



Master of Information Student Council
University of Toronto, Faculty of Information
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Claude Bissell Building, 7th Floor, Student Lounge
February 11th, 2015 at 4:00-6:00pm

MISC Meeting

Minutes

Present: Hilary Barlow, Jessie Wionzek, Christopher Hogendoorn, Lucy Szczesniak, Junoh Kim, Carolyn Dineen, Hannah Saunders, Sophia Kesik, Catherine Lamoureux, Calvin Tennakoon, Karen Lees, Lillian Rigling, Stephanie Abba Peymon Montazeri, Maya Cruz (arrived 4:50), Julia King (arrived 5:10)

Regrets: Amanda Chernawski, Haleigh Fox, Akash Venkat, Janel Cheng, Leah Strudwick, Diana Kulpa, Mehreen Athar, Mari Vihuri, Nuree Lee

Absent: Katrina Cohen-Palacios

1. **Approval of the agenda**
 - a. Seconded by Chris; approved unanimously
2. **Reading and approval of the minutes**
 - a. Seconded by Chris; approved unanimously
3. **Approval of the [2012-2013 Annual Survey](#)**
 - a. Seconded by Jessie; approved unanimously
4. **Business arising from the minutes**
5. **Reports by Executives:**
 - a. **President (Hilary Barlow)**

- i. U of T is moving toward developing a sexual assault policy. It happens that Chris knows Celia Wandio, who is spearheading a [petition](#) to make sure the policy is comprehensive and cognizant of assault survivors needs. We welcome her to tell us about the petition at the beginning of the meeting today.
 1. There is an advisory committee to the President and Provost to help develop policy and tackle these issues. However, the selection process was very secretive and there was no clear rationale as to why they chose the people they did. There has also been no indication of an understanding of the importance of including at-risk group representatives on the committee. Thus far, it seems as though they are only trying to look good rather than actually trying to create change. There is a campaign being put forward by Celia and her fellows regarding this issue; the administration seems to be taking notice of this, which is good.
 2. Hilary brought up the small survey she sent out to iSchool students via the listserv to raise awareness and gather feedback on this issue.
 3. Celia noted that there are several ways to get involved and become more informed on the campaign, ie. through Facebook groups & events (both private and public). Another group, Thrive, has also become involved and has been circulating a survey relating to these issues.
 - a. Motion to endorse the petition
 - i. Seconded by Jessie; approved unanimously
 4. The problem is, without sustained student pressure, the administration is unlikely to work towards solving/improving these issues, so we need to keep the issue in students' minds.
- ii. Hilary created a [form](#) to solicit feedback from students about the sexual assault policy and campus safety. Feedback is anonymous and will be forwarded to UTGSU.
- iii. The Mental Health Meet-up is tomorrow in the student lounge at 4 pm. There will be massages, food, and a discussion about campus mental health resources and coping mechanisms.

- iv. As discussed last meeting, on 23 January Hilary emailed a set of [proposed solutions](#) for renovating the Inforum to ischool.review@utoronto.ca and every member of the UTL Inforum Working Group.

b. Vice President (Chris Hogendoorn)

- i. Chris has posted a sign in the lounge notifying students of the dangers of overloading the power outlet (ie., by plugging in two kettles at once).
- ii. There will be a GSU roundtable on March 3rd at 6pm - the GSU will send out an invitation ahead of time.
- iii. Chris has emailed Glen Menzies about the green bin issue noticed at the last MISC meeting and is waiting for a response.
- iv. There will be a part-time student outreach initiative in the lounge on Tuesday February 24th from 5-7pm. Chris and Stephanie will be in the lounge to field questions, concerns, etc.

c. Secretary (Jessie Wionzek)

d. Treasurer (Lucy Szczesniak)

- i. After submitting audit exemption package, heard back there was an issue with the balance sheet/financial statement. Changes have been made, and the revised balance sheet/financial statement was submitted on February 3rd 2015. This will result in a delay in the release of student fees. Still waiting to hear back about rough estimate as to when we will receive next installment.
- ii. Submit your cheque requisition forms, and cash your cheques :).

e. Webmaster (Mari Vihuri)

6. Reports by Committee Chairs:

a. Academic Affairs (Carolyn Dineen)

- i. Pizza party held February 3. Success! All the pizza went.
 - 1. Only feedback was that students should be made more aware of how they can access class rep reports. Will suggest adding to introductory e-mails for class reps for the AA Chair 2015-2016.
- ii. Will be sending out request for mid-term reports and workshop end reports next week.

