

DOEIGSA General Assembly Meeting Minutes

Feb. 06, 2015

Agenda: Junesse Christians

Minutes: Meg Grieve

Chair: Marion Miller

Present: Jon Summers, Simone Nichol, Wan jung Hsieh, Andrea Rosenfield, Renee Jackson, Jennica Grimshaw, Stella Carolina Stella, Audrey Dahl, Meg Grieve, Junesse Christians, Xing Zeng

- Moral quorum called by the assembly since the members recognize and decide that we have done sufficient advertisement, etc to recruit enough members for quorum. Simone motions to open the assembly,

Seconded by Jon.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Moral quorum: All decisions must be published (minutes) and if 5 members disagree then the decision must be overturned.

1. Call to order

2. Approval of the Chair (Marion Miller) and secretary

Audrey motions to approve the Chair (Marion Miller) and the secretary (Meg Grieve)

Seconded by Junesse.

Motion passed unanimously

3. Approval of the Agenda -

- Stella motions that we give Jennica a chance to do her 30 sec speech earlier because she has to leave.

Seconded by Junesse

Motion passed unanimously

- Meg motions to approve agenda with Stella's amendment that Jennica does her 30 sec. speech for elections right after the approval of the agenda.

Seconded by Junesse

Motion passed

4. Election pitch, by Jennica.

5. Approval of Last General Assembly Minutes (September 18, 2014) -

- Point of information from Andrea: by-law discussion from last GA moves forward to this GA, to be discussed in 7.1

Audrey moves to approve the minutes as circulated.

Seconded by Renee
Motion passed.

6. DOEIGSA Business

6.1. By-law revisions - Audrey, Jon

Discussion: Audrey: by-law revisions have been proposed for this meeting (as they arose from the previous GA minutes, with members comments from that meeting). Council assigned a committee last meeting to incorporate changes and to make a better by-law document. Moral quorum last term made format edits, but not content edits. This time Jon and Audrey (committee that were tasked with doing by-law revisions) worked on making content changes. Simone suggests that we only decide parts today. Renee thinks we should start and see how it goes. Jon gives a run-through of the changes that have been made (see by-law revisions doc, red is new edits and additions)

- Meg moves to accept all of the by-law changes.
- Seconded by Junesse
- Discussion: thanks and awesome job to Jon and Audrey. Great explanations.
- Motion passed with a 2/3 majority.
- Stella abstains.

6.2. Approval of budget - Audrey

Discussion: Audrey explains the budget from last year and what is proposed for 2014-2015 Junesse asks Audrey if the budget for orientation shouldn't come in the same year the budget is prepared. Audrey says that our mandate finishes in the GA that is held by the end of September and that our responsibility is to manage that orientation and the expenses for that. Meg asks if the money left from one year is carried over to the next year and Audrey confirms that it is (we do not have to spend all of the money this year, although we should try to).

Simone suggests as a member initiative to use some of the money to bring a speaker or workshop supported by DOEIGSA. Suggestion by Audrey to advertise in the next newsletter that members can initiate academic activities.

Renee comments that the budget is great and shows cautious spending.

- Renee moves to approve the budget as it is
- Seconded by Junesse
- Motion passed

6.3. Faubourg move - Meg

Update: Meg discusses that our old mandate needs to be changed (referring to mandate from last April) because it is no longer as relevant. Meg gives update on Faubourg: shows a PowerPoint with images from the new space. We argued in the Fall for a seat on the department Space Committee, and Meg participated in the Space Committee to represent students in department meetings. She presents the colours proposed to paint the walls and ceilings. We are supposed to have more shared spaces and decor that resembles what we have in the Great Nuns building. Child Studies have a new observation lab and we are getting

new students spaces. Office spaces are smaller than what they have right now, but our student space will increase. Space Committee is interested in knowing what we want in this new space.

Discussion: Simone suggests a different kind of furniture, but Meg specifies that the furniture was already purchased.

Stef requested the architecture company to create a mock -up poster and information board so that staff, faculty and students know what is happening.

Our April mandate was to oppose to the move, but fighting now doesn't make sense because moving is happening.

Andrea asks if they are [addressing climate control \(heating and cooling\) in this building](#).

Junesse says that they are rewiring the building so she imagines that it is being addressed, but we are not sure.

Meg mentioned that we asked for a tour of the space but nobody has granted us a tour yet.

Meg explains that she needs a back-up for the Faubourg sub-committee because she will finish her studies probably before the move is complete.

Meg moves:

Be it resolved that under the current circumstances, we update the previous mandate of opposing the move, and as of now we work to increase communication with students, represent members and have voices heard on decision making bodies. Members should also be involved in ensuring that allocated student spaces that have been promised are respected and that access is open and equitable for all students.

[Jon amends that Meg, Junesse and Xin form a committee to oversee the move to the Faubourg.](#)

- Seconded by Junesse
- Motion passes unanimously

6.4. Friedman Resource Centre (FRC)- Junesse

Update: FRC closed in January because the manager left over the holidays and is no longer a student. She was getting paid through the work study program. Since she left the money was allocated elsewhere, and is no longer available. No new manager has been hired.

