Agenda

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3.5 Request to host photo exhibition on Ukrainian Maidan protests at Thomson House
3.6 Resignation of the Secretary-General
Attending

Gesa (internal.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Jennifer Murray (academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Juan Camilo Pinto (sec-gen.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Julien Ouellet (external.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Nikki Meadows (finance.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Brighita Lungu (membership.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca), Amy Vincent (society.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca)

Guests

ambourduge@gmail.com

6:37 PM  Call to order

6:38 PM  Approval of the agenda

Add verbal Report by SAC- approved unanimously.

6:56 PM  Add Item: Monthly Update

SAC-
The referendum has pretty much wiped the office out and we are recovering.
Ubriety has their beta site and they’ve implemented 97% of the changes they’ve made. The TH issues the SAC can’t access, she will be working with the HM to work on that tomorrow. Has been working on beta testing and back and forth with the company but hopefully the final version will be live soon. The hope is that it will be working correctly, even though it has been slow. Will send link to the beta-testing site.
Asanna, the project management system, no one has really touched yet. (AAO requests a tutorial at the next meeting)
Requests that we’re vigilant on communication over the coming weeks as we’re all playing catch-up. Just to make sure that nothing falls into the cracks.

IAO-
Last week meeting with the IAC to plan out the events for the semester. Specifically all of the trips and Love/Sex week.

SG-
Has been coordinating the BoG student meeting (there is an agenda item coming).

Senate is tomorrow.

BoG if Feb 2.

FAO-

MCGSS/MCSS letter and the Peer Support network at MacCampus. Agenda items exist on all of these things.

AAO-

Working on a supervision series (3 part). Desperately in need of student panelists. Requests help recruiting.

Graduation time limits has become a huge topic for students. Losing access to services but being required to pay for them.

AAO asks that we respond to meeting requests because these times have been held in people’s calendars.

MSO-

Working on the mental health video. The quick update is that we got SPF funding and they encourage that we expand the project and ask for more money. Money needs to be used to cover the video costs itself. We also got the student services grant. One more is outstanding, will follow up this week. Other stuff is being ironed out but it is coming together.

Also working on the Ottawa trip next week.

CSS meeting today and there is a referendum question coming forward.

EAO-

Explains the joint PGSS/SSMU council, its topic is going to be austerity at the government level and how to protect specific line items at the university level.

Separate voting cards with research presented by Conor. Things that are commonly supported will be placed on a common platform. The items will then also go back to the members.

Beginning to receive FIO applications, will be testing the system coming forward. SG volunteers to help with this.

FAECUM event on Thursday the 29th; protesting the Minister of Education, generally about austerity. Will keep us posted.

2 Discussion Items

6:40 PM

2.1 Amélie Bourduge’s Candidacy Interview for Internal Affairs Coordinator

A Special Congress will be held this Wednesday to fill the vacant Internal Affairs Coordinator at the FEUQ (previously occupied by Gene Morrow). The candidates are typically interview by the executives of all FEUQ member associations.

FYI Amélie was one of the volunteers who helped us during the referendum.

Job description

The coordinator of internal affairs is in charge of all communications with member associations. He must notably defend the point of view of associations within the executive and ensure good communication between associations in Quebec. He must also disseminate information and ensure the development
of the message for different campaigns. In addition, he must give logistical, material or organizational support to associations by making the demand and coordinating different FEUQ campaigns. Finally, he must be available at all times to answer questions from associations.

EAO motivates that every officer at the FEUQ has to go through interviews with member associations. This is the process of screening and democratizing the elections. Elections are in a Special Congress via Skype on Thursday.

AB introduces herself. The position that she is interested in is Internal Affairs Coordinator for the FEUQ and gave a bit of background. The President of the FEUQ personally asked her to step into this position. She is going to only fulfill the end of the mandate, but not run for a subsequent one.

EAO asks what she sees her role to be in this position?

AB explains that this role is the communications person between the member associations and the executive team of the FEUQ.

EAO asks about her availability over the coming months, asks if her schedule will allow it?

AB explains that as a French student, she must take a full course load, but she has an arrangement with the university to rearrange her schedule. She has experience with this balance, so she should be able to move things on.

