# EdUS General Council Meeting

[Wednesday, November 30th, 2022]

## Call to Order

#### Attendance

| Attendees | Anna Leung, Matthew Diabo, Lili Chen, Tianna Kloepfer, Dominique Gonzales-Calma, Clare Baillie, Jessica Talbot, Kelly Eden, Shawn Wassermuhl, Megan Berty, Bailey Roy, Kendra Smith, Gabi Spangenberg, Zainab Khan, Justin Liao, Helena Silen, Gia Neumann, Danielle Foster, Caden Welch, Lexie Pasquariello, Chloe Adoutte, Isabella Xia  Via Zoom: Susan Zhang, Nattamon Takeo, Maia Mazzone, Julia Nam | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Late Attendees | N/A | |
| Regrets | Raphael Longo, Jessica O’Gorman, Audrey Dupuis, Katy Berenbaum | |
| Absent without Regrets | Julia Santarella | |

#### Adoption of the Agenda:

Kendra Smith, Helena Silen

#### Approval of the Minutes of the Past Meeting:

Shawn Wassermuhl, Matthew Diabo

## Executive Reports

### President

Last meeting of the semester!

* Thank you to everyone who has made the time to come to council meetings, i know they are long but I find it is productive for us to meet biweekly and have the opportunity to share and discuss our ongoing portfolios and projects
* I hope you take the time to rest over the break and prepare for the winter semester!

Midterm Reports

* Reminder for all execs that your midterm reports are due on the drive by December 31, 2022.
* This will help you prepare for end of year reports. I suggest dividing your reports monthly, highlighting any important events/tasks that should be addressed/planned during that time.

Winter Election

* CRO - Does anyone have any suggestions on a new CRO for the winter semester? I can ask John again but let me know if there is a U1/U2/U3 that may be interested! → Please get them to send Tianna their CV / Public posting
* Dates:
  + 1. Nomination Period: January 16th - January 27th
    2. Campaign Period: January 28th - February 3rd
    3. Voting Period: February 4th - February 6th
    4. **Extended** Nom Period: January 16th - February 3rd
    5. **Extended** Campaign Period: February 4th - February 10th
    6. **Extended** Voting Period: February 11th - February 13th

Contact From the Media

* In the past 2 weeks we have received a few emails from local campus news reporters asking for comments on various topics (ie. our stance on the state of wellness in ed, thoughts on the UQAM student strike.
* In future, please forward any emails you may receive to me and we will come up with an adequate response that represents the values of EdUS while not putting down any student societies or the faculty.

End of Year Exec Meetings

* Slowly scheduling meetings with executive teams! You should all hear from me by next week.
* Again, if any reps wish to schedule a meeting to discuss your portfolio please feel free to message!

For-Credit Health/Wellness Course

* Kerry Yang, VP External Affairs for SSMU, reached out to Isabella and I to advocate for a wellness-themed for-credit course.
* Yale's "The Science of Well-Being" course was a for-credit course based around increasing happiness and building more productive habits. Originally, they offered the class as a course at Yale, but it became so popular that they decided to move online and offer it for free to everyone. Other Universities also began offering classes like these, some more wellness focused, like the University of Alberta's "The Science of Joy and Happiness", and some more rigorous and scientific, like the University of Toronto's "Positive Psychology".
* McGill currently doesn't have any of these types of classes, even though they could be really useful for students to learn how to build resilience and promote well-being. Also, McGill has some leading researchers who are some of the best in the field of resilience and mindfulness, such as Prof. Nancy Heath and Prof. Bassam El-Khoury. He spoke to some members of senior administration, and they said speaking to the Dean and having them be open to having these kinds of courses would be the best way to go.
* Scheduled a meeting for next Thursday to further discuss a plan of action, and I will be attending the Faculty Council meeting the week after to bring up these points. This could be beneficial to the faculty of education by incorporating wellness for ourselves as teachers, avoiding teacher burnout, and how to promote wellness for our students.

