

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
January 16th, 2014; 4:00-6:00pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

Minutes

Present: Ned Struthers (Left at 5:30), Sonja Ljaskevic (left at 4:45), Kyra Folk-Farber (left at 5:30), Samantha Pirner, Laura Chuang, Laura DeVouge, Hannah Loshak, Catherine Lamoureux, Hilary Barlow, Mary Gu, Kim Pham, George Raine (left at 5:15) Gillian Eguaras, Alia Ahmad, Laura Chuang Akash Venkat, Matt Gertler, Lucy Szczensiak, Mari Vihuri
Official Regrets: Amanda Chernawski, Jessie Wionzak, Sean Hayes
Absent: Brooke Windsor

Recorder: Laura DeVouge

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

1. Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda

Second: Samantha

Vote: Passed - unanimous

2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

Approval of November Minutes

Second: Hannah

Vote: Passed - unanimous

December minutes: Catherine requested a change in the December meeting minutes. Namely, the part that states “Many of the people have been out of it for years” should specify that the volunteer alumni that participate in the Ask-an-Alum initiative have been out of the program for many years and many times cannot answer some questions regarding more current matters at the Faculty of Information.

Approval of December Minutes

Second: Catherine

Vote: Passed - unanimous

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Reports by Executives:

a. President (Octavio)

- i) Part-time studies policy update – Meeting with Dean, new letter, options:
Octavio met with the Dean of the iSchool this week and they discussed this matter. Reportedly, the Dean met with School of Graduate Studies (SGS) and they proposed a number of possible options for part time students. During the meeting between Octavio and Seamus, the latter reviewed the options provided by SGS and finally concluded that he did not think they provided a real solution to new part-time students. As a result, the Dean committed himself to send a letter to the SGS asking to provide a better solution than the options they provided before. The letter we sent to the SGS since September 2013 will also be attached and referenced. Laura D. asked about the law that was passed recently in Ontario (referred to in previous meetings) and its repercussions to the issue of part-time. Octavio and the members agreed this law supports our argument against the new policies. The Dean also said that we skipped writing the letter to the iSchool, so our letter might have been overlooked. Octavio suggested that we wait for a response to act next.
- ii) FC and new president’s responsibility – Still no update: Octavio has still not received a formal answer regarding the President taking vacant positions. Octavio said that silence could be regarded as a sign of approval.
- iii) Lunch with UTQAP External Reviewers – Outcomes: Main topics discussed were the recurring issues with practical skills and theory, and the issue regarding new policies affecting part-time students. The Dean asked Octavio to bring up the issues regarding part-time policies during the review lunch. This would put pressure on SGS, as the reviewers will be meeting the heads of the SGS the following day. Mari asked if there was any way to meet with the external reviewers if you could not make it to the meeting. Octavio said he would ask the Dean.
- iv) Problems with MISC email: Octavio apologizes for the problems with the email. He was trying to send the email, but the old webmail server application failed.

b. Vice President (Samantha)

- i) Mental Health iTea update - February 5, 2014: Samantha asked for help. The date has been finalized.

c. Secretary (Laura D.) - NO REPORT

d. Treasurer (Laura C.)

- i) GSU Head grant: Sean and Laura C. confirmed that the GSU approved the head grant for the MISC. The MISC will receive the full amount.
- ii) Audit Exemption: All the paperwork is in. The University of Toronto administration will get back to us.
- iii) January report: All of the cheques for MISC have been cashed. Winter fees will not come until later. Laura C. is currently in the process of emailing student organizations explaining how they can be reimbursed for incurred expenditures.

iv) Groups budgets: The AIS student group is requesting the largest proportion of the Student Sponsored Initiatives (SSI) fund. Laura C. said that she would be sending an email to the groups confirming the amount they have been approved from the SSI fund.

e. Webmaster (Hannah) - NO REPORT

5. Reports by Representatives:

a. Alumni Association (Catherine)

- i) OLA Alumni Reception - Thursday January 30, 2014: You can come to network! Catherine added that students do not have to participate in the OLA super conference to attend the reception.
- ii) Conference Grant Decisions: They decided on student grants yesterday at the meeting. Catherine was not in the room because this represented a conflict of interest. The Job shadowing program is coming up. The Alumni Association is reviewing the website and guidelines for the outstanding student award.

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

c. Admissions Committee (Kyra)

- i) Next Information Day - Saturday January 18, 2014: The admissions committee needs more volunteers, and they are looking for people from different concentrations.
- ii) FIAA Student Conference Grant – input?: Kyra mentioned that she believes the November deadline was too early and it should be extended. Hannah said that you can apply for the conference grant with the expectation that you will participate in a conference. Kyra said that the way it was explained made it not seem that way, meaning that students need confirmation of their participation in a conference before applying for the grant. Kyra said that she will clear that up with Kathleen.

