

MGSS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 April 2013, 5pm, Room A832

Executives Present:

Eric Smialek (President), Farley Miller (Vice-president), Jessica Holmes (Secretary), Nina Penner (Treasurer), Alixandra Haywood (Symposium Chair), Christopher Antila (Research Students' Rep), Corey Stevens (PGSS Rep), Michael Winters (Member-at-large)

1. Adoption of the Agenda

5:04 p.m. Eric Smialek call to order.

Eric proposes to adopt minutes from the last GA.

Eric distributes sign up sheet for all members to sign.

Eric proposes to amend the agenda to move music librarian's remarks earlier. Catherine moves to amend agenda. Cedar seconds. All in favour.

Alix moves to adopt agenda. Kyle seconds. All in favour.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the Last Assembly

Eric indicates that since we didn't have quorum, we cannot officially adopt the minutes from last assembly. Moreover, we were unable to install the people elected at our fall GA because of this issue. This was something Eric tackled in the amended constitution and will return to later in his report.

3. Reports

3.1. President – Eric Smialek

Eric explains that his some of his work this year involved liaising with administration, a responsibility that this took up a large part of his time this year. This liaising included things like meeting with the Dean on an ongoing basis, meeting with Eleanor to address practice room hours and the potential for extending them.

Cynthia Leive arrives. Report from President to be continued.

4. Head Music Librarian's Remarks – Cynthia Leive

Cynthia indicates that she is here to discuss the challenges that the music library is going to be facing in the coming years with the 43 million dollar budget cuts across the university. At the university level, this will mean things like retirements and layoffs. At the library level, the Dean of Library was given information as to the types of cuts that she is going to make. E.g., they plan on merging the medical libraries (Schulich Library) and education libraries (Humanities and Social Sciences Libraries), but Marvin Duchow is safe as its own library at this point in time.

Collective development is a major area will be impacted, e.g. cost of living increase will not happen so the cut will come out of the collections budget. Music's cut in collections may be anywhere from 5-10%. Cynthia has begun the negotiation process so that we can take a cut in e-resources and not sound-recordings and scores, as the former area is more accessible outside of the library system. The Music Library would like to maintain their monograph budget (i.e. books and scores, etc.).

Cynthia provides a layout of the staff: Cynthia Leive, Brian McMillan, and Cathy Martin are the academic staff. They also have six library assistants, two of them are senior reference assistants, and what was formerly four, but now three, senior clerks (because the library salary freeze as of April 2nd won't allow them to replace their fourth clerk who has since gone to McLennan). They also have as many student workers that they can. In recent years they hired security guards to keep the library open in the evening until 11. They normally have an

approximately 18 000 dollar budget for student casuals. An undergrad fee provides funding to keep library open for longer hours and has also been put towards partial payment of the security guards in the past. However, because of this 75% cut in funding, the music library is on its own in terms of student casuals and security guards and so cannot be open on weekends or evenings during the summer.

In light of all this, Cynthia explains that they are exploring all possible scenarios for the fall. Currently the music library has three LAs and their job description stipulates that they cannot work more than 3 hours at the desk at the time. Academic staff are not allowed to be scheduled on a loans desk at all. The music library cannot acquire more staff unless they are sent staff from other libraries that are closing, but of course, many of these librarians are retiring. The fall hours will be Monday-Friday 10-6 and no weekend hours. Cynthia is exploring the option of having after hours and weekend card access through the fourth floor elevator for all music graduate students, undergrad, and faculty, however, personal security as well as potential loss of collection are both issues to consider.

She hopes for two things after this: that we survive as a music library long term and to figure out ways of having access.

Catherine Schwarz indicates that Cynthia's solution only addresses physical access to space and not access to reserves and check-outs. Cynthia agrees and explains that they were pushing faculty this year to upload reserve materials onto MyCourses. The library has also explored the possibility of a self-serve system.

Catherine asks about the resistance on the part of certain faculty members. Cynthia says that the library staff have and will continue to do everything they can to help the faculty upload their documents and get everything online. The resistance has to do with the amount of work this entails and not a fear or unfamiliarity with technology.

3.1 President's Report - Eric continues at 5:45 once Cynthia has left.

Eric reports on his recent meeting with Eleanor Stublely. She informed Eric that they will not be able to extend practice room hours. They also spoke about the challenges facing graduate student representatives when they attend area meetings. They are both concerned about having more transparency as well as clearer expectations and responsibilities for these representatives going forward.

In addition to his other responsibilities as president, Eric has solicited student input, planning meetings, speaking engagements. The goals that Eric has tried to implement and indicates that he feels quite frustrated about as many of the goals he has set haven't come to fruition. He feels this has to do with our constitution needing to be upgraded; this slows things down a great deal.

Eric started a reading group at the beginning of the year on music and mass media under the auspices of IPLAI. He helped organize the abstract writing workshop. He has other ideas for workshop writing. Eric is also interested in organizing a graduate student lounge. Laura put together a blueprint. He passed it on to the building Director and Dean. He has been waiting to hear back about sending students to perform at Thompson House. His online Comprehensive Exam resource compilation has begun. Mike Winters, Brenna Langille, and Eric show the new wordpress Mgss page where graduate students can all maintain active profiles. Eric and Brenna have begun a new initiative with a regular wiki, but we hope to have something better in the future

3.2. Vice President – Report from Farley

Farley headed the Events committee as well as the Library After Hours – a monthly event done in the library featuring performances of any kind, especially music. They also hosted a lecture given by itinerant composer Jonathan Pfeffer.

3.3. Performance Representative

No report due to time constraints.

3.4. Music Research Representative

No report due to time constraints.

3.5. Symposium Chair

No report due to time constraints.

3.6. PGSS Representative

No report due to time constraints.

3.7. Secretary

No report due to time constraints.

3.8. Treasurer

4. Budget Approval – Nina Penner

Nina reports on the budget. Projects that were funded this year include: Symposium snacks, Library After Hours, Alexander Technique Section, Stammtisch snacks. We have over 2,000 dollars left over. Nina's new budget allocates more money for post colloquium receptions so that we can have wine.

Corey motions to approve next year's budget. Cedar seconds. All in favour.

5. Recognition of MGSS Executives for 2013–14 (Jessica Holmes)

Jessica announces and introduces the new MGSS Executive.

6. Proposed New Constitution

Eric has put in a lot more detail for the new constitution. It is now four pages long with more precise directives such as job descriptions for the executive positions. Some things have been revised such as the percentage for quorum. This will make things run more smoothly.

Cedar thanks the executive for this amendment.

Nina motions to approve. Alix seconds. All in favour.

7. Events: How should we advertise? What would you like to see?

No report due to time constraints.

8. Head Music Librarian's Remarks

Moved to earlier in the meeting

9. Other Business

Kelly Symons nominates herself in the position of Treasurer. No other nominees for the position of Treasurer. Kelly leaves the room. All in favour of Kelly for treasurer (except one ironic non-vote).

Jessica motions to adjourn. Seconded by all. Meeting ends at 6:45 p.m.