EAO reminds the exec that she worked with us during the referendum last week and worked as a poll clerk and interacted with many of our members. Asked whether communication would be difficult with a student who is anglophone-only?

AB explains that she understands English, she isn’t fully bilingual, but she typically understands everything said and can usually find alternative ways to say things. There is also language support with others in the organization that can help if an issue arises.

AAO asks what she feels she will bring to the organization? (FEUQ)

AB explains that given the short time limit, she can’t bring about a lot of change but she will be able to help support existing initiatives and reach out to some other member organizations that have fallen a bit out of the loop due to short staffing on the part of the FEUQ.

AAO asks if there are any questions for us?

AB explainsthat shedoesn’t have any questions, urges us to reach out via email if we have any additional questions for her.

Discussion ensued. The Executives were quite in favor of this candidate and support her election.

8:40 PM 2.2 Mac Campus Peer Support Network

Mac Campus has requested financial assistance from PGSS to help launch a peer-support network at Mac Campus, similar to the one downtown.

Discussion ensued. The FAO and MSO are going to follow up and try to get more information and will follow up on it.
8:43 PM  

### 2.3 Students-Board of Governors meeting

Discussion about this year’s Students-Board of Governors meetings. We will need to discuss PGSS’s contributions to this event.

SG explains that every 2 years, though it is now every year. The BoG will have the Governors meet with students and discuss with them fairly informally. They want to host at TH, around Feb 19th. They have asked us to throw some money into the event.

FAO says she went to it a few years ago, it was a cool event, but says graduate student turn out was terrible, we should work on that. FAO suggests that perhaps we cover the space.

AAO asks that the budget in previous motions be looked into an an amount considered.

FAO will look into the budget, and book the room and get back to everyone with an e-motion.

8:48 PM

### 2.4 Letter to MCSS on behalf of MCGSS

MCGSS has unanimously approved this letter to be sent to MCSS. We should briefly discuss to keep everyone in the loop.

**Letter to MCSS on behalf of MCGSS**

FAO motivates. Asks that the execs look over one last time before it is sent tomorrow.

8:50 PM

### 2.5 Discussion of divest McGill initiatives

See attachments on upcoming work

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/189hS46DHc21JWHFYYKK0xEP4tv-xxCTxFj1AeA1NHcXg/edit?usp=drive_web](https://docs.google.com/document/d/189hS46DHc21JWHFYYKK0xEP4tv-xxCTxFj1AeA1NHcXg/edit?usp=drive_web)

8:50 PM

### 2.6 CFS Referendum Follow-up

Debriefing of the referendum, its process, what’s next, etc.

*Discussion Ensued.*

8:57 PM

### 2.7 Supervision workshop series

Discuss upcoming supervision workshop on Jan 28. Request for all EC attendance. Need 2 student panelists.

8:57 PM

### 2.8 Graduation Time Limitation Concerns

Discuss grad time limitation concerns and how EC can move forward. Students likely to present at council on Feb 4.
2.9 the mental health video project - update

A quick update on the status of the project and funding received thus far.

2.10 Discuss Glen Move

Discuss concerns regarding Glen Yard move, re: discussion with FAO.

2.11 FEUQ - Delegation

I need to know which execs will be able to attend the FEUQ meeting at l’UQAM on January 31st and February 1st.

I will send all the necessary documentation to members of the delegation.

EAO explains that there will be 3 meetings in the coming weeks to prepare for this Congress. Asks that a couple execs come and join this delegation.

MSO, SG will join. AAO and FAO will get back to the EAO.

2.12 Invoices David Borins

I would like to discuss the payment of invoices sent by David Borins to PGSS. Attached to this item you will find the invoices and a summary explaining the fees and the total amount due.

Invoices David Borins (1)

Invoices David Borins (2)

Invoices David Borins (3)

Invoices David Borins (4)

SG motivates. David Borins did help with this, though it wasn’t pre-approved. It should be paid.

AAO and IAO support this.

MSO asks if they were pre-approved?

SG says that some were and some weren’t, but that was primarily due to the timeline. The Board approved spending that was authorized by F. Longpre, but not other spending with D. Borins.

