



Master of Information Student Council

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information

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Claude Bissell Building, 7th Floor, Student Lounge

March 18th, 2015 at 4:00-6:00pm

MISC Meeting

Minutes

Present: Leah Strudwick, Hilary Barlow, Jessie Wionzek, Carolyn Dineen, Mari Vihuri, Julia King, Diana Kulpa, Sophia Kesik, Chris Hogendoorn, Catherine Lamoureux, Lucy Szczesniak, Hannah Saunders, Haleigh Fox, Lillian Rigling, Karen Lees, Nuree Lee, Peymon Montazeri, Maya Cruz

Regrets: Amanda Chernawski, Stephanie Abba, Mehreen Athar

Absent: Akash Venkat, Junoh Kim, Janel Cheng, Katrina Cohen-Palacios, Calvin Tennakoon

1. Approval of the agenda

- a. Second: Jessie; approved unanimously

2. Reading and approval of the minutes

- a. Second: Julia; approved unanimously

3. Business arising from the minutes

4. Reports by Executives:

a. President (Hilary Barlow)

- i. Christopher Young, President of the Doctoral Students Association, is our guest today to tell us why CUPE 3902, Unit 1 is striking and to answer your questions.

1. Chris would like to request MISC's support for the strike.

2. A MISC member inquired as to how blocking pedestrians and vehicles around places such as Rotman is helpful to the strike. Chris responded that they're legally allowed to do this and it's meant to show how many people are in support of the strike.
 3. Hilary asked Chris to explain the decision to picket the Bassam lecture. Chris responded that they requested the event to be moved offsite two weeks prior to the lecture, but since it wasn't, the picketers decided to picket the event.
 4. Hilary mentioned the administration's recent email about the decision to continue striking despite the revised funding package. Chris replied that the university hasn't met face-to-face with the bargaining team, but communication has instead occurred through a go-between/mediator. This past Friday the CUPE members had a meeting where they restructured the funding to have a larger basic funding package with fewer benefits. The bargaining team took this to the administration, but it was rejected, and the administration offered a deal that was less than one offered three weeks ago.
 5. Carolyn asked if it was true that professors cannot do the work that TAs do for classes. Chris replied that anyone could do the work, but they could be sued for doing so. For example, if a prof grades all the papers, a TA could file a complaint, which would result in some sort of discipline and a great amount of paperwork for the professor. Chris added that because of the large amount of untenured professors/assistant professors at UofT, they may feel pressured to do the work because of the instability of their positions.
 6. Chris noted that if anyone has questions they can email him directly.
- ii. After our email vote in favour of issuing a solidarity statement supporting CUPE 3902, short statements were posted to the MISC Twitter and Facebook accounts on 6 March. On 16 March, Hilary wrote and released a longer statement (thanks to Karen for editing assistance).
 - iii. We are in the nomination period for MISC elections. Please tell your friends! Nominations continue next week and then the following week is elections.
 - iv. Props to Karen for running a great campaign for Academic and Funding Commissioner, Divisions 1 & 2 in the UTGSU elections. Undeterred by the

unusual events of this past year, she stepped up to the plate. Even though she didn't win, she did her course union proud.

- v. Isidora emailed Hilary to ask if MISC has a stance on unpaid internships. Should the iSchool continue to advertise them to students?
 - 1. It was generally agreed that this would be fine as long as it's clear that they internships are unpaid.
 - 2. Lucy noted that she's heard that a similar internship is exploitative. Chris added that an organization recently fired all of their archives and tried to replace them with interns.
 - 3. It was suggested that unpaid internships be advertised with discretion to guard against advertising positions that may be exploitative in nature.
 - 4. It was also brought up that advertising unpaid internships may lead to employers sending unpaid positions rather than paid positions.
 - 5. Sophia noted that internships were originally intended for students to test out different careers, but now that there are more students than jobs, internships have become a necessity.
 - 6. It was agreed that we should tell Isidora we don't have an official stance, but we do not support exploitative or illegal internships.
 - 7. Carolyn noted that Julia brought up the idea of a seminar-type session to educated students about different types of internships.
- vi. Send a message to the Provost emphasizing how strike is affecting students and faculty with no instruction on how to handle courses?
 - 1. Motion seconded by Jessie; passed unanimously
- vii. Hilary, Chris and Karen attended a Professional Students Summit held by UTGSU. Perhaps not surprisingly, we have a lot in common with other students in professional programs. Ideas discussed: Professional Students Caucus, collaboration forum for professional students to exchange skills, archival practicum at Architecture faculty because their records are in really bad shape.
 - 1. Chris explained that the caucus would address common issues such as poor part-time programs, lack of funding, etc. The other main idea

was the collaboration forum – professional students have more practical skills, so they could exchange these skills (eg. we'll organize your records if you redesign our lounge), similar to a barter system.

