

MGSS General Assembly Minutes

Present Exec Members:

Matthew Timmermans (MaT)

Michael Turabian (MT)

Sophie Kabbash

Ian Lorenz

Claire McLeish

Kiersten Van Vliet

Erin Sheedy

Nick Walshe

Evan Campbell

Julia Gjebic

Margaret Cormier

Absent Members: Research rep Alyssa Michaud

End Time:

1) Call to order **Start Time: 4:36**

2) Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

3) Adoption of the Agenda

KV motion, JG second, unanimous favor

4) Adoption of the Minutes from April 11th GA

MT motion, EC second, unanimous favor

5) President's Report

MT

- Orientation activities, quite successful (JG in more detail)
- Faculty council meetings, “belly of the beast”
 - PHD Language requirements changed, only 2 required
 - Will ask Julie if can apply to pre-comp second and third years
 - Performance colloquium different in next year
- Research Alive
- McGill Innovation Week – Innovative Careers after a Music Degree
 - Alum, film “What would Beethoven Do” (bracelets)

6) Executive Reports

- VP – JG events coordinator, good orientation events, high turnout
 - Nov 22 trivia night, 7pm at Thomson House
 - Reach out if ideas for trivia night
- Secretary SK
- Treasurer KV
 - Voting on budget later on (explanation first)
 - Student fees, PGSS pays back to us (life fund)
 - 3000\$ per semester, need to decide how its spent
 - Anticipating this money
 - Expense report, today costing 325\$ (but did not)
 - Currently underbudget
 - (Soirée 13 cents over)

- Special Projects Fun
 - For non MGSS run events, exec council debates
 - Quite a lot of money that could potentially be allocated to different projects
- Move to approve the budget, seconded to JB. All in favor. (no abstention)
- Academic Committee on Teaching and Programs Rep
 - Meeting October 17
 - Professors talking about making special projects for all graduate degrees as 1,2,or 3 credits (more flexibility)
 - For performance students, looking for exchange partner schools
 - Minor in jazz performance, composition and arranging passed
 - Performance Doctoral Colloquium approve
 - 3 credits from lecture recitals
 - Creating a colloquium requirement, biweekly
 - Separate from current colloquium (Eleanor and Lena)
 - Why? To have performers be able to talk about their research
 - Course Code will appear if in specific ensemble
- Symposium Chair EC
 - Opportunity to present research at graduate level (for all departments)
 - Diversity encouraged, international presenters
 - Need volunteers (‘representative to particular communities’)
 - Can help shape the identity of the symposium
 - Form already sent out, good turnout – but need more
 - Performance, composition, tech and education
 - Especially performance for choice in keynote
 - Need a more diverse reading committee (hopefully equal numbers from each department), want to avoid underrepresentation.
 - Variety of opportunities – city guide, photography, poster design, webmasters, anything related to a conference.
 - Opportunity to meet people in different departments
 - Free feel to email EC (will send out form in upcoming week)
 - Kristin Franseen (PhD – research) – Call for papers? EC will be determined after a meeting with the volunteers.
- Member at Large (MC)
 - Participate in exec meetings and volunteering for symposium
 - Try to be involved in events to provide another voice on council
 - MUNEMELKIAN on volunteering
- PGSS Representatives ES IL MaT
 - ES: job is to represent MGSS at PGSS, would love to hear feedback
 - Meeting minutes pgss.mcgill.ca, newsletters sent as well
 - Resources:
 - University Centre McTavish (student advocacy and legal clinic)

