# Agenda

## 1 Floor Items
1.1 November 4th Executive Meeting
1.2 February 3rd Executive Committee Meeting

## 2 Approval of the agenda
2.1 Add Item: Approval of Dec 10 minutes
2.2 Motion to Reconsider: Approval of Dec 10 minutes
2.3 Add Item: Press release (EAO)
2.4 Press release (EAO)
2.5 Add Item: Announcements general
2.6 Motion to Reconsider: Announcements general
2.7 Motion to Reconsider: Approval of Dec 10 minutes
2.8 Motion to Reconsider: Press release (EAO)
2.9 Add Item: Fee rearrangement

## 3 Approval of the minutes
3.1 Approval of Dec 10 minutes

## 4 Discussion Items
4.1 The Future of PGSS’s National Representation
4.2 Discuss staff event
4.3 Request for report from the Board
4.4 Discuss divest initiatives
4.5 2015-2016 Proposed fee increases
4.6 Lease Negotiations Feb 2015 (Closed Session)
4.7 CFS Referendum at DSU
4.8 McGill/PGSS MOA Draft
4.9 Fee rearrangement
4.10 Improving Transparency (from Yony)

## 5 Announcements
5.1 FAO report for Yony.
5.2 Announcements general
5.3 AAO Report for Yony
5.4 Announcements general
5.5 Contingency Fund use
5.6 Announcements general

## 6 New Business
6.1 GU15 Conference, April 2015
6.2 Equity Commissioner Leave of Absence
6.3 Rassemblement National Académique - AGE UQTR (Trois-Rivières)
6.4 Pre-Approval of Crisis Related Travel Expenses
6.5 Annual Campaign CNCS (Phonaton)
6.6 PGSS Team Building (from Yony)
Attending

Member Services Officer (Brighta Lungu), Internal Affairs Officer (Gesa Antony), Financial Affairs Officer (Nikki Meadows), External Affairs Officer (Julien Ouellet), Academic Affairs Officer (Jennifer Murray)

Guests

Yony Bresler

6:46 PM  Call to order

1  Floor Items

6:48 PM  1.1 November 4th Executive Meeting

Approved unanimously.

6:51 PM  1.2 February 3rd Executive Committee Meeting

Approved unanimously.

2  Approval of the agenda

7:01 PM  2.1 Add Item: Approval of Dec 10 minutes

7:01 PM  2.2 Motion to Reconsider: Approval of Dec 10 minutes

7:01 PM  2.3 Add Item: Press release (EAO)

7:02 PM  2.4 Press release (EAO)

CLOSED SESSION
2.5 Add Item: Announcements general

MSO announcement

MSO: there is contingency fund built into health insurance fees. This would be the first time we are using the contingency fund. MSO is working with FAO and HC to figure out the procedure.

IAO: what's the source of the contingency fund?

FAO: our health and dental plan has a 2% cap to provide funds for contingency plan.

IAO: How much of budget spent on this?

MSO: $2000 max.

MSO: the mental health video director is no longer working with us (stepped down). MSO trying to find another filmmaker. She may have a potential student (camera person confirmed and lights technician confirmed). The aim is to finish video by end of April / early May. Family Care Caucus has two new chairs, which is great. They are developing projects, etc.

IAO: Do we have contact with these chairs? MSO: yes. IAO needs one person on his IAC committee.

AAO: Question about Senate and family care.

MSO: No longer need a question at Senate

MSO: working with new Family Care Coordinator to represent students across SSMU, PGSS.

AAO: MSO and AAO will work together to prepare the application for Family Care Coordinator selection committee position.

MSO: transparency issue on funding and student services (brought up at joint council with SSMU). working on question for Senate. CSS reps will contact SG and AAO.

EAO - no report, will come later in the meeting

IAO report:

IAO - Newswire and events - curling on the 21st of March. IAC meeting tomorrow.

