

**STUDENT COUNCIL**  
**Second Regular Meeting, 2009-10 Session**  
**September 25th, 2009**  
**1:00pm. - 2:00 pm**

**PRESENT:** Kim Stymest, Amanda Leclerc, Catherine Dunn, Cathryn Ziefle, Christine Deluca, Alex Whiteman, Amy Hoffmann, Christina Kim, Courtney Fisher, Michael Desjardins, Margaret Lam, Erika Heesen and Patricia Ayala.

**Recorder:** Patricia Ayala

**REGRETS:** Tracy Manning, Stella Palikarova, Carmen Lee

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm, with quorum established.

**1. Business arising from the Minutes:** None

**2. Call to order and acceptance of Agenda:** CARRIED

**3. President's report - Kim Stymest**

Kim proceeded to formally welcome the newly appointed members of the MISC. The council introduced themselves to the new members. She noted there are several positions still open that need to be filled, a point which will be discussed in greater detail during the course of the meeting.

Kim established that in order to run meetings more efficiently, the council will be following Robert's rules, as per the constitution. This way communication would be clear, there would be no talking over other members and it would benefit the overall flow of the meetings and minute taking.

The pressing matter at hand is the apathy from 1st year students in evident from the poor turnout during nominations and elections. Kim has discussed the matter with Dean Seamus Ross, Assistant Dean Judy Dunn and Associate Dean of Academic Joan Cherry, they too showed concern. Kim mentioned that it is possible that the apathy is stemming from a general discontent with the program's new structure, course content and format. This assumption is based on the comments she has personally received from several first year students. She prompted the council for input on this topic and asked for support to conduct a deeper inquiry. She asked for interested volunteers. Amanda and Margaret volunteered to inquire about the root of this problem and its potential solution. Kim will be attending a meeting with the Dean in order to further discuss this. Amanda and Margaret were also interested in attending this meeting.

Kim proceeded to debrief the council on the Concurrent MI/MMSt Program proposed by the faculty. This would consist of a combined MLIS or MIST with a MMS with a total of 26 courses instead of the usual 30 if done separately. The program is designed to be completed in 3 years. Kim asked for prompt feedback since it is scheduled to be approved by October 5th. There are several concerns that were brought to the table, such as: MMSt tuition is different than MI/MISSt tuition, the program allows students to take 4 classes outside of the faculty which can potentially result in 4 less courses taken in one of the two areas (MMSt and MIST/MI) the concern being students would graduate with a degree with a different level of completion. Catherine Dunn inquired if there is informative literature regarding these changes. Kim replied there is and that she would email it out by Friday (October 3rd) of next week. She also noted that

the Programs Committee is in communication with SGS and wanted the feedback of current students. Amy Hoffmann, Programs Representative, discussed this briefly with Kim since it is a last minute announcement.

#### **4. Treasurer's report.** Courtney Fisher.

Courtney reported that the orientation BBQ was under the proposed budget. The Social Committee spent \$42.16 less than proposed. Courtney passed around a copy of the upcoming year's budget so far for the Council to see. She also reported that the Merchandise committee has made \$242.00 so far, not including the "Cite it Right" t-shirts.

Other issues at hand remain Student Council fees. A lot of students have not paid their dues and Courtney urged that MISC members should set an example by paying their fees promptly if they haven't done so already. The money can be given directly to Courtney or to Erika Heesen during the MISC office hours or to Christine Chan at the student services office.

In the matter of spending by committees, Courtney noted that a proposed budget is needed and should be submitted to her otherwise the spending will not be approved. This does not include the Student Tech Fund, since their budget is completely separate than the Student Council's.

Amanda inquired about the possibility of giving iSchool paraphernalia to guest speakers for upcoming Professional Development events, that would result in the same amount of spending. For example, instead of giving a \$10 Starbucks gift card, give the participants a \$5 Starbucks card and an iSchool merchandise item with a \$5 value. Courtney and Amanda decided to meet to discuss this further. The council noted this was a great idea.

#### **5. Secretary's Report.** Patricia Ayala.

Patricia reported back on her deliverable from last meeting on anonymous voting software. There is no voting software available that would be time efficient and effective for MISC election purposes at this time. Unfortunately, the majority of the software requires the manual input of all email addresses concerned and/or the subscription to the service by each party. Realistically, students will not take the time to vote, let alone subscribe to the service and manually inputting addresses is too time consuming.

On the topic of voting Patricia echoed Kim's concern of first year student's apathy. The majority of the nominations received were by 2nd year students and those 1st year students who showed interest prior to the election, failed to nominate themselves or anyone else. The concern is also evident as no positions were contested, especially the most important ones as PD-Co Chair and Vice President, leading to all positions being acclaimed and thus no elections.

Finally, Patricia reported that from now on, MISC Agenda and minutes will follow the Faculty Council's format for added clarity.

