

## **EGSA Minutes**

**Thursday, October 7, 2004**

**Attendees:** Jen Ivey, Thomas Falkenberg, Mark Weiler, Michael Caulkins, Kristi Lauridsen, Johanne Provencal, Gillian Judson, Marianna Bogomolny, Hisako Hayashi, Soheila Gholamazad, Cathi Shaw, Rob McTavish, Cher Hill

**Minute Recorder:** Cathi Shaw

### **Proposed Amendments to Constitution**

Kristi requested addition to the November agenda: Proposed amendments to EGSA constitution. It was suggested that we obtain an electronic copy of our constitution to circulate. Kristi will request this document from Brandy Zimmerman.

### **Travel Grants**

Vote for the travel grants for the last 4 accepted people – amended to 3 as one of the people awarded a grant is unable to attend their conference. Hisako motioned that Shabham Kavousian, Soheila Gholamazad, Kristi Lauridsen be awarded grants of \$100 each. Seconded by Cathi Shaw

### **EPress**

Johanne Provencal and Mark Weiler are working on developing an EGSA sponsored EPress. They would like to strike a committee to get different reps from different programs in Education involved. Michael volunteered to be on committee. Kristi suggested that they put a call out to the educ-grad list for interested students to join the committee.

### **SFU 40th Anniversary**

Mark Weiler, Johanne Provencal and Hisako Hayashi went to the October planning meeting for the SFU 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration which will commence Sept 05 and continue until Aug 06. They had proposed that the Epress launch and the 2005 Education With/Out Borders Conference be our contributions to celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A formal proposal must be submitted by the end of October. It was suggested that EGSA strike a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee. -> Hisako will be the lead for committee and will solicit other graduate students. Johanne made motion for endorsement from the EGSA for the symposium and EPress launch as possible contributions to the

celebration. Kristi seconded. Carried.

### **Stan's Funding**

3 options were discussed:

1) Put it in a SFU account -> Kristi reported on information received from Denyse Dallaire in SFU Finance. It was pointed out that only SFU employees can be signing officers not including sessional instructors. Donald Meyers has agreed to be the signing officer, if we choose to go this route. This option gives us access to Education petty cash account (through Arlene Robb) for reimbursement of small amounts. The funds would be held in trust for EGSA; if balance drops below \$1000 we would have to close the account. Other SFU account holders can deposit directly into the account. However, the SFSS can't deposit into this account. Main restrictions concern what you can charge during travel (i.e., no first class travel, etc.)

2) Invest money in a private account. Various options and institutions were discussed. For this option we would need 2 signing officers (proposed that these would be the EGSA Treasurer and one of the EGSA Chairs). The main advantage is that we can gain interest on the money which we can't on university accounts.

3) Scholarship account.

Debate over what to do followed. Option 3 was eliminated as not benefiting the majority of graduate students. Options 1 and 2 were highly debated with an additional option proposed of using a combination of the two discussed. Mark suggested that we put these three main options down in writing. Michael suggested that this then be sent to educ-grads and people who want to have a say in the decision will be asked to come to next meeting and vote. Kristi agreed to formalize the options in writing to distribute with the agenda for the next meeting, which will be sent out two weeks before the meeting date. The three options will be briefly reviewed at the beginning of the November meeting prior to voting.

### **International Student Travel Concerns**

This discussion came out of the feedback from our July Pizza Party. Some of our international students have had difficulty in obtaining the necessary documentation to attend out of country conferences (in some cases fully funded students have had to cancel their conference trips due

to paperwork problems – i.e., Travel Visa, etc.). At Cher's suggestion, the wording of this item in the feedback document was clarified. Mark suggested that this item be presented as a separate topic when he next reports to the GPC. Cher and Soheila will draft a letter to our Member of Parliament outlining these travel concerns for international students, prior to presentation of the feedback document to the GPC.

### **GPC**

Thomas and Mark talked about a proposed review of course evaluation forms. It was suggested that this review should occur at different levels. Feedback has been requested for amendments to the various evaluation forms. How do we proceed for getting feedback on forms? Thomas suggested that we scan the form and send to all graduate students with a request for feedback. The grad programs office will be collating feedback and sending it out to GPC members to read before their next meeting. Thomas suggested that feedback on graduate programs generally instead of specific courses would be more useful to students.

Regarding the recent review of doctoral programs, Cher suggested that students should have access to the full report rather than a summary or filtered report. Motion put forward by Kristi for GPC Reps on behalf of the EGSA to request a full unedited Review of Doctoral Programs report in the interest of advancing open dialogue and the quality of graduate programs. Michael seconded. Carried.

### **SFSS**

An inclusion working group was set up at the end of the summer to look at organizing facilitation inclusion workshops throughout the SFU Community. There will be a workshop on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 2:30 at Maggie Benston. Mark will send out an announcement to the listserve.

### **GIC**

Michael reminded us that monthly minutes must be sent to Brandy to ensure that we receive our funding. Regarding the proposed Student Learning Centre, Cher and Michael have collated the feedback they received and sent it to Tracy as comments from EGSA. The last TSSU meeting was poorly attended; all TA's and TM's should consider attending the Oct 27<sup>th</sup> meeting as the Union is currently in contract negotiations.

There have been changes to student loans policies. If you are experiencing problems due to these policy changes, contact SFSS or GIC.

Next meeting: **Wednesday, November 10, 2004 at 3:30 in the Graduate Student Lounge. A student's request to have later start**

Education Graduate



**times for the meetings was briefly discussed. It was agreed that 3:30 is the best compromise due to classes beginning at 4:30. Members are encouraged to join the meetings at any time after 3:30; latecomers are welcome.**