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Attending

Yony Bresler, Member Services Officer (Brighita Lungu), Internal Affairs Officer (Gesa), Financial Affairs Officer (Nikki Meadows), External Affairs Officer (Julien Ouellet), Academic Affairs Officer (Jennifer Murray)

9:17 PM Call to order

1 Approval of the agenda

9:18 PM 1.1 Add Item: Information Policy

9:29 PM 1.2 Motion to Move: PGSS Project Manager Summer Proposal - Summer 2015

9:42 PM 1.3 Add Item: Approval of the Agenda Motions

Addition: Information Policy to discussion item 6.4 – all in favour

Motion to amend item 6.2

AAO motivates. Motion to remove item 6.2.3 (Concerns Regarding MSO – Potential Conflict of Interest)

Vote: 2-3-1. Motion fails.

Motion to remove 6.2.2.

MSO motivates. Discussion has not been brought up already.

IAO: this item brought forward because FAO had concerns, already discussed with MSO.

MSO: has not seen details about this item.

Vote: 1-5-0. Motion fails.

Motion to approve agenda.

Vote: 5-0-1 (MSO abstains). Agenda approved.

9:43 PM 1.4 Approval of the Agenda Motions
9:44 PM 1.5 Motion to Move: Sexual Assault Policy Endorsement

All in favour.

10:02 PM 1.6 Concerns regarding MSO

Motion to move to closed session for item 6.2.3

Vote: 4-0-2 (MSO and IAO abstain). Motion passes.

EC moved to closed session.

EC moved out of closed session.

EC discussed item 6.2.1 and 6.2.2

6.2.1

EAO requests that decision about GU15 needed to be respected.

MSO stated that she was not aware an additional cost would be charged by stating 2 people would attend the GU15.

FAO stated that decision to book 2 people at GU15 went around the EC decision to send one.

MSO stated she did not know about the additional cost and cancelled the invoice once she saw it.

EAO announced that Murielle Akpa will be representing PGSS at the GU15. All agreed.

6.2.2

IAO mentioned that FAO and IAO looked at this issue with MSO.

IAO mentioned EC has spent $300 since January on meetings. All other EC members combined have spent $100. Reimbursement includes $75 for alcohol. MSO did not submit itemized receipts for spending. IAO mentioned PGSS does not reimburse for alcohol. There were 8 meetings (total cost is $85) where reimbursement was requested but did not appear on MSO’s report to council.

MSO stated that we do not have guidelines about how to complete a report and surprised by the alcohol expenses.

FAO stated that she did not notice these expenses until now as receipts were recently submitted.

MSO stated that the reimbursement requests where alcohol was charged were a mistake.

FAO proposed a motion.

BIRT FAO, SG and MSO discuss this issue and bring a proposal back to the EC.

Vote: 5-0-1 (FAO abstention noted). Motion passes.

10:14 PM 1.7 Add Item: Announcements

- FAO: membership legal support, HR issues and MCSS
- EAO: discussion about external happenings.
- Gesa: newswire, trivia, sugarshack, IAC met recently (summer events), laser tag next week, appointments board
- MSO: April 13 = hunting ground documentary in Leacock, SACOMSS will be there, mental health video (issues with space on campus), meeting with principal Fortier today
- AAO: supervision conversation, glen yard, divest, event today, appointments board
- SG: board of governors executive meeting, information policy, attended CSS with MSO and HC, information about HR by council, MOA (need to move soon), board meeting tomorrow

10:16 PM 1.8 Add Item: SPOT Fee

EO motivates. Add whereas clauses.

BIRT the Executive waive the referendum process for this non-obligatory approval and permit McGill to continue to levy the current lab fee on SPOT members, subject to inflation.

Vote: 5-0-0 (FAO not present). Motion passes

10:18 PM 1.9 Add Item: Use of Annex in summer 2015

2 Discussion Items

9:18 PM 2.1 Information Policy

9:18 PM 2.2 Information Policy

Discussion item.

SG motivates

Draft information policy presented. Discussion ensued. Aim to review this by May Council.

