

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
March 1st, 2012; 5:00-6:30 pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

Minutes

Present: Victoria Baranow, Jessica Gallinger, Shawna Delgaty, Sara Allain, Andrew Zanier, Lindsay Gibb, Simren Singh, Katie Cuyler, Lindsay Timmins, Koren Siddles, Brooke Gardhouse, Pam Murray, Sarah-Anne de Groot, Val Stevens, Adam Fox, Laura Chadwick, Coralee Leroux, Amy Weir, David Jorjani, Melissa Bell, Mat Calverley, Claudio Munoz, Sanjin Kuduzomovich, Stephanie Quail
Official Regrets: Emily Porta, Heather Buchansky,
Absent: Martin Dreissen, Fatima Elzaibak,

Meeting called to order at 5.06 pm

1. Approval of Agenda
Seconded: Sara Allain
Vote: Passed - Unanimous
2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes February 9th, 2012
Seconded: Jessica Gallinger
Vote: Passed - Unanimous
3. Business Arising from the Minutes – None
4. Executive Committee reports:
 - a. President (Victoria)
 - i. Kelly Lyons and Dean Seamus Ross attended the beginning of the student council meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the program. Sara Allain prepared a list of questions generated from the confusion about the proposed program changes at the last meeting. Kelly's comments regarding these questions: -- No common "core" when she arrived at the iSchool. One of the things that faculty got excited about was the core and the fact that we have more in common than is different. Common knowledge base that unites us. And then beyond that students travel down a "path", but one of the negatives of the "path" system was that "paths" don't exist in the university system, so your transcript doesn't reflect the fact that you have followed a particular "path". This also means that the faculty can't advertise that you can come and study IS&D, ARM, LIS, etc. with the faculty. The opportunity came on the heels of the McLuhan celebration to have a new "focus area" on Culture & Technology, so the faculty decided to create a new "path", which forced them to realize all the negative parts about "paths". They then started exploring the "concentrations" because they can advertise, etc., and students can say, for example, "I have concentrated in..." etc. So the faculty decided to begin with concentrations.
What are the benefits of having concentration? For students -- Can talk to employers about what you've studied, specialist students will be able to emphasize. For faculty -- Donors contributing to a particular part of studies; balancing class sizes; add more concentrations more easily as

demands come from employers, etc.; advertising.

Val: Why is it easier to add concentrations instead of new paths?

Seamus: Paths don't actually exist in the university structure. A path can't be advertised and put into the public domain, because as a university it doesn't exist. It used to be that there was something called the Ontario Council of Graduate Studies, and they would send in reviewers to assess the faculty and what we wanted to teach in. That has been disbanded, and the new council called the Quality Council, and that council has certain responsibilities to the university. They have the responsibility to create concentrations to the faculties. Currently the "paths" align perfectly with the "fields". But FI can't add a new "field" without going through a process that could take two years.

Kelly: FI could add a new path, but adding a "field" is very complicated and adding a concentration is not.

What is the timeline for implementation? The two new concentrations that we want to start this coming fall are for 2012-2013. The documentation that is being devised right now for all streams is going through the various councils right now.

Re. Enrollment limits: The two proposed concentrations have 30 student limits, and will be scalable depending on the program. FI will be trying to figure out a balance of faculty members and student numbers within the program. So if FI know they are doing well in one particular concentration, they can advertise and know that they will have space.

Will students have to decide during the application process? FI will encourage students to apply with a concentration in mind. Right now the process is messy because students don't have to declare paths. So in this case there is a change, because students will be encouraged to apply with a concentration in mind. The move will be towards students applying to concentrations.

Jessica: So does this mean in the future that some concentrations will be more competitive than others?

Kelly: Yes. The ultimate goal over time will be to figure out how many students want to move concentrations and then have a buffer space, so if they got into one concentration and wanted to switch into another they will have the opportunity to do that.

Seamus: Is troubled by the imbalance in the paths as they currently are, and the fact that there are so many students in some classes and so few in others. Would like to ultimately achieve a class limit of 30, or class sizes in the 20s, instead of class sizes of 30-50. This will take a couple of years to achieve. Faculty has looked at a couple of ways to solve this problem, and one of the ways is by encouraging students to explore other streams.

Kelly: Thanks we also have an obligation to make sure that the expectations for future careers can be met. So taking as many students as possible in one "path" just because they can is concerning.

Jessica: I'm still concerned about how easy it will be for students to move between concentrations.

Mat: Are prospective students going to realize that there are different expectations?

Simren: If you have the opportunity to advertise the other concentrations more, then it may work itself out in terms of who applies to the different streams.

Kelly: It's not necessarily a negative that you can't move between streams. However, the goal is to keep a percentage of the places open so that students can move. As things shift in the work force, people will start to shift too.

