

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
November 14th, 2013; 4:00-6:00pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

Minutes

Present: Laura DeVouge, Kim Pham, Lucy Szczesniak, Catherine Lamoureux, Matthew Gertler, Jessie Wionzek, Kyra Folk-Farber, Sonja Ljaskevic, Amanda Chernawski, Mary Gu, George Raine, Laura Chuang, Sean Hayes, Hilary Barlow, Ned Struthers, Gillian Eguaras, Akash Venkat, Hilary Barlow, Ned Struthers, Octavio Escalante, Jessica Samuals, Kim Pham

Official Regrets: Brooke Windsor, Samantha Pirner, Alia Ahmad

Absent: N/A

Observers: Mari Vihuri,

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 with quorum being established.

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda

Second: Ned

Passed: Unanimous

2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve minutes

Second: Sean

Passed: Unanimous

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

N/A

4. Reports by Executives:

a. President (Octavio)

- i) Constitution Changes - motion to remove from the table and accept the changes: The proposed constitution changes were put together and posted. It still needs to be approved. Octavio asked if there were any

concerns about the tabled items. Octavio had a comment about one of the changes about the president filling unfilled roles on MISC to represent students. He mentioned that there might be some issues with this change in the constitution. They expect us to appoint a member, and this member should represent students the whole year. This is a change that does not intend to appoint members, just have the role filled on special occasions. Octavio is still waiting for the final response. He thinks that we can approve the constitution as is. Hopefully the FC will be able to appoint available positions. Octavio was hoping to bring this up in the next meeting. The changes need to be posted on the website within 5 days, and as soon as they are posted on the website they are official. They will also be advertised to students.

Motion to remove the tabled items from last meeting and formally approve the changes in the constitution proposed by the President.

Second: Ned

Passed: Unanimous

Motion to approve the tabled motion from last week to change MSGSA to MUSSA

Second: Hannah

Passed: Unanimous

ii) Part-time studies policy update - Meeting with Jaby from GSU: Octavio and Laura D. met with Jaby. We expressed concerns about the changes to PT students and the limitations that they are facing. He understood the situation. The next day he had a meeting with the Dean of Graduate Studies. He also sent us an email that he was able to speak to the Dean and keep us posted. We have no response from SGS. Laura D. said that someone from SGS was coming to speak to the Dean about the changes to about this issue. Laura D. said that Jaby also asked if we had any other issues. Laura D. suggested to Jaby that we would like a complaints process set up.

iii) Microwave: purchased with contingency fund?: The microwave has been purchased and we should be getting soon. It was ordered online.

iv) Lunch with VP Students - complaints processing at the UofT, CCR: This was with the head of someone who makes decisions here at UofT.

He hosted a lunch with the leaders of UofT associations. Octavio brought up a few issues – including a complaints procedure. There is no complaints procedure. UofT deals with it at an *ad hoc* basis. Octavio thinks that they cannot deal with every issue – but, at the same time, this leaves us with a lot of gaps. The recommendation is that we should post the rules and the list of bodies that UofT has to express concerns. The Vice-Provost website has a page to voice concerns so that students can know their rights. Another issue was brought up that if you don't feel comfortable dealing with the issue at the iSchool you could speak directly to the Vice-Provost. MISC could outline this on their webpage. Octavio also spoke about the CCR and how the members were elected. This was something that has been discussed with George as well. UofT is trying to avoid prescribing how each faculty picks representatives. Adriana is the head of the committee and can set-up a procedure with how they select a representative.

v) Meeting with VP of MISC - Mental Health iTea, MISC matters: Octavio spoke with Samantha about the Mental Health iTea, which has been organized by past VPs and the responsibilities were explained. Everything went well.

vi) FC and new president's responsibility - Talks with chair of FC: This was about the constitution changes, or if it possible for the President to represent the students as needed.

b. Vice President (Samantha) – NO REPORT

c. Secretary (Laura) - NO REPORT

d. Treasurer (Laura)

i) November report: Emails were sent around to most of the student groups. Some of the budgets are cutting it close. Laura has gotten a few responses and will send out a follow-up email. Octavio asked that we might have to tap into the reserve fund. Laura said that we'll wait until everyone has sent their budgets in.

e. Webmaster (Hannah)

i) MISC portal: Parts are in progress.

ii) Website info update: Hannah will get started on the complaints process. MUSSA has copied our logo without asking us. MISC commissioned someone to create these logos. We should let MUSSA know and ask them to credit him.

5. Reports by Representatives:

a. Alumni Association (Catherine) – The Alumni Association found money in their budget.

i) Reinstating support to the iConnect special libraries exhibition: Money will be allocated to this.

ii) Creating another student conference/research grant: Will find more money for a conference grant.

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

c. Admissions Committee (Kyra)

i) Confidentiality: Spoke to Alan Galey about how confidential the reports are. Told Kyra to use her judgment.

ii) Recruitment: The recruitment nights were successful. Kyra said that they wanted feedback. Laura asked what the details were. Kyra said they'll be sent out at a later date.

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

i) LIS requirements in year one already approved?: There was confusion as to whether or not it was approved. This will be looked into.

ii) Self-study report: They wanted to speak about the self-study next time. Nalini was concerned that there was not enough time to speak about it.

iii) Enrollment and push to attract students: Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to be on the information. Laura D. asked if the PT and the LIS requirements were spoken about. Matthew said Andrew suggested that LIS requirements go back to Programs. Kyra said that she has brought up in how these might be a deterrent in Admissions.

iv) Director iSchool Institute + Information Services: Octavio said that there are two positions that they cannot fill right now because there is not

enough money in the budget. IS reps should take note of this. More students need to be enrolled so that this can be afforded. Kyra administration has been doing a lot of recruitment.

