Agenda

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1 Approval of the agenda

2 Approval of the minutes

3 Speaker’s report

4 Announcements

4.1 Organizers needed for Model UNFCCC

Hi all,

This December, one of the most historic climate negotiation conferences, named COP 21, will take place in Paris in December. As part of our role to provide educational and advocacy opportunities related to environmental issues, we are attempting to organize a mock conference we are calling Model UNFCCC. Currently, our proposed event is expected to take place on Saturday, November 7th. We are looking for organizers who are interested in putting this show on the road - so if you or anyone you know might be interested, please reach out to us directly or by email: environment.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

Thanks!

4.2 Lottery for Appointments Board

The Appointments Board (Chapter 11, PGSS Society and Activity Manual) will "nominate members to PGSS and University committees; recommend to Council individuals to fill the positions of Commissioners; evaluate candidates for positions of Speaker, CRO, and other positions requested by the Executive Committee".

As per the By-Laws of the Post-Graduate Student Society, the Appointments Board is to be selected by a lottery of nominated Councillors. The lottery is to take place at a Council of PGSS. Entry into the lottery requires a Councillor nominate themselves or be nominated by another Councillor. During the August 19th meeting, the Academic Affairs Officer will stand for any questions regarding the service to the Appointments Board and will accept nominations on the floor of Council prior to the lottery.
5 Lottery for Appointments Board

6 Business Arising

7 Reports

7.1 FAO August Council Report

2015-08-13 FAO August Council Report

7.2 2015 08 19 EAO Council Report

2015-08-12 2015 08 19 EAO Council Report

7.3 Report from the Academic Affairs Officer

Please see the attached report. Questions are always welcomed (academic.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca).

2015-08-12 Report from the Academic Affairs Officer

7.4 2015-08-12_EquityCommissioner_Report_Council

2015-08-12 2015-08-12_EquityCommissioner_Report_Council

7.5 2015 08 19 Environment Commissioner Council Report

2015-08-12 2015 08 19 Environment Commissioner Council Report

7.6 2015-08-12_MemberSupportCommissioner_CouncilReport

Summary:
Since my last report, I have answered multiple inquiries related to supervision and funding. I also received two new applications to the Member Legal Support Fund. Furthermore, I discussed plans for the upcoming year at our Executive-Commissioner Retreat. Some of the things I would like to do this year are:

1. Find ways to detect post-graduate students’ concerns early – this is a point that is often raised in supervision workshops. Our brand new orientation week will help to make people more aware of their rights and resources. In addition, the Committee for Member Support will send out regular polls/reminders to identify concerns and facilitate early resolution.

2. Find out why support services (e.g. PhD support group, Peer Support Network, writing workshops) are relatively poorly used compared to the levels of student stress & inquires that we see. How can we improve usage of these services and provide much needed support to PGSS members?

3. Continue bi-weekly commissioner office hours for drop-in inquires starting in the Fall. Organize visits to non-downtown sites.

4. Investigate feasibility of affordable on-campus food options (e.g. $5 Thomson House “recession special” lunch)

7.7 2015-08-12_SecretaryGeneral_CouncilReport

Major Updates:

Code of Conduct and Best Practices: Based on recommendations from previous executives and staff, we have created two documents that will govern and guide our actions in our positions. These have both been passed through the Executive Commissioner Caucus and will be presented to Council after the first revision (late Fall or early Winter semester).

Information Policy: We have finally finished the Information Policy! This policy will serve as the chief authority (after the By-Laws) of who gets access to what documents (minutes, budgets, etc).

HR Restructuring: Some changes are coming to Thomson House and PGSS in terms of our management and employee structure. Details to come!

7.8 2015-08-18_IAO_CouncilReport

I have been continuing to work on some new initiatives to the PGSS and improving the graduate student experience. Still for sale on the PGSS website are Botanical Garden Tickets and LaRonde tickets! Read below for some updates, but feel free to talk with me in person, over email, or follow us on our new Instagram account @pgss.mcgill!
8 Question Period

9 New Business

9.1 Motion to Ratify Members to the Appointment Board

Whereas, The Appointment Board will nominate members to Post-Graduate Student Society (PGSS) and University committees; recommend to Council individuals to fill the positions of Commissioners; evaluate candidates for positions of Speaker, CRO, and other positions requested by the Executive Committee; and

Whereas, The By-Laws of the PGSS requires a lottery to choose from the nominated Councillors, either by self or another Councillor, to serve on the Appointments Board, and that this lottery shall take place during a PGSS Council meeting; therefore,

BIRT, Those selected by the lottery occurring on August 19, 2015 will serve on the Appointments Board until May 31.

9.2 Motion to include: Agenda Item "Announcements from the Floor"

Whereas, in the current format, there is limited opportunity for councillors to announce initiatives in their respective PGSAs.

Whereas, PGSS wishes to encourage meaningful participation of its councillors.

BIRT, an “Announcements from the Floor” section is added after New Business to enable councillors to bring announcements of initiatives in their PGSAs to council.

BIFRT, that this section be reserved for announcements that do not require a vote or discussion.

Motion to include: Agenda Item "Announcements from the Floor"