

MASTER OF INFORMATION STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009
ROOM 728, CLAUDE BISSELL BUILDING
4:00-5:00PM

MINUTES

Present: Council did not meet quorum; however a motion was put forth to suspend rules and continue with the meeting. Max put forth this motion and it was seconded by Christine. Council voted unanimously to continue meeting. Three of four members of the executive were present.

1. Call to Order

Julia called the meeting to order.

2. Acceptance of the Minutes

Julia made a motion to accept the minutes.
Seconded by Max.
Motion carried.

Julia made a motion to accept the agenda items.
Seconded by Max.
Motion carried.

3. President's Report – Julia Brewster

Julia reported that the council has received a request to help fund the Connect@FIS event, a poster session held on April 7 by the students of the special libraries practicum course (FIS2158H Management of Corporate and other Special Information Centres). This course is taught by Vicky Whitmill. Max confirmed that the 2007-2008 council gave \$370 for the event; this year, the students have asked for the same amount or more.

Member of the council discussed this request. On one hand, the event is open to all students, faculty and staff, and serves as a good professional development opportunity for library students. On the other hand, it is a course requirement and, therefore, it may not be appropriate for student council to fund this event.

Some students felt strongly that funding events/activities that are course requirements is not appropriate and that giving money to Connect@FIS will set a precedent. There are other course activities that exist and any of these could request money as well.

Julia suggested that we should be funding only student initiatives, i.e. the Housing Memories conference, which are extra-curricular events and not course requirements.

4. Report from Faculty Council Representative Terri Rodak

Terri reported that the Life & Times Committee had recently held an iTea that provided a forum for students, staff and faculty to discuss opportunities to renovate and re-purpose the 5th floor for student use. The forum was created because the 5th floor is supposed to be a quiet study space, but it is also a group workspace for museums studies students.

In addition, changes that are made to the 5th floor will affect the space on the 4th floor of the Inforum. There have been many discussions about using the space formally dedicated to textual resources that have now been removed. It has been suggested that this space be used as an “Ideas Exchange” area with a coffee machine, etc, but there is no agreement on moving ahead with this idea.

Staff reassured students that the coffee machine and ideas exchange area is only one idea and that students will have an opportunity to provide feedback before any decisions are made final. Christina will follow up with the Inforum/Information Committee to ensure this is done.

5. Treasurer’s Report—Max Dionisio

Max reported that the council has been asked to sponsor the Housing Memories conference. The requested amount is \$1100, which will be used to pay for the wine & cheese event at the end of the conference. The Dean has indicated that he will provide an additional \$150 for every \$100 over \$1000. So, if council gives \$1100, the total funds available for this event will be \$1250.

Council expressed mixed opinions on this request. Some did not want to fund a wine and cheese event; others felt strongly that it was a good use of student money because the Housing Memories conference was an international event that promotes the faculty and highlights student work.

Three members of the council executive agreed that this would be a good event to fund and made the decision to give \$1100 for the conference.

6. Merchandise Committee Chair Report—Eve Leung

Eve reported that she has arranged to have sweatshirts made with the iSchool logo. These sweatshirts will be \$30 each for sizes small-xlarge, and slightly more for plus-sizes.

There was a discussion about increasing the price of each shirt to cover the costs and raise money for council. Eve did not want to charge more because students indicated that \$30 was the maximum amount of money that they wanted to spend on a sweatshirt.

7. Social Committee Report—Julia Morrison-Duller

Julia M-D reported that the social committee had planned a trip to the AGO during reading week and a skating trip for the week following reading week.

8. Academic Affairs Committee Report—Julia Brewster on behalf of Stella Palikarova

Julia reported that the Dean has requested that each class elect a student representative. These reps would, in turn, report up a hierarchy of reps who would report to the Academic Affairs Chair. Stella will manage this process.

There was some discussion about whether or not the hierarchical system of class reps would be efficient and achieve what the Dean had in mind: to provide feedback from students about their classes.

Meg reminded council that there has been an ongoing discussion among faculty about the poor levels of participation in the online course evaluations. The faculty would like to propose that students must fill out evaluations prior to gaining access to their grades on ROSI. This would proceduralize the evaluation process and student would just become accustomed to do this. Other faculties, i.e. Medicine, have done this.

9. Adjournment