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1 Approval of the agenda

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3 Speaker’s report

4 Announcements

4.1 Next (and final!) council of 2016 - 2017, May 3rd at Mac Campus!

Field trip down to the beautiful MacDonald campus in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Québec! We will provide the buses to and from!

Question: Any chance we can stay a little while longer and kick back a few and celebrate?!?!

4.2 Library Improvement Fund - Visit from the Dean of Libraries

Colleen Cook, Trenholme Dean of Libraries, and Diane Koen, Senior Director (Planning and Resources) are here to talk about Fiat Lux, the 5-year library renovation plan, as well as to seek input on how to use the PGSS Library Improvement Fund.

4.3 Graduate Innovation Projects Fund

Associate Vice Principal of Research and Innovation to address council regarding the Graduate Innovation Projects Fund Campaign. Voting period is April 6 - 13.

4.4 McGill Course Lecturers & Instructors Union (MCLIU) announcement regarding student teaching and request for info from PGSA's

"In the past year, the course lecturer union as seen a drastic decreased in the number of positions available for graduate student to teach classes [in some departments]...General course lectureships are assigned based on seniority. 15% of courses are reserved to graduate students, associate professors, managers and professionals... Students can ask the provost to correct the situation. Give back the work to students, and back to the course lecturers. Using the points system."

Action Points:

- We want the students representative go to back to their department and count the number of lectureships offered to students before and now.
4.5 Tribune Reporting - Clarifications

McGill Tribune has recently published two articles misrepresenting PGSS position on LICM referendum (PGSS has no official position, took the quotes of Manmeet Rai as representative of PGSS, which they are not, whether as a PGSS member or as CRO). Recent Tribune article represented MCGSS referendum as a disaffiliation referendum, not as what it actually was, which was to allow MCGSS executives to explore the feasibility and viability of disaffiliation.

4.6 Departmental Equity and Diversity Survey

The PGSS Equity and Diversity Committee plans to assess the equity support and resources across graduate departments. We’ve developed a Departmental Equity and Diversity Survey that seeks to answer questions regarding three key concerns: what are the backgrounds of our student population, what equity and diversity education and resources already exist in graduate departments, and what are student experiences in their departments as they relate to their identities.

The survey will be released in the coming days. PLEASE encourage your departmental student body membership to participate in the survey (it only takes 5-10 minutes!). The results of the survey will be compiled into a public report - this will allow PGSS to better understand, represent and accommodate student needs moving forward.

Upon completion, you may include your email to be entered into a draw for one of four $20 giftcards to Thomson House!

4.7 March for Science!

March for Science
Location: Parliament Hill, Ottawa, Ontario
Time & Date: April 22, 2017, 7:30am- 4:00pm
Cost: $10
Included: Transportation to and from Ottawa, Ontario

*******Register Here! ******

Trip Timeline:
7:30am Group departs from Chancellor Day Hall on Peel Street
10:00am Approximate arrival in Ottawa
11:00am Rally begins
2:00pm Return to Montreal
5:00pm Approximate arrival in Montreal

*schedule subject to change, PGSS is not responsible for delays.
Description:
On April 22, we march for science! The March for Science is a celebration of our passion for science and a call to support and safeguard the scientific community. Recent policy changes have caused heightened worry among scientists, and the incredible and immediate outpouring of support has made clear that these concerns are also shared by hundreds of thousands of people around the world. The politicization of science, which has given policymakers permission to reject overwhelming evidence, is a critical and urgent matter. It is time for people who support scientific research and evidence-based policies to take a public stand and be counted.

We are scientists and science enthusiasts. We come from all races, all religions, all gender identities, all sexual orientations, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all political perspectives, and all nationalities. Our diversity is our greatest strength: a wealth of opinions, perspectives, and ideas is critical for the scientific process. What unites us is a love of science, and an insatiable curiosity. We all recognize that science is everywhere and affects everyone.

Please register on the PGSS events website!

4.8 Discussion regarding Motion for PGSA Essential Skills Training

Given that PGSA execs, council reps and PGSS committee members are in a position of representative and decision-making power, particularly in their own departmental contexts, it’s essential that they’re equipped with the tools to provide their respective student bodies with up-to-date information about student services, university procedures/structure and support resources, as well as organize internal events/initiatives that are accessible and inclusive. While it is a difficult task to inform all members of PGSS about these essential features of the university, it is important that there are go-to people in each department that have this knowledge, and may disseminate and implement it amongst their graduate department.

