

**DOEIGSA  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, 5PM  
FG5.415  
[HTTPS://CONCORDIA-CA.ZOOM.US/MY/DOEIGSA](https://concordia-ca.zoom.us/my/doeigsa)**

**Number of Attendees:**

In person:

Dana Kirkpatrick

Lin Lu

Noga Broitman

Maurrian Mendez

Christine Kinsley

Carol Johnson

Renee Tougas

Sana Ahmad

Thejaswini Vijayakkumar (Theju)

Sholeh Kerrvanidilmaghaim

Hoda Niace

Nancy Zerabny

Kenny Wee

Zahra Moteasseb Dayyani

Anna Koomsun

Nasrin Shamsipour

Rachel Hu

Ian Seth McPhail

Aimee St. Hilaire

Online:

Gabriel Chernitsky

Kathryn Urbaniak

Wenbin Liu (Tony)

**Facilitator:** Ian Seth McPhail, MA in Educational Studies

**Note-takers:** Dana Kirkpatrick MA Applied Linguistics;  
Renee Tougas, MA in Educational Studies,

## **Agenda**

1. Attendance Sheet Verification
2. Call to Order
3. Nominate Secretaries
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Proposals
  1. Proposal 1- Amended By-laws
  2. Proposal 2 – 2023-2024 Budget
  3. Proposal 3 - Representatives
6. Request for Additional Proposals
7. Varia
8. Adjournment

### **1. Attendance Sheet Verification**

### **2. Call to Order**

Dana calls the meeting around 17:03, proposing Ian act as facilitator.

Ian proposes starting meeting on moral quorum. Ian explains moral quorum. Actual quorum according to current bylaws is 17 (5% of members). Unanimous vote yes to begin the GA. (11 votes)

Ian explains voting procedure: using Martha's Rules. Sense votes, action votes, and use of thumbs up, down, or sideways (slow down, on zoom) to denote votes.

(More students join the meeting on class break between 17:05-17:15. Reflected in attendees, their votes were present in council elections only.)

### **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

Ian proposes 2 amendments to agenda:

1. to hold an election during GA to fill empty council seats (especially for PhD students, but all open seats are options)
2. Add 15 minutes to the meeting: 90 minutes total. Reasoning: one of the proposed agenda items is to introduce amended bylaws (need true quorum to vote on bylaws). Ian wants to amend the agenda to give opportunity for new council members to be elected tonight. Calls sense vote: unanimous yes. Enacted.

Ian amends the agenda to add in vote for new representatives and 15 more min for meeting.

## 5. Adoption of Proposals

### 1. Amended Proposal 1: Council seat election to fill empty seats

Nominations for representative positions:

Carol nominates: **Christine Kinsley**, PhD Child Studies

Kristine nominates: **Kathryn Urbaniak**, PhD Child Studies

Kat nominates: **Carol Johnson**, PhD Child Studies

Sana nominates **Theju** (Thejaswini Vijayakkumar), MA Ed Tech

No nominations for the 3 open MA Child Studies seats

No nomination for the 1 open MA Applied Linguistics seat

Secret ballot voting is conducted according to the by-laws on a Microsoft Forms link provided via URL and QR code.

Voting results:

20 votes cast

19 people voted yes for everyone.

1 person voted no for everyone.

All nominees are welcomed as council members.

### 2. Proposal 2 – Amended By-laws

We need a regular quorum to amend the bylaws. Regular quorum was not met at the start of the meeting. Thus, the bylaws cannot be amended under moral quorum tonight. Previous standing by-laws will be submitted to the GSA.

### 3. Proposal 3 – 2023-2024 Budget

Dana shares budget as prepared by Dana & Aimee in July

Net positive balance. Sense vote: unanimous approval, action vote assumed.

Budget approved. Will be submitted to the GSA.

#### 4. Proposal 4 – Department committee representatives

Ian discusses this. We can have representatives sit on the following department committees.

**Dept of Ed committee** - primary (Carey) and alternative representative (Ian). Ian explains his position in wanting to take on this position, interest in process and representing the student voice. Reps have voting rights. From Ian, "Carey committed to putting students first in department meetings."

Carey (PhD) and Ian (MA) mentioned as a bonus to this pairing.

No one else puts name forward.

Sense vote: unanimous yes for Carey (primary) and Ian (alternate).

#### **Curriculum committee** - Sana Ahmen & Christine Kinsley

Christine wants to be on the curriculum committee because she likes the topic, likes designing and learning about curriculum. Dana sharing Sana's position: "focus on knowledge sharing, wants curriculum to be beneficial and useful to students" Sana & Christine to figure out between themselves who will be primary & alt.

Christine (PhD) and Sana (MA) mentioned as a bonus to this pairing.

No one else puts name forward.

Sense vote: unanimous yes Sana and Christine elected to the curriculum committee.

**EDI committee** - Kathryn Urbaniak currently exists on the committee as a non-voting member. Professional and scholarly interest and experience EDI. Would be happy to represent DOEIGSA there.

Only 1 spot for DOEIGSA on EDI committee. Kathryn has a spot on the committee regardless.

No one else puts name forward.

Sense vote: unanimous yes, Kathryn will act as DOEIGSA's voting member on EDI.

#### 6. Request for Additional Proposals

Aimee proposes that we form a committee for the annual Grad Symposium in winter. This doesn't have to be an official DOEIGSA operation, it is just frequently run by graduate students with DOEIGSA interaction and collaboration.

Vitor and Aimee and met with last year's organizers, Amanda and Keenan, who provided notes and contacts. Aimee works for the hospitality department in event planning. Aimee would like to take the reins and can use her employment with Concordia to assist in organization and planning.

Aimee proposes documenting the process for future years.

Investigate other funding beyond DOEIGSA's contribution.

CLSP would like to collaborate again.

Aimee discussed the possibility of other event venues.

Main goal this year: to create a template and timeline for future years planning. Lay groundwork for future years' successful symposiums.

Aimee is presenting herself as bridge for the symposium between DOEIGSA and symposium committee.

No official bylaw that this committee has to be DOEIGSA reps.

Kathryn added that Steph(?) Stef in IT is good to talk to for this planning.

Ian proposes Aimee will act as a bridging representative to Grad Symposium committee.

Sense vote: unanimous yes.

## **7. Varia**

Ian's summary of the proposed by-law changes:

Structural overhaul, nothing can be compared side-by-side easily.

Biggest change, as related to the meetings, is condensed in one section.

Added definitions of terms to eliminate repetition and have consistent, clear terminology.

Changing "student representative" to "council member," to reflect that not all council members are representing students to professors/committees, some are functional members (for event planning, organizing, etc.)

Changing quorum. Anticipating less presence at meetings when considering the careers and work/life balance of graduate students within the department.

Making bylaws easier to amend moving forward.

Discussion of risks of lowering quorum. (incl. ability to raise it back up again if necessary)

Changes were made in attempt to make council more democratic. And not impose undue restrictions for future generations.

Changing election period to include: nomination, deliberation, & election period.

Spontaneous election where members *must* be present at the GA is restrictive to member voting autonomy.

Loosens proposal requirements.

Change so that DOIEGSA funds can only be spent for activities to which whole department is invited. Previous by-laws allow sub-sectioning.

## **8. Adjournment**

Ian proposes adjourning.

The meeting is adjourned at 18:29