 26th, 2016

4:30 pm – Macdonald Faculty Lounge

Attendance

Present: Nicolas Chatel-Launay (President; entered at 5:11pm), Héctor Gálvez (Treasurer), Georgia Limniatis (Public Relations Officer), Marcus Kaji (MCSS Representative), Jaaved Singh (Secretary), Hilary Byrne (Parasitology), Jenn (Biotechnology VP Finance-Guest), Kritika Mittal (Natural Resource Science), Naresh Gaj (Bioresource Engineering), Laura Michalovic (Animal Science), Yasmin Schuermann (Animal Science), Gabriel Lambert-Rivest (Plant Science), Jessica Pawly (Secretary - Guest), Mi Lin (Faculty Representative-Guest)

Regrets: Ivy Mak (Dietetics), Alexandre Martel (MCSS Representative - Guest), Mahsa Ghasri (Vice President), Chris Zealey (Biotechnology), Evan Marcefolas (Biotechnology),

Absent: Jacob Ziegler (Faculty Representative), Maude Dagenais (Parasitology), Lei Tian (Food Science), Yin Hong (Dietetics), Chris Nzediegwu (Environmental Advisor), Laura Minieri (Food Science), Emmanuella Ellis (Agricultural Economics), Gabriella Djangmah (Agricultural Economics)

Approval of Agenda

Quorum was not attained, unable to move motion to approve Agenda.

M. Kaji adds New Business Item 3: Softball

Approval of Minutes from March 22nd, 2016

Quorum was not attained, unable to move motion to approve Minutes.

Reports

M. Kaji: MCSS chose their valedictorian

G. Limniatis: She will not be doing a newsletter over the summer but will still announce events during the summer.

G. Lambert-Rivest: BBQ for the plant science department will be at end of summer, and there will be a departmental volleyball activity.

H. Byrne: Parasitology has had no events since Christmas but they are planning seminars for the school year and a pizza party.

J. (Biotech): Nothing to report.

K. Mittal: The NRS department has spent all their PGSLF on hoodies, t-shirts, final seminar happy hour and a pizza lunch for its members.

J. Pawly: Nothing to report

N. Gaj: The Bioresource department piggy-backed onto the PGSS sugar shack event, there were 50 students from BREE but PGSS couldn't get bus to pick up students at MAC.



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H. Galvez stated that if the departments encounter difficulties like this with PGSS, the departments should inform MCGSS. MCGSS will try to aid the departments in accessing PGSS services and support.

M. Lin: Nothing to report.

J. Singh: He gave an update on the resource economist search by the NRS department. He stated he would like to see more grad students attend the coffee sessions with the candidates and for grads to give him feedback on how they find the candidate.

L. Michalovic: There will be a laser tag outing for animal science.

Y. Schuermann: Nothing to report other than the previously mentioned laser tag outing.

H. Galvez: He gave an update on PGSLF and showed all departments their current balance.

G. Limniatis: What happens to unused money?

H. Galvez: The money is not meant to be saved, it is to be spent and as such left over funds must be budgeted by end of June by departments. If the PGSLF is not budgeted, MCGSS will re-absorb the remaining funds.

J. Singh: We should email the departments (dietetics/food science/agricultural economics) that aren't at today's meeting in regards to the budgeting their remaining funds.

H. Galvez went over the total budget. We kept in line with our budget fairly well. He is waiting for the peer helper support to invoice MCGSS. The AGM cost \$103.40. Hector paid this month for all ceilidh drinks and wine & cheese, alcoholic beverages costed around \$600.

Business Arising

1. New executives for June 1st

The council went over introductions and welcomed the new executives at the beginning of the meeting.

2. AGM: Athletics Fee

J. Singh: Went over discussion from AGM. MAC grads who live downtown and don't use the Macdonald gym facilities want to opt-out of the athletic fees. A member stated that downtown students have the option to pay for the gym.