### VP External

EdUS Movie Night

* Taking place this Thursday, December 1st
* Watching Elf
  + Donation to enter and to get snacks
  + Attendees can enter our IG giveaway and repost

Pancake Breakfast

* Taking place this Thursday, December 1st
  + All donations going to Centraide
* Please sign up to help!
  + Tianna 10-11am, Lili 11-12pm, Degane (10:30am), Clare (12pm), Andee Schuster (12pm), Zainab (11-2pm)

Career Fair Updates

* Have met with Lara Franko twice
* We have around 18 school board/association registrations
* February 8, 2023, afternoon in the SSMU Ballroom
  + Will begin organising volunteers in the new year
  + Non-teaching options will be included in the fair (BA)

Movember

* Relatively successful!
* We raised 576$ (DD: $272, Pancake breakfast: $134, Kelly: $130)
  + Activity: completed only 144 km of 500 km
  + Please log your kilometres now if you forgot!

### VP Finance

Insurance

* Renewed insurance!
* Will cover until November 29th, 2023
* Just some minor conditions that I have informed the VP Internals about (i.e. the insurance company requiring detailed information plus/minus a month in advance of the event)

Auditing

* Forgot to mention that we have paid for our auditing services for the 2021-2022 year!

Finalising all November transactions

* Working on organising the November transactions (finished the debit transactions, just need to do all the November credit transactions)
  + @New members, if you have any questions on budgets for events, message me and I’ll explain the process :)
* Got into contact with Loïc (MEdUSA VP Finance) but just waiting for him to confirm part-time/full-time students
* Still slowly working on this budget spreadsheet for the website [EdUS Annual Budget (22-23)](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10noxBBb9orAdLaoqkVvojA2563nUvDQxEGfYLaBOsWk/edit?usp=sharing)

Office

* Tianna got us a new safe for the office!

Academics

* Attended the town hall meeting with Justin (November 16th)
* Still need to meet with Matthew and Justin about NTCs

Retreat

* Have a solid 11 members (which I think is enough!)
* We are working on making an outline to establish the foundational logistics (i.e. requirements for the accommodation)
* Dates are going to be either Friday, January 20th-Sunday 22nd or Friday, January 27th-Sunday 29th → Time will be polled during the winter break

### VP Internal

Holiday Party

* December 12th at 8pm at McKibbins on Bishop!
  + 30$ OPEN BAR
  + Theme is Apres Ski
* The Facebook event is up! @Reps, please share with your cohort so we can get all the Education sign ups before we open up to plus ones and the public on Dec 5!

FYRE

* Working with the reps to have a meeting with them to figure out the roles and get the ball rolling!

Detention Den

* Done for this semester! Thank you to everyone who joined our committee, came to all the DD’s and just showed up!
* See you all in late january for our next DD!

Grad Ball

* We're working on it, currently sending out emails for a venue
* If you have ideas/connections please let us know!

Winter event

* Team up with SAPEK
* Will likely be a PH at Cafe Campus but nothing is remotely confirmed
* Early February

Elections

* It’s sounding like there are lots of people interested in running for Internal, if this is the case for you or someone you know please DM us so that we can fill anyone interested in on what the position entails

\*\* Not Internal related but I think we should promote the Government of Québec Perspective Scholarship Program so that students who are eligible know what to do!

* @VP Comms: please make a post about this!
  + “Here is the link, check your eligibility, apply now!” (check deadlines as well)
* Tianna will be attending the Faculty Council Meeting to ask questions about this (eligibility, funding, etc.)

### VP Student Wellness

Hot Apple Cider

* We made hot apple cider on Friday November 25th and it was a success. Students came down to the office, we set up in front with holiday music and served them.
* Need a bigger emphasis on the Bring Your Own Mug initiative.
* Students seemed to enjoy the warmth, especially with FE3 nearing its end and finals coming underway.

Wellness Dogs

* We will have another Wellness dog from the Student Wellness Hub Animal Therapy division visiting the Education building this Monday. We will be in the lobby of the Education building.
* Monday, December 5th, 11am - 2pm (ish)
* @Reps: if you have a class in Education, tell your peers to come down!

