

**EGSS Meeting: January 24, 2014**  
**Agenda**

Date: January 24, 2014

Time: 11:30 - 12:15

Location: Grad Lounge

Present: Chi, Karen, Lindsay, Launa, James, Stefanie, Emily, Terry, CJ, Marcea, Jessica (minutes), Laurie, Yongfei, Sean

Regrets: Stefan, Samantha, Katie

Guests: Anne-Marie (PSAC), Terry

---

**1. Approval of Minutes from last meeting (November, 2013)**

- Moved by Chi and seconded by Launa
- **MOTION CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- Moved by Chi and seconded by Jessica
- **MOTION CARRIED**

**3. Guests**

- **Anne-Marie Grondin, PSAC**

- Previous Queen's Student - Ph.D. Sociology of Law
- Student Government Affairs dealing with issues affecting graduate students
- Campaign to organize RA Union at Queen's - the only position that is not unionized on Queen's Campus
  - Vulnerable - not protected under the Labour Relations Act?
  - 1. RA Funding - Shifted from T4 (Employment) to T4A (Designated Scholarship Monies) no longer covered under Occupational Health and Safety Laws and not eligible for accidental coverage
    - T4 is proof of income - for students who are applying for mortgage (that is what is being looked at) and those applying for residency
    - Karen - Implications for Income Tax? The University has sold it as a benefit to save on CPP and EI. About 6% who do not fall under the \$30 000 threshold.
    - Marcea - We have a choice either T4 or T4A - Is this expected to continue or changing? As of January last year it has been changed without much notification. Better understanding at the end of the fiscal year. Negative repercussions for students who have bad relations with supervisor who have the power to indicate whether it is a T4 or T4A or being stopped at human resources.
    - James - Does it apply if I only have a TA and not RA. This only affects those who have an RAship maybe down the line.
  - 2. Eliminate Guarantee of Funding for Masters and Ph.D. from four years to one year
- Attempting to protect 2/3 of the funding for graduate students (RA, TA - not QGA or Int Funding)
- Going to a Vote at the end of the Semester
- Process: Government comes in to do the vote - 40% threshold of RA population is "interested" in voting like a petition and sends it to the labour board and provides a confidential list of all RAs and cross-check information to make sure it has reached threshold

- Blue Card - Meeting individually (5-10 minutes) to understand campaign initiatives
- Leaving a couple of posters with website (all the information needed about the issues)
- Point of Contact - Anne-Marie and Marie from PSAC

#### 4. Executive Reports

##### President (Chi)

- Check-in's & Gratitude
  - Check-in: What can we (the EGSS collective) help you become most effective and efficient in your committee representation or role?
  - Gratitude: Shout-out to our social convenors and volunteers for organizing a fabulous convocation reception. Engaged the grad community broadly with positive outcomes. Shout out to the RBJSE team for their work and stewardship. Shoutout to the social convenors and int. rep for working on the CNY event.
- Volunteers for Shirelli Graduate Student Forum (Request from GSR and Associate Dean)
  - Full day - Tackling issues in Education, Research Methodology open to all graduate students.
  - Need two people who will volunteer to bounce ideas off of and organize the days events
    - Volunteers: Emily (MEd, 1), James (MEd, 1), Jessica (PhD, 1).
- State of the Council (Refer to details in Appendix I)
  - Moving towards including the four strategic foci: 1. Academic Development, 2. Scholarship Development, 3. Community Development, and 4. Governance
  - How do we redefine the goals of EGSS and move forward?
- Modernizing election procedures (Appendix II)
  - Increasing transparency and easier transition in filling up the EGSS positions
  - Election procedure

##### Nominating (Marcea)

- No business to report.

##### Faculty Board (Sean & Stefan)

- The description of "Part-time Studies" listed under the doctoral section of the current Graduate Studies calendar is now deleted or changed?
  - Karen: Does this mean this is no longer an option? Are we being grandfathered in?
  - Lindsay: You can only apply to be part time in Ph.D. after 2 years of Full Time and no longer subject to residency fees.
- The current description of "fields of study" listed under the master's section of the current School of Graduate Studies calendar is changed to the following: *Students in the MEd program are not required to select a field of study. They will follow a general program selecting courses of interest from our graduate offerings in consultation with their program advisor.*
  - Stefanie - What are the implications of "course specializations"?
  - Lindsay - Fields of studies have never been included on the degree. Previous years - you can apply for specializations but not required. POI: PhD don't choose a stream
  - Sean - Rebecca had a committee meeting that reached a decision to not include focus of interest
- A few changes to the B.Ed. program that impacts EGSS membership:
  - 1) Beginning 2014-15 Queen's Faculty of Education will cancel Health and Physical Education as a teaching

subject in the Consecutive Education Intermediate-Senior program.

