



**Master of Information Student Council**  
University of Toronto, Faculty of Information  
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Claude Bissell Building, 7th Floor, Student Lounge  
November 11th, 2014 at 4:00-6:00pm

# MISC Meeting

## Minutes

**Present:** Hilary Barlow, Chris Hogendoorn, Jessie Wionzek, Lucy Szczesniak, Mari Vihuri, Hannah Saunders, Leah Strudwick, Carolyn Dineen, Karen Lees, Nuree Lee, Janel Cheng, Stephanie Abba (left at 5:30), Peymon Montazeri, Calvin Tennakoon, Lilly Rigling, Diana Kulpa, Julia King, Mehreen Athar (arrived at 5:05)

**Regrets:** Amanda Chernawski, Maya Cruz

**Absent:** Catherine Lamoureux, Akash Venkat, Junoh Kim, Haleigh Fox, Katrina Cohen-Palacios

### 1. Approval of the agenda

- a. Motioned by Hilary, seconded by Chris, passed unanimously

### 2. Reading and approval of the minutes

- a. Motion to approve the minutes of the [7 October meeting](#).
  - i. Motioned by Julia, seconded by Chris, passed unanimously

### 3. Business arising from the minutes

- a. Diana's survey of students in the IPS Specialization has received 9 contributions. She wrote a report summarizing the [findings thus far](#).

### 4. Reports by Executives:

**a. President (Hilary Barlow)**

- i. Between 24-28 November, the GSU will be holding a referendum to determine whether or not it will continue its membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Yesterday, 10 November, was the first day of the campaign period during which the CFS can argue to continue its relationship with GSU, and when students opposing continued membership can make their voices heard. It is crucial that iSchool students participate in this referendum, but it is an issue with which many students are unfamiliar. To explain why this referendum is taking place, Hilary has invited Ashleigh Ingle, one of the grad students who has spearheaded the petition to defederate.
  1. Ashleigh explained the undemocratic practices of the CFS, the high levy costs, the refusal of the CFS to cooperate in holding a fair vote (disallowing the use of third-party resources to back up claims against the CFS, refusing to cooperate with the website/information provided on the website), and various other issues that support the discontinuation of membership.
  2. It was asked if a majority is needed to finalize the result. Ashleigh explained that we need to reach quorum (10%) in order to discontinue our membership, even if a majority of votes are for discontinuation. Ashleigh emphasized the high stakes of this vote and the need to continue to be aware of forthcoming information (e.g. voting locations). She called upon MISC to encourage iSchool students to partake in this vote.
  3. A question was asked regarding fees. Ashleigh reiterated that the levy costs were higher than all other levy fees from other groups.
  4. Ashleigh also noted that the CRO was appointed by the CFS, which has caused various impediments in the information-spreading process. There is a ban from providing citations for claims made against or about the CFS. This ban has never been part of a previous referendum. Ashleigh interpreted this ban as being due in part to the referendum taking place in Toronto and the need for Toronto schools to remain associated with the CFS. Many other Canadian universities have already gone through the process of leaving (McGill, UBC, etc).