H. Galvez: Downtown also pays a non-opt-outable athletics fee plus an additional fee for access to certain facilities. MAC campus grads pay one fee that has more of a bang for our buck. We have access to both gyms except weight rooms downtown. We pay the same as downtown students and get more access. It would be hard for us to convince McGill to make the fee opt-outable.

Additional concerns were raised that the MAC athletics fee could increase if it was opt-outable and that gym access is important to student health (mental and physical) and grad students should be using the gym (either downtown or at MAC). The fee is also a McGill auxiliary fee so McGill controls the amount and opt-outable status.

3. AGM: Extra summer bus

J. Singh goes over the details of the AGM question and history of shuttle service. Members asked that one additional bus be added to the summer schedule.



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G. Lambert-Rivest and H. Galvez stated the shuttle is never full.

Adding a second bus is difficult and may not be needed. It also took about 10 years to get an additional bus to the regular school year schedule.

H. Byrne: raised the point that the summer schedule has a difficult schedule, specifically the evening bus from MAC to downtown that leaves at 6:30pm.

J. Singh: Should we pursue changing times instead of adding a new bus?

A secondary discussion followed on changing the departure times instead of adding a new bus. N. Chatel-Launay volunteered to make a survey to determine what times our members would prefer the shuttle leave.

4. Hand-over event

H. Galvez: Where?

J. Singh: Rowles house

H. Galvez: Would funds be required?

J. Singh: There will be no budget for the event, no costs.

H. Galvez/K. Mittal: Suggested the meeting be a potluck. J. Singh to organise.

H. Galvez: The hand-over will be open to all councillors.

New Business

1. PGSS Council Meeting and General Assembly

The council meeting is next week Wednesday. H. Galvez can't attend. M. Ghasri, J. Singh, N. Chatel-Launay, M. Kaji will attend. H. Galvez would like the following points be discussed. A clarification on budget item (how we are paying our debt). Should we extend our debt to have more money for events?

J. Singh: PGSS wants to join a new student federation (AVEQ/UEQ). The PGSS Executive wants us to join right away. We should ask many questions about this. A lot of items were tabled at last PGSS meeting. The meeting will most likely be long. One recurring point, PGSS is unsure how to ask fee related questions and when to cancel current fees.

H. Galvez describes all the complications of fee referendum questions.

J. Singh: call to get our members to attend the GA

2. Bagel Breakfast

H. Galvez/G. Limniatis: We shouldn't do one, didn't we cancel the May bagel breakfast.

J. Singh: cannot find mention of cancelling the May bagel breakfast

H. Galvez: A May bagel breakfast is in the budget but we are at our budget for bagel breakfast. The last bagel breakfast was not well attended.

H. Byrne: No one is expecting a May bagel breakfast.

A poll on "Should we have a May bagel breakfast?" was conducted.

Yay: 3

Nay: 6

Abstentions: 2



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The executive will not plan a May Bagel Breakfast.

H. Galvez: Strawberry social and sustainable bbq, 2 summer events, will be paid by MCSS through greendinks.

3. Softball

M. Kaji: Last year the softball league worked. Games are normally on Thursday. We can try Wednesday if that's better. Can we find a team from each department and email the entire campus?

K. Mittal: Departmental reps can email their departments about the softball league.

N. Chatel-Launay: Create a google doc to track who's interested

Miscellaneous Announcements and Discussions

Adjournment

Unable to motion to adjourn but we are going to leave anyway.

N. Chatel-Launay calls for adjournment at 5:29pm, G. Limniatis seconds.

Next meetings

PGSS Students' Council: May 4th, 2016 at 5:30 pm, Thompson House Ballroom

PGSS General Assembly: May 4th, 2016 at 7:15 pm, Thompson House Ballroom

MCGSS Executive Committee: May 10th, 2016 at 12:00 pm, Faculty Meeting Room

MCGSS Students' Council: May 24th, 2016 at 4:30 pm, Faculty Lounge

Final council meeting for the 2015-2016 council ☺

Bagel Breakfast: May 17th, 2016 at 9:30am, Faculty Lounge ***cancelled***