

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
October 10th, 2013; 4:00-6:00pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

Minutes

Present: Octavio Escalante, Laura Devouge, Sean Hayes, Karolina Grzeszczuk, Sanja Ljaskenc, Hilary Barlow, Lucy Szczesniak, Catherine Lamoureux, Matthew Gertler, Jessie Wionzek, Amanda Cherrawski, Samantha Pirner, George Raine, Laura Chuang, Mary Gu, Hannah Loshak, Ned Struthers, Kyra Folk-Farber, Jessica Samuals

Official Regrets: Akash V, Kim Pham

Absent: Brooke Windsor

Observers: Mari Vihuri

1. Approval of Agenda

Octavio: Motion to approve the agenda

Second: Ned

Approved: Unanimous

2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

August Minutes

Motion to approve the August Minutes

Second: Hannah

Passed: Unanimous

Motion to approve the September minutes

Second: Hannah

Passed: Unanimous

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

N/A

4. Reports by Executives:

a. President (Octavio)

i) Welcome new members! The new and old members introduced themselves.

ii) Constitution changes - <http://sdrv.ms/1e8uDcE> : The changes have received input from the past two presidents and the current president. Octavio explained how we could change the constitution based on the procedure established by the current constitution. He used a slide deck prepared by Mari Vihuri (<http://goo.gl/r1xWoF>). The president explained the following: There can be two ways in which the changes to the constitution can be passed: either by holding a referendum and getting approval from a simple majority of the MI student body or by a regular motion passed by the Governing Council with the specific requirement that it has to be voted in favor by at least two thirds of the Governing Council sitting at the meeting. The president mentioned that he felt there was general agreement about following the second option; there was general agreement for this in the meeting. Then, he explained the process that the second option would require. First, the current constitution requires the Governing Council to pass a motion to change the constitution. Second, if the motion passes, the motion will be tabled for at least one week, after which the Governing Council would be able to remove from the table the motion and the constitution would be in effect. Third, the president explained that the current constitution is not clear on the moment at which the changes in the constitution will take effect. There are proposed changes in the constitution to make the latter explicit. The president asked if there was any question or concern regarding the procedure to be followed; there were no questions or concerns raised. The discussion about the proposed changes began. The new article 4.4.3. brought up concerns from Laura C. and Ned about how enforceable it was. Regarding the new article 6.4, Laura C. mentioned that we don't have this kind of advanced notice of spending. Laura C. said that it would hinder student run initiatives. Mary said that in her particular position in certain situations it would become difficult to anticipate spending at events. Mari thinks that it is important for budgets to be approved, but thinks that section 6.4 is too vague, and more specific regulations will be required. Octavio asked if Laura C. the treasurer to help. Laura C. is concerned that the interpretation is problematic. Laura C. said that she'd be happy to help people with a bigger budget. Octavio said that his concern would be that he would need help to make 6.4 clearer.

Motion to approve section 4.4.3

Second: Sean

Rejected

Motion to approve section 6.4

Second: George

Unanimous: Rejected

All other proposed constitution changes.

Hannah: Second

Passed – Unanimous

The changes will be tabled for at least one week.

iii) Part-time studies policy update - Letter to VP of SGS: The MISC executive wrote a letter to Dean of SGS about changes to PT students. PT students are now not allowed to take more than 3 courses per year. The minimum time here for PT students will now be 5.5 years. Mari put together a report. She said that she felt that it was important to get more feedback about the PT policy. Based on communications with the GSU there was the opportunity to discuss the issue. The Exec met and wrote a letter. The survey was successful with 85 responses. Mary coded the survey responses. The majority were PT, both returning and new students. 71% of respondents said that they found out about the policy in September, which is very concerning. There was who a lot of people found out via listserv from Adriana, and some found out from our survey. 63% were not aware before the deadline to pay tuition. There was an open field, 21% was about concerns about restrictions, 30% wrote about time concerns, 32% were complaints, and 12% were about confusion regarding PT fees. We already put together a letter for SGS, but there was a lot of feedback, both about the policy and the lack of knowledge about the policy. Octavio said that when we get a written response from the Dean we could possibly ask for a complete waiver from the policies for the students registered this year. We will follow up as soon as we get a formal response. Mari asked what is happening in terms of SGS, because there was not a deadline. Octavio said that he would email tonight. Mari said that the concerns should still be addressed in a letter. Octavio went through the July 20 meeting, 'Getting Starting Session', where Adriana said to look for the information, and that he couldn't find an explanation of the change in the video. Mari said that people said that they found out at the meeting, but this was not on the video Adriana linked to. Octavio said that they said it would be enforced in 2014, which was confusing.

