

University of Toronto – Faculty of Information
Master of Information Student Council
February 13th, 2014; 4:00-6:00pm
Student Lounge, 7th Floor, Claude Bissell Building

Minutes

Present: Sean Hayes, Lucy Szczesniak, Catherine Lamoureux, George Raine, Alia Ahmad, Jessie Wionzek, Sanja Ljaskevic, Kyra Folk-Farber, Hilary Barlow, Mary Gu, Mari Vihuri, Laura Chuang, Laura DeVouge, Octavio Escalante, Matthew Gertler, Akash Venkat
Official Regrets: Gillian Eguaras, Karolina Grzeszczuk,
Absent: Brooke Windsor, Ned Struthers, Jessica Samuels, Kim Pham

**The meeting was called to order at 4:08 with quorum being established.
Quorum was broken at 4:26.**

1. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve the Agenda

Sean- Second

Passed: Unanimous

2. Reading and Approval of the Minutes

Laura apologized for not getting the minutes done sooner this month.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

4. Reports by Executives:

a. President (Octavio)

- i) Part-time studies policy update – Quick chat with the Dean and GSU: Octavio talked informally with the Dean of the iSchool. Reportedly the Dean mentioned that the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) gave him more information about the rationale behind the new policies. The Dean also reportedly said that the government outlined the changes to the new guidelines and that he would still be communicating our intent to get a waiver in the policies for students who started the program this year to the SGS. Octavio sent an email to the Dean asking for a solution for part-time students, such as a waiver. Octavio also wants to send a letter asking for a waiver. Mari thinks that we should send a letter asking for an exemption. The letter needs to be sent to the SGS and it should include a deadline. Jessie wants to clarification on who would be exempt. Laura

D. said that that it would be good to get some part-time students to help write it. Mari says that it would be worth it to pass the letter. Laura D. said we should be move faster and do it by email. The *ad hoc* committee can do that in a Google Doc.

- ii) GSU president's lunch – outcomes: Octavio spoke about main initiatives from the GSU that we should support. This included a move against the new summer fees for using Hart House facilities. Another initiative is intended to raise the funding for graduate students above the poverty line. The issues with CFS are ongoing. Apparently the referendum will be held in March. Part time student issues were also discussed with Jaby Matthews, member of the GSU. He mentioned that he met with the SGS that said the Dean should have been copied in our initial letter. Jaby and Octavio agreed to remain in close communication regarding the latter issue.
- iii) President's role in vacant positions - update from chair of FC: The faculty council did not approve to let the president of the student council take any vacant positions. The MISC now has a faculty council position open. The MISC should introduce change to the constitution to eliminate the resulting conflict from this new information..
- iv) Resignations from Vice-President and Information Services Committee representative. Samantha and Ned both resigned from their positions. Both expressed the issues that they had with time commitments. Sean asked what the nomination process was for filling positions. Octavio said that we could vote at the meeting, as there is no need for an election to appoint new members per the new MISC's constitution. Lucy resigned from her position and wants to run for GSU Rep.

Mari moved that Hilary Barlow be appointed as Vice President
Second Kyra
Abstentions – Hilary Barlow
Passed-Unanimous

Sean moved motion that Lucy Szczśniak be appointed as GSU Rep
Alia Second
Lucy abstained
Passed-Unanimous

Sean moved to appoint Paul W. for Information Services Rep.
Second Akash
Passed-Unanimous.

b. Vice President (Vacant) - NO REPORT

c. Secretary (Laura)

i) Laura will set the dates for the 2014-2015 MISC election and report back.

d. Treasurer (Laura)

i) Audit Exemption – update: Paper was handed in and went through with with Kristen Wallis

iii) February report: Went through it and its fine.

iv) Groups budgets - Will figure out what to do with iSchool Conference in regards to money.

e. Webmaster (Hannah) - NO REPORT

5. Reports by Representatives:

a. Alumni Association (Catherine)

i) OLA Alumni Reception – outcomes: Was good. Many current students and alumni were there. It was considered to have been successful.

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

c. Admissions Committee (Kyra)

i) Next Information Day - Saturday March 1st, 2014

ii) FIAA Student Conference Grant - no update

iii) Report on meeting with RAC faculty and staff from last week. Thanks to those who attended the RAC meeting for student input on recruitment and messaging, and who emailed their input to me. You were very helpful! It was a success. There WERE donuts.

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

i) Next meeting: February 14, 2014 at 9:30.