What happens if students don't get admitted to their chosen concentration? The other option that FI is going to try to keep open is the option not to declare a concentration, and there will be students who take a smattering of courses throughout the concentrations. So the goal will be to also have a "concentration-less" MI.

Jessica: Will the Culture & Technology degree be a thesis-based degree, and if so can we get more funding as found in other research-based graduate degrees? How does this work in a professional degree?

Seamus: Has already tried to get more places at the research master's degree. Was able to get more places at the doctoral level, and so was unable to get more spaces at the master's level. C&T is not intended to be a research/thesis degree, but a research concentration; there are lots of different ways and abilities to talk intelligently about how culture & technology are transforming society. Emerging technologies are changing the way we are as a society, and these graduates will be able to make valuable professional contributions.

Kelly: So it's a course-based master's degree, and in our existing concentrations/paths.

David: Right now we have a thesis option... Will that still exist?

Seamus: FI will still have a thesis option. So you could either do a thesis option with a concentration, or a concentration-less MI.

Will admission to a concentration impact course selection? The intention is not at all. In fact, if anything, there may be opportunities to take new courses. Independent of any concentration efforts, we are also working very hard to increase the number of electives available to students.

Jessica: If you're planning on implementing this for next year, the website should be expanded if you're asking students to commit to a concentration for the next two years.

Kelly and Seamus: Agreed.

Kelly: Student Services team does an excellent job of making sure students get what they need before graduation, liaising with faculty, making sure people aren't stuck, etc. and that will continue.

Will students be able to enroll in more than one concentration? Yes, absolutely that will be possible. Any future concentrations will go through MI programs committee, Faculty Council, programs committee, etc.

Lindsay T: How will the collaborative programs fit with concentrations?

Kelly: Just as they do now with paths, they would be separate things that

you can do.

Adam: Will there be an expectation in the new concentration system that there will be more enrollment controls, etc. so, for example, students in the LIS concentration will get priority in LIS courses.

Kelly: Yes, absolutely.

Seamus: All students who declare a path get the courses that they want.

Adriana works very hard at this. FI has more faculty joining us next year and more people who are senior in libraries have proposed courses. FI is trying to get key professionals in the field.

At this point Seamus and Kelly left the meeting and we continued without them.

- ii. Resignation of Jen White from position of Graduate Student Union Representative – Motion to appoint Matthew Calverley to the position of Graduate Student Union Representative
Seconded: David Jorjani
Vote: Passed - Unanimous
- iii. Meeting with the Dean and Session on March 7th, at 5pm
 1. Victoria and Jessica met with the Dean 2 weeks ago on Wednesday and spoke with him about the issue of handing in assignments at student services. They will be accepting assignments at student services and will be implementing a new system in the summer. They also discussed issues with core courses and how MISC wanted to open up the discussion to all students. The Dean was very receptive to this idea, and they made the arrangement to send out an invitation jointly to a “town hall”. The initial email was supposed to go out on Family Day, but since he has been travelling he has not been able to send out the email. The Dean has decided to make 2 sessions (Wednesday, March 7 at 5 pm and Thursday, March 8 at noon) so that more students can come. Victoria’s email is drafted and ready to go as a supplementary invitation once the Dean has sent his. Shawna will be taking minutes at the meeting on Wednesday, but will not be able to attend the Thursday meeting. Sara Allain will be taking minutes at the Thursday meeting.
 2. Jessica will discuss report to be written – Jessica will create a report about student response to the core courses. The structure of the sessions will be approximately: (1) First half will be regarding student feedback, and (2) Second half will be outlining the Dean’s suggestions regarding the core courses.
- iv. Mission Statement – The mission statement is essentially the same as the one Victoria sent around, but she needs input as to whether or not to use “FI” or “iSchool”.
An informal vote was held regarding choices (a) or (b). (B) wins and “Faculty of Information” will be used instead of “iSchool” but there will be a reference to the “Faculty of Information’s iSchool”.