viii. Stephanie Power emailed MISC about World Book Day and Copyright Day on 23 April. There will be a read-in of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* and Stephanie said MISC could have its own table at the event. As Stephanie described the event: "It provides an opportunity for University of Toronto Libraries to promote and celebrate the creation, protection, and reading of written works as well as to raise awareness for authors' rights and the shared cultural heritage we have through public domain material." Anyone interested in getting MISC involved in this event?

1. Lilly noted that her office is involved in this so she may be able to do something on behalf of MISC.
2. Chris suggested that the faculty might more appropriately represent this rather than just MISC. Chris said he'd get involved with it.

ix. Meeting with GSU (Chris, Karen and/or Lilly can report on this if they want)

1. Motion to accept the new GSU report
 - a. Second: Lilly; passed unanimously

b. Vice President (Chris Hogendoorn)

i. Proposed constitutional amendments

1. Part-time student representative: In the event that none of the sitting governing council members are a part-time student, or if certain concentrations are underrepresented, the executive members could appoint a member-at-large from those areas. This would give the executive members a chance to fill these spots if necessary. (Section 4.6 Members at Large)
 - a. Mari noted that this is partially what the Faculty Council positions are meant to do. Mari also suggested that we put a cap on the number of members-at-large that could be appointed. Chris changed the wording to make it clear that one member-at-large per concentration is the limit.

- b. Motion to table Chris' constitution amendment to be approved at the next meeting
 - i. Second: Jessie; passed unanimously
 - ii. 4.1: The Governing Council shall be comprised of the elected officers of the Executive Committee (Article 4.2), the chairs of all MISC Standing Committees (Article 4.3), and the student representatives to Faculty of Information committees (Article 4.4). Amend.: 4.1: The Governing Council shall be comprised of the elected officers of the Executive Committee (Article 4.2), the chairs of all MISC Standing Committees (Article 4.3), the student representatives to Faculty of Information committees (Article 4.4), and appointed members-at-large (Article 4.6). **New 4.6:** Members-at-Large 4.6.1: Should the occasion arise after the Fall election that no member of Governing Council is a part-time student, the Executive Committee may appoint a Part-time Student Member-at-Large to Governing Council. The appointment is to be ratified by Governing Council. 4.6.2: Should the occasion arise after the Fall election that the membership of Governing Council does not encompass all of the Master of Information program concentrations, the Executive Committee may appoint (a) concentration-specific Member(s)-at-Large to the Governing Council for the unrepresented concentration(s). The appointment(s) is/are to be ratified by Governing Council.

c. Secretary (Jessie Wionzek)

d. Treasurer (Lucy Szczesniak)

- i. Lucy is following up on some earlier documentation issues and will report back.
- ii. Remember to submit your cheque requisition forms!

e. Webmaster (Mari Vihuri)

5. Reports by Committee Chairs:

- a. Academic Affairs (Carolyn Dineen)**
- b. Professional Development (Jessie Wionzek & Julia King)**
- c. Social (Leah Strudwick & Hannah Saunders)**
 - i. Therapy dogs next week!
 - ii. April 3: end of year party!
- d. Merchandise (Mehreen Athar)**
 - i. The hoodie sale has concluded! Thanks to everyone who ordered one and bigger thanks to those who ran the sale booth in the lobby: Peymon, Calvin, Carolyn, Chris, Karen and Julia. Extra, extra thanks to Leah who not only ran the booth but also submitted the final order forms to Wright Ware.
 - ii. The button party was very fun, productive, and surprisingly cathartic. We now have some large buttons and a new set of small buttons with new slogans. More materials (backs, pins, transparencies etc) will have to be purchased for large buttons because we are officially out.