5. Chris Hogendoorn noted that *The Varsity* archives hold a wealth of information on the history of this issue and how it supports discontinuation of membership.
  6. The GSU and its resources are banned from being involved in this referendum.
  7. Hilary noted that she is planning to go into classes and hand out fliers next week, and invited MISC members to be involved in this if they're interested.
  8. Ashleigh sked MISC members to do their best to spread the word as best they can.
- ii. On 20 October, Hilary and Chris H met with Dean Ross to clarify how the grandfathering of 2013-entering part-time students into the old 3.5-year degree completion schedule. The Dean said that 2013 entrants would be able to register for winter semester courses according to the old schedule. Since MISC does not have access to the names and contact information of all the part-time students this applies to, Hilary asked that all students be emailed and informed before 6 November, when winter course registration started. To Hilary's knowledge, this email wasn't sent but it appears that 2013 entrants were able to register according to the 3.5-year schedule. Chris H proposed the idea of MISC laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremony this year (see Vice-President's report in appendix), and the three also discussed the Inforum (seeing Information Services Committee report).
- iii. The external review of the Faculty of Information is out! MISC is in possession of [a copy](#) supplied by Dean Ross. We can share this report with the student body as we see fit.
- iv. A first-year student in the TALint program contacted MISC a few weeks ago requesting to meet and discuss the program. Hilary met with the student, who works at a library in the UTL system. They said that working 15 hours a week is too much with a full course load. The student works the bulk of those hours on Saturday so they miss a lot of workshops and there also aren't librarians on duty so they miss potential mentorship opportunities. The position was advertised as 10-15 hours and the student is hoping to reduce their shift to 10 hours. They have contacted Wendy Duff about the hours issue. The student wishes they could get more varied experience than working at the same campus library. They also understood that there would be professional development and project work but they haven't seen any of

that yet. At the time Hilary met with them (9 October), they were planning to quit the TALint program if they could not get a reduction in hours.

- v. Despite advertising a Wen-Do instructional session at the iSchool several times in the digest, MISC only received 2 sign-ups for the session. The Community Safety Office requires a minimum of 10 participants to have a session so the iSchool one was cancelled and instead a Wen-Do class at Victoria College was advertised in the digest for students who might still be interested. Maybe get a speaker on harassment to visit in the new year instead?

**b. Vice President (Chris Hogendoorn)**

- i. See the appendix for a written report.

**c. Secretary (Jessie Wionzek) - NO REPORT**

**d. Treasurer (Lucy Szczesniak)**

- i. Application for audit exemption has been submitted/processed (thanks Mari for helping with signatures! : ) ). I will be attending the Audit exemption training session below, and if anyone is interested, they are welcome to come as well:

- 1. Please hold the afternoon of Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> (from 1pm to 5pm) for an Audit Exemption training session on the St. George Campus. Pass this on to anyone else from your society who should attend. Please make sure to attend/ have a representative attend this session. More info to follow on the location of this training. The training session will put you on the right track to collect all the information that's listed in the attached checklist. Not only will it save you and our internal audit department a lot of work, but it will also help you to develop competencies and financial literacy.

- ii. Putting together balance sheet for previous fiscal year (this is needed for both the Head Grant and for the package that has to be submitted for audit exemption).

**e. Webmaster (Mari Vihuri) - NO REPORT**

**5. Reports by Committee Chairs:**

**a. Academic Affairs (Carolyn Dineen) - NO REPORT**

**b. Professional Development (Jessie Wionzek & Julia King)**

- i. Preparation for the Employer Showcase is underway!
- ii. The Summer Students Working Panel will likely occur in February, since most students are too busy with school right now to think about summer employment.

**c. Social (Leah Strudwick & Hannah Saunders)**

- i. Something deeply fabulous and wonderful is in the works!
- ii. Puppy Party is happening November 25th!

**d. Merchandise (Mehreen )**

- i. Mehreen noted that some requests for sweatshirts have come in, but that people have asked to change the position and size of the logo (e.g. on the back).

**6. Reports by Representatives:**

**a. Alumni Association (Catherine Lamoureux) - NO REPORT/ABSENT**

**b. MISC-MUSSA Liaison (Haleigh Fox) - NO REPORT/ABSENT**

**c. Admissions Committee (Karen Lees)**

- i. Karen asked if anyone was aware of how AdCom contacts students about volunteering for info nights, etc. Chris Hogendoorn said that they send out an email in October, but that it would be good to contact the Dean about sending out another round of emails.
- ii. Mari noted that they used to reach out to MISC directly, but this depends partially on the role of volunteers.
- iii. Hilary noted that she agreed to be involved on the condition that she could talk about student groups, but Adrian never got back to her, so she interpreted the lack of response as a no.