FAO: still has a hold on Habs tickets for the exec (in a week)

Yony: will take HR position back

AAO report

- time limitation, divest, senate

FAO report

FAO: wants to wrap up the lease negotiations. MOA - wants to sign by end of the month. MCSS: working on it. Legal stuff: appeal dropped. PGSS vs Handelman - starting depositions. Starting next week w/ Daniel Simeone and others. PGSS and building fund levy on the agenda for tonight. Structure, etc - working on it. Budget for next year needs to start being put together. Referendum: final results in a few weeks ago. Formal request to disaffiliate sent 2 weeks ago. The CFS has until June 2015 to ratify. Dawson - we have been asked for help in their April referendum. Grants policy - working on a new application.
2.6 Motion to Reconsider: Announcements general

8:02 PM

2.7 Motion to Reconsider: Approval of Dec 10 minutes

8:03 PM

2.8 Motion to Reconsider: Press release (EAO)

9:01 PM

* CLOSED SESSION *

Whereas we believe that significant portions of the FAÉCUM report contains unfair criticisms of the FEUQ.

BIRT PGSS will collaborate with other FEUQ member association to issue a press release containing, but not limited to, the criticism of the FAÉCUM report on the FEUQ.

vote: 5-0-1

2.9 Add Item: Fee rearrangement

9:59 PM

FAO is trying to figure out where this fits. We have two funds that have a lot of money in them that isn't touched or are outdated fees where money is now sitting without another place in which to allocate it.

Discussion ensued.

3 Approval of the minutes

3.1 Approval of Dec 10 minutes

7:01 PM

Approved unanimously

4 Discussion Items

4.1 The Future of PGSS’s National Representation

7:45 PM

On February 25th FAÉCUM announced that they would be leaving the FEUQ at the end of March through a vote of their annual congress.

PGSS is now part of the trilateral alliance between AÉESG (UQAM management) & AEP (Polytechnique Undergrad). In the coming weeks and months, this alliance will set up an open forum aimed at either launching a new student federation or jump-starting the FEUQ after implementing major reforms designed to attract potential partners.

While these are very unstable times, they present us with tremendous opportunity to reshape and modernize the student movement.
Since December, PGSS has established a large network of allies, and acquired a high degree of credibility and trustworthiness.

As a result, we are now in an unique position of leadership, which we should use to cement our position for years to come and for the good of the student movement.

Here are some of my notes to get a overview of the situation. Note, that at the moment it’s our alliance vs. FAÉCUM vs. CADEUL, but that CADEUL and FAÉCUM might eventually join forces. I wrote these for myself so they aren’t meant to be intellible.

New Federation Project
- Allies (main core)
  1. PGSS (8,500)
  2. AÉESG (13,700)
  3. AEP (6,000)
  Sub-Total=28,200

- Co-allies (since Saturday)
  4. ALIÉS (Laval Grads)=11,000
  5. AGEUQAT (Abitibi-Témiscamingue) = 3,700
  6. FEUS (Sherbrooke Undergrads) 14,000
  Sub-Total=28,700

New Federation-Grand Total of Students=56,900

- Adversaries-
  Known “Allies” to FAÉCUM’s Project
  - FAÉCUM
  Total=39,000
  vs.
  Known “Allies” to CADEUL’s Project
  CADEUL (Laval Undergrads)
  Total=31,000

Main Unaffiliated Targets
+ SSMU (1)
? CSU
+ AÉCSP (1)
? MAGE-UQAC (1)
? AGECAR
? AGEUQTR
4.2 Discuss staff event

See my email and doodle. Finalize date for staff event.

S-G: There are 16 people. One possibility would be not dinner, but a standing / talking event.

FAO: we could rent a pool hall and service appetizers, etc.

We will discuss this and decided by 5pm tomorrow.

4.3 Request for report from the Board

Request for update on Board activities relevant to the EC.

FAO: FAO to give an update from the Board by the next EC meeting.

SG: request for further discussion.

4.4 Discuss divest initiatives

AAO update on progress regarding divest initiatives.

AAO discussed in her report.

4.5 2015-2016 Proposed fee increases

Given that the new lease will require us to pay utilities and total costs will be more substantial than in the past, and with the CFS payout that was made to trigger the referendum, we may want to consider raising our fees for the coming year. The attached document is only a draft for consideration.

2015-2016 Proposed fee increases

FAO: We will be paying more going forward, given the amount paid to CFS and the fact that the fees haven’t been indexed for the past 5 years. This is a proposed fee increase that may work. Increases proposed are 1) Special Projects Fund, 2) membership fee and 3) Thomson House fee levy.

