

Masters of Information Student Council
Fourth Regular Meeting, 2009-10 Session
October 30th, 2009
2:06 – 3:07pm

PRESENT: Kim Stymest, Amanda Leclerc, Catherine Dunn, Cathryn Ziefle, Margaret Lam, Erika Heesen, Rustam Dow, Christine Deluca, Gillian Kwiecien, Alex Whiteman, Christina Kim, Laura Mustard, Michael Desjardins, Cybil Stephens, Amy Hoffmann, Effie.

Recorder: Patricia Ayala (Until 2:30pm), Christine Deluca

REGRETS: Tracy Manning, Stella Palikarova, Suzanne Leblanc, Carmen Lee.

The meeting was called to order at 2:05pm, with quorum established.

The council welcomed new members and the council introduced themselves to each other.

It was established that the council would follow Robert's Rules for meetings, as stated in the previous meeting.

1. Business arising from the Minutes:

None. **CARRIED**

2. Call to order and acceptance of Agenda

Christine moved the GSU report before other committee reports. **CARRIED**

3. President's report. Kim Stymest

Kim reported on the Town Hall meeting response Group. So far solutions have been discussed and will be reported publicly shortly. The intention is to look for solutions in the short, medium and long term. She also commented on the success of the 1st Year Student pre-meeting, stating she was pleased with how this benefited the Town Hall Meeting organized by the Dean.

The amalgamation of the Museum Studies SC and MISC was put forth by the Dean, but a decision was made to vote against this for several reasons; including but not exclusive to, finances, under-representation of Museum Studies students' interests, etc. Additionally, the GSU has been consulted and couldn't sanction this decision since the programs don't share the same program division (i.e. Museum Studies is considered Humanities, whereas, Information is considered Social Science).

4. Vice- President's report. Christine Deluca

Christine expressed the interest of several students on the creation of a peer editing strategy to supplement the academic writing centre. She mentioned there are only 4 appointments allocated per academic term. Several of the council members asked for clarification and expressed their reservations. While it sounds like a good idea for students to have more options, it doesn't seem as something that should be covered by the students themselves rather than by the university. Finally, Christine said she would look into the constitution to see if this overlapped with our mandate.

The VP also commented on the \$138 discrepancy charged to Student Accounts. The Dean will reverse the charge of this and everyone's account will be credited since this was a university mistake at SGS.

Christine expressed her content in the success of the Town Hall meeting in terms of consistency, communication and content.

5. Treasurer's report. Courtney Fisher.

Courtney passed around a report on the budget so far, accounting for expenses and totals. Additionally, she expressed concern over student council fee collection and payment. Approximately 50% of the students (first and second years together) have yet to pay their student council fees. This led to a discussion among the council on what would be the best strategy to resolve this problem. Several members suggested that a good idea would be to institutionalize the fees, in other words make them mandatory or include them as part of the tuition to avoid this problem in the future. While this is an idea worth looking into, it's not realistic at this point. Christine will look into the matter of making student council fees mandatory and part of tuition fees.

6. Secretary's Report. Patricia Ayala.

Patricia is one of the co-organizers of the student conference this year and mentioned it will be taking place. She will update the council once the Dean has accepted the proposal and provide them with details. This year's conference theme is "Access" and will take place on March 19th-20th 2010.

7. Webmaster's Report. Michael Desjardins

Michael reminded those who haven't done it yet, to please send him their biography, picture and position so he can update the MISC website.

8. Reports by Committees:

a. Social Committee. Cathryn Ziefle and Catherine Dunn.

The social committee was happy to report that there are two upcoming events in November (two pub nights) one Nov 12th the other Nov. 26th. Additionally, there is a Marlie's game being organized for November 21st. The price for this event is \$12.

The holiday party is also coming up. It will take place December 11th. The space for the event is still being discussed, it may potentially be held at the Duke of York Pub. The Social Committee is checking accessibility standards at the venue. Other venues are also being considered; the council had several suggestions. The Madison is another possibility. Jacqueline suggested to state this event is exclusive to students who have paid their student council fees.

Catherine gave an account of the Ghost tour. 15-16 people attended it and she would consider doing it again. This event was also a success and it was hosted by Muddy York Tours.