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

i) CFS defederation update: The referendum is going forward. Some material will be put at hand to raise awareness about the reasons behind the defederation initiative.

ii) Executive elections begin in February 25th. The debate of the GSU candidates will be posted on Youtube.

iii) Health and Dental opt out cheques will be emailed in March

iv) Grad Minds will be holding a conference on Wednesday February 19

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

- i) Ideas Party: The ideas party was hosted last Thursday. There was free food and ideas. The winning Idea was Laura C. – to partner with the information services committee and offer a workshop about negotiating with salary, vendors, etc. The runner up was an online marketplace for people to sell textbooks, etc for housing.
- ii) Furniture sale to iSchool: Half the chairs will be sold.

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

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

i. Programs Committee (Brooke, Jessie)

- i) Jessie feels in the dark about what is happening because there have been some communication issues. Octavio said that he will email Brooke.

j. Committee on Standing (George) - NO REPORT

6. Reports by Committees:

a. Academic Affairs (Alia)

- i) Class reps reports and sign-up updates: Half of the class reports from the last semester were received. It was suggested that the class reps should bring in the reports to the pizza meetup party. Up to this day, 20 class reps have signed up for the current semester. The list says there are 51 classes, but some of those are the second semester classes. Class reps are still being looked at. Alia will send emails to professors that don't have class reps yet.
- ii) Class rep for small classes?: There is one class that only has five people. Laura thought that it would be better if the students went to the profs themselves. Octavio added that there should be a responsible for the group, even if there are very few students in the class.
- iii) Online submissions for reports for class rep reports: Could there be online submissions for reports. Mari suggested to create a google doc form for Hannah to include it in the MISC website.

b. Professional Development (Kim, Jessie)

- i) Upcoming events: The speed-dating style interview workshop was held very recently. Another similar event will be held on March 11th.

c. Social (Mary & Jessica)

- i) Upcoming events: There will be an open mic night on February 26th.

d. Merchandise (Gillian) - NO REPORT

Visit from Wendy Duff Re: new internship and co-op initiatives.

Wendy Duff is the head of a new committee that will organize internships for incoming iSchool Students. Prof. Duff said that Larry Alford (head librarian of the University of Toronto Libraries) was a great supporter of this initiative which was run similarly in a University in the US. Prof. Duff also mentioned that this initiative is intended to provide experience for future leaders as academic librarians. She also said that she worked with the union to make this possible. She also agreed to get as many internships as possible. She also mentioned about some issues regarding students who come to the iSchool from outside the GTA, who do not have the same opportunities to apply for jobs in the libraries before September of the year they come to the program and, thus, they miss this opportunities. This initiative is intended to alleviate some of the causes of this issue. There will be 15 hours of work per week per student. It is intended to have these students work as a cohort. Students spend a certain amount of time doing professional development. This year there will be five but the numbers will grow. The rewards committee will pick the students. It was mentioned that juggling schedules might be difficult. The awards committee will stick with students, and will submit a letter of reference.

Wendy Duff responded to a question regarding the application procedure. She said that the awards committee will review the applicants and then this body will forward the best students to the recruiting officers and librarians at the University of Toronto Libraries, stressing the fact that they will not make the final call to select students and that a normal recruitment process will be followed with presential or remote interviews. Sean asked if there was a reference interview. Prof. Duff said that there will be a phone interview. She added that it is largely meant to be a mentorship program. Prof. Duff said that the library is hoping that this will be part of the student experience and that she is hoping that the library system will be able to fund these jobs.

The second initiative discussed was the development of a co-op program. This has been requested several times at the iSchool students and was also suggested by external reviewers from past years. Students coming in 2016 would be able to participate in this initiative. In the co-op program there would be a grades requirement, and would just be for MI students. Prof. Duff also mentioned that the university is exploring to buy (expensive) software that streamlines the recruitment and placement process. There would be a co-op coordinator who would be an academic. Currently the iSchool is listed as having a co-op program secured within the federal government; more specifically with Library and Archives Canada (LAC). Returning to the future co-op program, this initiative will go to faculty council and other control bodies for approval. The external review had a meeting with employers around Toronto to talk about a co-op. Laura D. asked about co-op competition. There is a program that will match CVs to jobs. Laura D. also asked if students would be excluded from the program. Wendy said that if people would in the co-op she would try to match them with a job.

7. New business

The mental health iTea was very successful in spite of the organizational difficulties. \$111 were raised and the MISC added \$500. These funds will be donated to the Gerstein Crisis Centre.

8. Adjourn