

**Music Graduate Students Society (MGSS) of McGill University**  
**General Assembly**  
**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015**  
**A-832/833**

**1. Welcome**

President Farley Miller (FM) welcomes all (5:35)  
(See p. 8 for list of those present).

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion: to modify agenda to remove presentations by secretary or research rep by FM

Adam Salmond (AS) seconds.

Resolved: agenda modified.

Motion: to approve the modified agenda for 13 April 2015 by Michael Turabian (MT)

Rebecca Flore (RF) seconds.

Unanimous consent.

Resolved: agenda approved.

**3. Approval of Minutes from Second 2014 Fall GA**

Motion: to approve the minutes from the 2014 Winter General Assembly December 3<sup>rd</sup> by Carolyn Barr (CB)

Modification: Change spelling of acronym BRAMS by Eric Smialek (ES)

Hubert Léveillé (HL) seconds

Resolved: Minutes approved, with ES's modifications.

**4. Reports from MGSS Executive Council Officers**

**a) President (FM)**

- FM: have two graduate recipients of teaching awards which will be announced at convocation – Leah Batstone for music research and Mimi Haddon for MUAR
- Will try to make the nomination procedure smoother in the future
- Next thing is the updated constitution, which is on the webpage
- Clarifying the positions of area and department representatives in terms of the responsibility of getting in touch of the area or the department
- CFS referendum – PGSS has voted no in regards to remaining a member of CFS
- AGSEM had a vote last week to go on strike one day on April 16<sup>th</sup> – information is on the website

- This is for the TAs – if you’ve worked as one in the last year you’re still a member and I encourage you to go
- We’re advocating for higher pay and lower ratios for TA to student – if you have too many students as a TA there’s time less face to face
- Idea of one day strike is to show that AGSEM is unified in this
- It’s not a hard picket line – you can go in and do your work as an invigilator
- Rachel Avery: will be voting I believe Wednesday evening whether they will also participate
- Invigilators will be paid one hour if they go on strike
- FM: If you are a TA if you register to picket one of the three sessions that day you will be paid for an hour of work
- We’ve been taking a paycut every year since I believe 2006 but there’s more information on the website
- I will be attending the 2:30-6:30 slot

**b) Secretary**

- Removed

**c) Treasurer (Toru Momii [TM])**

- TM: for both semesters we get a budget of \$3000 each, from PGSS and the students
- We got additional funding one semester for the symposium
- We have the expenses listed as of today, but there are some outstanding ones that need to come in
- We are doing better this year than last year – the Symposium went a little over but not significantly
- Were able to afford the MGSS trivia night event which we ran each semester which came out of the “other” category, the MGSS events budget
- So we’re doing very well budget-wise
- The special projects fund could use more applicants – we’ve only given out \$375 worth
- So we can improve marketing next year
- Trivia night went well and should be continued next year
- FM: Library after hours was shut down so this was good
- We’d been running it for two years but we need a full-time librarian to stay and Brian MacMillan is no longer here
- They want to do other events in the future
- Jacob Sagrans (JS): Is there a prospective budget for the next year that we can vote on?
- TM: I am proposing an increase in the Symposium budget by \$200 to \$1,800 to be more realistic - \$1,600 is not sufficient
- This is something that as come up before
- Now that library after hours no longer exists I am proposing to move that \$200 to the Symposium

- Eric Smialek: My concern is that if we add more money to the Symposium, PGSS may give us less
- They gave less money when they found that the Alumni Association was giving money
- JS: My experience is the same
- Sean Lorre (SL): Laura Risk handled that but they gave us within \$50
- FM: We could move this money to events funds with the advanced knowledge that it would be used
- ES: Better to account for surplus afterwards
- FM: I think that's a fair change then
- ES: I'd like to make a motion to restore that money to MGSS events at 600
- Seconded MT
- Unanimous consent
- FM: Any other concerns on the budget?
- ES motions
- RF seconds
- Unanimous Consent