FAO explains that these haven’t been paid because the spending hasn’t been approved anywhere yet.

WHEREAS the PGSS has outstanding invoices due to David Borins and Company in the total of $4809.69;

BIRT these invoices be paid immediately.

FAO expresses her frustration that these weren’t pre-approved, but understands that they need to be paid.

Vote- 4-0-2 (FAO and MSO abstain).
3 New Business

3.1 McGill Committee on Student Services (CSS) - students lunch meeting coverage for Winter semester

7:18 PM

WHEREAS the CSS is a great venue for students and PGSS to affect important changes with wide impact on students’ campus life and services.

WHEREAS in order to do so it is key students, undergrads and grads, work together to for a unified position in negotiating with the McGill administrators on matters of great concern for students.

WHEREAS lunch meeting between students scheduled before the CSS meetings where extremely effective in the past with big successes given there was an opportunity to plan every movement and discussion beforehand.

BIRT PGSS allocates 400$ to cover the lunch meeting costs for approximately 10 students (10-15$ per student) for the next CSS monthly meetings, 100$ per lunch meeting maximum. Proposed budget line is “Executive - Commissioners Caucus Discretionary Spending” / “Meetings”.

MSO motivates that this is a bit of a “tradition” that has existed for the past few years. It didn’t happen last semester, but it should happen this semester. Requests somewhere between $50-$100 per semester. It helps the student position on these issues, they caucus beforehand to make sure that there is a unified student voice.

EAO asks if we need shared Exec-Commissioner permission to use this line item?

FAO. proposes that this be referred to the Exec-Commissioner caucus.

Unanimous vote to refer.

7:25 PM

3.2 Cost of trips for event leaders in IAC events

WHEREAS in the past, the costs of events for event leaders have always been covered by the Event’s budget;

BIRT the costs of the events be covered for the leaders (typically IAC members) by the Event budget.

Vote- unanimous.

7:28 PM

3.3 Federal Government Trip to Ottawa/Gatineau

WHEREAS, according to CaPS, due to government cuts the Netwroking and Career opportunities event that would have taken place on our campus each year came to a stop a few years ago.

WHEREAS the PGSS MSO together with the PGSS SLC has been working on the logistics of this project since the month of October in collaboration with CaPS director, Darleene Hnatchuck and AUS VP External, Lola Baraldi.

WHEREAS this is a great service we would offer to those students who are interested in working with the government.
WHEREAS all 40 available (including staff, 36 students in total) places have sold out last week and our
office sent the list of participants to government representatives today.

WHEREAS this is a special occasion for McGill students and Student Services offices due to the fact that
a government representative works on our campus only for this year as part of an exchange program.
His name is Patrick Austin Brennan and he is McGill's Institute for the Study of International Development
Executive Director (http://www.mcgill.ca/isid/staff/executive). He proposed this project to us and offered
to collaborate and bring it to fruition. He is interested in turning this into a yearly event, with possibility to
extend the invitation to other Montreal universities depending on the success of this event.

WHEREAS McGill Alumni Association has promised a 700$ contribution for the Networking cocktail event
to take place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel where McGill students, McGill Alumni and government representa-
tives are invited to participate. The total budget for this event is 1500$, pending the hotel's invoice.

WHEREAS this is a unique opportunity for PGSS representatives to make contact with government officials and discuss matters of common interest to our members, such as employment and education.

WHEREAS as student leaders, the PGSS representatives can put PGSS and McGill graduate students' matters on the government map more poignantly than other graduate students who are not involved in student politics.

WHEREAS CaPS will be covering the costs of one employee who will guide the students through the meetings. The First People’s House covers the cost for 3 self-identified first nations students. Their participation was strongly requested by government representatives.

BIRT PGSS contributes 500$ for the Networking event, pending hotel invoice. Proposed budget line is “Community”.

BIFRT PGSS covers the costs for MSO’s and the PGSS Student Life Coordinator participation, the total being 374$ all taxes included. This will cover transportation and 2 nights of accommodation. Proposed budget line is “Travel & Conferences”.

BIFRT PGSS covers the costs of snacks and refreshments of 70$ for the networking workshop offered by CaPS on Tuesday, January 20th, 5:30PM.