- Revisions to charter of students right going to senate this fall
 - External Affairs Officer sitting on boards of AVEQ and QSU, positions booklet underway
 - Smoking Policy underway, looking for community feedback
 - Forum TBA
 - Sexual Violence Policy underway, need feedback
 - CKUT referendum TBA, increasing PGSS contribution?
 - MaT, Events
 - Vision 20/20 sustainability
 - Eco lifestyle workshops, link refers to survey (schedule TBA)
 - Environment commissioner
 - Managing your advisor workshops
 - Grad connect café
 - Health commissioner
 - Nov 17 flu shot clinic, Thomson house
 - IL, events continued
 - Member services
 - Leisure courses, meditation hour, study Saturday (for students who are parents, time where the dependence will be looked after in Thomson house – lunch provided)
 - First aid and self defense courses as well
 - Internal affairs officer on grad student research being aired on a podcast, CKUT's **brainwaves (email mcgill@ckut.ca)**
 - Variety of events for PGSS this fall, including Trivia, Green Drinks, Halloween, etc.
 - ES refer to PGSS website for more information!
 - Research Rep (AM absent): also goes to meeting, if issues – a good liason with the research department.
 - Performance Rep (NW)
 - Similar to RR, if issues to go to sub committees, go through NW
 - Soirée Musicale, 2 this semester, hopefully 3 the next
 - Student initiative, free wine and food
 - MUSA helps funding this semester (50/50 attendance)
 - First Friday of October, about 65 people attended
 - MT: open for performance students? NW: anyone welcome
- 7) Election of Area/committee representatives and webmaster
- MT: positions to be filled
 - Area Reps, act as liaison, have right to sit in meetings and votes
 - Music Tech – Ian MARCI (MA Music Tech) 24
 - Composition – JB nominates Justin JARAMILLO, seconded
 - Musicology – KV nominated Kristin Franseen, unanimous
 - Music Theory – JB nominates Hugo, accepted, Lawrence nominates Tom, accepted
 - Hugo Bergeron Dumaine 7
 - Tom Posen 13
 - 1 abstain

- Sound Recording – skipped
- Strings – None, unanimous
- Brass – email nomination Alexandre FREUND, 24 yes, 2 abstain
- Winds – Carly Gordon email nomination
- Percussion –
- Piano – Suren Barry (2nd year DMUS) (20) and Victor LAZEROV (masters) (2)
- Voice – email nomination Lindsay Connely (unanimous)
- Organ/Church Music – TBA
- Jazz – TBA
- Music Education – TBA
- Early Music – TBA
- Conducting – TBA
- Library Advisory Committee: CM nominates MC, MC accepts, unanimous (25 years)
- Academic Committee on Teaching and Programs: course codes, colloquium, program changes discussed; JG nominated Hugo, Hugo accepted (24 years, 1 abstaining)
- Concert Committee: meet once a month, Kit Soden for last two years, also on the committee as co-curator as Research Alive. (JG nominates Alec, Alec declines. Lawrence Willis and Joseph declines as well.) Nune nominated herself. (24 in favor, 1 abstain)
- Webmaster: Carly Gordon nominated herself via email, JG nominating herself (wordpress based)
 - CG: 11
 - JG: 10
 - 1 abstain
- JG: Events Subcommittee, volunteering based
 - Need one from research and performance
 - No volunteers

8) Discussion of special projects fund and proposed amendment

Hoping to add an extra amendment, will hopefully give direction for the future in the allocation of funds. To amend the constitution, need to meet quorum. Needs to pass with 2/3rd of the vote and ratified by open ballot at open assemble

Will be read, then discussed,

- Proposed change through the addition of article 12 specifically about the Special Projects Fund (12 a-g)
 - Purpose (12a)
 - Who administers the fund (12b)
 - Time period (12c)
 - Allocation of funds in budget (12d)
 - Who is eligible to apply for the fund (12e)
 - How fund is administered (12f)
 - 12 g (how much of the fund)
 - 12h (retroactive funding)
 - 12i: how funding is provided

