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1 Approval of the agenda

2 Approval of the minutes

3 Speaker’s report

4 Announcements

4.1 Whine over wine (& Cheese) - January 26 7-9pm

Time: 7pm-9pm
Date: Thursday, January 26th
Location: Thomson House Basement
Cost: 8$ Tickets (online - coming soon)
Description:
Already back from vacation and feeling the grad school blues? Have you ever wished you had a place to connect and commiserate with other grad students? Perhaps over a glass of wine? Maybe with some cheese?

HaWC invites you to join us for Whine Over Wine, an event where you can share the struggles of graduate student life with your peers. Come chat about supervisor struggles, lab loneliness, writers’ block and your half written thesis, demotivation, your experiments (even the failed ones), TAing, grant application woes, and anything else on your mind.

Develop connections across disciplines in a non-judgmental environment where you can share the joy and pain of graduate life.

Swap tips about how to juggle academia and your personal life or just vent about that one lab member.

Graduate school is about much more than developing your technical knowledge of a specific field. So come out to chat, vent, and share a glass of wine!

4.2 AGSA BDS Resolution - Invitation to PGSAs for Collaboration

AGSA BDS Resolution - Invitation to PGSAs for Collaboration ()
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5 Business Arising

6 Reports

6.1 AAO report - January

2017-01-11 AAO report - January

6.2 IAO Report to Council

IAO Report to Council

2017-01-18 IAO Report to Council

6.3 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to January Council

2017-01-11 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to January Council

6.4 Health Commissioner Report - January 2017

Happy 2017! Any questions, comments or concerns? Contact me at health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

2017-01-05 Health Commissioner Report - January 2017

6.5 Environment Comissioner Report to January Council

2017-01-11 Environment Comissioner Report to January Council

6.6 MSC Report to January Council

2017-01-11 MSC Report to January Council
6.7 External Affairs Officer REPORT

2017-01-12 External Affairs Officer REPORT ()

2017-01-12 External Affairs Officer REPORT ()

6.8 Secretary General Report to January 18th Council

Sec Gen report is attached.

Sec gen is on leave but will answer any questions related to this report by email or at the next PGSS council in February.

2017-01-16 Secretary General Report to January 18th Council

7 Question Period

8 Discussion

8.1 Discussion of Thomson House Fees

8.2 LIC fee waiver request - request for input from council

From legal information clinic.

As per council discussion in December (motion passed at council that requires second reading request that PGSS executives make the decision on fee waivers for referendums for external groups), PGSS execs will report on any decision made, but PGSS secretary general requests that PGSS council provide input on how to proceed with this request from the legal information clinic.

Their request email is as follows.

"I write on behalf of the Legal Information Clinic at McGill (LICM) to request that the LICM be exempted from paying the $200 fee for conducting a referendum through the PGSS system. Per our conversation with Manmeet, we were told to direct our request to the PGSS executive via you. Our reasons are the following:

- The LICM is a student-run, not-for-profit organization that uses its financial resources to provide graduate students with advice and representation regarding McGill University's internal policies, as well as legal information regarding the laws of Quebec and Canada.

- Graduate students comprise a significant portion of files handled by the Student Advocacy service of the LICM. Student Advocacy assists these graduate students in their discussions and disputes with the University, including matters with supervisors and thesis committees."
- Student Advocacy takes every effort to assist graduate students, including meeting outside normal office hours and responding to last-minute requests.

- The LICM’s legal information volunteers and Junior/Senior Advocates are not paid, nor are they required to volunteer at the LICM. Rather, they add this commitment to their current list of obligations so that graduate students are able to understand, and assert, their rights as set out in McGill’s policies, and the law.

- To pay $200 would take this amount away from the LICM’s ability to help graduate students. It would be counterproductive to the PGSS’ mission of bettering the lives of graduate students during their time here at McGill.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the PGSS executive waive the LICM’s $200 fee to conduct a referendum. We thank you for the opportunity to submit this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me should there be any questions regarding the above."

9 New Business

9.1 Legal Information Clinic Referendum Question (approval required)

Do you agree to increase the non-opt-outable Legal Information Clinic at McGill association fee paid by all graduate students on the downtown campus, excluding post-docs, from $2.00 per student per semester (excluding summer) to $4.50 per student per semester (excluding summer), starting in Fall 2017?

Acceptez-vous une augmentation des frais obligatoires de la Clinique d’information juridique à McGill payés par tous les étudiants des cycles supérieurs du campus du centre-ville, excluant les post-doctorants, de 2,00$ par étudiant par trimestre (excluant l’été) à 4,50$ par étudiant par trimestre (excluant l’été), et ce débutant à l’automne 2017?

10 PGSA Announcements