S-G: Rent increase is substantial in % but a small % of our budget. He understands that some of this is related to the CFS, but is not clear on how we will cover the fees. He asked the FAO to clarify.

FAO: We haven’t indexed the fees in a while. In terms of special projects fund, a lot of this will be CFS-directed.
MSO: wants to see a full budget report as we have not seen this in a while. She wants to see what’s going on with some lines in red and wants to see if a fee increase is necessary. MSO wants to have a budget discussion before discussing a fee increase.

EAO: agrees that there is a need to review the budget

IAO: how did these numbers come about?

FAO: through discussions with the Business Manager. Numbers are based on the fact that we do not index and haven’t been indexing fees. It also has to do with how much we project to have to spend (especially the TH fee).

IAO: clarification - scheme by Monetary Affairs Committee?

FAO: Came from the Business Manager and FAO.

MSO: not indexing is not a reason for increasing the fee. She wants to see how much is coming in and why we need this fee increase.

SG: this is a serious proposal- can we hold a special referendum? This would cost hundreds of dollars.

FAO: we risk voter burnout if we run a separate referendum.

EAO: concerned about the risk of a slim chance of passing the referendum, whereas adjusting to inflation is reasonable.

FAO: the CRO needs this information because it needs to go on the agenda for Council & the upcoming AGM.

MSO: Is going to Council next week? FAO: yes, if we want referendum to happen.

MSO: doesn’t budget have to be presented twice a year?

IAO: are we running a deficit this year?

FAO: yes, with CFS stuff.

IAO: is the business making a profit? with the current proposal, will we be making a profit?

IAO: we have always advocated for lower student fees. All questions asked here will also be asked at Council and at the AGM.

SG: proposes that the EC needs more information to review before we finalize it. We seem to be agreement that we need these fee increases.

IAO: all need to adjust to inflation, but if meeting budget at moment, then don’t have to adjust to inflation. Is it necessary to increase the fee? why not levy a temporary fee to levy the membership.

AAO: proposal: this document should go forward to the CRO and the EC requests a document that explains the fee increases before Council on March 11th.

MSO: requests an updated budget

AAO: a request for public budget that is easily interpreted to the EC, Council, etc. We need to have a budget that we can all understand and improve transparency

IAO: if this passes today, have no chance to amend.

IAO: request that we meet before Council next week.
SG: we will call emergency meeting for next week. The sentiment is that we should see more details of the budget.

IAO requests a working document before our meeting

SG request for context - when is the last time we had a fee increase?

S-G proposes the following motion:

BIRT the Executive Committee present a current version of the proposed fee increase to the Chief Returning Officer to be included in the March 11th Council and Annual General Meeting agendas.

BIFRT the Executive Committee shall meet at least one more time before this document is presented to Council in order to finalize the numbers and attach a report.

vote: 6-0-0

4.6 Lease Negotiations Feb 2015 (Closed Session)

This is the most updated offer from McGill. Look it over, and I'll provide further update in closed session.

Lease Negotiations Feb 2015 (Closed Session)

** CLOSED SESSION **

4.7 CFS Referendum at DSU

Dawson's referendum is scheduled for April 2015 and they've asked for PGSS to help them organize and mobilize.

4.8 McGill/PGSS MOA Draft

I've been meeting with Vilma to negotiate the McGill/PGSS MOA, I've already submitted my comments, please look over the document and let me know if there are other changes that should be made in my next meeting with her.

McGill/PGSS MOA

Table to next EC meeting (next week)

4.9 Fee rearrangement

4.10 Improving Transparency (from Yony)

I'd like to discuss how we can improve transparency at PGSS, between the different governing bodies, and to our members.
5 Announcements

5.1 FAO report for Yony.

Notes in general announcements.

5.2 Announcements general

5.3 AAO Report for Yony

AAO report for Yony.

5.4 Announcements general

5.5 Contingency Fund use

FYI we have a student who is looking into using our Contingency Fund. I am working with HC and FAO that the student indeed qualifies and is being reimbursed swiftly as stipulated in the Contingency Fund policy. For confidential reasons I cannot give you much more details.

5.6 Announcements general

6 New Business

6.1 GU15 Conference, April 2015

Whereas the first 2015 GU15 Conference, which PGSS members annually attend, is scheduled for April 6-8, in Calgary Alberta.