9:19 PM 2.3 Informationation Policy

9:22 PM 2.4 Concerns regarding MSO

The EC would like to discuss certain concerns regarding the MSO’s recent conduct:

1. Expense contradicting an EC resolution
2. The use of meetings budget line
3. Potential conflict of interest

9:30 PM 2.5 PGSS Project Manager Summer Proposal - Summer 2015

Following consultation with Nida Nizam, I would like to present this proposal for a PGSS Project Manager for summer 2015. Please see attached document for details.

Ms. Nida Nizam presented a report on a summer project manager position. This idea was developed in consultation with AAO. Ms. Nizam explained that she has gathered a lot of notes throughout her time at PGSS. Her recent involvement with CRO responsibilities has helped her to learn more about PGSS. Key concerns about PGSS that she would like to address include lack of council steering meetings and lack of engagement of councillors. Ms. Nizam would use this position to help PGSS develop longterm strategies for the society. Key initiatives outlined in this proposal include the following:

- Improve transition for current executive and commissioners to new staff
- Improve communication
- Improve democratic processes

Discussion of the proposal ensued.

IAO: asked about supervision and deliverables.

Ms. Nizam: Will establish a 5 year plan and build deliverables at the beginning of this position.

FAO: good proposal, in favour.

MSO: Good proposal.

IAO: Question about board purview.

SG: Review of this position is responsibility of the Society, not the board.

FAO: Mentioned concerns about redundancy of this position with current office staff.

SG: Will review hiring procedures for such a position. Consensus that EC should review this position as soon as possible.

MSO: Agrees that position is worth discussing but has some hesitations.

PGSS Project Manager Summer Proposal - Summer 2015

2.6 President of National Council of Graduate Studies - Coordination of the Research Funding Telephone Campaign

9:55 PM

The Politique National de Recherche et Innovation (PNRI) was put on hold by the Couillard government. On March 3rd the executive committee agreed to launch a phone campaign targeted at members of the National Assembly to incite them to reinvest in research and graduate scholarship programs.
In order to amplify the scope of this campaign, PGSS will collaborate with the National Council of Graduate Studies (CNCS-FEUQ).

I invited Bruno Belzile (the president of the CNCS) to discuss our strategy and talking points that should be used by our students.

We expect to launch this campaign by April 3rd.

EAO motivates. Reminder that EC voted in favour of this campaign 2 meetings ago.

Presentation by Bruno Belzile

EAO request that we support this phone campaign and push through newswire, Facebook, etc.

FAO requested talking points for international students.

Discussion item - no motion.

10:18 PM 2.7 Use of Annex in summer 2015

EAO motivates. Discussion item.

Discussion ensued about use of annex in the summer. Consultation to follow.

SG and AAO stated they want to address concerns about others using the annex.

EAO to consult and bring this back to the EC.

10:19 PM 2.8 Tabled - Implementing the Harassment Policy

The policy was put in place, but certain aspects remain to be implemented.

10:19 PM 2.9 SAC duties

EC moved into closed session.

3 New Business

9:44 PM 3.1 Sexual Assault Policy Endorsement

WHEREAS the Executive Committee is committed to creating an environment free of oppression and strives to create a community that exceeds social standards of equitable treatment, creating a safer space for all of our members;

WHEREAS the Executive Committee recognizes that the existing Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Policy does not promote a pro-survivor approach and does not fight per-existing structures that make it difficult for People Who Have Experienced Sexual Assault (PWESAs) to feel safe or seek recourse;
WHEREAS this Sexual Assault Policy promotes a pro-survivor approach that empowers PWESAs and focuses on pro-active measures to “[uphold] the rights of those who have experienced Sexual Assault, and [foster] cultural change around themes of consent” (SAP);

WHEREAS “McGill University recognizes that Sexual Assault is a serious offense with severe consequences that is systematically under-reported and under-addressed” and “the University acknowledges that Sexual Assault occurs disproportionately on university campuses and within university communities” (SAP);

BIRT the PGSS Executive Committee expresses its support for the Office maintained by the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator under the Office of the Dean of Students.

BIFRT the PGSS Executive Committee will stay informed of future actions to be taken to support the passing of this policy;

BIFRT the Executive Committee expresses its commitment to passing this policy by publishing a statement on the PGSS website and circulating it through PGSS Newswire in support of passing this policy in Senate.

BIFRT the Executive Committee will present the Sexual Assault Policy at next Council on April 8th, 2015 and seek the Council’s endorsement.