Movie Night (Collaboration with our VP External)

* On Thursday Night @ 6 pm, movie night as a Wellness activity and as a fundraiser for our Centraide campaign.
* Post on Instagram and polls have been getting some traction.
  + @Reps, share with your cohort! Invite them to go with you, tell them it’ll be fun. It’s less intimidating that way.
* Snacks and entry tickets will be by donation.
* Projector rented for free from the Tech library upstairs.

Wellness Packages

* We will be handing out Wellness packages over Friday and Monday. We will hand out 70 during Friday (FE1 and FE3 are off) and 30 reserved for Monday (FE3 K/Elem is off).
* If you are in the office, please make sure to check student McGill ID’s to ensure that they are students within the Faculty of Education.
* These Wellness packages include lotion, play doh, candy, stickers, tea, and more.

\*You will notice that every month, there is a box filled with really fun stuff in the office. Please do not take advantage of this, as we buy quantities based on what we want to offer the students of the Faculty.

*Take What You Need* Initiative

Our *Take What You Need* basket initiative has been a hit!

* We mostly fill it with leftovers from Wellness Packages.
  + @VP Finance: Could it be possible to have a set monthly budget to add to it more frequently?
  + We have been using the budget from the Wellness Packages to buy things like menstrual products, lube, and chocolate, but it would be nice to restock more often.

Plans Over Break

* Over break, we will begin planning Wellness Week more seriously.
  + Any and all ideas for Wellness Week are welcome!
* Break can be a stressful moment for students– a holiday break and different living/family situations are not always easy, and these problems are sometimes amplified during break. We will be making posts on Instagram like “How to Stay Well Over Break”.
  + Once again, please share! Post these to your own accounts when you see them.
  + Any ideas for different posts over break are welcome as well.

Question

* @VP Academics, about the fee to have Indigenous speakers invited to our classes
* The fee was paid for ($45) but our class only had 2 speakers. Could we bring this up to the faculty so we know where our money is going?
* Tianna and/or Justin will follow up with the dean/meetings (refer to course details on the McGill website) + Susan and Nattamon can also bring that up in their EDI committees.

### VP Academic

Final PedTalk for Fall 2022

* With Mr. Terry Price, in the Education lobby with snacks
  + Friday, December 2nd, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
* General Idea: Positivity, putting aside finals season, destress…
* Please promote the event on your pages: <https://fb.me/e/32EqnVP3e>

SSMU Town Hall of November 16th

* Main point: UQAM strikes for better internship conditions in education (month-long strike)
* Requests the university to adopt an anti-harassment policy (which is their biggest point)
* Requests for accommodations for students with parental responsibilities
* Requests for informing associate teachers (CT) of the student teacher's 0situations
* Requests for paid internship and students question the fees related to going on FE
* Timeline:
* Constant lack of accountability from the faculty
* Frustration with being redirected to different authoritative parties that were unhelpful and unavailable (e.g. program committees)
* Teachers used the right of veto at the program committee meetings when discussing the program structure (undemocratic)
* Would like to plan another protest with everyone included (a.k.a other universities)
* Strike Page: <https://instagram.com/grevedesstages?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>
* Do we stand and protest with them?
* Will not strike about specifically unpaid internships (UQAM)
* Strike not in place for Winter because needs to be brought up to executives
* The ADEESE (UQAM’s student government) is holding a GA on Thursday (December 1st) to reinitiate a GGI (Grève Générale Illimitée = Indefinite strike, no predetermined end date)
* It’s a collective and length effort/process for council to organise a strike (Note: UQAM wants us to strike on all their points, however, we may not be passionate/agree with all their requests)
* Local universities (targeting French universities first) were reached out to, unsure who is onboard with UQAM’s strike
* We will most likely remain neutral to the cause, will play it by ear as we go into next semester

Concerns with BA program

* Met with the program coordinator for the BA and brought up some of their concerns
* Learned that he planned a townhall for Tuesday (the 29th) where he plans to discuss certain issues with the students

Regards

* We wish you all happy holidays if we don’t see each other before the break!

