

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
February 9th, 2012; 5:00-6:30 pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

Meeting Minutes

Present: Victoria Baranow, Jessica Gallinger, Shawna Delgaty, Coralee Leroux, Pam Murray, Emily Porta, Amy Weir, Brooke Gardhouse, Jen White, Sarah-Anne de Groot, Laura Chadwick, Stephanie Quail, Lindsay Timmins, Lindsay Gibb, Heather Buchansky, Koren Siddles, Val Stevens, Fatima Elzaibak, Sanjin Kuduzomovich, Claudio Munoz, Andrew Zanier, David Jorjani, Adam Fox

Official Regrets: Melissa Bell, Katherine Cuyler, Martin Driessen, Sara Allain

Absent: Simren Singh

Recorder: Shawna Delgaty

The meeting was called to order at 5.06 with quorum established

1. Approval of Agenda – Carried.
 - a. Items added without objections by Shawna, Victoria.
2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes January 12th, 2012
 - a. Seconded: Jessica.
 - b. Vote: Carried.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes – None.
4. Executive Committee reports:
 - a. President (Victoria)
 - i. Fundraising and Awareness Campaign Update: The campaign was successful and the campaign raised just over \$1100, including the \$500 matching donation from the MISC. About 40 people came to the iTea. Victoria would like to hear feedback on the event.
 1. Ross wants to know if it's a one-time thing or they are thinking of making it a yearly event. He would like to know if students would make it a yearly event.
 2. There is some discussion about when would be the best time of the year to hold the event – January, September, October, or November were all discussed. Some council members noted that having it at the beginning of the winter semester would be better because students will have realized just how stressful the program is, whereas in September they're not thinking about dealing with stress or getting to know other students and whether they may be in distress.
 3. Stephanie thought that it was beneficial to learn about the services at U of T since not all students know about the mental health services. Victoria recommended having CAPS or Health Services at the Clubs and Associations fair in the fall semester, followed by the iTea and/or fundraiser campaign in January with a more comprehensive awareness aspect.

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
February 9th, 2012; 5:00-6:30 pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

4. Victoria mentioned that there were many students at the iTea that she'd never seen before, which was encouraging.
- ii. Logo Designs – Victoria sent some feedback to the logo designer, Chris, and he made some changes and sent back another e-mail with some changes.
 1. The logo is currently designed using U of T's colours, which is not allowed, so he will have to adjust them to comply with the rules. Ross would like to know when the logos will be available to purchase on MISC merchandise.
 2. Victoria: The decision to put the logo on MISC merchandise will be up to the Merch chair in the future. As of right now the iSchool logos are used which can be sold to the wider iSchool community and not just MI students. The MISC logo might make more sense for website use or any events that the MISC sponsors, such as the iSchool Student Conference.
 3. Victoria proposes that we give Chris a gift of a \$20 gift certificate for LCBO and a shot glass from MISC.
 4. MOTION to give Chris the above-mentioned gift.
 5. Seconded: Val.
 6. Vote: Unanimous – Carried.
 - iii. Jaclyn Derlatka has resigned from her position as Faculty Council Representative. Victoria would like to call for volunteers for Faculty Council Rep. There were no immediate volunteers, so Victoria and Jessica explained the role. Pam Murray volunteered.
 1. MOTION to appoint Pam Murray to the position of Faculty Council Rep.
 2. Seconded: Laura Chadwick.
 3. Vote: Unanimous – Carried.
 - iv. Victoria proposes that MISC create a Mission Statement for inclusion on our website. Victoria looked at the mission statements of other student councils, including UWO.
 1. Victoria would like to write a mission statement and asks for suggestions to include in a draft for council's approval. She suggested "representation". Jessica added "advocacy". Val wants to know if there is anything in our mission statement about interacting with other bodies within the Faculty of Information. Other recommendations included aspects of academic, professional, social, and collaboration.
 2. Victoria: Should we have anything specific in our mission statement about sponsoring the mandate of "information-specific" groups.
 3. Stephanie suggests that we "promote and fund student activities that promote information-related activities". Victoria mentioned

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
February 9th, 2012; 5:00-6:30 pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

adding something about promoting and funding activities to improve the information community.

