

# MINUTES

## FACULTY OF INFORMATION STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL

### Meeting

Friday, 21 July 2006

Student Lounge, Claude Bissell Building

Present: Annetta Dunn, Alex MacCutchan, Udoy Gupta, Jess Posgate, Kathleen Schaeffer, Mike Tissenbaum, Vic Chung, Fadi Al-Buhairan, Allison Larsh, Geoffrey Little (Recorder), Carolanne Graham

Guests: Alex Gates (Museum Studies Program)

Regrets: Manifold

#### 1) Call to Order

Geoffrey called the meeting to order around 6:10 pm.

#### 2) Corrections to the previous meeting's Minutes

Corrections were noted and apologies made by Geoffrey

#### 3) Acceptance of the Minutes

The Minutes were accepted

#### 4) Guest

Alex Gates, a student in the Museum Studies Program, introduced himself and discussed recent events in the MS program respecting its merging into the Faculty of Information Studies.

Members of the Council went around the table and introduced themselves. Council was of the opinion that everyone was excited to have Museum Studies joining FIS.

## 5) Committee Reports

*President's Report:* Annetta reported that Lubna, the student who recently presented at a conference in Newfoundland and who also received sponsorship (\$300) from FISSC, had a productive time at the Conference and was grateful for the sponsorship. It was felt that sponsoring students to conferences was a worthwhile endeavour.

*Peer Mentorship, Professional Mentorship, Alumni Committee:* Hyun-duk Chung sent email reports which were read out at the meeting. They appear as follows:

*Peer Mentorship:*

*So far I've heard back from about 20 or so people who want to be mentors.*

*I've only just begun hearing from 'mentees' in the past week. Two have responded so far.*

*I am planning to do an e-mail inviting more mentees and mentors within the next couple of weeks. I'd also like to arrange a mentorship mingle opportunity during orientation, so I'm interested in the orientation events schedule.*

*Professional Mentorship:*

*I looked into what some other schools were doing. Dalhousie, UBC, and Western operate their professional mentorship through the student chapter of CLA. Some of the major activities include resume advice, job shadowing, etc. Of course, the thing with FIS is that some of these activities are always available without the mentorship component and so in designing a mentorship program, redundancy may be a problem. I will bring it up with the Alumni exec and see what options exist. Any ideas from FISSC would be welcome as well.*

*Alumni Exec:*

*I've gotten in touch with the Alumni Executive. We will be meeting in August to talk about plans for the coming year (although the specific date has yet to be set). If there are any suggestions/comments/feedback to the Alumni exec (eg. regarding job shadowing, etc.) this would be a good time for me to receive them.*

*Student Tech Fund:* Vic informed Council that a new pod of computers has been purchased and is in the process of being installed in the Inforum. There is also a new Mac computer (although no one seems to know the password).

Members of the Council had questions for Vic including how much money was currently in the fund; if Museum Studies students would pay into the tech fund; and if monies had to be spent within a certain time frame, given that some monies could revert back to their original source (i.e.: GSU). Vic will be consulting with Susan Brown and will keep us informed. It was also pointed out that other items were paid for out of the Student Tech Fund i.e., repairs to the electrical outlets in the Student Lounge.

## 6) Old Business

*Orientation:* Orientation Week planning is going full-speed ahead. A number of Council members are working on this and Alex MacCutchan has taken the lead on this issue along with Annetta and, to a smaller degree, Geoffrey. Everyone thanked Alex for his hard work. A lot of issues, especially in dealing with the Administration, have yet to be worked out but progress has been made on organizing the BBQ and the social night.

Council members were reminded that Registration will be an all day and evening event (going until 9 pm) so a generous number of volunteers will be needed. Members expressed a strong desire to help with this and other tasks. An email regarding specific tasks/needs will be sent out closer to the end of September.

*Compass:* There was no Compass report.

*FISSC Website:* Annetta reported that the new FISSC website will be ready towards the end of August. Ian Gibson has been working on this project with Mike Mac. and they have been using Wiki software in order to establish a tool wherein students may securely log on to the site in order to create discussion regarding courses, classes and professors. It was noted that someone will need to replace Ian on a fulltime basis as FISSC webmaster. The idea of hiring and paying on a contract basis a webmaster/mistress was discussed. The idea of also finding a willing student to handle the website was also discussed.

Fadi and Vic had questions regarding the discussion section of the website including the reasons behind its creation. Cost was brought up as a major factor by Vic, who informed council that to create a password/secure website a database of this nature would cost upwards of \$10,000. As well, many members of the Council felt that having such a section was unnecessary given that Compass was supposed to review and discuss courses and professors. There was also a concern that the site might be used inappropriately in slandering or disparaging professors or other students. Reference was made to an incident a few years back wherein a professor was possibly denied tenure because of informal remarks made on a student message board.

At this point the meeting became rather heated and it was resolved that all those who had an interest in discussing the issue further would meet informally after the meeting was adjourned. **UPDATE:** It was decided that the Wiki program will not be used given privacy and security issues. The new, improved and revised FISSC website should be going up shortly.

## 7) New Business

*FISSC name change:* Geoffrey brought up the issue that the Council's name had been changed to "Master of Information Studies Student Council" on the Orientation Package. He brought this up with

Judy Dunn considering that this was news to him and others on FISSC. Alex noted that this was done since FISSC (apparently) does not represent the entire student body on the Faculty, as Museum Studies and the FIS doctoral students have their own associations. Annetta also noted that Judy asked her if FISSC received ALL the GSU money allocated for the Faculty's student groups.

Judy Dunn has indicated that the Council's name is the jurisdiction of the Council and is happy to let FISSC settle this for itself. Council was of the opinion that our name was fine as it stands for the time being and that the issue would be re-visited when new members are inducted in the fall.

#### 8) Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned around 7:15 pm.