Agenda

1 Speaker’s report

2 Announcements
   2.1 Climate Change Action Week September 21-25
   2.2 Organizers needed for Model UNFCCC

3 Business Arising
   3.1 Lottery for Appointments Board

4 Lottery for Appointments Board

5 Reports
   5.1 FAO August Council Report
   5.2 2015 08 19 EAO Council Report
   5.3 2015-08-12_SecretaryGeneral_CouncilReport
   5.4 Report from the Academic Affairs Officer
   5.5 2015-08-18_IAO_CouncilReport
   5.6 Health Commissioner Report
   5.7 2015-08-12_EquityCommissioner_Report_Council
   5.8 2015 08 19 Environment Commissioner Council Report
   5.9 2015-08-12_MemberSupportCommissioner_CouncilReport

6 New Business
   6.1 Motion to Ratify Members to the Appointment Board
   6.2 Motion to include: Agenda Item "Announcements from the Floor"
Attending

Equity Commissioner (Debrosse Regine), External Affairs Officer (Bradley Por), Farshad Navah, Financial Affairs Officer (Behrang Sharif), Frederick Armstrong, Grace Olivia Dupuis, Health Commissioner (Julia Nantes), Internal Affairs Officer (Sahil Kumar), Isabel Harvey, Jaclyn Adriana Hearnden, Jenny Ann Pura, Jose Hector Galvez Lopez, Kathrin Rothermich, Logan James Smith, Maude Dagenais, Member Services Officer (Brighita Lungu), Member Support Commissioner (Ayo Olanrewaju), Morgan Kenzie Foret, Nadia O’Brien, Natalia Jaworska, Nicolas Chatel-Launay, PGSS Council Speaker (Nida Nizam), Renata Helena Bahous, Secretary-General (Yony Bresler), Shaun Daniel Wilson Retallick, Sophie Elizabeth Kabbash, Temel ?çnç?, Thomas Robert Beattie, Vasiliki Natah Rahimzadeh, Willy-Dac Gia-Hao Huynh, Environment Commissioner (Amir Nosrat and Victor Frankel), Daniel Robert Kaufman, Chief Returning Officer (Colby Briggs), Camille Delouche, Brian Hsu, Barbara Christina Mindt, Amir H Nosrat, Alexei Kazarine, Afiqah Yusuf, Academic Affairs Officer (Devin Mills)

Guests

Brenda Sanchez (BGSS Rep - Please Add), Matt Kok (CHEGSS Backup), Domenico Tullo (EGSS Rep, please add, on list), John Morris (Replacing Jen Martin, please change HGSS), Nina Maness (MISSA - On list, not on guest list, not receiving email), Kathryn Grace Zell (not on guestlist, on spreadsheet, missing emails), Robyn Graham (NGSA)

6:42 PM Call to order

1 Speaker’s report

The Speaker gave a general introduction to herself.

She invited members to contact her or the executive should they have concerns, questions, or elements to discuss on the council agenda.

The Speaker reminded members that the General Meeting is in early October.

2 Announcements

6:47 PM 2.1 Climate Change Action Week September 21-25

Environment Commissioner (Frankel) presented Climate Change Action week. He encouraged graduate students to make their presence known. Events include informal lectures, workshops, information sessions, etc. The commissioner invited members to contact him for further details.
2.2 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 organizing 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!

The Environment Commissioner (Frankel) presented this event. He explained that this event precedes the real-world event by a month.

3 Business Arising

3.1 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.

The AAO explained the purpose of the Appointments Board.

He invited members to run for the postings of which require a time commitment of fewer than a few hours.

The following candidates nominated themselves:

camille.delouche
daniel.kaufman
jose.galvezlopez
logan.smith
vasiliki.rahimzadeh
william.liu

As six positions are available, a lottery was not needed.