- v. Logo finalized and is on the website. Victoria will send the images to anyone who creates posters, etc.
- b. Vice President (Jessica)
 - i. Access Copyright fee distribution meeting with Vice-Provost – Jessica met with the Vice-Provost to discuss the Access Copyright fee distribution. It wasn't to discuss Access Copyright, because U of T has already signed something with Access Copyright. Next year the fee will go up approximately \$26.50. U of T is considering charging some faculties more if they use course packs more or PDFs more.
 - ii. Student Requests:
 - Audio-visually recording MISC meetings: Concerns about password-protecting access so that only MI students will be able to access the recording; also technological concerns with microphones for all students.
 - Commuter accommodation: We could put up the agenda and invite people to contribute to the agenda, and specific committee reps.
 - iii. Concentrations: Jessica thinks it will fundamentally restructure the program, and thinks this is more than an administrative change.
 - Simren: It would be easier to develop relationships with people in your concentration. If you're in the same cluster you develop more relationships.
 - Victoria: It would create more people in the currently smaller paths.
 - Mat: It would be nice to see more people in a program like KMI. Based on the criticisms that a lot of people have with going to a very prestigious school and having lofty expectations – are those expectations too lofty or can we make changes.
 - Jessica: They could just implement concentrations as the paths exist now, but they are doing +1 to that.
 - Sara: Thinks they have to.
 - Victoria: In order to make program changes, there's a very long process – program's sub-committee approves, then the program's committee, then the Faculty's Executive committee, then Faculty Council, and finally SGS – or something along those lines, but the point is that it takes a very long time and so approving paths and then redoing the whole process for concentrations is time consuming. These two concentrations are likely a test before they do everything altogether.
 - Sanjin: We are basically transitioning to what all the other programs are going to. For example, most other master's programs have about 30 students.
- c. Treasurer (Sara)
 - i. Request for Funding – We have a request for funds from 2158 – Management of Corporate and Other Information Centres – they have an exhibition of practicum projects in the Inforum. It will be on in the Inforum April 5, 5-7. They get a donation from the faculty of \$400-500, FIAA has pledged \$200, TALL also gives money. They are asked for \$50-\$100 from MISC. This comes out of our student-sponsored initiatives fund.

MOTION to give \$100 to INF 2158

Seconded: Val Stevens

Vote: Passed - Unanimous.

- d. Secretary (Shawna) – No Report
 - e. Webmaster (Martin -- absent)
 - i. Update on Website Changes presented by Victoria – Victoria has requested many changes. We will soon have an “achievements” section, and has asked Martin to change “The Council” to “People” to make it more obvious that it is students that you can contact rather than an abstract body, re-ordering some of the tabs, opening page – got rid of all the text, and made directions on how to find information in the website clearer.
5. Reports by Committees:
- a. Merchandise Committee (Coralee)
 - i. Update – Sales for Feb \$276, Sales to date \$1,148.25. Buttons have done really well – sold 86 in the next four days – there will be more buttons next week. 21 hoodies have been sold so far, but we need to sell 60 to make the price that we were quoted. Make sure you let people know about the times/dates, etc.
 - ii. Pre-Order Sales
 - b. Professional Development (Heather and Pam)
 - i. Upcoming – Interview dos and don’ts coming up. Wednesday March 21, 12-1. A week after Isadora’s career workshop and the “dress for success” iTea.
 - ii. T-SLIS is looking for a student liaison – probably a student in first year or who is not looking to graduate next June. They are also looking for a registrar.
 - c. Social Committee (Koren and Lindsay G.)
 - i. Karaoke Event Review – Fun, full of people.
 - ii. Upcoming – AGO tour on Wednesday 14 March (it’s free on Wednesdays). Another games afternoon on the 29th of March, because the last one was popular. Final event on the 14th of April at the Bedford Academy.
Victoria: Asked if people were ok with spending whatever is leftover in the budget on food for the final event?
General consensus was fine with this.
 - d. Academic Affairs (Melissa)
 - i. Update – Melissa has 31 class rep forms. Heather MacNeil sent out an email to ensure people have class reps. Are there any suggestions about how to ensure people submit forms?
Val: Is there a record about profs who consistently don’t have class reps?
Victoria: No – the past few years have kept no record of who the reps were for classes, but Melissa has been keeping documentation since September, so this could be checked in the future.
6. Reports by Representatives
- a. MISC-MSGSA Liaison (Amy)
 - i. Repatriation/Space Committee Update – No progress.

- ii. Sustainability Update – Jessica and Amy are working on securing a meeting with Susan Brown. The meeting should be next Monday, so there is not much to update.
- iii. MSGSA – Amy has not been invited to MSGSA meetings.

Due to students having to leave: We lost our quorum at 6.27 pm. No votes were held after this point.