It would be valuable to build upon PGSS’ existing orientation program to prepare student reps both at the level of PGSS and PGSAs for their positions before the academic year gets underway. This will also enable contextualization of all roles within the broader university. Not only will this allow PGSAs to better serve their constituents, it will also allow PGSS to better serve and communicate with PGSAs from the beginning.

PGSS executives and commissioners are seeking comments on the following draft motion that will solidify the implementation of an orientation program for PGSAs, council members and PGSS committee members. Please notify your PGSAs of this initiative and get their feedback over the next couple of week!

Questions we’d like to address:

When is the best time of the year to hold a one- or two-day orientation? Summer or early fall?

What positions within your PGSA do you think should receive the training?

Are there specific topics you’d like to cover to better serve your peers?

Thanks for your input! If you have additional comments, please contact equity.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca or sec-gen.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

DRAFT MOTION Regarding PGSA Essential Skills Training:

WHEREAS many graduate students spend the majority of their time at McGill within their department;
WHEREAS many graduate students identify and communicate most readily and frequently with their respective departments rather than PGSS;

WHEREAS Post-Graduate Student Associations (PGSAs) actively shape the culture and social environment of their respective departments;

WHEREAS Post-Graduate Student Associations (PGSAs) actively influence the sense of belonging and overall experience of graduate students of diverse cultural backgrounds and identities;

WHEREAS student executives and officers in PGSAs hold positions of representational and decision-making power at the university;

WHEREAS titled members of PGSAs also hold a proportionately greater responsibility to be knowledgeable of existing university services, resources, and protocols to best serve their student body;

WHEREAS no uniform training currently exists across PGSAs to prepare incoming executives and councillors for their role to serve students;

WHEREAS understanding of the university’s structure, student services and resources is essential to PGSAs’ successful support and representation of student needs;

WHEREAS critical awareness and application of concepts of equity and diversity are essential to the creation of departments that are inclusive to McGill’s diverse graduate student population;

BIRRT PGSA executives and council representatives be required to participate in a two-day training event organized by PGSS to prepare for their roles on an annual basis;

BIFRT this training encompasses a basic introduction to McGill’s administrative structure, student services and resources on campus, principles of equity and diversity, consent and harassment and sexual violence protocols, and the role of PGSS.

Discussion regarding Motion for PGSA Essential Skills Training

4.9 Moonlight - Free Film Screening (April 7)

Join the McGill Subcommittee on Racialized and Ethnic Persons and PGSS Equity and Diversity for a free screening of MOONLIGHT on Friday, April 7! (If you’ve already seen it, just know it’s even better the second time around - we promise!)

Moonlight tells the coming-of-age story of Chiron, and follows his experiences of sexuality, masculinity and Blackness growing up in Miami. Met with universal critical acclaim, the film won Best Picture at the 2017 Academy Awards, as well as Best Adapted Screenplay (Barry Jenkins, director, and Tarell Alvin McCraney) and Best Supporting Actor (Mahershala Ali). It is the first Best Picture winner to feature an all-Black cast, and an LGBT plot. It is based on McCraney’s play, In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue.

The screening will take place in the Education Building, Room 129 (3700 McTavish) on April 7, 6-8:30 pm. The film will be followed by an informal discussion, so feel free to bring your dinner! Refreshments will be provided!

ACCESS INFO: The Education Building is wheelchair accessible from the 1st floor McTavish street entrance, and the 2nd floor entrance between Peel and McTavish street. A gender neutral washroom is located on the basement level (Room #B136)
Get more info and RSVP here: https://www.facebook.com/events/154219201768316/?notif_t=plan_user_associatedif_id=1490816396938828
Please contact equity.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca if you have any questions or requests.

Moonlight - Free Film Screening (April 7)

5 Business Arising

5.1 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council
Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council
2017-03-13 Internal Affairs Officer Report to Council

5.2 FAO report to council / budget report / proposed budget for 2017 - 2018

5.3 Environment Commissioner GM/March Report
2017-03-08 Environment Commissioner GM/March Report

5.4 Health Commissioner Report to March Council
Health Commissioner Report to March Council is attached.
2017-03-12 Health Commissioner Report to March Council

5.5 Health Commissioner March Council/GM Report
Please see my enclosed report. Questions, comments, concerns? Send me an e-mail at health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca
2017-03-08 Health Commissioner March Council/GM Report
5.6 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to March Council
2017-03-08 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to March Council

5.7 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to March General Assembly
2017-03-08 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to March General Assembly

5.8 Member Support Commissioner Report to March Council + GM
2017-03-08 Member Support Commissioner Report to March Council + GM