2) Beginning 2014-15 Queen's Faculty of Education will cancel Concurrent Education/Bachelor of Computing admission.

- Motion proposed (Faculty Board Meeting, Jan. 22) to have effective for the 2014-2015 academic year, Native Studies be added as a teaching subject (sub-plan) for Queen's Concurrent Education Intermediate-Senior.

#### **Grad Studies & Research** (Launa, Emily)

- Nothing to report at this meeting. Next Grad Studies and Research meeting is scheduled for January 30th.

#### **Renewal, Tenure, & Promotion** (CJ Dalton)

- We are on schedule according to the collective agreement and going into a very busy month.
- Not allowed to disclose too much information. Everything is scheduled. Dean releases information to the Graduate faculty.

#### **Appointments** (Marcea)

- There will be no appointments this year. No one is getting hired this year.

#### **Good and Welfare** (Stefanie)

- Working on some ideas and spoke to Sean and Chi
- Valentines Day - Photography with Chi (Photo booth with props) with Donations to a Charity
  - Suggested that it should be done before February 7
  - See Vicky Arnold about Advertising (Online and poster boards) and Samantha (Communications)

#### **Strategic Planning** (James)

- The new 2 year B.Ed. program: Are there any implications for graduate students? Are there any concerns?
- The Faculty of Education is conducting a new SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) Analysis of itself. Last one was in 2011.
  - Strengths are the internal aspects of the Faculty that differentiate it from other schools
  - Weaknesses are the internal factors that can be improved upon.
  - Opportunities are the external trends or market conditions in Education that can be leveraged to strengthen the Faculty further
  - Threats are external dangers that can undermine the Faculty's reputation, standing and commitment to excellence.
- We would like graduate students' input in this process (only Student Council at this point). I will email you all the framework and the last analysis they conducted 5 years ago. I will have a survey on Friday to collect your thoughts.
- Please complete the SWOT input and either email or give it to James in person.
- Sean: What is the context or scope of the questions? Anything about the Education Faculty and courses experiences. If you have perspectives of other programs.
- Please return to James by February 12, 2014 before the next meetings.

#### **Web site and Communications** (Samantha)

- No news to report

#### **Academic Events** (vacant)

#### **Social Events** (Karen, Katie)

- November 20, 2013 – Fall Convocation Reception @ Education Library
  - Great turnout!
- December 4, 2013 – End of Term Social @ Grizzly Grill
  - About 35 people who came out!
- February 7, 2014 – Annual Chinese New Year Celebration @ Panda Garden
  - Date has been changed and location due to conflict with classes
  - Email either Yongfei or Karen to get an idea of RSVP - pay now or pay later!
  - EGSS is supplementing the cost. Free parking! Spread the word!
  - Bring your friends, family, and partners! Make sure to RSVP!

Possible future events:

- February 2014 – Skating in the Square @ Springer Square - Kingston City Hall
  - Skating and hot cocoa!
- March 2014 – Maple Madness @ Little Cataraqui Creek Conservation Center
- April 2014 – End of Year Social @ To Be Determined
  - Date is Set for April 11, 2014
  - Possible locations? Connect with Michael (last year) and Lisa (previous EGSS)
- May 2014 – Spring Convocation Reception @ Education Library

#### International Student (Yongfei)

- Traditional Chinese New Year Dinner - Tickets (\$10 each adult and \$5 each child aged 10 or below) can be purchased from Karen and Yongfei. We have sold a lot, but there are still some left.
- A presentation on Chinese culture and history was made 7:00-8:30pm Jan. 23rd (Wednesday) at Mackintosh-Correy Hall Room E229. Full house from age range from 7 to 70? Talked about hometown, Yellow Mountain, and two villages in Asia, the history of Confucianism.