- b. Student Tech Fund Committee (Stephanie, Claudio, and Emily)
 - i. Room 328 – On Thursday Victoria and Stephanie moved furniture outside of room 328, which we gave up in hopes of getting a better study space.
 - ii. Room 417/Inforum Computers – At the Tech Fund meeting last week, they found out from Ivan that the invoice sat in “Procurement” at the U of T office for a month. So the invoice has not even been sent out. Ivan says that once the computers arrive (at the end of March) it will only take about a day to set them up. The Macs are already in the building, but they’re waiting for the PCs so everything can be done at once.
 - iii. Tech Fund Survey Results – Open-ended questions are taking a while to code. Within the survey, a lot of people are asking questions about, for example, why the Inforum computers are so slow or why we don’t have water in the student lounge.
 - iv. Tech Fund Outreach Campaign – Tech Fund is going to have a logo design and get a non-residue-leaving sticker made so that we can put it on the physical things that we purchase.
Val: Why not permanent stickers?
Stephanie: Tech Fund doesn’t want to donate computers when we are finished with them that have gross sticky residue.
 - v. Workshops: Put together an ad with web development that we are advertising to the iSchool. It’s five sessions of web development, so you can go from basically nothing to getting your own website done. The plan is to have the first session on March 17, and go to mid-April. We are trying to get it recorded for commuters and because it will head into summer. Purchased Microsoft Academy license, and once they get that license they are going to send out an email through MISC and MSGSA listservs letting them know that the license exists so that they can sign up for classes on SharePoint, etc.
 - vi. Photo Contest – Tech Fund might push that to next year because so much has been going on.
- c. Alumni Association Committee (Valerie)
 - i. Update – Dean is possibly looking at moving the 5th floor Inforum books to Downsview. Looking for feedback from Faculty Association. They want to use the current book space for student lab space.
Sara: Has used books, or taken books to photocopy, but not necessarily taken them out.
Stephanie: When somebody comes to Robarts, requests take about a week – when they the student hears this they no longer want the book. They

should go through a better weeding process instead of moving the books en masse.

Val: Students have not been consulted about this. What should we do? Obviously I don't have all the context for this because I wasn't at the meeting and the minutes aren't clear.

Sara: I understand if they want to put older books into storage.

Shawna: Why not ask for circulation numbers on the Inforum books and a survey to students asking how many take books for photocopying but do not check them out?

- ii. FIAA Reception: Due to the number of students attending this reception, Kathleen has suggested an alternative to punch.
- iii. Awards: Notice went out in a recent email. Nominations for Student Contribution Award and request for conference funding due by March 30.
- d. Information Services Committee (Ross and Sara)
 - i. Recent meeting – Last IS meeting was in January and no word from them since.
 - ii. Last meeting – IS user survey had a lot of discussion involving Inforum hours. Many students feel that hours aren't long enough, but hours are unlikely to be extended because they don't have staff. A lack of T-Card machine in the Inforum, but the cost is \$15,000 and it takes a lot of work to maintain. Also the university is looking at changing the T-Card system, so this is not a sensible investment. There is a noise problem between group study rooms, and they will hopefully be adding more insulation between the walls. Seamus also discussed our social media identity and made some recommendations to Kathleen regarding making the iSchool's Facebook page more visible. Nalini Singh is working on getting faculty to write more content on the path descriptions so that they will be broader and more accurate. They are looking to update the smaller paths first.
- e. Graduate Student Union (Brooke, Jessica, and Mat)
 - i. Executive Election and Referendum Questions – GSU is having elections. You can nominate yourself on their website. They are paid positions. When you vote there will be referendum questions concerning levy fees re. Harvest Moon café and U-Turn.
 - ii. TA Strike – Voted not to strike as of Friday, but it hasn't been ratified yet. That will be determined next week, so there is still a chance that TAs might strike if they don't ratify the agreement.
 - iii. Failed Motion to Increase Student Life, Hart House, and Physical Education and Health Fees – Voted against Physical Education/Health and meeting continued without discussing Hart House and Student Life. There was a motion to go back and discuss these agenda items, and people voted against discussing it. Victoria noted concern with this and felt that issues so central to student life and well-being should at least be discussed instead of immediately dismissed without any discussion whatsoever.
 - iv. Meeting with Civics Commissioner about LAC and Robarts' policy – There have been a lot of changes at LAC and Canadian Association of University Teachers has organized a campaign of support to reinstate LAC

to what it used to be. Recently appointed head of LAC is neither librarian nor archivist, but has an HR background. Expecting further cuts. Can go on their site to e-mail LAC if you are concerned.

- v. Robarts initiated a policy so that non-students have to pay to take books out and enter the stacks. If people in the FI were interested in doing something about Robarts, we'd have to create it from the ground up and the Civics Commissioner would be willing to work with us. If anyone is interested in working on this project, please contact Jessica.
- vi. GSU is thinking of scrapping the handbooks. Does anyone have any strong opinions about this?

Jessica: There was a motion to scrap it, which failed. But they are going to order a fewer handbooks, and they want to know how many fewer to order.

Victoria: Replied to their email survey to student unions/councils with feedback on the fact that the MISC doesn't actually hand them out, but rather student services takes care of this. Christine Chan's email was included in this note.

- f. Programs Committee Representative (Sanjin) (No Report)
 - g. Life & Times Committee (Laura) – No Report
 - h. Committee on Standing (Simren) – No Report
 - i. Admissions Committee (Lindsay T.) – No Report
 - j. Faculty Council (Victoria, Jessica, Katie, Adam, Amy, Sarah-Anne, Fatima, David, Sanjin, Andrew, Shawna, and Pam) – No Report
- 7. New Business
 - 8. Adjourn