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

- i) Next meeting: February 14, 2014: There has been no meeting since our last MISC meeting.

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

- i) CFS defederation update: Hilary wanted to check with Sean because of confidentiality. The GSU will be moving forward. Nominations for next year's GSU positions close on Friday the 24th.
- ii) Joint-open mic night: The faculty of law was wondering if we could have a joint open MIC night. Mary said yes.
- ii) The Mental Health Event: The event will be held on February in the Hart House, and it will be about Graduate Student Mental Health.

- f. Student Tech Fund (Mari, Laura D, Akash)
 - i) Ideas Party: The ideas party will be on February 6. It will be in the next MISC Digest. A form will go up to submit technology-based ideas that could benefit the iSchool.
 - ii) Furniture sale to iSchool: Mari said that we will get back to MISC on it when the Tech Fund makes up their mind.
 - iii) Partnered with KMDI to put on workshops in the Inforum. Mari listed the events that will be taking place. The workshops will not be taught through Ladies Learning Code. If there are any questions about the workshops, let Mari know.

- g. Information Services (Ned, Laura C) –
 - i) December meeting: The committee is still planning to take away the library, and put in a lab space. Octavio thinks that there were good ideas in the report like Hacker spaces. If they can define the use that they will give to the space could potentially justify the removal of the library.

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

- i. Programs Committee (Brooke, Jessie) – NO REPORT

- j. Committee on Standing (George) - NO REPORT

6. Reports by Committees:

- a. Academic Affairs (Alia): We are still trying to get the reports from last semester. Alia has only gotten half the class reps reports. For this semester only four reps have signed up. Hannah thinks that we should make it clear that the sign up will be handled through the online form only. Octavio said that last semester he could either submit the paper or online form. Alia thinks that we should only use the online form this semester. Octavio said that he agreed and would make this clear in the email he will be sending to the faculty members. Octavio commented about the gift cards, and said that it could be an incentive to give away the gift cards after the reports have been submitted.

- b. Professional Development (Kim, Jessie)
 - i) Results of employer showcase & upcoming 2 workshops: We had about 25 employers in attendance, and received mostly positive feedback. Student participation was down and there were 85 people down from 150. This was the first time the social event was organized, and about 60 people (both students and employers) came. Octavio thought that the event was very well organized and that he believes this was not the reason why less students attended the event. Employers commented the casual dress code from students. Octavio mentioned that in the future there should be guidelines about the dress code required to attend the event. Other members mentioned that students

sometimes only remember the event when it is happening, and they cannot prepare for it. The next event will be a new speed-interviews workshop series that is usually offered by SLA. It will be held on February 4th and March 11th. The sign-up sheet is on the MISC website.

c. Social (Mary & Jessica)

i) GSLA Internship Program: Jessica said that the plans are ambiguous and that there would be meetings this week. She added that this initiative will be separate from the GSLA program. Mari asked if any of the GSLA jobs would be made into internships. Mary said that that the internships would be separate.

d. Merchandise (Gillian) - NO REPORT

Participation from the Dean Seamus Ross (started at 4:40pm): The Dean talked about the lunch with UTQAP external reviewers held a day before the council meeting. He said that he tried to get an even amount of people from different concentrations at the meeting on Wednesday. Laura DeVouge brought up the issue about the increased work in the practicum class, and how it was affecting students. The Dean said that she would talk to Vicki about it. The Dean stressed speaking to Isidora for help with job applications. Laura C. mentioned that she has been going to see Isidora since year one, and that the co-op will be set up. Laura C. feels as though as a single individual she has a lot of work, and whether or not there are the resources to hire another person to help her. The Dean said that the Faculty does not have enough money to hire another employee to help her, but also added that if he received a request for more resources he would consider it. He said that he really needs a co-op program, and every time it gets better our degrees get more valuable. The Dean asked whether or there was enough support with professional associations. People said that they were presenting, convening, and volunteering at OLA. He asked us to contact Kathleen O'Brien to make a flyer with those presenting. Octavio asked whether or not there will be any conflict with current programs regarding the internship or co-op programs. The Dean says that there will be about 30 placements for students. He suggested we should invite the leaders of those initiatives meetings to come to the student council meetings.

7. New business

N/A

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn

Second: Hannah

Vote: Passed - unanimous.

Carried at 5:20pm.