#### **6. Reports by Committees:**

##### *a. Social Committee.* Cathryn Ziefle and Catherine Dunn.

The calendar of social events has been updated and will be made available. The committee informed the council that there are two upcoming pub nights for the month of October, one on October 1st, the other October 22nd. The location is still to be discussed. The committee will check with Margaret to avoid conflict with the Alumni pub night. The co-chairs reminded everyone that Word on the Street was

taking pace this Sunday. Catherine is contacting the Tourism Board of Toronto to hopefully have them onboard. Laura Mustard mentioned that NOW magazine is a good source of locations that are accessible.

b. *Student Tech Fund*. Michael Desjardins and Jacqueline Whyte-Appleby.

Jackie reported on her upcoming meeting with Dean Seamus Ross about a 5 year plan for the future. There is no set figure in the budget so far. The furniture for the Student Lounge has been ordered. Jackie explained some of the details on the lounge's renovation of the student lounge, for example: The current windows will be updated with frosting for privacy, the lounge will be painted within the next two weeks before everything is in place. She also asked the council if anyone knew of where the old couches could go or be moved too. Margaret noted that the KMDI program was in the midst of creating a student lounge so they could benefit from this.

Jackie also proposed to have an information party session to spread the word of what the Tech Fund committee does and is doing, such as software workshops. Amanda mentioned there is interest from students to take different types of software workshops to which Jackie replied they are open to suggestions.

c. *Professional Development*. Amanda Leclerc.

Amanda reported that the Academic Librarianship event is postponed indefinitely due to guest speaker's health issues. She restated the value of Ulla de Stricker's resume workshop and the interview workshop coming up in the academic year.

Amanda expressed her grave concern over the poor election turnout. Professional Development is an extremely demanding and time consuming position and she needs help. She encouraged the council to spread the word in order to fill the position with someone who is genuinely interested in it. She expressed that at this point it shouldn't matter whether the job is filled by a first or second year student and that if within a month the job is not filled the job-fair and resume critique events will be cancelled.

d. *Merchandise Committee*. Erika Heesen.

Erika reported that the t-shirt sales came to a total of 31 orders. Margaret volunteered to promote the t-shirt and other merchandise to Alumni members. The same text used in the MISC digest could be sent to the Alumni Association. Kathleen O'Brien advertises this in the iSchool homepage. Erika's contact information is also on the Twitter account, which proved successful as someone contacted her for a t-shirt order. Erika has also ordered a display case which will be custom made to match things around the soon to be remodelled student lounge.

e. *Academic Affairs Committee*. Stella Palikarova. Reported by Kim.

'Academic Affairs Representative' is the new name for Class Representatives. Kim has been working closely with Stella and the new procedures to fulfill the role of Academic Affairs. Catherine has been helping fill the forms that are now being distributed in classrooms.

f. *Alumni Association*. Margaret Lam.

Margaret reported that the Dean briefly mentioned the committee at the end of the assembly. She is concerned there is a lack of communication of information. Kathleen O'Brien is chairing the communication for the Alumni event. The tentative dates are Oct 7th/8th. So far there is no news from the president of the Alumni Association about this.

g. *Programs Committee*. Amy Hoffmann – No report

h. *Life and Times Committee*. No representatives.

i. *Information Services Committee*. Christina Kim

No meeting has taken place so far, so Christine will have something to report on the next MISC meeting.

j. *GSU*. No representatives - No report. The council restated the importance of the GSU reps to the new MISC members. Kim will be sending out the GSU digest for now.

k. *Committee on Standing*. Margaret Lam – Did not attend first meeting due to illness. Margaret is going to contact Areti to get the details of this meeting.

## **6. New Business - None**

## **7. Question Period**

The council reinstated the concern over the poor turnout of elections. There were points for and against, yet the bottom line is the positions must be filled. A proposed solution was for student council members to go into the new Core Course lectures and speak to students encouraging them to run for student council. This way, all first year students would get to hear the announcement simultaneously and those first year students who are now part of the council could encourage their fellow classmates. Christine mentioned it would be a good idea to do this sooner than later since the work load will be greater in the coming weeks. Patricia asked for a show of hands for people who would be interested in doing this (promote MISC positions). Christine, Alex and Leslie volunteered.

The Alumni event should be properly announced because the Merchandise Committee is also organizing something and would want to avoid conflict.

Catherine inquired about posting things to the MISC website. Michael responded he could do that and/or eventually create accounts for different committees to add things as they see fit.

## **8. Announcements - None**

## **9. Deliverables**

a. Kim- Send out email with information on Concurrent program and ask for feedback by next Friday.

Email Twitter link to Erika. b. Christine, Leslie and Alex - Visit classrooms and make announcements.

c. Margaret - Inquire about KMDI needing furniture except, for the piece going to student council office, come up with a schedule for office hours.

No time for office hours yet, but will be set. Erika has set office hours and Amy volunteered office hours for programs.

d. Michael - Asked for people to contact him to update the MISC webpage.

e. Erika - Following up on t-shirt purchase via Twitter, upload photos of merchandise to the MISC website and follow up with Margaret to potentially distribute iSchool paraphernalia in Alumni events.

## **10. Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.