Questions to VP Academics

* EduBuddies: Are we going to have an opportunity to meet our EduBuddy (like a Meet and greet) in the new year?
* VP Academics will make sure to mention this in the exit report (to have it set up right off the bat to meet their mentee/mentor)

### VP Communications

Merch

* The new merchandise order should be ready by December 8th, hopefully delivery is soon after that!
* Will need a person to take care of the merch if it arrives outside of school days (during the break)

Council Merch

* Council merch has gone into production, and should be ready in the next 3 weeks!

Events

* REMINDER: If you have any events that need to be posted about/advertised, don’t forget to reach out to us so we can post about it on social media and share anything in the Listserv!

### Executive Administrator

Office hours (Winter term)\*

* For office hours, I’ve linked a Google Doc that you have editing access to (this is much easier for me than Doodle): [Office Hours (Winter 2023)](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SxZgQyKhSNbzuj2c0-CqGJorX1wKcTyMlO4YQ36gGQU/edit?usp=sharing)
* Simply fill your name in the time slots that work for you, and remember to provide me with **all your possible availabilities**
* Reminder that executives need to complete 2 hrs of office time, and 1 hr for representatives
  + Everyone should be pulling their weight, there won’t be field placements until March, so I’m sure everyone will have space in their timetables for 1/2 hours in the office
  + FE4 begins February 21st, since they teach Monday-Friday, they won’t be completing office hours
* Classes begin Wednesday, January 4th, so I’m implementing office hours the following Monday, January 9th

General council meeting\*

* Here’s a When2Meet link for the new meeting time next semester <https://www.when2meet.com/?17831505-kAGoT>
  + I believe they will still be held in the same room (conference 233), however, I will email Dave to double check
* The first meeting will take place the first full week of classes (Monday, January 9th - Friday, January 13th)

\*Please fill both links out ASAP (I’ve also posted and pinned them in our Facebook group)

* I understand that our schedules are subject to some changes, but I can make edits during the add/drop period, for now it’s better to have a concrete idea of what to expect when school resumes

Council photos

* Our photos turned out really nicely (thank you to Gigi, our photographer)!
  + If you haven’t selected your favourite photo of yourself yet, please do so via this link: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W6vLktGZVXX58qpsjjg1Rw37IeYa77s5?usp=sharing>
* For those who missed their photos, I’ll be putting together a make-up picture day in January as well as another chance for us to retake a group photo (might have a fuller council)

## General Reports

### Equity Commissioner(s)

OSVRSE Town Hall Update:

* OSVRSE is currently closed and being restructured, Office of the Dean of Students currently handling reports of sexual violence
* Have we received anything from SSMU to release? They were supposed to send out a message for all student groups to publish
* Office is hoping student groups handle reports and mediate the connection with the Dean’s Office
* Process:
  + Survivor reports to student group
  + Student group representative (in EdUS’ case, Equity Commissioners) connects survivor with Office of the Dean of Students via email
  + Survivor and ECs will handle the case together with case managers in the Dean’s Office
  + Student groups are requested to walk through the whole process with survivors, including being there physically if requested
* In the case that students don’t report to student groups and go to the OSVRSE website, they will be directed to a resource page with the Office of the Dean of Students, the Student Wellness Hub, etc.
* Very big flaws in this interim process
  + Students may not feel comfortable reporting incidents of sexual violence to other students
  + The idea of reporting to the Office of the Dean of Students can be intimidating
  + The dean suggested we don’t tell them we will work with the Dean’s Office if the student feels intimidated
  + Currently against this idea, students have the right to transparency and to know who will be handling their case
  + Council agrees ^
* No mechanism put in place for anonymous reports; students are required to identify themselves
  + Need help quickly brainstorming how we can support students during this interim process
* ECs will handle the coordination, just need ideas and some assistance from council as we may not be the only ones students connect with to report
  + Other resources other than OSVRSE are still available (OMR, <https://www.mcgill.ca/omr/> ,SACOMSS, <http://www.sacomss.org/wp/>) that can be used (?)
  + We plan to make it even more explicitly known that IRP form accepts reports of sexual violence/harrassment (**However**, SSMU has made it clear that the form is **not** survivor “based”)
  + Sexual-violence services that are based off-campus? Might be better because extensive training is needed to deal with some of these situations, and it may be difficult for other students (ECs) to support their peers through these experiences
  + Tianna will schedule a meeting with Susan and Nattamon to further discuss this before the break
* Want to work on establishing a shuttle bus (involve Mc Med, Law, and other buildings who might benefit from this) for students to get to the Education building for accessibility, however, working on OSVRSE is their main goal right now
  + Passing this initiative to SSMU (considering the unrealistic logistics and legality with the city of Montreal)
  + Perhaps we can work on supporting the current bus shuttle system = currently not very accessible (e.g. time intervals, not enough buses, first/last call)
  + McGill has services in place which will shuttle students up the hill, however, like the bus shuttle system, is not properly organised (OSD related, need to register)
  + <https://www.mcgill.ca/access-achieve/student-resources/forms/transport>