Whereas PGSS has a number of relevant agenda items (e.g., Student Services, Family Care, Mental Health, Supervision, Graduation time limitation) to discuss with our fellow GU15 members, while networking and discussing other graduate student topics.

Whereas a budget of $4000 was previously set for all travel costs for PGSS officers attending the conference (EC13-02-#19).

BIRT up to $4000 be allocated from the Travel Budget line to support PGSS representation (current MSO and Health Commissioner) to attend the GU15 in Calgary.
GU15 Conference, April 2015

MSO: HC and MSO interested in attending.

IAO: February minutes had an agenda item regarding the GU15.

EAO: spoke with HC and MSO. Thinks the GU15 is not very useful to us right now. The problem with GU15 is that it keeps dying and being rebuilt. and it takes a lot of money to sustain. He is not convinced that what we get in return is worth it. We can try one last time. No one is fully engaged - want it to remain confederative. Not efficient.

FAO: when is the event? Do any of the current execs want to go? FAO is interested in going.

MSO: agrees that an EC member should go if available.

SG: If we decide to send someone, the person we should send should be around next year.

EAO: 2 questions: 1) who do we need to send? 2) how many people? Most associations brought one person last year. Not something that needs a lot of womanpower (author’s edit), but a question of who is most pertinent.

IAO: Do MSO and HC have prior engagement with GU15? HC went 2 years ago.

IAO: recommend sending one person who is an EC

EAO: Point of information: She spoke to the president of U of Calgary and the research officer at FAECUM - most relevant time of GU15 might be this year.

MSO: good to have 2 people there

AAO: would advise sending 2 people, better to have 2 people to discuss at the conference, and improve our federal representation

EAO: GU15 does represent us well, and it’s not a good idea to send 2 people. Other organizations are sending just one.

FAO: there is a need for institutional memory for representatives at this meeting

SG: Point of information - this is more about student services than about advocacy. Question to FAO - where are we in terms of spending the travel budget?

MSO: GU15 is very relevant to student services. We can learn a lot about this. MSO is considering running again next year and will therefore be around for one year.

FAO: There has been $6000 spent in our budget for travel and conferences

MSO: would like to see travel budget

IAO: proposal to amend.

BIRT up to $1500 be allocated from the Travel Budget line to support PGSS representation for Member Services Officer to attend the GU15 conference in Calgary.

vote: 3-3-0

IAO: We do not need more than one person. No matter how cheap it is, it will be double if we spend double the amount.

FAO: Point of information - the SUDS conference was a different event
Amendment: BIRT PGSS sends one representative to travel to the GU15 conference in Calgary with an appropriate budget as expended.

vote: 4-0-2

main motion - same BIRT clause
vote: 3-1-2

MSO against
SG and EAO abstained

8:36 PM 6.2 Equity Commissioner Leave of Absence

WHEREAS the Equity Commissioner has a academic commitment in Germany between March and April 2015;
WHEREAS the SAM (Chapter 2, Section 1, 5.8) allows for a one month leave of absence subject to executive approval;
BIRT that Equity Commissioner be granted a leave of absence from the 23 March to the 23 April.

FAO: this is academic commitment for the Equity Commissioner

vote: 6-0-0

8:37 PM 6.3 Rassemblement National Académique - AGE UQTR (Trois-Rivières)

Whereas we have been invited to take part in the RNA.
Whereas our contacts have informed us that this conference is shaping up to be the stage of a major sells pitch by both FAÉCUM and CADEUL.
Whereas many of our allies have confirmed that they will also be sending delegations to this conference.
BIRT PGSS will send the External Affairs Officer, Secretary General, Academic Affairs Officer, and a member of the EAC to this conference.
BIFRT PGSS will cover 40$ worth of food for each delegate & up to 80$ worth of transportation costs.
These 240$ shall come out of the travel & conferences budget.

Move to closed session for discussion.

Discussion ensued.

