

MINUTES
MCGSS council meeting
Date and time: July 28th, 2015 at 4:30pm
Location: Faculty Lounge

Attendance (execs): Hector (treasurer), Georgia (public relations officer), Christopher (Environmental rep), Nicolas (President via Skype), Jacob (Faculty rep – via Skype), Marc (MCSS representative)

Attendance (council): Hilary and Maude (Parasitology), Yin (Nutrition), Laura (Animal science), Maeghan (Building Maintenance Fund commissioner), Gabriella (Agricultural economics).

Absence: Andrew, Yasmin, Emmanuella, Naresh, Ivy

Agenda: Marc requests to add a point on website issues. Maeghan decides to remove portion on Building Maintenance Fund since there are no new developments.

Maude moves; Nic seconds. Agenda approved by all.

Minutes: Hector moves to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Hilary seconds.

Reports:

1. Nic: Nic sent a report by e-mail.
2. Jacob: In the field
3. Hector: (A) Hector showed everyone the amount they have in their PGSLF (all departments that sent in a budget still have their money. Those that didn't send a budget have had their budget removed and put into the MCGSS PGSLF) (B) strawberry social was much less expensive than we originally thought. Budget was 220\$ but only 143\$ was spent.

Old business:

1. Sustainable BBQ (Hector): Hector is meeting with Christopher W. to decide on the logistics. Hector begged council for ideas to make the Sustainable BBQ more interesting to the grad student population. They are meeting on Wednesday, August 5th, 2015.

2. Committees (Nic): Council has filled some positions. There are still positions left on other committees. Nic has a document with all vacancies.

3. Priorities (Nic): Nic suggests choosing 2 major priorities to focus on during the next year. That way, the focus can be on those. Nic wants people to think about it and then council can bring them up at the next meeting. He wants suggestions as to which should happen this year. We think that student services should be a priority (including better access to mental healthcare). Jake suggests having a list, putting a survey in the next newsletter (Nic will send it to Georgia).

New business:

1. Mental health (Nic): Grad students at McGill need mental health support. There is a training august 26, 27. Training it open to any Mac students (grad and undergrad).

2. Student life ambassador program (Nic): The program exists to create links between new incoming students and existing students at Mac campus. The program will be advertised in the August newsletter.

3. Orientation (Nic): We (MCGSS) will take care of campus visits, we will organize the snacks and coffee, but we will not do the BBQ (not paying and not volunteering). Peter told Nic that the Dean usually pitches in, but since we have a new dean we don't know if we are getting money. Nic is supposed to clarify the issues about payment. Nic is meeting with the person in charge when he gets back. Orientation is scheduled for September 3rd. We need to discuss whether we should budget more for this event and whether we should actually have the BBQ. We used to get money from PGSS (Maeghan says so) and the Faculty (Hector says so). 15 minutes allocated to this points are up: we moved on from this point. People can email the exec committee if they have concerns.

4. Student Life and Learning (Nic): Not much information. Formally opposed the new building (as it was presented). Plans have changed so we might want to renew the position.

5. PGSS council attendance (Nic): Meeting on the 19th at Thompson house. We need 3 people to go. Nic, Hector, Maude are going.

6. Website (Marc): Google search gives you the old MCGSS website (not updated, misinformation, forms are wrong). Hector will look into it and see that the older versions are offline. We are going to take a council picture to put up on the website.

Motion to adjourn: Georgia, seconded by Hector
Next PGSS Council Meeting, August 19th 2015 at 6:00pm, Thompson House Ballroom

Next MCGSS Exec Meeting, August 11th 2015 at 12:00am, Faculty Meeting Room

Next MCGSS Council Meeting, August 25th 2015 at 4:30pm, Faculty Lounge