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August 25, 2004
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Administration
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****Present:**** Emal Bariali, William Denton, Charles Dunham, Alan Harnum, Melissa Troemel, Nick Wesson, Edward White.

****Absent:**** Chris Dasanjh, Victoria Goodfellow, Susan Lai, Shelley Respondek, Lorraine Salt, etc...

Meeting called to order by Edward at 6:20pm.

****Reading and Approval of minutes from last meeting:****
William Denton Suggested a two week deadline for posting minutes, and that the posting be followed by an e-mail inviting corrections. M. Troemel voiced concerns about the public nature of online posting. William Denton suggested that unapproved minutes be clearly marked as a draft.

Officer's Reports
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Vice President (via Edward White)

Victoria Goodfellow to (schedule?) an ad hoc meeting with Wendy Duff to address part time student issues. Committees will be formed by mid September.

Committee Reports
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Academic Affairs Committee

Nick Wesson has spoken with the administration of the Rotman business faculty and the law faculty regarding their approach to course evaluations. He is currently working on a system to automatically generate forms for course representatives. William Denton suggested that if revised forms face enough bureaucratic resistance to delay them past December, the student

council could run a boycott of the evaluation (the leverage being that those forms are used for tenure review decisions).

Edward White doesn't like that professors have the clout to withhold the results of their forms from compass; he would prefer a selective boycott of those professors who don't release their results, though he would be reluctant to go through with it.

Nick Wesson expects that the forms will be successfully revised by December (despite some expected "foot dragging" on the part of the faculty), thus rendering the hypothetical boycott unnecessary. He also noted that if we were to push for the mandatory release of results, the faculty union could delay our efforts by at least a year, if not block it altogether.

Edward White suggested the creation of a separate form, unaffiliated with FIS, that could be used to obtain information on courses taught by instructors that don't release such data willingly.

Charles Dunham mentioned that FISTULA fills that role to some extent.

Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development Committee has several events already planned for the fall.

Thursday, September 23, 8–9am

Hockey hall of fame tour of resource centre.

Wednesday, September 29, 12–1pm

Brown bag lunch: How to look for unadvertised work.

Wednesday, October 13, 12–1pm

Brown bag lunch: Looking for work outside Canada.

Social Committee

Chris Dasanjh announced that the planning for Orientation week is very nearly finalized. He is soliciting help to get 50–60 TTC and UofT maps for new students. K. Cornforth has arranged for special t-shirts to be worn by volunteers during the events.

The date for the Hart House Farm retreat was changed to October <9th and 10th>, and the fee was raised to \$25.

Coffee night, arranged by Emal Bariali, will be held on Tuesdays.

Chris Dasanjh polled opinion on the location for pub night. The Graduate Student Union pub was favoured over the Bedford Academy. William Denton proposed that Nick Wesson's comment "I like pretending that we're real graduate students," be used in the promotional literature for pub night.

Web Committee

Charles Dunham informed the council that a rough draft of "A Student's Guide to FIS," and a schedule of events for Orientation Week will be posted to the Student Council website shortly.

Tech Fund Committee

Emal Bariali explained that Joe Cox suggested keeping the loan policy for the new laptops purchased with Tech Fund money very close to the current policy. Ab Gehani has the laptops ready (two wireless Centrino), and is awaiting instructions as to the specifics of this policy. One possibility for this policy is to give master's students the ability to "bump" professors and PhD students who are in line for a laptop up to one hour before the time of booking. This was proposed since the laptops are paid for with money levied from master's students. The general unofficial consensus puts the loan period at 3 hours with an unstated 30-minute buffer period to allow for travel time before and after a 3 hour class.

Still to be purchased:

- Software.
- Colour laser printer.
- Scanner.
- Digital video recorder.
- DVD burners.
- Firewire ports.
- Sink removal.

The PhD students, according to Emal Bariali, want to split the cost of a \$2000 digital video recorder 50/50 with the Tech Fund. There was some concern among the student council that said the PhD students would monopolize digital video recorder, but it was clearly voiced as a concern and not a statement of fact.

The Tech Fund Committee also plan to finance the removal of the sink in the basement computer lab in order to make space for another workstation. The estimate given to Emal Bariali was \$2,500. The council wanted to know why it would cost this much.

Members of the student council also suggested purchasing wireless routers for floors 2, 3, (5?), and 6. Presently, there are routers only on floors 1, 4, and 7. Though there may be some "bleed-through," to the other floors, it seems worthwhile to provide reliable wireless access to at least the 3rd floor, where several classes are held.

Emal Bariali explained that Ab Gehani hopes to install StarOffice and Mozilla on the workstations soon. Charles Dunham and others were unclear why StarOffice was chosen over Open Office, and why Mozilla was chosen over Firefox, but this did not seem to be a contentious issue.

Charles Dunham explained that when he had last talked to Ab Gehani about the student web server (purchased with Tech Fund money) Ab had been concerned about his ability to effectively administer a Linux computer, and therefore intended to run a Microsoft operating system on it with an Apache server. This caused some consternation among those presents, including William Denton and Alan Harnum, and a short brainstorming session yielded two possible solutions.

1. Purchase a computer to act as a Linux server, to be administered solely by FIS students. Alan Harnum noted the difficulty of running a server that is truly separate from the faculty, given that the faculty network would have to be interoperable with it.
2. Pay for Ab to attend Linux course(s)/workshop(s) with Tech Fund money.
3. Purchase a Linux operating system from a large vendor (i.e. Red Hat or SuSe) with a support package from that company. If Ab were to need help with administering the Linux computer, he could email/call support at no additional charge.

There was also a suggestion that the Tech Fund Committee purchase wireless PCMCIA cards for loaning to students with non-wireless laptops, and Emal Bariali has made contact with Sun Microsystems regarding a possible software purchase.

Ab Gehani sent an email to the Tech Fund Committee with several suggestions for purchases that included purchasing Windows XP licenses for 8 computers.

Emal Bariali also mentioned that the administration of FIS is only responsible for providing the bare minimum in terms of technology purchases. Hence, the Tech Fund is primarily responsible for keeping FIS adequately stocked and up-to-date.

There was no quorum so most of the above issues will be voted on in the next student council meeting.

Alumni Association

Edward White noted that the Alumni Association is planning a meet-and-greet with wine and cheese.

Graduate Student Union

Paula Clark has resigned from her position as a GSU representative because of external time constraints. Her presence will be missed. FISSC thanks Paula for her contributions.

Unfinished Business

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Contentious emails attached to the minutes of an earlier student council meeting have now been removed.

Alan Harnum had intended to provide an update on the status of the 'prospectus' website for second year master's students, but given the length of the meeting, he offered to email a summary to the student council instead. The offer was much appreciated.

Announcements

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The next student council meeting is tentatively scheduled for the second week of September.

****No changes. Passed by motion (September 22nd)****