4. Jessica suggests that we prepare a draft of a couple of mission statements to vote on next time.
- v. Core course feedback: Committee has asked for a formal statement from the MISC about core courses. Seamus has asked for feedback. Victoria mentioned that people are unsatisfied with core courses taking up 25% of your degree; (2) Too much repetition; (3) Victoria suggested compressing the 1001, 1002, 1003 into one course – 4 weeks for each subject – and there would be one assignment for each section; (4) Victoria also suggested keeping the workshops because it seems that people like them.
1. Val suggests that if they follow this path that they offer students with no background in these areas support material so they don't feel adrift.
 2. Jessica suggested inviting Seamus to a MISC meeting to hear student feedback. She doesn't know if we have to choose a specific direction for the program, but we can illustrate our concerns.
 3. Emily Porta agrees and would like to have a two-way dialogue with Seamus.
 4. Stephanie suggested that instead of having Seamus come to a meeting, we set up a focus group with 2 or 3 students from each stream.
 5. Victoria offered to see if Seamus and Siobhan could come to such a meeting, hopefully before March or in early March and will report back to council.
- b. Vice President (Jessica)
- i. Students will no longer be eligible for an exemption based on course work done in undergraduate studies. This policy came into effect 2 weeks ago; no announcement was made to students. They have not given any reasons for this. The understanding is that the Associate Dean has decided effective immediately that there will be no more exemptions.
 - ii. Student Services will not be handling the intake and pick ups of course work anymore. Jessica is wondering how this is being handled, and Jessica has seen a shift to electronic submissions.
 1. David: For one of the 1005 workshops, students were supposed to submit a final paper to student services. Professor Phillips will not accept electronic submissions, so students are supposed to submit papers to his office during reading week.
 2. Lindsay thinks they should have implemented this next year so that the syllabi could reflect the change.
 3. Ross wants to know the reason for the timing of the policy. While he understands that the staff members handle a lot of paper, it seems like a hasty decision.

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
February 9th, 2012; 5:00-6:30 pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

4. Jessica thinks that, while this was handled poorly, this isn't something that students are asking to change.
 5. Laura would like them to come with a way for students to hand in late assignments.
 6. Victoria offered to follow up on this to see if there is any background information on the change the next time she sees the Dean.
- c. Treasurer (Sara)
- i. I. Victoria's Update: Internal Audit Department approved our exemption request. They gave us three items to improve: (1) Keep better records of merchandise sales; (2) Always get receipts for the amounts that we give for (for example) the iSchool conference; (3) Get receipts, not just contracts, for the Orientation BBQ payment.
- d. Secretary (Shawna) – No Report
- e. Webmaster (Martin) – No Report
5. Reports by Committees:
- a. Professional Development (Heather and Pam)
 - i. Recap of Employer Showcase
 1. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out for the Employer Showcase. Employers were very pleased. There were student complaints about the fact that there are no public libraries, but Vaughan Public Library cancelled because of the weather. Toronto Public Library did not respond to requests this year. 120 students came this year, and 150 came last year. Some were kept away by the weather. Heather and Pam mailed out thank-you cards, and received some thank-yous for the thank you cards.
 2. Jen pointed out that there it would be helpful to have someone from HR at most booths whose employees can't necessarily offer you resume advice. Pam agrees but thinks it's the organizations' call regarding who they send. Val suggests that PD put something in the e-mail suggesting that they put something in the e-mail asking for HR or librarians or both.
 - ii. Upcoming: Interview dos and don'ts workshop.
 - b. Social Committee (Koren and Lindsay G.)
 - i. Pub night and crafts event review: Pub night was mildly attended. Crafts event was run during ROCM. Only three people came to the crafts event.
 - ii. Upcoming – Karaoke night is next Thursday, 9-11 at XO. Near Bloor and Christie station. XO only has a 20-person room. Right now, 15 people have RSVP'd to our event. If for some reason more people show up, there are additional rooms there. There are no accessible washroom spaces at XO. If anyone knows of an accessible karaoke location, please let Social know so that we can change it.
 - iii. End of the year pub night was anticipated for April 12th. Last year's pub night was on a Saturday and the last MISC meeting is on the 19th. There

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
February 9th, 2012; 5:00-6:30 pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

was some discussion about whether or not to change the year-end meeting to Saturday, the 14th with the final pub night immediately after, and the decision was made to change the date of the final meeting to April 14th with the final pub night immediately afterwards.

- c. Academic Affairs (Melissa) – Report by Victoria.
 - i. Update – 28 of the class rep forms have been collected and Heather MacNeil will be sending a reminder to Faculty members to get the forms in. Potential issues arising in one course, but we don't know what they are yet and a meeting is planned for next week.
 - d. Merchandise Committee (Coralee)
 - i. Update – Sales last month of \$100+, sales to date of over \$1000, buttons came in last week.
 - ii. Pre-order sales survey has gone out, and a fair number of people responded. The most favoured item were zip-up hoodies. Most respondents said they would be willing to pay more if the items were of higher quality. The new hoodies will be American Apparel hoodies. Sales will be the two weeks after Reading Week. Coralee has set up a Google doc to help people with sales, which she will send out in the next couple of days.
6. Reports by Representatives
- a. Faculty Council (Victoria, Jessica, Katie, Adam, Amy, Sarah-Anne, Fatima, David, Sanjin, Andrew, Shawna, and one more to be determined) – No Report
 - i. Note – meeting of Friday, January 27th 9-11am was ‘postponed’ (no new date has been announced yet).
 - b. Programs Committee Representative (Sanjin)
 - i. Further alignment of courses and overall curriculum with ALA criteria – ALA is placing a lot more pressure on programs to align with their criteria. However, this is ambiguous because we have to align with 6 seemingly vague learning outcomes or objectives.
 - ii. Transition towards concentrations (parameters and implications) rather than paths.
 - 1. Two current model concentrations
 - a. Knowledge, Media, Design
 - b. Culture and Technology
 - iii. Two current concentrations that are going to be passed are KMD and CT (see above). There are four reasons for doing this: (1) Advertising; (2) Admissions; (3) Requirements; (4) Students can add concentrations to their transcript. Apparently this can also help manage class sizes, because concentrations can only accept 30 students.
 - 1. There was much discussion: Jessica wanted to know if the program plans to change its definition of itself as a “professional program” because professional students pay twice as much tuition and offer half as many options for funding and the above proposed