Finally, the Social Committee commented on the success of the past events. Their last pub night at the Old Nick produced a great turnout from students in both years and from all streams. It reflected the diversity of the faculty. They are hoping to coordinate 2 pub nights per month.

b. Student Tech Fund. Jacqueline Whyte-Appleby.

Jackie commented on the student lounge renovation being in progress. Furniture is being delivered November 12th so the room may be closed during this. On November 25th there will be a joined iTea to celebrate the renovation and treats will be provided.

At the request of the Dean, the Media Lab in room 119 will be moved to the 3rd floor. Room 119 will be turned into Matt Ratto's Critical Making lab. Furthermore, the Dean will be renovating the cataloging room on the 3rd floor for the Media Lab. A vote may be in order to decide whether the Tech Fund will contribute to electrical work needed for this to happen.

The Tech Fund hopes to run information sessions on different computer programs for students in January. In September they hope to provide tutorials for all students on the new equipment that will be brought in. Finally, the Tech Fund would like to implement a way for students to approach them for money.

c. Professional Development – Amanda Leclerc and Cybil Stephens.

The PD committee reminded everyone that the Resume Critique is coming up soon and urged the council to move the meeting of January 29th 2010 since the job fair is taking place that day.

d. Merchandise Committee – Erika Heesen.

Erika gave an update on sales, there is a shipment of t-shirts that came in and 39 were sold leaving a profit of \$156. There are 8 awaiting pick up and 10 still available for sale. Street reference sold 6 mugs and the profit was donated to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

The display case ordered a while back came in with minor damages and is currently being repaired. This will be part of the lounge when the smart/white/cork boards are installed on the wall.

In January the t-shirt sale will be replaced with zipper hoodies. Erika reminded everyone that the merchandise is on the website, the digest and in posters everywhere in the Bissell building.

e. Academic Affairs Committee. Stella Palikarova and Rustam Dow.

Rustam will be assisting in Academic Affairs matters for the duration of the academic year.

f. Alumni Association. Margaret Lam.

The Alumni Party has been deferred until early December; it will be combined with the iTea on December 2nd. Wine and food will be provided. Margaret reported that placements are being organized for the job-shadowing program. An information session will be held soon. The shadowing will take place in January. PD reminded everyone that several events are taking place in January as a precaution to avoid date conflicts. Margaret will suggest that the shadowing take place in February to avoid any problems and for the scheduling benefit of students. The event will be advertised in November.

g. Programs Committee. Amy Hoffmann – No report.

h. Admissions Committee. Tracy Manning – No report

i. Information Services Committee – Christine.

There was an audit done on the faculty IT services. The main concern is the lack of IT staff. HR will be posting 3 positions; 1 managerial and 2 supportive positions to help alleviate this. The managerial position has been updated to include the overseeing of the Inforum and iTeas. Moreover, there will be a ticketing system implemented for IT needs. There is one in place already for statistical purposes. This will not eliminate the visibility of the IT staff. This is something that might affect 1st year students – it was not discussed how. The faculty and the Dean will not get priority on the matter. The inforum will not be giving out tickets since the system is automated.

j. GSU. Gillian Kwiecien.

Jill reported that Poverty Free Ontario is holding an event on November 5th at 1pm. This campaign is dedicated to lower tuition fees. The university's administration has assured students they will not be penalized if they decide to attend in case they have assignments or tests during that day.

Another matter of concern has been the increase in University of Toronto library borrowing fees for research readers. The GSU emphasized that libraries are publicly funded and interlibrary borrowing for students of other institutions is now more expensive per resource. This could have a negative affect on the University, as a whole.

k. Committee on Standing. Margaret Lam – No report

l. Life & Times Committees. Suzanne Leblanc– No report

9. New Business

Amanda asked the council for gifts for faculty support staff (Bert, Tony, Christine and others). Kim responded that the council had budgeted for custodial staff so we would need to see where the money could be allocated for this.

Effie mentioned that students are concerned that the faculty is not using university facilities to train people and asked for a campaign for extra opportunities. The council responded that the Dean is already looking into this and that the students should wait until the Town Hall Response group documents are released.

Catherine mentioned there is a problem with undergraduate Rotman students in the building. They are loud and disrupting classes. Several students have emailed the administration regarding this matter.

10.Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:07pm