All volunteers elected.
4 Lottery for Appointments Board

6:57 PM

See 4.3

5 Reports

6:57 PM

5.1 FAO August Council Report

2015-08-13 FAO August Council Report

The FAO presented the quarterly budget, as well as the past budgets.

Chantal MCGSS inquired about the FEUQ fee, which is currently being billed despite the association being disbanded.

The FAO replied that this this funding is fully refundable. The FEUQ is not yet dissolved. As as result, PGSS continues to collects this fund as to avoid the same issues we encountered with the CFS - namely, the PGSS does not wish to be billed retroactively for noncollectable member dues for the FEUQ should something occur.

Y Bresler (MGAPS) asked for the year end numbers for the past year.

The FAO replied that the PGSS was approximately 700 000 in debt. He added this number in part derives from the costs of leaving the CFS.

Environment Commissioner (Frankel) inquired on our ability to absorb deficits.

FAO replied that we have three mechanism - future fees, increasing business revenue, and reallocating budget lines.

The speaker added that we also hold loans, bank accounts and line of credits.

A Yusuf (GASP) asked why the deficit is not reflected in the budget.

FAO replied that the deficit is listed as a separate expense in the mass tracking sheet.

7:15 PM

5.2 2015 08 19 EAO Council Report

2015-08-12 2015 08 19 EAO Council Report

This officer started by explaining that discussions with the STM regarding the McGill transit pass are on hiatus at the STM's request.

F Armstrong (PPSMUA) asked if there was any partnerships with other student unions regarding this matter.

EAO replied in the negative, adding it will be investigated.
7:16 PM 5.3 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!

The Secretary General presented two new policies:

The Information Policy, which has been in the works for several months, was recently refused by the Board. It will be reprocessed and represented to council at a later date.

F Armstrong (PPSMUA) inquired about the discussions with Alan from the Office of Social Equity and Diversity Education.

The Secretary General explained that this is in the works.

L James-Smith (PGSA) inquired how long this will take.

EAO proposed September.

7:22 PM 5.4 Report from the Academic Affairs Officer

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

The AAO members to join committees.

He will be creating a number of working groups for various issues, including admissions, in the coming weeks.

7:25 PM 5.5 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!
The Secretary General spoke on behalf of the IAO, who could not be present. The IAO is currently recruiting members to support orientation.

5.6 Health Commissioner Report

The commissioner invited members to join her committee as well as inviting councillors to refer members to her regarding the PGSS health plan.

For more details on her report, please visit the following link: https://pgss.mcgill.ca/document/view/1730/2015-08-19%202015%20Health%20Commissioner%20Council%20Report

5.7 2015-08-12_EquityCommissioner_Report_Council

This commissioner outlined her report. She explained the projects she had on the go, including some workshops at consent week. She added that they are working to be more inclusive in their projects by incorporating the viewpoints of LGBT individuals (noting the importance of trans persons), as well as individuals from historically marginalised groups. She invited members of all backgrounds, including those from traditionally privileged groups, to attend the upcoming events listed in her report.

5.8 2015-08-19 Environment Commissioner Council Report

The commissioner explained the focus on the sustainability action fund as well as divest projects. He added that the PGSS Sustainability groups are also working to maximise continuity between commissioners.

5.9 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)

The commissioner outlined the importance of the legal support fund, as well as the committees role to intervene with supervisor - student relationship. He invited councillors to refer members having a conflict with their supervisor to this commissioner.

6 New Business

6.1 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.

Passed following lottery. See 4.3

6.2 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 a discussion.

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

The Secretary General motivated in favour
(COUNCILLOR MISSING - GASP) inquired the difference between announcements from the floor and announcements.

The Secretary General replied that announcements are pre vetted by the Speaker, whereas announcements from the floor are on-the-floor announcements.

Y Bresler (MGAPS) asked if there would be a time limit.

The speaker replied in the affirmative

F Armstrong (PPSMUA) proposed a friendly amendment to correct grammar.

The chair permitted the edit.

Called to vote

7:54 PM   Adjourned