- Discussion:
 - Top Posen, reasoning of 12h? MT: in instances where event already happened to not have retroactive funding. Event needs to fall within the PGSS mandate to be funded. ES: with article, following the PGSS
 - TP: in New Mexico, funded after accepting to conferences abroad
 - SPF: only for events, not for travel purposes. Only for events planned at least 3 weeks in advance
 - Lawrence Willis: what if quorum not met? And event not funded?
 - JG: this is an issue that has come up, proposing change from 21 days to 14 days
 - LW: why should the time the event took place affects funding?
 - MT: this would ensure a planned project,
 - JG: PGSS special projects fund has a month's turnover, we need to be able to allocate funds. We need to follow PGSS mandates.
 - KV: if project and paid out of pocket and does not turn out to be successful. Different judgment of criteria. Trying to rework the language.
 - MT: judging application not based on merit – but on filling out a standard form. Can't do project and then apply for funding.
 - KV: this would standardized the fund, not the actual events
 - EC: having retroactive funding creates difficult situations, having a deadline might create a better process
 - TP: wouldn't this be a deterrent? (~)
 - ES: 21-day deadline could allow the exec meeting to happen and could tell those applying if event approved.
 - MT: reimbursed if going out of pocket, give receipt and then you give the money back.
 - LW: possible to not go out of pocket?
 - Kit Soden: what about internal use for MASC events? Should this be in the amendments?
 - ES: example?
 - KS: Michèle wrote chq to Joanne instead of MASC, but MASC has no money
 - JG: going back to 21 day proposal
 - Monthly exec meetings at beginning of month, if application after that would not be able to take it into account
 - ES: this is why we have the language that “meeting could be called”
 - MT: can't just judge by merits, PGSS has a strict deadline (15th of everyone), provides a standardization

- KF: on exec last year, refused very few request. Traditionally most were funded and a lot leftover so the perceived risk of not being funded should not be a concern.
 - MT: by clarifying language, hoping that more people will apply
 - MC: why rule is important, although SPF not well publicized, theoretically if many applications – having forms in on time could allow for better time management. Having language in place could allow preparation. So not judging retroactively against those still in planning stage. Having it in writing can allow us to move forward.
 - KV: forms will be modified, and made available. This is our effort to allow students to be applied.
 - LW: but people not willing to risk 250\$, concerning of retroactive reimbursement of receipts, MC travel funding too.
 - MT: Problem extending beyond realm of MGSS and university.
 - ES: allows us to be transparent with our receipts.
 - KV: need to explain every check to PGSS, if not lined-up then audited
- TP: alternative solutions? Credit card for the event?
 - ES: Then would have to give out MGSS credit card
 - CM: we should keep discussion to SPF
 - KV: needed to prove identity to have access to the account.
- EC: receipts are necessary in order to reimburse people
- TP: 21 day period, depending on when event planned can affect the SPF acceptance.
 - MT: president can call a meeting, as long as quorum is met
 - To be used in outstanding circumstances
 - Need 6 of 11 exec members
 - Making exec responsible
 - JG: is this a deterrence for applications? Semesters are very short.
 - MT: solved if application includes 21 days AND the caveat?
- EC: trying to establish a consistent time frame
 - MC: Since our quorum is only 6 members, plausible to assume that it could be met. Concern with 14 days, even if exec council could meet after the designated date (like beginning of second week of month) – limits planning to know if they have the funding. Losing a bit both ways as a planner.
 - JG: want it to be more explicit in the form itself
- ES: if want to propose amendment before the vote, say it before the motion. MGSS exec council meetings not set in stone, if getting many SPF

applications – this will impact when we have the meeting. Want to work in best interest of the student. 21 day period not saying that it has to be meeting 21 days later.

- MT: anyone would like to change the language of proposed amendment?

- LW: to change “may” to “will” (1 abstain)

- Now we vote on all of the articles with LW’s change

If not added today, next possible opportunity if the spring GA

- **KV motion**, second

Tom and Sophie elected to count the votes

22 yes

4 no

1 abstain

(1 person walked in afterwards, not counted for this vote)

Next amendment AGSEM

9) Discussion of AGSEM Rep and proposed amendment

KVV describe AGSEM

Represents you if you’re a tA or invigilator

The amendment is to add the AGSEM rep to the eXec council MGSS

So many mgss students are part of AGSEM, we thought it was important to add

Michael T

Reads the proposed amendment

AGSEM rep description

{discussion}

KVV this would add the AGSEM rep to the MGSS executive

CM: currently the AGSEM rep, last year there was a strike vote with the TAs at McGill and fell into a defacto delegate position and also PGSS rep. Odd at time that rep in theory, but no dialogue with the AGSEM union – so delivered messages. Proposal will let me act as a liaison and to report to the exec council. Would let me liaise with students and to deliver discussions at union level.