- iii. Sophia, who is a class rep, brought up that there's some confusion about who to bring concerns to - MISC, the instructor, or both? Perhaps there can be more clarification on this in future communications with class reps.

b. Professional Development (Jessie Wionzek & Julia King)

c. Social (Leah Strudwick & Hannah Saunders)

d. Merchandise (Mehreen Athar)

- i. Hilary gave a mug, some pens and buttons to Kira of the ACA chapter. These items, along with a U of T T-shirt, will be given as gifts to Librarian and Archivist of Canada Dr. Guy Berthiaume.

7. Reports by Representatives:

a. Alumni Association (Catherine Lamoureux)

- i. No report

b. MISC-MUSSA Liaison (Haleigh Fox)

c. Admissions Committee (Karen Lees)

- i. Considering adding a videoconferencing option in addition to the chat sessions for the smaller concentrations
- ii. Concerns about changing the website mid-recruitment but apparently it will be Beta until May
- iii. Discussed the Co-op program details - it will presumably be confirmed by next Info Day for formal promotion

d. Faculty Council (Hilary Barlow et al.)

- i. Asked about next steps/timelines for the UTL Partnership Working Group; Dean Ross replied that they received a lot of feedback, still waiting to get notes from the facilitators. The Working Group will meet to review the feedback on 25 February.
- ii. Possible move from Programs to open the MI thesis option to people in a concentration. (More from Program Committee reps?)
- iii. Question about contingency planning for possible CUPE 3902 strike action in terms of academic continuity for students, including those intending to

graduate this spring. Dean Ross replied that there is a need to respect the union's negotiation processes, and we will know more in early March.

- iv. Chris reported that, while it seems less likely that Unit 3 will strike, Unit 1 still has a relatively high chance of striking and Unit 3 may strike as well in solidarity.

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

- i. No report

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

- g. Junoh reported that he has been speaking with a member of the cleaning staff and has heard that the caretaking staff's management is very carefully controlled and their union doesn't always act in its employees' best interests. Lately they have been laying off and otherwise displacing staff, including the woman Junoh has been speaking with, who has been working in the iSchool for a number of years. If she is moved to another building she will face higher chances of being laid off due to the need to learn new skills, acclimatize to the new setting, etc. She asked Junoh if there was a chance of formulating a petition to pass among members of the iSchool to help her stay at the iSchool until her retirement, which is only a few years away. Junoh has agreed to help with this.

h. Information Services Committee (Janel Cheng)

- i. Junoh reported that there has been some discussion of moving some of the Inforum's articles, etc. to UTL. This is being looked into.

i. Life and Times Committee (Amanda Chernawski)

- i. The Roving iTea will be held on March 18th instead of the 11th as planned due to an accidentally double scheduling of events on the 11th.
- ii. Thoughts on inviting Vickery Bowles, iSchool alumna and new City Librarian, to the End of Term iTea on April 1st? Committee members are worried a) that she may not be a draw for non-LIS students to attend and b) that the focus on employment and/or skills could induce anxiety in graduating students and dampen the atmosphere of celebration.
As I am unfortunately unable to attend today's meeting, sending me your thoughts on this via e-mail would be much appreciated!

1. Jessie suggested inviting Vickery to the Professional Development alumni event (formerly titled “Summer Students Working”) instead. Jessie will contact Amanda about this.

j. Programs Committee (Catherine Lamoureux & Calvin Tennakoon)

- i. Co-op: major program modifications need to be approved by March 31st to be included in course calendar for the fall
 1. Chris inquired about the payment/income for co-op students. Catherine responded that it will depend on the position. Catherine added that, should a student not get a co-op placement, they will not have to pay the co-op fee.
 2. It was brought up that we could push more for information re: part-time students’ inclusion/exclusion from the co-op program. Catherine noted that, since the first year of the program will be very small and will essentially test whether or not the iSchool is capable of running this program, it may be more harmful than helpful to try getting them to include part-time students in the pilot year. It might be best to let them try it out, work out the kinks, etc. and then push for more inclusionary policies afterwards.
- ii. MI thesis: current proposal is to split the 3.0 credits for the thesis into 2.5 credits for the thesis, and 0.5 credits for a Masters Thesis Prep course (develop proposal, do lit review). This prep course would replace Research Methods as a thesis pre-req.

k. Committee on Standing (Diana Kulpa)

- i. Nothing to report
- ii. The next Committee on Standing meeting will be in April or May 2015

8. New business

9. Adjourn

- a. Seconded by Stephanie; approved unanimously

Appendix

Written reports

Section title

Please include any written reports or supplementary documentation here.