**d. Faculty Council (Hilary Barlow et al.)**

- i. The co-op program came up in the Programs Committee report. The details are still being worked out and none of this is set in stone but this is what the program looks like at this point. Planned start time is fall 2015. There will be general and concentration pathways; 7 concentrations will have a co-op

option. This is a boon to employers because they can get tax relief for hiring students from within a co-op program. It will start out with about 30 students. Students not in the co-op program will still be eligible to do practicums.

- ii. TALint students will not be eligible for the co-op unless they drop out of the TALint program. Students would have the option to apply for the co-op in the fall after they have begun their degree at the iSchool. It's recommended that the co-op be for course credit, equivalent to 0.5 FCE. At this time, the co-op program is for MI students only. Wendy Duff mentioned having a student on the committee. Selection criteria for the program has yet to be drawn up; Dean Ross said the criteria should be known to students before they apply.
- iii. A working group from the iSchool is collaborating with UTL to bring major changes to the Inforum. At the meeting, it sounded like the project was in its early stages, but Hilary later found out that this was not the case (see Information Services Committee report).
- iv. Wendy Duff also said during the meeting that there will be a student representative on the TALint committee.

**e. Graduate Students' Union (Lilly Rigling & Karen Lees)**

- i. See the appendix for a written report.

**f. Student Tech Fund (Akash Venkat, Junoh Kim & Nuree Lee)**

- i. Nuree noted that during the last Tech Fund meeting it was confirmed that we are purchasing 6 MacBooks and 6 Windows Laptops.
- ii. Tech Fund also decided to have a general assembly in a speed-dating style to make students more aware of the Inforum's tech resources. This will likely happen on Nov. 25 from 12-2.

**g. Information Services Committee (Janel Cheng & Junoh Kim)**

- i. When Hilary and Chris met with Dean Ross on 20 October (see President's report), he mentioned the remodelling of the Inforum, including: moving Semaphore Lab to the Inforum, creating collaboration pods where the computer terminals currently are, removing the fifth floor stacks and turning that space into workshop and lab space for things like preservation. Hilary and Chris H emphasised the more immediate need for longer Inforum hours and access to course reserves. Dean Ross said he was looking into having the

Inforum course reserves moved to the Robarts course reserves area, which has longer hours.

- ii. On 29 October, Hilary spoke with Nalini Singh, Siobhan Stevenson and Kathleen Schaeffer and was made aware that the plans for remodeling the Inforum were farther along than initially thought. Kathleen is serving on the remodelling committee and made clear that the librarians would be moved to Robarts under the current plan and that the Inforum would no longer hire student part-time workers.
- iii. Kathleen also told Hilary that Sunday, 2 November was a deadline for input on the current remodeling plan. On 30 and 31 October Hilary worked with Chris H and whoever she could get a hold of to draft a letter to the Dean et al about these changes. On 31 October, Hilary sent [the email](#) from the MISC account to Dean Ross and other iSchool faculty and staff who are involved in the remodelling committee. The letter also emphasises the importance of the Inforum's hours and how the current reduction in hours is negatively affecting the student body.
  1. Carolyn asked who scheduled the meeting. Hilary responded by saying that she was the one who arranged it, and her original aim was to discuss part-time student issues.
  2. Hilary asked MISC what action we should take.
  3. Calvin asked if there was any way we could get a more finalized plan from the Dean before we take action. Chris responded that the plan has not been finalized at all yet.
  4. The key issue is that this plan will likely be finalized suddenly and without notice, which is why we need to begin taking action and having our voices heard now. (Who said this?)
  5. Hannah suggested that we very clearly communicate our issues to faculty and others involved or aware of this project.
  6. Chris brought up the feeling that the faculty, staff, etc aren't sure of what to do, so they're looking to us to lead the charge.
  7. The next step would be Janel bringing it up at the next ISC meeting. Hilary offered to attend the meeting as well.

8. It would be useful to be in contact with alumni to get their opinions and feedback as well.

iv. Janel noted that a new collections development policy had been drafted over the summer and is waiting to be read over by the Dean.