MT: questions? Comments?

LW: different jobs no? CM: allows me to be more orderly, and to create a centralized dialogue. As in the official motion, it is quite common to have an AGSEM delegate on ECs in general arts department. JG: concerns through correspondence – issue of double representation if by union and department? If a TA strike and AGSEM delegate would have to vote with AGSEM mandate against MGSS? CM: actually opposite way, as a music rep at AGSEM, not a scab. JG: reading through AGSEM documents, will having an AGSEM delegate create a conflict of interest? CM: scabbing is when you go against what the union is doing JG: if non-member of the union? CM: what kind of conflict of interest would be? JG: applied as a special projects? CM: cannot be for personal gain. JG: AGSEM rep receives an honorarium, but no other execs get paid. CM: this is through AGSEM. JG: do we as a student body elect the AGSEM rep? CM: talked to AGSEM about this and reached out to PGSS, currently under discussion. As it is now, there is no

standard procedure. Hoping to create documents or amendments to account for this more democratically. As it is now, people elected by GSAs or appointed by the exec council of AGSEM (latter less democratic). EC: are they appointing our MGSS rep? CM: since we had an election, better option. EC: If no election, would be made an exec member? CM: it can only be somebody who is in MGSS and teaching a music class. KV: this would bring AGSEM into election process. Have a list of both MGSS and AGSEM reps. CM: if we always elect them, then can avoid AGSEM put their own person. ?: Why on exec? CM: MGSS exec meets the most frequently. LW: there is still possibility of conflict of interest? CM: any motions to amending the language? LW: so no voting rights, just attend and listen. EC: if a non-elected member is appointed, then no conflict for interest. CM: according to AGSEM president, delegate positions are not exec positions on AGSEM (like MGSS reps for PGSS). Conflict of interest if I had power, just one vote out of forty or fifty members. KV: if invited to have speaking rights, could not have an election system in the spring. Addressing concerns: would always be an elected position. LW: proposal to change language. JG: last concern, only AGSEM members of MGSS could vote for the AGSEM rep. Only few of MGSS student body are part of AGSEM, skewing votes towards research. CM: we could open it to MGSS as whole, but we had figured that current TAs would be most wanting representation at AGSEM and have to be members of the union as well to be elected. Proposal will create the position, but role can still be discussed now or at another time. MT: tabling issue, final comments? LW: remove the word “voting rights” from the MGSS constitution. MC: this proposed amendment is just creating a position, in any capacity. If we wanted to talk about specific details and regulations, this could encompass talking about voting rights with further and later amendments. JG: position within MGSS or as an exec member?

Reading out motion regarding addition of the AGSEM Music Research Delegate to the MGSS Executive Council:

If want to add amendment, need to propose and have it seconded:

LW: we would elect, but not member of EXEC (MC: last year, having open communication when a real threat of strike CM acting as individual. Need someone not only interested in the position, but also to act as a liaison to AGSEM. So having something in place moving forward, can allow opportunity to have somebody there instead of having someone assigned to us. [...]

ES: change language to “as a non-voting member” but allowing the appointing of a member of MGSS as an AGSEM rep. Hugo seconded.

Voting on changing the amendment language 4 no, 4 abstain

ES: Voting for the revising to add the bold text with the amendment of the non-voting. AGSEM REP AS NON-VOTING.

18 yes

6 no

(passes)

M: No additional Buisness

M: Motion to adjourn, Julia second

- 10) Additional Business/Question Period
- 11) Adjourn the Meeting/Commence the Party