Junesse has been working with volunteers and Stef to manage and organize the FRC currently and get it back open. As of now there is a volunteer schedule, need more volunteers to fill the time. Next week it should be running.

FRC move to the Faubourg: Questions from Stef about moving- furniture, books (resources).

[Junesse says we need to follow up with this and representing the students regarding the FRC's move to the Faubourg.](#)

Discussion: Audrey has volunteered at the FRC for 7 years and it has always had issues with how it is run. There have been suggestions in the past for it to be student run.

Andrea suggests that the FRC is student run but that we try to communicate with the department and Stef if there could be a mutually agreed upon solution.

Andrea suggests that one council member could be a point person on this communication so that it's clear on the messages between students and administration and clarify the structure.

Meg says that one of Stef's points is that some Faculty want the students to have the space, but some Faculty want the space for research, that's why the FRC name can't change to Friedman **Research** Center and has to continue being Friedman **Resource** Center. Meg suggests that DOEIGSA runs the FRC.

Meg motions:

Be it resolved that DOEIGSA take responsibility for the management of the Friedman Resource Center (FRC) and request the department of education's support and formal approval of this transition to a student-run FRC.

BIFRT the FRC volunteers are involved in decision making process.

- Seconded by Stella
- Motion passed.

7. Motion: against Austerity

Jon motions:

Whereas we are living through an era of austerity, where governments are deliberately choosing to diminish their support for public services;

Whereas the government does not demand the wealthy to pay their fair share, and allows for off-shore investments;

Whereas austerity measures threaten the well-being of a society by negatively affecting such pillars as health and education;

Whereas austerity measures announced by Québec government include cutting funding at every level of education: elementary schools, high schools, cégeps, universities and adult education programs;

Whereas direct cuts to educational institutions and underfunding of educational programs have detrimental consequences not only on our present university studies, but also on our future careers in the field of education;

Whereas the Department of Education Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Association (DOEIGSA) has at the core of its mandate “to engage students in social issues, inside and outside university, which are pertinent to education” (DOEIGSA by-laws, Article 1, Section 1.1).

***Be it resolved that DOEIGSA take an official stance against austerity measures;
Be it further resolved that DOEIGSA support other organizations against austerity and act to promote alternatives.***

- Seconded by Stella

Discussion: Jon shares that many student associations have taken motions against Austerity. We need particularly support it seeing as we are Education students, supporting education, as well as other budget cuts.

Simone suggests that we amend the motions (in blue), which divided the first whereas as proposed into two “whereases”. Accepted as a friendly amendment by Jon.

Andrea notices and appreciates the openness of the mandate for student action.

- Motion passes unanimously.

8. Motion: For free education - Audrey

- Audrey motions:

Whereas education is recognized as a human right in the UN’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 26, Section 1) and should be accessible at every level to all, regardless of socio-economic status;

Whereas repeated empirical studies have proven that education-related costs are a major obstacle to accessibility for a significant portion of the population;

Whereas education-related costs place the burden of debt on individuals who are often just beginning their careers, **while throughout their lifetimes the education received by these individuals benefits the society at large;**

Whereas publicly-funded education, like publicly-funded health care, is not a utopian ideal but exists in many countries around the world (including Slovenia, Malta, Mauritius, Argentina, Mexico, Germany, Denmark, Finland, and Cuba);

Whereas the right to education is a primary concern of the members of the Department of Education Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Association (DOEIGSA);

Be it resolved that DOEIGSA is in favour of free education, including post-secondary; Be it further resolved that DOEIGSA advocate for free education and collaborate with other organizations that share this position.

- Seconded by Stella

Discussion: Audrey says that this is a radical motion, and that we need to agree on this in order to be involved in student and provincial organizations that actively advocate for free education.

Simone makes a friendly amendment in blue. Point of information from Simone that she had a free undergraduate education in Australia and could not have the education that she does without this. Suggests that pushing for conversation in media around this would be a good idea, and that Québec should be a leader in this movement.

Audrey adds that by joining provincial associations we become involved in actions also supported by DOEIGSA to create movement against Free education here in the department of education. Audrey adds that free education was founding principle in Québec.

Jon adds that we should take historical inspiration from the 1940s in Saskatchewan for free health care-- people said that they couldn't get free healthcare, but the sentiment for healthcare spread and now we have free healthcare all across Canada. He says that we should have priorities for health and education, that we can make happen, and reverse the "take from the poor and give to the rich" positions that have been taken by governments recently.

- Motion passed

9. By-election

Meg nominates Andrea
Xin nominates Junesse
Stella nominates Jennica
Junesse nominates Xin

Jennica Grimshaw for Applied Linguistics - elected
Andrea Rosenfield for Educational Studies - elected
Junesse Christiaans for Education Technology - elected
Xin Zeng for Educational Technology - elected

Audrey motions to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded by Jon
Motion passed
Meeting adjourned at 6pm!

Agenda point tabled:

10. DOEIGSA name change- Jon
11. Other business
-Symposium Update, volunteers, etc.