

MINUTES  
MCGSS council meeting  
Time: March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 4:30pm  
Location: Faculty Lounge

**Attendance: Exec:** Peter (President), Hector (Treasurer), Melissa (Environment Commissioner), Andrew (Secretary), Jacob (Faculty Rep)  
**Council:** Andrew & Hector (Plant Science), Maeghan & Georgia (Parasitology), Amanda & Darek (Food Science), Divya (Bioresource), Lisa (Bioresource)

**Absent:** No regrets: Nic (VP), Yasmin (Animal Science), Reshmi (MCSS Rep), Ivy, Yin (Nutrition)

**Pizza!**

**Approval of Agenda:**

**Motion to approve by Derek, seconded by Lisa**

**Approval of Minutes from Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015:**

**Motion to approve by Maeghan, seconded by Divya**

**Special Guest:** Dr. Ian Strachan, Dean MAC-OGS

- new Dean for Grads and FAES, Sci, Law, Arts, etc.. & new Provost; announcements coming in the next month
- how will budget affect funding for students? Peter
  - cuts by attrition has well placed McGill
  - GEF money, handed out haphazardly to departments, should remain intact and has been kept for 2015-2016
  - grad funds for students working in other labs has been cut
  - GREAT will continue for 2015-2016
- why more hires, in light of cuts? Andrew
  - McGill believes in profs instead of contract academics
  - 8 new hires, unknown number of faculty exiting

Jonathan Mooney & Nikki Meadows, PGSS Financial Affairs Officer

- in 2012, MCGSS being charged by PGSS & MCSS, but not getting real benefits of either
- MCGSS terminated its membership in MCSS and pursued an agreement with MCSS to retain used services to be paid by PGSS (~5000\$/year) and MCSS turn over ~300 000\$ by grads for the new building fund
- this sum is an approximate calculation of fees that grad students had paid over 20 years toward grad student space in any new building at Mac
- MCSS did not sign the final agreement, and as a result, PGSS has not paid a cent to MCSS, but a letter of understanding, which committed

- MCSS to finalise the contract, including when PGSS pays etc.. and the ~300 000\$, our current President and Vice-President, Peter and Nic, respectively, signed on behalf of MCSS
- June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, MCSS refused contract, no services, no recognition of the original vote to terminate MCGSS membership in MCSS, so a second vote was held, upholding 1<sup>st</sup> referendum, and our membership was terminated
  - by Feb. 2013, have really only established MCGSS are not members of MCSS, and haven't resolved anything else since
  - in Feb. 2015, our lawyer's letter, encouraged MCSS executives to meet with us, and now have a meeting April 8th, 10am, where Maeghan and Niki will meet with the MCSS President, VP-Finance, and Lise
  - note that in light of any conflict of interest, Peter remained out of the room for this discussion and council's subsequent discussion on how to proceed (see below, Building Maintenance Fund)

## Reports

Andrew: PGSS report on disaster of CFS funds

Hector: over-budget on bagel breakfast & activities, & almost our meeting pizza  
-under-budget on orientation, and overall

## Old Business:

### 1. Events: **Peter**

-please consult the googledoc for the current list of upcoming activities

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B306ZxUI-PMwTUIHTGROelNMSDQ&usp=sharing&tid=0B306ZxUI-PMwWm1Qb3dhQjE5MGc>

Past events: Student Engagement Day, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, Lisa

Wine & Cheese, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>,

Movie Night, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Devon, 10 people!

PGSS AGM, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Hector, Lisa, Andrew

Bagel Breakfast, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015, lower turnout? Possibly because it was on a Monday? Not as well advertised?

PGSS Hustings, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, good turnout for pizza; questionable turnout for actual debate

-upcoming events: Wine & Cheese, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Devon

Movie Night, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Peter

Bagel Breakfast, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015

-as always, we need volunteers to sign-up to help with these, and other, activities!!

2. Available Committee's: **Reshmi** was asked to provide the details concerning our appointments

-**Peter** will provide the list to me

3. Building Maintenance Fund:

- following the last Executive meeting, **Maeghan** was asked to confirm a date for the meeting with MCSS as soon as it was set: April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 10am
- this discussion is all the more important given the faculty's discussion about a new building
- Maeghan will attend the new building meeting, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at 10am
- how much grad student space will there be in new building, and how will it be paid for?
- if council decides to sue MCSS, we need to file by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015; legal fees will be covered by PGSS
- council wants to see a legal budget before any legal action is taken
- council agrees that unless grad students have physical possession, it is not possible to guarantee that the Building Maintenance Fund will be spent on securing grad student space; council agrees to seek full ownership over the Building Maintenance Fund

#### **New Business:**

1. MCGSS Elections: **Peter**

- do we have candidates? Schedule?
- Nelly, Phil & one other, will act as our CRO and organise our elections
- nomination period runs March 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2015
- campaign period runs March 30<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

2. MCGSS Constitutional Crisis: **Peter**

- current contenders for executive positions include, Nic, Hector (Treasurer), Georgia (PRO)
- we need to recruit executive and council reps, as most of us will not be returning
- suggested to have commissioners, or have dept's be responsible for assigned events

3. Annual General Meeting: **Peter**, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, 4:30pm

- people should prepare a slide and provide to Peter before April 14<sup>th</sup>
- Peter** will sort out budget for the event
- Andrew & Peter** will set the agenda

4. Workshop Funding: **Jacob, will provide me with the proposal for the minutes (see attached)**

- this will be reviewed at the next executive meeting

5. Club Funding: **Peter**, Executive proposes to split our remaining funding between MISA and the MAC Talent Show  
-unanimous
6. Athletics BBQ: **Peter**  
-MAC athletics ask to use one of our bbq, and they'll refill the tank, so we'll wave the 10\$ fee

### **Miscellaneous Announcements and Discussions**

Council Agenda Items: please have items submitted one week prior to our meeting, so May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 is the deadline for our next meeting.  
([andrew.blakney2@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:andrew.blakney2@mail.mcgill.ca))

Next Exec Meeting, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at noon in the Conference Room

Next PGSS Council Meeting, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 6pm, at MAC

AGM, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015, at 4:30pm in the Faculty Lounge

Next MCGSS Council Meeting, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 4:30pm, in the Conference Room

**Motion to Adjourn by Derek, seconded by Hector**