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

i) GSU meeting update: Hilary attended the last meeting. Next meeting on the 25th.

ii) Mari mentioned that the mental health ad hoc committee has been meeting. There was an invitation to come to the next meeting. There is a link on the website.

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

i) Meeting: Meeting for this month will be on Monday.

g. Information Services (Ned, Laura C):

i) IS services has to fill the empty spots on IS.

ii) Whether or not there is the money to renovate third floor was debated.

iii) Downsview will no longer be accepting books.

iv) The Inforum needs to cut 8 opening hours. They want to do some basic consulting about this. There was discussion of fob access and volunteers, but there were concerns about risk management. Laura C. said that this recommendation is coming from statistics. Jessie was worried about part-time students coming in on weekends. Laura D. said that they'd still be open on Saturdays and in the evening. It was also asked whether they could cut an hour in the evening, but the Inforum needs to stay open so that students can return materials, like laptops, after night classes. Matthew said that resources were open anyways. Everyone begrudgingly agreed on cutting Sunday.

v) There is a subcommittee being put together for the Task Force that the IS Ph.D student is on.

h. Life and Times Committee (Jessica) - NO REPORT

i. Programs Committee (Brooke)

i) Letter from Brooke - see the Appendix: *LIS Requirements*: Hannah said that they lied about the LIS requirements being approved. Octavio will be drawing ideas from past minutes for the FC report. Laura D. also suggested using the self-study meeting reports. Mari suggested the Brooke probably go. Laura D. said to email their Faculty Advisors and mention their concerns. Octavio said they are especially concerned about the wrong information being passed. Kyra was wondering how we could get it out there why we don't agree. Octavio will make a Google Doc and add voices to the report. Kyra thinks that individually as students, it is important to hear the arguments against it. Hannah said that half the faculty FC was against it. Hannah thinks that we should email Eric Yu, and cc' FC and put it in the report.

Consequences of ungraded work: Laura D. said that she takes issue with ungraded work. Jessie said when its job/real-world related. Matthew thinks it should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Laura D. said that jobs are enough ungraded work. Jessie said that work like that should be graded. Matt said that he agrees. Jessie, it's a huge issue for time management. Laura D. said that the issue is the amount of ungraded work. Profs should be more understanding of students' time. Octavio wants to bring this up in Programs Committee. Mari said it would be worth emailing Eric Yu.

j. Committee on Standing (George) - NO REPORT

6. Reports by Committees:

a. Academic Affairs (Alia)

i) Pizza Party update - Nov 28th or Dec 5th: Not available for meeting but there will be a pizza party where students will be able to report on each class.

b. Professional Development (Kim, Jessie)

i) Creation of events calendar for planning: Met with a student groups and there is a need for better coordination with scheduling events and know what is taking place. This would only be for student groups and for them to plan with each other. There should be guidelines. Jessie said there was talk of making a physical calendar. Hannah and Jessie said that there would be the physical calendar. Octavio said we should better stress the calendar.

ii) Employer showcase time and feedback from the time change: Friday January 10, 2014 for the employer showcase. It's from 3-5, with a social afterwards.

c. Social (Mary & Jessica) -

i) MISC, MUSSA and CYA's Trivia Open Mic Night: Part Trivia, part-open MIC

ii) Dates for End of Term Open Mic?: considering Friday, December 6. Catherine suggested that we do it before people leave. Octavio thanked social for their Open Mic Night on Hallowe'en.

d. Merchandise (Gillian) - NO REPORT

7. New business

Hannah asked if there were any first years to see if there was interest for the first year Programs Committee Representative.

Motion to appoint Jessie to First-Year Programs Rep.

Second: Mary

Passed: Unanimous

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn

Second: Hannah

Passed Unanimous

Appendix - Programs Committee Representative letter

First Year LIS Requirements:

This issue was slated for reconsideration at the last (November) meeting of the Programs Committee. The majority of the committee was concerned that it was on the docket at all. However, it was made clear by everyone at the table that the previous move to approve the new requirements for first year students was not approved at all during the last meeting when it was considered. One member (not from the LIS faculty) even noted that it is not something that should be approved without being discussed. She also mentioned that she personally did not agree with the proposal and did not understand why only LIS was being targeted. A member of the LIS faculty did note that the issue was going to be discussed in full at the next Faculty Council Meeting on November 22nd. The faculty would discuss their own views and the opinions of any students who have talked to them about it. Therefore, it is important to make sure faculty know that LIS students do NOT like this requirement nor do they want it. Be sure to include sensible reasons so that the faculty can adequately address the concerns as opposed to the faculty only being able to say that students do not want it because they don't like it. Make sure that the faculty council MISC members understand these reasons as well. A list of why this requirement is terrible might be advised.

Consequences of required but ungraded work:

This issue was addressed at this last meeting of the Programs Committee as well. I explained the situation of many students claiming that faculty have started to include required exercises (such as a blog) and activities which are completely ungraded and do not apply to a participation grade. They informed me that recent educational seminars for faculty actually encouraged this process as a way to make students take risks without fear of judgments or bad grades. Yet, the committee agreed that the consequences of not doing the work were not something that was currently a part of iSchool policy nor should it be. Each required but ungraded assignment should be assessed for consequences on a simple case-by-case, student-by-student, and faculty-by-faculty basis. Therefore, it was advised that students ask for clarification from the teacher about any consequences of not doing the work since the current problem of a student wondering about what would happen if the work was not done was simply a matter of miscommunication of expectations on the part of the syllabus and/or teacher. If students feel uncomfortable broaching the concept of consequences themselves, it was also advised that they simply go through their class representative instead.