Speaking rights to Elizabeth Fiset.

Ms. Fiset mentioned that SG attended last Committee on Student Services (CSS) meeting.

AAO asked if we have enough counsellors trained to respond to cases of sexual assault. Ms. Fiset responded that we have limited councillors for all concerns.

FAO asked whether non-McGill students have the right to services if a McGill student is accused of the assault. She mentioned concerns about limited resources and offering services to students not enrolled at McGill.

Ms. Fiset mentioned that if this were to occur the number of students requesting support would be very small and not have a large impact on our system. She mentioned that McGill should open its doors to all members of the community, especially in cases of assault.

FAO supports this point in principle but would like to see a timeframe in which a non-McGill student could access McGill support.

MSO stated that we should demand the university provide more support.

SG asked if we agree with the policy in principle.

FAO asked to table the endorsement until concerns about non-McGill student access to our services are address. A timeframe is requested

MSO stated that this should move forward so that it can be reviewed appropriately at Council.

FAO stated she is not comfortable with this policy as it stands.

Friendly amendment endorsed:

BIFRT the PGSS Executive Committee comments are raised at SAP working group for consideration

Vote: 5-0-1 (FAO abstains). Motion passes.

Sexual Assault Policy Endorsement

Vote: 5-0-1 (FAO abstains)
Motion passes.

9:58 PM 3.2 Resignation of the Health Commissioner

WHEREAS The Health Commissioner has submitted a formal letter of resignation
WHEREAS Any such resignation must be approved by the Executive Committee and ratified by council, as per SAM 2.1.4.1
BIRT The Executive committee accept the resignation of the Health Commissioner
BIFRT This resignation be submitted to be ratified by PGSS Council
Ms. Fiset encouraged the EC to reach out to more members for commissioner positions.

Resignation of the Health Commissioner

Vote: 6-0-0. Motion passes.

9:59 PM 3.3 Motion to Endorse the Re-allocation of MLSF Funds

WHEREAS as of March 20th, 2015, the MLSF had a current balance of $198,985.00;
WHEREAS in the last several years the MLSF has allocated less than $12,000 per year;
WHEREAS the PGSS currently collects $1 per student per term to support the MLSF;
WHEREAS the purpose of the MLSF is “allowing the PGSS to help its members with legal problems upon decision of the PGSS’s Committee for Member Support.”;
WHEREAS in the course of the last year, PGSS has paid out nearly $170,000 in legal bills alone to help members terminate their membership in the Canadian Federation of Students;
WHEREAS the PGSS Committee for Member Support unanimously voted to allocate all but $30,000 to help PGSS off-set the CFS-related legal expenses;
WHEREAS the allocation of society-related funds is a shared purview of the PGSS Board of Directors and the Executive Committee;
BIRT the Executive Committee endorse the reallocation of $168,985.00 to the Special Projects Fund to help cover the legal expenses incurred in the 2014-2015 fiscal year in CFS-related legal expenses.

Motion to Endorse the Re-allocation of MLSF Funds

FAO motivates

Discussion ensued.

Vote: 6-0-0. Motion passes
3.4 Motion to Endorse McGill’s Thomson House Lease Offer from March 26, 2015

WHEREAS the last Thomson House lease expired on May 31, 2013 and the built-in one year grace period ended on May 31, 2014;
WHEREAS negotiations have been on-going for two years between PGSS and McGill;
WHEREAS the Secretary General and the Financial Affairs Officer have reached an agreement in principle with the Deputy Provost;
BIRT the Executive committee approve and endorse the attached 10-year lease.

EC moved into closed session.

EC moved out of closed session.

Friendly amendment:
BIRT the Executive committee endorse the attached 10-year lease.

Vote: 5-0-1 (MSO abstains). Motion passes.

3.5 SPOT Fee

EAO motivates. Add whereas clauses.

BIRT the Executive waive the referendum process for this non-obligatory approval and permit McGill to continue to levy the current lab fee on SPOT members, subject to inflation.

Vote: 5-0-0 (FAO not present). Motion passes.

4 Reports

4.1 Tabled - Report on use of PGSS Listservs

Report containing suggestions regarding PGSS listservs.

2015-03-30 Report on use of PGSS Listservs

Adjourned