5.9 External Affairs Officer REPORT
2017-03-08 External Affairs Officer REPORT

5.10 AAO - Report to March Council
2017-03-02 AAO - Report to March Council

5.11 Member Services Officer Report to March Council
2017-03-09 Member Services Officer Report to March Council

6 Reports

6.1 Secretary General Report to April Council
2017-04-03 Secretary General Report to April Council ()
6.2 External Affairs Officer REPORT

2017-03-30 External Affairs Officer REPORT

6.3 Member Services Officer Report to April Council

2017-03-30 Member Services Officer Report to April Council

6.4 Member Support Commissioner Report to April Council

2017-03-29 Member Support Commissioner Report to April Council

6.5 Environment Commissioner Report to Council

2017-03-29 Environment Commissioner Report to Council

6.6 Health Commissioner Report - April Council

Any comments, questions or concerns? Come chat with me, or reach out to me at health.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca

2017-03-29 Health Commissioner Report - April Council

6.7 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to April Council

2017-03-29 Equity and Diversity Commissioner Report to April Council
7 Question Period

8 Discussion

8.1 Improving council engagement

PGSS executives and commissioners welcome ideas on how to better engage council and its members to improve the experience, make matters of governance both at PGSS and at McGill more palatable and transparent, and increase the level of collaboration and information sharing among PGSA's.

Ideas are welcomed, but we propose

1 assigning / inviting PGSA's (perhaps 3 each month) to present at council (~5 minutes each).

What do you think?

9 New Business

9.1 MOTION FOR THE PREPARATION OF GUIDELINES FOR INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS ON STUDENT FEE REFERENDA ENSURING PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

MOTION FOR THE PREPARATION OF GUIDELINES FOR INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS ON STUDENT FEE REFERENDA ENSURING PROCEDURAL FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

[presented by Adrien Habermacher, President of the Graduate Law Students' Association]

Whereas PGSS represents the interests of all graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at McGill University;

Whereas independent organizations such as the LICM, Radio CKUT, and Midnight Kitchen offer valuable services to graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at McGill University thanks to fees collected from the aforementioned students and fellows;

Whereas graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at McGill University are regularly consulted by referendum by these independent organizations on the creation, modification, or renewal of such fees;

Whereas the policies of McGill University governing student fee referenda only govern the wording and content of the referendum questions, in addition to the administration and compilation of referendum results;

Whereas graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at McGill University observe great variance in the rules and practices governing the preparation and conduct of such fee referenda, including the opportunities for interested parties to campaign in favor or against the referendum question, and of the same to contest the processes or their outcomes;

Whereas graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at McGill University have an interest in the implementation of rules and practices guaranteeing a uniformly adequate level of oversight, procedural fairness and transparency in the preparation and conduct of such fee referenda;
Whereas PGSS has already developed substantial resources to pursue these objectives in the referenda it prepares, conducts, or oversees;

Whereas graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at McGill University, PGSAs, and PGSS have expressed on repeated occasions a perceived need to develop internal procedures regarding the conduct of fee referenda by independent organizations;

Be it resolved that PGSS shall commit to the preparation of precise guidelines on fee referenda for the use of independent organizations on McGill University campuses;

Be it further resolved that the aforementioned guidelines shall offer rules and examples of best practices ensuring adequate procedural fairness and transparency in the preparation and conduct of student fee referenda;

Be it further resolved that PGSS shall, for the preparation of the aforementioned guidelines, consult with all independent organizations across McGill University campuses that hold fee referenda on a regular basis, including but not limited to LICM, Radio CKUT, Midnight Kitchen;

Be it further resolved that PGSS shall make its resources available to such independent organizations in the preparation and conduct of referenda for fee to be levied on graduate students and post-doctoral fellows at McGill University.

9.2 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Status</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Board</td>
<td>Juan Camilo Pinto</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial Board</td>
<td>Sara Ferwati</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elections Committee</td>
<td>Jaaved Singh</td>
<td>Approved</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

9.3 Applications sent from the Appointments Board Committee for Approval

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elections Committee</td>
<td>Giacomo Marchisio</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.4 Motion Regarding Endorsement of Open Letter on Mental Health

Motion Regarding Endorsement of Open Letter on Mental Health

Whereas, on March 31st the McGill Mental Health Working Group released an open letter outlining ongoing concerns with McGill Counselling and Mental Health Services (CAMHS);

Whereas, systemic changes introduced to CAMHS this year have not effectively addressed concerns with insufficient and inaccessible support services;

Whereas, the letter calls on the administration to take the following actions:

Address urgent student and staff concerns in Counselling & Mental Health Services;

Keep all dedicated funding in Student Services by eliminating the $650 000 in annual overhead that is deducted from this budget by the central administration;
Implement a comprehensive, campus-wide, evidence-based Mental Health Strategy that addresses the spectrum of mental health needs and acknowledges the responsibility of university stakeholders outside of Student Services to create a healthier community;

Whereas, the letter includes an appendix with 25 specific recommendations for improvement;

Whereas, the letter has collected over 450 signatures as of Monday, April 3, 2017;

Whereas, The Post Graduate Students’ Society (PGSS) Health and Wellness Committee endorsed this letter,

Be It Resolved That The Post Graduate Students’ Society (PGSS) formally sign on to the open letter;

Be It Further Resolved That PGSS distribute this letter through its relevant communication channels, including social media and the listserv.

Moved by: J. Andrew Dixon


9.5 Motion to approve special considerations for the Graduate Innovation Projects Fund Referendum

Whereas PGSS special referendum on innovation has generated a lot of interest among the campus community at McGill, including undergraduates, faculty and members of the administration, committing 180,000 per year to the Graduate Innovation Projects Fund and seeking to generate approximately $70,000 from PGSS members through the fee referendum,

Whereas PGSS governing documents, including the Bylaws and the Society Affairs Manual do not specify if non-PGSS members can constitute "yes" and "no" committees for referenda,

Whereas PGSS CRO advised that allowing for non-PGSS members to join the "yes" and "no" committees for the referendum on the Graduate Innovation Projects Fund should be approved by council,

Whereas PGSS was asked to consider a motion on the Graduate Innovation Projects Fund on the February 15th council but adjourned before the referendum question was put to a vote,

Whereas PGSS council passed the referendum question in the March 15th council,

Whereas PGSS secretary general was informed by Student Accounts on March 23rd that any change in fees has to be reported to student accounts by April 15th (but because this falls on a holiday weekend, this information needs to be received by April 13th,

Whereas PGSS bylaws governing referendum processes do not provide specific instructions on the timelines for the running of special referendums, but do provide information on referenda under normal circumstances that provision for

1) Nominations for ‘yes’ and ‘no’ committee - no less than 1 calendar weeks from the day when the email is sent.

Campaign

2) The campaign period will last for a minimum of two (2) weeks and end at 11:59pm of the day prior to the voting period.
3) The voting period will last a minimum of both five (5) business days and a seven (7) calendar days to a maximum of ten (10) business days

Whereas PGSS bylaws outlining procedures for regular referendum questions require a 7 calendar-day voting period, thus necessitating the start of the voting period on noon April 6th in order to provide the results of the vote by noon on April 13th to student accounts,

BIRT PGSS executives approved the following special considerations to the referendum processes on the Graduate Innovation Projects Fund, conditional on PGSS council approval,

1) Chief Returning Officer (CRO) that manages elections emails PGSS members on the referendum timeline and calling for "yes" and "no" committees

2) Campaign timeline will specify that the campaign period lasts from March 27th at noon to April 6th at noon

3) On CRO email sent to PGSS members sent on March 27th, CRO will call for the creation of "yes" and "no" committees on Monday March 27th.

4) On PGSS Council on April 5th, these special considerations for the referendum will be approved before the voting period begins on April 6th.

BIRT PGSS council approve the special considerations passed by PGSS executive committee

BIFRPGSS special referendum on the Graduate Innovation Projects Fund allows for non-pgss members to constitute both "yes" and "no" committees.

9.6 Motion to observe one Quebec Federation - External Affairs Officer

PLEASE refer to the document for the rationale.

Whereas the PGSS External Affairs Officer (EAO) has spent the 2016-2017 term, to date, observing the Quebec Student Union (QSU) and the Association for a Voice for Education in Quebec (AVEQ), two Quebec University student federations

Whereas the EAO has submitted a memoir on their experiences observing these federations;

Whereas the QSU has been considerably more active in the Quebec student movement;

Whereas the QSU has demonstrated that it operates in an equitable, democratic and transparent manner;

Be it resolved that PGSS be an observer of QSU only;

Be it resolved that the value of observing QSU be re-evaluated by the end of the 2017-2018 term.

Motion to observe one Quebec Federation - External Affairs Officer

9.7 First reading: PGSS budget 2017 - 2018

First reading of budget, to be passed for a first reading before it is sent to governance committee, board of directors and ratification at next reading
First reading: PGSS budget 2017 - 2018

First reading: PGSS budget 2017 - 2018

10 PGSA Announcements