Date: Aug 20, 2013  
Time: 10:30 – 11:15  
Location: Grad Lounge  
Present: Chi, Sean, Jessica, CJ, Marcea, Yongfei  
Regrets: Sam  
Guests: James  

Theme: Establishing Priorities  

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Approval of Minutes from last meeting (June)  
   · Moved by Sean and seconded by Jessica  
   · MOTION CARRIED  

Approval of Agenda  
   · Moved by Sean and seconded by Jessica  
   · MOTION CARRIED  

Official Welcome  
   ● Chi welcomed the executive  

Visioning of EGSS  
   ● Chi reiterated the strategy of the Society  
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Quick Updates  

President (Chi)  
   ● Worked with Marlene to bring back panel discussion  
   ● Panel discussion will be a joint effort with GSMP  

Faculty Board (Sean & Vacant)  
   ● No update due to no meeting  

Grad Studies & Research  

Renewal, Tenure, & Promotion (CJ Dalton)  
   ● RTP will be busy; but nothing to disclose due to confidentiality  

Appointments (Marcea)  
   ● No faculty appointments anticipated  

Good and Welfare  

Strategic Planning  

Web site and Communications  
   ● Chi gave report in place of Sam
looked into blogging/tweeting/website
Our EGSS site will be hosted under Queen’s Faculty of Ed. Sam will get access to Queen’s Educ Web site around october.

Academic Events
- CJ put in a grant application to SGPS

Social Events

International Student (Yongfei)
- Advised that EGSS should include a pamphlete along with the welcoming package for international students. should make opportunities known earlier to students.

RBJSE (Lindsay, acting)
- RBJSE Board formed (Ian, Sean, Chris, Ted, Rebecca, Lindsay)

Treasurer (Jessica)
- Chi to work with Jess for a budget
- Banking details transferred to this year’s executive.

Part-Time Student Rep
Nominating

Election/Recruitment
- Chi to head the process

Orientation
- as reported above, will see the return of panel discussion
- Chi to give an EGSS intro during Q&A session in the morning
- EGSS exec invited to Meet and Greet

Following up on old business: EduThoughts 52; Unconference; Journal Club
- Discussion postponed.

EGSS 2013/14: Resolving Challenges and Pursuing Opportunities

Dear EGSS Execs and Members of the Graduate Faculty:

To stimulate discussion, I hope to share with you a few of my observations around what I perceive to be challenges facing EGSS and the graduate student body. These concerns can be organized in a hierarchical fashion, starting with the individual, the organization, to the faculty as a whole, and beyond.

The individual. Recognizing that what binds our membership is a common pursuit in obtaining a graduate education, academic development is justifiably the primary priority. It follows that EGSS has a role to play in enacting and promoting the academic community. Initiatives like RBJSE and ScholarShare provide venues for
graduate students, as emerging scholars, to participate in scholarly activities and to develop the requisite skill for functioning within an academic community. Service on committees provide yet another venue to familiarize oneself with the workings of academia.

It seems to me that we need to explore innovative ways for augmenting graduate students co-curricular skills and development. "Self-help" groups that are already in operation are encouraging innovations (i.e. qualitative research, scholarly writing, research interest groups) and could serve as models to further other interests. These communities of learners provide means for students to explore and acquire new skills beyond formal learning opportunities available at the Faculty. How might EGSS better support and strengthen individual growth in the academics? What can we learn from these initiatives and how might we facilitate greater impact?

**The organization and its membership.** It seems to me that the EGSS is in a constant state of renewal, this coming year more than the past. While it continues to draw in new members, it is unclear whether service on the EGSS is seen as relevant or appealing to the broader community. A question remains whether there are barriers to participation. A related question is how we might better include and recruit Master's students, given their limited tenure in our program? Second, EGSS has benefitted from the participation of a core group of dedicated individuals over the years. How might we ensure the sustainability and continuity of the organization in times of changing leadership? Third, given the diverse composition of our student body, how might we better support the needs that arise from this diversity (international; career stages; career aspiration; culture; part-time, etc.)? Fourth, how might we ensure a smoother transition between years? Finally, how might we better communicate with the constituent membership?

**The Faculty.** Given the importance of service on committees to future career opportunities (and to the operation of the faculty), the number of student representative opportunities available within the Faculty are promising. How might students be best supported in their service on these committees? How might these committees better involve graduate students? Given recent efforts at re-visioning the graduate programs, how might EGSS facilitate mutual dialogue? How might EGSS inform these decision-making processes?

**External relations.** Beyond the immediate walls of the Faculty of Education, how might EGSS better support the interests of graduate students with external organizations (e.g. SGPS, Senate, Board of Trustee, CCGSE, etc…)

Undoubtedly, there are many more concerns than there is space for me to raise here. I am sure you have other ideas as well. So, this is only a beginning. I have stop short of making concrete recommendations for actions. I fear that any premature prescription might prematurely arrest creative problem-solving. I am not about re-inventing the wheel to what is already working. Instead, I am interested in building upon our strengths and work on our weaknesses. My ultimate hope is to leave EGSS stronger than when I come in.

With your help, I see us turning challenges into opportunities. I’ll be in touch in the coming weeks to pick up on the conversation.

Yours sincerely,

Chi Yan Lam
President, EGSS 2013-2014