**d) Symposium Chair (SL)**

- SL: Symposium was March 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> with a keynote by John Fanning (second year doing this) and a keynote by Ellie Hisama
- We received 90 submissions and accepted 22 (4 in French)
- I suspect this was the most submissions we received
- We had presenters from all over the world – one from Taiwan
- Our total revenue was \$2,325
- We ended going \$190 over which is where we came up with the extra cushion
- We added a childcare option for our own students and faculty and visitors and this is something we'd like to make permanent
- We secured donations of coffee and bagels and the live music was provided by the Graduate Office through Dr Stublely's discretionary fund – we hope that continues
- LR and SL have put together best practice advice because it's been a little ad hoc from year to year, and we will still meet with the Symposium's chair or co-chair
- ES: You said you were hoping to make a document – there is one already I can send
- SL: We're revising that document and giving advice for forms
- We think there can be more institutional memory
- Thanks to everyone who helped and attended

**e) Performance Representatives (CB and Suzu Enns [SE])**

- Carolyn Barr: We were really happy with the performance turnout and keynote at the Symposium

- We hope to promote that to performers next year
- Been attending the graduate performance subcommittee meetings with Dr Stublely
- Discussing standards for approving programs – read program notes
- It's good for performance representatives to continue attending those – the professors liked the link to the students
- We've also been working with Dr Leclair on a wellness initiative that is already in place
- It's about creating more resources for music students for physical and mental wellness, and ultimately want to put in place a new part of the curriculum dedicated to it
- Dr Leclair and we held a few ad hoc committee meetings to discuss short, mid- and long-term goals – we'd like that to continue
- One of the ideas put forward was to allocate some money in the student fees so people could get free Alexander technique and other things to encourage students to take advantages of wellness opportunities
- We had also talked about adding in more about wellness at the MGSS orientation – I offered to speak about it briefly at the opening orientation
- FM: It seems like we'll be able to get slides
- JS: There's also material sent out in advance that we can include that in

#### f) **Research Representatives**

- Removed

#### g) **PGSS Councilors (Kristin Franseen [KF], RF, MT)**

- KF: There's a collection of documents about the CFS referendum if you're curious about the nuts and bolts of that process
- The general election for new executive council members is ongoing
- You should be receiving emails reminding you to vote with a link to the website
- And there's information about the candidates – I encourage you to vote
- The meeting in April did not reach quorum, but we have one coming up in May
- There are also issues for students running up against the degree time-limitations
- PGSS is wanting to propose that the grad school make changes
- JS: When you re-enroll you have to pay back tuition for terms you weren't enrolled
- KF: the PGSS officers will continue to raise that as an important issue to communicate with graduate directors and associate deans and all those votes

#### 5. **Announce and welcome MGSS Executive Council officers for 2015-2016**

- FM: Election results – we had an election that just ended an hour ago
- Our vice-president for next year is Lydia Huang

- Our performance representative will be Leslie Perrin
- Our research representative is Laura Risk
- Our symposium chair for next year is Farley Miller
- The Secretary for next year is Erin Sheedy
- The Treasurer is Michèle Duguay
- Member at Large is Kristin Franseen
- Our PGSS Rep is Claire McLeish

## 6. **Nominations for vacant Executive Council positions**

- FM: We're missing the President and the PGSS Representatives
- RF: PGSS Rep is only a 2-3 hour commitment each month, and you get free dinner
- FM: The role officially is to attend one meeting at PGSS per month, communicating the contents, and voting on issues in the interest of graduate students in the Schulich School

Motion: To elect Sophie Kabbash (SK) as PGSS Representative from SK

Unanimous consent

Resolved: SK elected as PGSS Representative

Motion: to elect Tessa MacLean (TML) as PGSS Representative from SK

Unanimous consent

Resolved: TML elected as PGSS Representative

Motion: Leslie Perrin (LP) to cede the position of Performance Representative to Elena from LP

Unanimous consent

Resolved: Elena elected as Performance Representative

Motion: To elect LP as President from CB

Unanimous consent

Resolved: LP elected as President.