MSO motivates that since the beginning of her mandate she has been interested in working with CaPS to help provide more services to graduate students. CaPS, PGSS, AUS and SSMU have been approached about supporting this event. They need student support to make it happen, so PGSS is working on it. It may be a repeat event and an expanded event in the future.

FAO asks for clarification where the $1500 is broken down.

MSO explains that it has been broken down an split between others.

AAO suggests maybe we should amend the $500.

IAO asks what the break down of graduate students vs. undergraduate students?

MSO says it’s roughly 40% PGSS, but the numbers are still fluid.

AAO and IAO suggests that the graduate student enrollment is too low for a proposed amount of $900.

EAO explains that he sees this year as an experiment. Graduate students do need alternative jobs, perhaps this could provide good opportunities.

MSO echos the EAO’s thoughts.
FAO suggests that we already have a staff member working on this event, asks why we're sending an executive as well?

MSO says that an executive may be more useful than staff.

EAO suggests that sending an executive would be good to explore the program and see whether it is "worth" it.

AAO proposes that we not contribute to the networking event. It is a lot of money for an event not directly contributing to PGSS. Asks how this would be seen?

IAO agrees with the AAO, and says that there has been a change in budget. Suggests proportioning the leftover amount after the Alumni amount has been paid in, and/or split it three ways. Also suggests that we don’t need a two leaders for a bus of 12 members. Also questions why we’re paying for a CaPS event, is it related? Asks where this is coming?

FAO expresses concern that the PGSS is paying more into this project and giving more support than the other involved groups.

IAO Amendment:

BIRT PGSS contributes $700 from the Travel and Conferences budget line to the event to be allocated as necessary.

Voting on the Amendment:

unanimous.

Voting on the Main motion:

unanimous.

7:55 PM 3.4 Co-signature - Human Rights of Student in Egypt’s Protests

Whereas A. Kaats as asked us to co-sign the following letter.


BIRT PGSS will Co-sign this Amnesty International Letter

Co-signature - Human Rights of Student in Egypt’s Protests

EAO motivates by explaining that there is a protest going on in Egypt and that the students protesting are having their human rights suppressed. It was brought to our attention that there are students that would like us to support this, and it is something that the PGSS has done historically.

IAO suggests committing this to council. He doesn’t feel like this is something that the executive should do alone. What is happening is in Egypt is do far beyond anything we can do, expresses concern about taking a vocal stand on world issues.

EAO says we don’t have time, it needs to be done before the 25th.

AAO asks why this is so time-sensitive.

EAO says it is because of the deadline set by Amnesty International, they’re collecting and submitting all letters uniformly. Feels that the language is fairly neutral and there is a history of supporting this.
IAO asks if any others have taken a stance on this?

EAO says that SSMU and FAECUM are considering it.

FAO asks what happens if this is endorsed?

EAO says we will be added to a list of groups that will be signed onto a letter?

SG calls the question.

Vote-

4-0-2 (FAO and IAO abstain).

3.5 Request to host photo exhibition on Ukrainian Maidan protests at Thomson House

8:04 PM

This is a discussion item not a motion. The Music students want PGSS to support and host this event in TH for a couple days. It will be hosted in SSMU for a few days too.

EAO suggests that they can set it up with the House Managers, but the Exec not be directly involved.

AAO also suggests that we let them also present at Council.

IAO agrees and says that he will put it in the Newswire too.

8:08 PM

3.6 Resignation of the Secretary-General

Whereas the Secretary-General has presented his resignation;

Whereas the PGSS Bylaws and Society Activities Manual establish that in case of resignation by an Officer of PGSS a By-election must be hold;

BIRT the Executive Committee accepts the resignation of the Secretary-General;

BIFRT the CRO commence immediately the By-election campaign period for the nomination and election of the new Secretary-General.

Resignation of the Secretary-General

Motion to move to closed session:

Vote-unanimous.

Amendment in Closed-session:

BIFRT that Juan Camilo Pinto will retain his current seats on the McGill Senate and the McGill Board of Governors until May 31, 2015.

Vote- 3-0-2 (FAO and MSO abstain)

Main motion vote: passed unanimously
9:14 PM  **Adjourned**