**h. Life and Times Committee (Amanda Chernawski)**

i. The Committee is very pleased with the turnout of the Halloween iTea (roughly 95 attendees). Planning for the End of Term iTea is going to begin very soon.

ii. The Committee is conducting most of its business through e-mail this year due to the decrease in the number of iTeas, but I am going to meet with Nalini soon to get more information on my role for the rest of the academic year.

**i. Programs Committee (Catherine Lamoureux)**

i. Christopher P resigned his position as First-Year Programs Committee Representative to avoid being overwhelmed by coursework and extracurriculars. Is anyone interested in taking on this position? If not, it will be posted in the digest on Wednesday.

1. Motion to appoint Calvin as Programs Committee Rep

a. Seconded by Mari, one abstention (Calvin); passed unanimously

**j. Committee on Standing (Diana Kulpa)**

**7. New business**

a. Next meeting is scheduled for 9 December, 4-6 pm.

b. Chris Hogendoorn asked if MISC can take a formal position on the GSU/CFS referendum. This may encourage other graduate unions to become involved as well and thus increase voter turnout. Hilary agreed that it was a great idea.

i. Motion for MISC to formally endorse a vote against the continuation of the relationship between the GSU and CFS

1. Seconded by Jessie; passed unanimously

**8. Adjourn**





# Appendix

## Written reports

### Section title

Please include any written reports or supplementary documentation here.

### **Master of Information Student Council Vice President's Report**

October was my first full month as the president of vice, and it didn't disappoint. I attended the most recent Faculty Council meeting, where I got the chance to hear a certain faculty member claim that international students were useful in "spicing up" the iSchool. Quite frankly, I'm surprised we haven't funnelled what little we have left into circumnavigating the globe to find a faster trade route to the glorious Orient. Also, Rotman Commerce seems to be the benchmark for excellence to which this faculty holds itself. I mean, they are allowed to use their rooftop patio, so that's something.

I took a BuzzFeed quiz to tell me which song I am on Taylor Swift's new album. It told me that I'm "Style". WTF, BuzzFeed? I'm totally "How You Get The Girl". Is it just me, or has BuzzFeed been a little weak on its quiz game lately? But I digress...

At the request of Madame President, I sat in on a meeting with Dean Ross regarding the part-time student course enrolment. I took the opportunity to raise the possibility of MISC laying a wreath at the Remembrance Day ceremony at Soldiers' Tower. Dean Ross graciously offered to cover the cost of the wreath, and, with the permission of the other course unions, asked us to lay it on behalf of the entire iSchool. The wreath is artificial, and so it can be used year after year. The dean then took us on a vision quest and explained to the two of us his vision for the Inforum. Our meeting had already gone past the allotted time, and so we were not able to raise as many concerns as we wanted to. However, I'm sure this point will be raised by Madame President, so I shall not dwell upon it any longer here.

At the request of Faculty Council Representative Abba, I shall assist her in chairing the Part-Time Students Working Group. Since we are required to meet twice a semester, the first of these meetings shall be called soon. This is a perfect example of using me in a similar manner to cream cheese, as I requested you do at the last meeting. So, if anyone has any more bagels they need to make a little more palatable, just let me know.

Now, for some shameless plugs: please come to and spread word of the Librarians Without Borders and Association of Canadian Archivists bake sales. I bake the only thing I can: oatmeal raisin cookies. They're like the Tyrion Lannister of the cookie world, in that they're misunderstood and looked down upon, and are often overshadowed by their better tasting, more popular brother, the chocolate chip cookie. However, once you get to intimately know the oatmeal raisin cookie, you will quickly realize that they are the far superior cookie. Also, in case you've been wondering why I look like a cross between a First World War RAF officer and a French maître d', I am in fact participating

in Movember. Check out my Movember profile and help the ACA at <http://mobro.co/hogentstache>, or donate to the ACA team directly at <http://moteam.co/aca-student-chapter-uoft>.