## 7. **Reports from Committee Members**

### a) **Concert Committee**

- Kit Soden (KS): lots of events for the 10 year anniversary of the naming of the school
- Art Song, Chamber Fest
- Inviting many people for the events
- Morning concerts
- Rush Hour concerts have been successful so they will keep them up
- Celebration of John Rea's music
- Also one for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the electronic music studio

- Research Alive – a Stephen McAdams idea to give more of a public presence for the research faculty here
- Similar to a TED talk
- We will make it an annual event – 4 next year, and then perhaps two the years following
- Also working with George Massenburg to get it webcast
- We don't have a budget yet but are meeting with the Dean in the next few weeks

## 8. Reports from non-Committee Members

### a) Leah Batstone (LB), GPS Funding

- LB: A group of students have had recurring concerns about graduate-level funding
- We made a list of common problems and met with the graduate school
- We had 15 people sign a letter and a subset of us met with Heather Gode
- One of the issue was with clarity about funding, especially at admissions
- More detail in the admission letter, which they have changed this year
- Also about funding available to international students – there are few opportunities
- Lots of funding under lump titles which look worse on the CV
- So making the titles of awards more explicit
- Also options to defray costs – the rules about the deferential fee waiver – can't get that for your third year
- We talked about some possible options for that
- Teaching opportunities – we also piggybacked on AGSEM bargaining points like tuition waivers and health benefit waivers
- It was a good meeting: Heather Gode is in linguistics where they have excellent funding
- This is someone who has figured out ways of working around some of the McGill issues
- Main objectives
- Want better communication with students
- The faculty needs to know what they can and can't say in recruitment
- Also changing the stipulation that you have to give back your Schulich Scholarship if you receive another award totaling \$10,000
- Which isn't the case in linguistics
- We want a yearly contract outlining a financial package – only some are receiving it
- Changing rules about year three
- We're objecting to the front-loading of offer letters so that you'll come
- Lastly, what to do for students who are already here, since a lot of these can be changed in the future

- Heather and a funding officer from the graduate school will be meeting with Dr Stublely
- I won't be in Montreal next year, and can do some of this from a distance, but I encourage someone else who feels strongly about this to take up the reins
- We need to be persistent
- JS: It would be great if they were more receptive this, but McGill is getting cuts in their budget
- LB: As TA unions agree, McGill is not out of money
- If enough people are upset enough, often enough, something can get done
- We need to be clear that it shouldn't be taking funding from some students to give it to others
- Need to be a collective – it can't be fixed for just one student
- Claire McLeish (CM): From being involved in AGSEM it seems like there's money available
- LB: Linguistics have made it work – all of the professors pool their grant money is one way they do it
- CM: Similar funding in English
- Nina Penner (NP): I was paid by Prof Whitesell because he had a grant, but KF is around when there isn't that grant
- It wasn't based off of merit, just chance
- Mimi Haddon (MH): Communications department does it as well – pool money so that everyone's on the same package
- NP: We need more equality here
- LB: We need to resist the rhetoric from the Schulich School
- JS: If people at conferences ask a question about finances, answer honestly – talk about your own experience but don't sugarcoat it
- LB: one of the most powerful things that you have is PR for the school
- You can remind them of that

#### 9. **Announcements and other business.**

- No other business.

Motion: to adjourn the meeting by KF

NP seconds

Resolved: Meeting adjourned (6:55 pm).

## Present at the General Assembly

<b>Name</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Program</b>
Adam Salmond	Musicology	MA
Andrew Horwitz	Music Tech	MA
Carolyn Barr	Performance	MMus
Cedar Wingate	Musicology	PhD
Claire McLeish	Musicology	PhD
Eric Smialek	Musicology	PhD
Erin Sheedy	Musicology	PhD
Farley Miller	Musicology	PhD
Hubert Léveillé	Music Theory	MA
Jacob Sagrans	Musicology	PhD
Kit Soden	Composition	MMus
Kristin Franseen	Musicology	PhD
Leah Batstone	Musicology	PhD
Leslie Perrin	Performance	MMus
Lydia Huang	Music Theory	MA
Michael Kinney	Musicology	MA
Michael Turabian	Musicology	PhD
Michèle Duguay	Music Theory	MA
Mimi Haddon	Musicology	PhD
Nina Penner	Musicology	PhD
Rachel Avery	Musicology	PhD
Rebecca Flore	Music Theory	MA
Sean Lorre	Musicology	PhD
Sophie Kabbash	Musicology	MA
Tessa MacLean	Musicology	MA
Toru Momii	Music Theory	MA
Tracy Smith Bessette	Performance	DMus

27 members present.