Amendment: EAO + 1 and adjusting budget place SG and AAO with two other PGSS representatives selected by EAO.

vote: 3-3-0 - amendment fails

Amendment: EAO will select two PGSS representatives and one member of EAC to attend this conference.

vote: 4-1-1 amendment passes
MSO opposed
Main motion
vote: 4-0-2
motion passes

8:48 PM 6.4 Pre-Approval of Crisis Related Travel Expenses

Whereas the Quebec student movement is currently facing a highly volatile situation.
Whereas the EAO might be called to meet with many associations throughout Québec in order to help create a new federation.

BIRT that 3 sets of 400$ will be made available for the EAO and his delegates so that they may meet with other student associations throughout Québec. These funds shall cover cost of food, transportation and hotels.

EAO: requests to create an emergency fund for travel to meet with other student associations.

FAO: this is the type of thing that an e-motion is designed for. She feels like there should be more oversight on emergency.

EAO: e-motion = too vulnerable because it can't be explained quickly enough.

SG: Point of information - discussion of e-motion
EAO: recommends BIFRT the Executive Committee must be informed if trip was frivolous and spending was outrageous.

Friendly amendment was proposed:
BIRT that 3 sets of $350 will be made available from the travel budget line for the External Affairs Officer and his delegates so that they may meet with other student associations throughout Québec. These funds shall cover cost of food, transportation and hotels.

BIFRT the External Affairs Officer must inform the Executive Committee of the planned trip before the use of fund and report back on usage of the fund as soon as the trip is over. The Executive Committee can then decide if the spending was beyond reasonable and External Affairs Officer would need to reimburse PGSS.

vote: 5-0-1

* END CLOSE SESSION *

8:55 PM 6.5 Annual Campaign CNCS (Phonaton)

Whereas the CNCS-FEUQ’s (Conseil National des Cycles Supérieurs) annual campaign is to have the Couillard government restore the PNRI (Politique Nationale de Recherche et Innovation).

Whereas the PNRI would have bonified the scholarship pool by roughly 12 millions.

Whereas PGSS suggested that a telephone campaign targeted at MNA's might help galvanize the annual campaign of the CNCS, and facilitate the president’s lobbying efforts.
Whereas this idea was well received at the last FEUQ campaign, and other associations have agreed to partake in that campaign.

Whereas researchers generally enjoy a fair level of credibility.

Whereas this would not be excessively time and resource intensive.

BIRT that the PGSS executive will dedicate 30 minutes of their time to that phone campaign.

BIFRT that the PGSS executive will encourage students to partake in this phonaton through official channels.

Note: This phonaton can be carried in French and English

Discussion ensued

vote: 4-0-2

8.59 PM

6.6 PGSS Team Building (from Yony)

The following motion was submitted by Yony.

Executive & Commissioner Group Dynamics Workshop Proposal

Whereas the 2014-2015 Executives have faced a number of issues that have significantly impacted the functioning of the PGSS leadership;

Whereas tensions have arisen from the recent and controversial resignation of the previous Secretary-General

Whereas the subsequent appointment of a new Secretary-General late in the academic year can be stressful, requiring extra effort towards team building with a new Executive team;

Whereas administrative difficulties have arisen at the Staff and Board of Directors levels, resulting in sentiments of frustration among PGSS officers and employees;

Whereas the Society requires cohesive teamwork between executives & commissioners toward productivity, success, and the satisfaction of numerous volunteers and staff members working towards the betterment of the Society;

Whereas open dialogue, team building, and conflict resolution are critical skills requisite for proper conduct in any executive role;

BIRT the executives and commissioners participate in an afternoon counselling session to address the current issues facing the Executive & Commissioner team, focusing specifically on team building skills, conflict resolution and planning for the remainder of the year,

1. This session would be mediated by two trained upper year PhD counselling psychology students who have experience with group counselling and graduate student needs

2. This session would take place in a neutral location (i.e. not Thomson House)

3. The participants would agree to the necessity of the session and be willing to participate. No member would participate outside of his/her will.

4. This session would be confidential. Confidentiality in a group session relies upon group members.
5. This session would commence by establishing norms (e.g., confidentiality) that facilitate a respectful climate that is conducive to the established objectives.

BIFRT $500 be allocated from the Professional Development budget line to cover the cost of the two facilitators’ time, as well as provide light refreshments for the group.

S-G motivates: We reviewed this idea in consultation with the Health Commissioner. We agree that we want to do this and will decide on timeline later.

vote: 6-0-0

10:06 PM     Adjourned