#### RBJSE (Lindsay)

- The **RBJSE Workshops Day was very, very successful**; I'll have some information from our exit survey to share at the meeting, if anyone's interested. It was well organized, well attended, and everyone seemed to take something from it.
- We had **triple the submissions this year** as we had last year. The submissions committee reviewed (42 from Queen's, Concordia, McGill, Ottawa) them early this week and spoke to the **high quality** of students' abstracts overall.
- We're in for a **fantastic RBJSE this year**.
- I continue to be thrilled and excited and honoured to work with the members of the RBJSE Organizing Committee. Everyone is **dedicated, thoughtful, hardworking, and generally killin' it this year**.
- Finally, **I have a MOTION** to put... um, to you all? On the floor? Whatever you do with motions:
  - In consultation with the office of the Associate Dean Grad Studies & Research (both RLK and Don), I would like to recommend to the EGSS that we amend the constitution to remove the RBJSE Chair from membership on the EGSS. Instead, the RBJSE Chair could perhaps report to the EGSS, say three times per year, to update them on the symposium's progress and solicit input/feedback as needed. I can get into more detail about why and how it will proceed from here at the meeting, but the wording of my motion is:



**b) be a part of the Education Graduate Student Society (EGSS); AND 2), the RBJSE Chair will be an appointed position, advertised by the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. In recognition of the EGSS's support of RBJSE, the Chair will update the EGSS executive approximately three times over the course of the academic year.**

- Moved by: Lindsay ; Seconded by:

- 

- That EGSS purchase a Keurig for the benefit of the students, to be placed in the Grad Lounge.

- Moved by: ; Seconded by:

## APPENDIX I - The State of the Council

The President of the EGSS is responsible for leading the Council and stewarding the graduate student community. In what follows, I share my thoughts on the state of the Council. Please accept this as my mid-term report to the Council and to the membership of the EGSS.

### **What is EGSS working towards?**

EGSS is entrusted the responsibility to self-govern over matters of importance to education graduate students and to respond to identifiable needs that exists within the grad student community. One way through which this mandate is operationalized is through providing stewardship over the graduate student experience and community beyond what is already an excellent academic program. Over the summer of 2013, this notion of stewardship came to be clarified to encompass four strategic foci: 1) academic development (e.g. workshops; ScholarShare), 2) scholarship development (e.g. RBJSE), 3) community development (e.g. social events, good and welfare), 4) governance (e.g. representation on faculty committees). This articulation serves to express the values important to this organization; it also provides a strategic framework to guide present and future decision-making. All present EGSS-sponsored activities (i.e. that fall under the responsibility of an elected EGSS council member) align to one or more strategic areas. In cases where a need can be better met by an external partner, EGSS should seek to support the growth and continuation of those initiatives.

### **What's going on this year?**

EGSS is largely business-as-usual and continues its stewardship along a model of services and activities that's been subjected to continuous refinement. The graduate community continues to benefit from the contributions that dedicated EGSS volunteers make.

In reflecting on my previous three-year engagement, this year stands out in several ways:

- A cohort of council members was able to provide leadership and service over the summer months. This allowed the council to organize orientation and continue to work with the Faculty without disruption.
- The loss of key EGSS veterans (because they've graduated). Organizational stability and institutional memory is important to any organizations. As a result, recruitment became a top priority in order to fill these vacancies. Running multiple by-elections came at a heavy cost and hampered progress due to a delayed start.
- The upside to the turnover is that EGSS welcomed a new cohort of council members. They bring passion and new ideas to the Council.
- Whereas EGSS once provided the sole venue for community participation, this year witnessed the formalization of various for-grad-students-by-grad-students programs. This is encouraging because graduate students are now afforded more avenues to become a part of the community. The unintended consequence to this increasing fragmentation is that it competes for a finite pool of leadership-inclined graduate students. All things being equal, the opportunity that costs the least in time or length of engagement and which rewards the most would appear to be the rational choice. If that assumption holds true, a 'EGSS gig' loses out. This fragmentation therefore carries serious implications for the health of the

organization, and ultimately graduate students' contribute to the graduate community in a productive way.

What's being done?

Here are some actions being undertaken to ensure a viable future for the organization:

- revising the elections procedure to increase transparency and make it less cumbersome
- build organizational capacity and cultivate new talents
- communicate the value of EGSS service
- increase marketing and awareness (brand positioning)

Sincerely,  
Chi Yan Lam  
President, EGSS

#### **Appendix II**

See

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3KfXr51F\\_P5dE11RnN0ZDJwQ1U/edit?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3KfXr51F_P5dE11RnN0ZDJwQ1U/edit?usp=sharing)

- We're 6 months into the term, and 2 months into the academic year and we've only recently filled the majority of the council --- not the best use of time
- Rationale: 1) Service to grad student community is disrupted when council is not filled. 2) current process presents unnecessary 'hoops' for interested individuals to jump through 3) a desire for a simplified process needs to be balanced with fairness and transparency