- iv) Student contest - switch to student initiative, independent from MISC: Octavio proposed a contest, but there were concerns about the contest. This will now be Octavio's initiative with some help with students and faculty members.
- vi) Student lounge problem - MI student "asked to leave" by the Librarians Without Borders group: Glen got an email about a person getting kicked out of the lounge by Librarians Without Borders. For future reference, the policies regarding the use of the student lounge can be found on our website: <http://misc.ischool.utoronto.ca/studentlounge> .
- vii) Meeting next week: The president proposed a special meeting to approve Constitution. Many said they were busy, because it was a shortened week. No special meeting was agreed.
- viii) Next faculty council meeting: The new Faculty Council members had not been approved yet. However, we have informed Andrew Drummond about the elected students.

b. Vice President (Samantha) – NO REPORT

c. Secretary (Laura)

- i) Fall election – approval. Laura again congratulated and welcomed the new 2013-14 MISC members. She said that vote turnout was good, with 78 votes.

Motion to approve the results of the September 2013 election.

Second Hannah

Passed: Unanimous

d. Treasurer (Laura)

- i) October report: Everyone is under budget so far. Unless something has changed, we are okay. Laura C. has been trying to get in touch with SSI and has been getting slow responses. Octavio said that he received rough estimates that need to be refined.

e. Webmaster (Hannah)

- i) MISC portal: Instructions for the MISC portal were sent out.
- ii) Send your website info: Hannah asked member who had not done so to please send website information. Hannah recommended sending it in the next week or two.

5. Reports by Representatives:

a. Alumni Association (Catherine) – NO REPORT

b. MISC-MUSSA Liaison (Sanja) – NO REPORT

Motion to change Constitution to say MUSSA

Second: Mary

Unanimous: Approved

c. Admissions Committee (Kyra)

i) Confidential. Mari isn't sure to what extent that they are confidential.

Kyra will ask for clarification on how much can be shared. Jerome wanted to find some students – 2 from each path – to represent the iSchool at the info sessions in October and November. Octavio said that we can make an effort to advertise it and submit an announcement.

ii) Octavio attended the programs committee. IS&D were required to have full two classes 1.0 FCE in computers, and removed their requirements. Octavio said that this was changed, and that they might not have had the power to approve the changes. The Dean said it was not worth approving that change. Andrew Drummond said that this could be challenged at Faculty Council meeting on October the 18th. Laura D. commented that this was probably a recruitment strategy. Octavio said that his initial thoughts were to not challenge the changes and instead express problems about how it was changed, and that the programs committee may be approving changes to policies out of its purview and that admission policies might improve in the iSchool. Samantha said that there are a lot of links with her background in IS&D, and thinks it's good that it is accessible. Ned thinks that we will lose that battle.

d. Faculty Council (Samantha, Karolina, Matthew, Amanda, Lucy et al.)

i) Upcoming meeting - October 18: The report needs to be sent today.

e. Graduate Students' Union (Sean, Hilary Barlow)

i) GSU meeting update: Laura and Sean will be passing the motion to approve funding. Digest going out. He also wants to meet with the newly appointed GSU reps.

f. Student Tech Fund (Ned, Laura D, Akash)

i) First meeting: The Tech Fund had its first meeting of the year this week.

ii) Microwave: Octavio asked if the microwave purchase was approved. Ned said that this was spoken about at the meeting, and wants to get away from buying things for the lounge. Sanja said that MUSSA were

willing to split the microwave. Octavio agreed that this is not in the purview of Tech Fund.

iii) New Surfaces: 5 more RTs were purchased, and two more dongles for them. More will be purchased to phase out the netbooks in the Inforum.

g. Information Services (Ned, Laura C) – NO REPORT

h. Life and Times Committee (Jessica)

i) Asking MISC for potential iTea ideas: Jessica said that it could happen in January for the contest.

iii) Ask student clubs if they would like any iTeas: Still taking ideas for Winter term iTeas

i. Programs Committee (Brooke, Octavio: guest)

i) No LIS one-year talk: It will probably come back, but it wasn't at this meeting. Octavio caught people up on what was discussed last meeting. Laura D. said that it probably was not going away.

ii) Planning digital preservation and curation course – Postponed:

iii) Service Science - Full course (was electives course): It has been approved as a full course.

j. Committee on Standing (George)

i) Report on CCR meeting and launch: Website launched on Oct 3, and all of the iSkills and Work Studies are there. MISC will hopefully have a role. It is in implementation phase right now.

6. Reports by Committees:

a. Academic Affairs (Alia)

i) Fall class rep update: By the end of this week we should have a few more. Hannah said that one of her Profs was confused because he was teaching 2 classes. Alia said it was a group email.

b. Professional Development (Kim, Jessie)

i) Clubs and students with an initiative gala: Jessie said that yesterday went really well. Jessie said that if anyone has any emails to email her.

c. Social (Mary & Jessica) - NO REPORT

d. Merchandise (Gillian) - NO REPORT

7. New business

Sanja said that MUSSA wanted to have a pub night for Mentors and Mentees. Hannah said that it's not an MI student initiative, but since she co-runs it, she said yes.

Mari has new Business for the consultative meeting. It is part of the external review process. Mari wrote a report because she thought it was important to capture the students' feedback. Mari's intention is to post it on the MISC website. Many Governing Council members did not know about the meeting, and it might have been a problem for attendance. Mari said that 3 people showed up at the Alumni Meeting.

8. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn

Second: Hannah

Passed: Unanimous