DEDIC Town Hall

* January 13th, Room 129 @ 2:30 - 4:00 pm
* Working with the Anti-Racism committee for tabling (will need help from council members as well, stay tuned!)

IRP

* No update from SSMU regarding meeting to change the IRP policy

Trainings

* If you missed a training, please stay tuned for the make up day(s) next semester

### U1 K/Elem Rep

…

### U1 Secondary Rep

Nothing to report.

### U1 Education in Global Contexts Rep

Town hall meeting

* Took place with Program Coordinator, Joe Levitan, went very well!
* He was candid in addressing concerns (e.g. not having an advisor)
* Hopefully this will lead to needs being met.

Program social

* I’m considering trying to organise a program social event for the Winter 2023 (U0s, U1s)
* What do I need to know?

Regards

* Happy holidays and good luck for stages and finals!

### U2 K/Elem Rep

Nothing to report.

### U2 Secondary Rep

Nothing to report.

### U3 K/Elem Rep

Question

* About the The Government of Québec Perspective Scholarship Program (“Programme de bourses Perspective Québec”, or PBPQ) and fourth practicum
* Who can they ask?
  + Tianna will be following up

### U3 Secondary Rep

Nothing to report.

### U4 K/Elem Rep

Nothing to report.

### U4 Secondary Rep

End of FE3 Brunch

* This Friday in class with Jill.
  + Everyone is excited for the end of this internship.
* Anna gave me the budget and I’ll start buying things tomorrow!
  + [Grocery run](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11z2kIbagckC_7aVpfScJq3vNkpsZM0-xQzpDSJ3J7LQ/edit?usp=sharing) → if you want to see what I’ll be buying!

### TESL Rep U1 & U2

The Wellness baskets

* They are a big hit!
* Would it be possible to have them out more frequently?
  + Currently 1 per month is working out nicely!

### TESL Rep U3 & U4

Questions

* Are we creating an FE3 committee like it was proposed last meeting?
* Possible end of FE3 event?
  + Go for it! Cohorts are figuring out their own things
  + Contact Anna about a budget

### SAPEK Rep

Therapy Dogs

* Organised a visit from a therapy dog on November 28th, 2022
* It was a success!

Apres Ski x EdUS

### MEdUSA Rep

Nothing to report.

### SSMU Rep

Questions

* Board of Directors information: should I be sharing that with the general council?
  + Just report on information from Legislative council

### Senator

Nothing to report.

### Speaker

Nothing to report.

## Closing

#### New Business

Spotify/Apple Music Premium Student Plan

* McGill isn’t an option anymore
* @SSMU Rep, please bring this up
  + This is because of the government of Quebec against Spotify

#### Next General Meeting

TBD (after the winter break)

#### Adjournment

Shawn Wassermuhl, Kelly Eden