Finally, my vice of the month is T-Swizzle's 1989, for all the obvious reasons.

Respectfully submitted 10 November 2014 by C. Hogendoorn, Hons. BA, GCOGK, Esq.

### **Master of Information Student Council Graduate Students' Union Representatives' Report**

The most recent Graduate Students' Union (GSU) General Council Meeting was held on the evening of 28 October 2014 at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). Mr. Hogendoorn and Miss Rigling were present for the entirety of the meeting, with Miss Lees having notified the other members of her inability to attend the meeting. Proceedings commenced approximately half an hour past the appointed time due to the late arrival of voting members.

The Litigation Committee addressed the General Council in order to submit their final report and announce a settlement with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario (CFS-O). Their lawyer from Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) LLP gave an overview of the entire litigation process, starting with the rejected September 2013 petition to the CFS requesting a referendum on continued membership. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited was commissioned to independently review the GSU's petition, and found that there were no reasons for it to have been rejected by the CFS. The lawyer was unable to reveal the details of the settlement in their entirety, but the most important aspect, that the requested referendum is to go ahead, was confirmed. In terms of cost to their membership, the GSU budgeted \$150000 for the litigation process and approximately \$140000 was spent. The campaign period for the referendum begins 10 November 2014, and the voting period is from 24 November until 28 November.

The budget for the GSU was passed. The executive will also be offering a workshop on course union finances on 13 November at 17:30.

At this point in the meeting, the Academics and Funding Commissioner for Divisions 1 & 2 delivered his report detailing his work on the executive committee, but explained his inability to cope with the hostile work environment, and subsequently delivered his resignation, which took effect immediately. He promised, though, to continue his work with Grad Minds. This commissioner has been an ally to MISC in the past, as well as a strong opponent to the CFS, and the lack of his presence will be felt.

The School for the Environment sought representation on the Council as a new course union. This issue was contentious, and some members, the representative for the Women and Gender Studies Course Union in particular, were concerned that their representation would be diminished on account of the School for the Environment being a collaborative unit, and that the students of which it is composed are already being represented by other unions. However, with support from the GSU executive, as well as reassurance that this was not the first collaborative course union to have representation (although it seems that no one could produce any evidence to prove this), they were successfully given a General Council seat.

At this point, things got interesting. The representative from the Electrical & Computer Engineering Graduate Student Society (ECE), after wrestling with the chairperson for an

opportunity to speak, alleges that the president of his course union has not invited him to any of their meetings. When he finally did attend a meeting, the president attempted to block him from voting. Afterward, the president verbally and physically assaulted the representative. The representative did not elaborate on what the possible motive may be. After considerable deliberation, the council formed a committee to investigate these allegations brought against the president. Miss Rigling volunteered her services for this committee. After this point was decided upon, the president, who was in attendance, believed it was an appropriate time to physically intimidate the representative while he was making his egress. He also informed the council that they were making “a fucking mistake” and that we would collectively be sorry. We eagerly await the committee’s findings.

The council went *in camera* in order to discuss the conflict within the GSU Executive Committee. This conflict involves claims of verbal and emotional harassment from the External Commissioner against the rest of the Executive Committee. When the council went *ex camera*, the council voted on whether or not to pay the commissioner the remainder of the honorarium which would have been owed to her if she were to have retained her position in exchange for her resignation and willingness to not pursue any litigation. The General Council passed the motion, but the MISC Representatives were among those who wished their opposition to this course of action noted in the minutes.

Having lasted nearly an hour after the appointed end time, the remainder of items on the agenda were hurried through. Mr. Hogendoorn was appointed to the University of Toronto Library Systems Advisory Board as one of two GSU members. He is still unsure as to what this board does, although everyone whom he knows who sits on it does not really know either, so the mystery continues. Finally, the Good Food Box program was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:55.

Respectfully submitted this 10 November 2014 by C. Hogendoorn, K. Lees, & L. Rigling.

Amended 8 March 2015 by C. Hogendoorn.