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
February 9th, 2012; 5:00-6:30 pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

- concentrations appear to be more research oriented rather than professional.
2. Sanjin says that the “concentrations” are in the move to become closer to “fields”.
 3. Victoria wants to know if it would be fair to say from all of the discussion that: (1) these two particular proposed concentrations don't make sense given our current degree structure and ‘paths’, (2) it makes more sense to do the current paths and turn those into concentrations, (3) we need more clarification on how it works. Most council members expressed some agreement.
- iv. Two new course proposals – Sanjin has tentative syllabi for these two courses:
1. Design and Construction of Controlled Vocabularies by Prof. Jens-Erik Mai
 2. Reading and Readers in North America and Around the World by Prof. Keren Dali

[Due to students leaving, we technically lost our quorum at 18.28 pm. After this the meeting was run as a discussion to provide informational updates, and no decisions could be made. Notes were taken below so that the updates could be passed on to other council members who had to leave.]

- c. Student Tech Fund Committee (Stephanie, Claudio, and Emily)
 - i. iTea Review – Last week's iTea wasn't a good turnout, possibly because it was during OLA. Electronic feedback currently has received 165 responses, and this is before Museum Studies students have been sent their surveys. Museum Studies surveys will go out next week and they will be analyzed over reading week. Another reminder to complete the survey will be sent out again in hopes of garnering even more feedback.
 - ii. Workshops Update – Workshops are designed, but they are waiting for someone to teach it.
 - iii. Additional Updates – Hopefully computers will be installed by the end of the month, but Ivan is occupied with iSchool conference.
 - iv. Microwave is broken and Tech Fund will be buying a new one.
- d. Graduate Student Union (Jen, Brooke, and Jessica)
 - i. January Meeting – Last GSU meeting, there was a presentation by BikeChain, Downtown Legal Services Centre. BC does free bike repairs and rentals. DLSC provides free legal services to U of T students.
 - ii. National Day of Action was Feb 1. Walked down Bay Street and blocked traffic, chanted angry slogans. Jessica noted that hopefully tuition would be dramatically decreased as a result.
 - iii. Strike deadline has been set for 24 February. Susan Brown has assured Shawna that students' progress will not be affected, and there are “contingency plans” in place in the event of a strike. If professors choose

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
February 9th, 2012; 5:00-6:30 pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

not to cross the picket line, they are responsible for delivering the course in another manner.

- iv. \$5 of your student fees goes to OPIRG. Students can opt out of this, but you have to go to the office and they will write you a cheque.
- e. Life & Times Committee (Laura) – No Report
- f. MISC-MSGSA Liaison (Amy)
 - i. Repatriation/Space Committee Update – Jessica suggested at the last meeting that we start investigating some sustainable initiatives, so Amy arranged a meeting with the sustainability office to discuss things like LED bulbs, which need to be replaced every five years instead of every year; new light fixtures, which would mean that we have to have something a bit more substantial replaced, if the current fixtures can't be fitted with LED bulbs. The building/property manager would have to do a walk-through with sustainability people, so this would take a bit more work and time. Motion-occupancy sensors (Victoria asked for them to look into the motion sensors that do not affect hearing aids) so the lights go out at night automatically in the student lounge. Trinity College just started a "Lights Out" program in the last year with lights out, heating off, and they have reduced their energy consumption by 25% just by doing that. Motion-occupancy sensors cost about \$800. New faucets for water. Pitcher and glasses for meetings. Water cooler options – apparently there is a department that set up a sink with a water line attached to a water cooler. Stephanie thinks this has been ruled out by environmental assessment. Organics assessment: If viable, we can be provided a green bin and everything else will be taken care of by someone else. Shutting off computer monitors has to be approached through tech services. Sustainability services emphasizes that this does something for both the environment and the faculty's image. There is also an organization on campus that offers incremental funding for green initiatives.
- g. Committee on Standing (Simren) – No Report
- h. Alumni Association Committee (Valerie)
 - i. Update – OLA/Alumni Night had a good turnout. Job shadowing program sign-up on Monday at noon on our website. MISC e-mail is going out this week. They have 94 hosts, some with multiple options. They have a new lecture – Amber Wilde Memorial Lecture – this was packed. Stephen Abram was the speaker.
- i. Admissions Committee (Lindsay T.) – No Report
- j. Information Services Committee (Ross and Sara) – No Report