6. Reports by Representatives:

- a. Alumni Association (Catherine Lamoureux)**
 - i. No report (FIAA meeting is today at 6:15pm)
 - ii. Bertha Bassam lecture feedback
- b. MISC-MUSSA Liaison (Haleigh Fox)**
- c. Admissions Committee (Karen Lees)**
 - i. No report
- d. Faculty Council (Hilary Barlow et al.)**
 - i. Next FC meeting is 20 March.
- e. Graduate Students' Union (Lilly Rigling & Karen Lees)**
 - i. Concern regarding MISC Governing Council minutes
 - ii. GSU General Council meeting report

1. There are now two litigation funds, with different amounts of money in them. One is fighting off the CFS and the other is against Walter. The latter wanted more to bulk up their defenses, but they did not receive the additional amount.
 2. The electrical engineering grievance which Lilly was involved in has come to an end, and resulted in a best practices document.
- iii. Election and referenda review
- f. Student Tech Fund (Akash Venkat, Junoh Kim & Nuree Lee)**
- i. There have been talks about updating the DSLR accessories (lenses, etc). It was decided to upgrade the lenses as well as to look into purchasing a lightbox and a tripod(s).
- g. Information Services Committee (Janel Cheng)**
- h. Life and Times Committee (Amanda Chernawski)**
- i. The Travelling Trolley iTea is currently underway (hence my absence). Keep a look out for it! The plan is to rove within the building and then go outside to visit the picketing CUPE 3902 Unit 1 members.
 - ii. The next and final iTea of the year will be on April 1st. Specifics are still in development, but there will definitely be decorate-your-own-cupcakes (with gluten free and vegan options available). If there is anything you would like to see at this iTea, please e-mail me!
- i. Programs Committee (Catherine Lamoureux & Calvin Tennakoon)**
- i. See written report below
 1. Co-op will go forward and hopefully make it through Faculty Council and into the fall calendar. International students will be eligible but they may need to figure out logistically how they will work with their visas. It will be open to full-time students only for the first year because it's going to be a small pilot project. Co-op students will not be able to take practicum courses.
 2. Keilty's Digital Discourse course will likely be cross-listed with Cinema Studies. The Dean wants to have an official policy in place before this becomes official.

j. Committee on Standing (Diana Kulpa)

- i. Committee on Standing met March 5, 2015

k. Survey Working Group (or is it a Committee?) (Diana Kulpa & Pey-mon Montazeri)

- i. Drafted the 2014-15 MISC Student Survey
 1. Kept almost all of the previous questions
 2. Added new questions
 3. Kept the \$20 gift card draw

- ii. Used Google Forms rather than a paid service

1. Kept confidential & anonymous

- iii. Reviewing survey and saved it to the **MISConnect Google Drive** for MISC review:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1WUkdhmq4il9SSvnmTWI_A_HxJZl6RZT3AulBR_cc9c/edit

- iv. Survey will be ready to include in the email notification for the MISC elections

- v. Questions: What is the close date for the survey? How is the gift card managed? Is there anything else that needs to be done?

1. Suggested end date: April 17th (Friday)
2. Mari suggested that after the close date, the first thing to be dealt with is the choosing of the gift card winner and the removal of any related identification information.

7. New business

- a. When should we hold the April meeting/AGM? Exit reports will be due then.

- i. April 8 around 4pm.

- ii. Remember to put your exit reports in the Google Drive!

- b. Part-time Student Working Group report

- i. It was suggested that the current resources regarding course selection are inadequate, and some type of workshop (ie. an iSkills workshop) could cover basic skills/information related to this.
- ii. Several council members wondered whether something like this already exists, and suggested that it be researched more thoroughly.

8. Adjourn

- a. Second: Mari; approved unanimously

Appendix

Written reports

Programs Committee Report

Co-op Option

- Fees and eligibility
 - There will be an ancillary fee of \$1,200 for the two co-op placements, plus a \$50 application fee
 - Admission would require an A- average within the first semester to be accepted into the program.
 - International students are eligible for the program within the limitations of their visa (might require special dispensation because most student visas only allow for full-time work during scheduled school breaks).
 - Full-time only for the first year. Part-time admissibility will be revisited after the appointment of a Co-op Director, probably with the assistance of a student committee.
- The order of academic and co-op terms could pose a problem for ARM students if the appraisal course is only offered in the fall term.
- There will be an 'intro to co-op' workshop created to help bridge the gap into the program.
- Co-op positions will be posted and students will be responsible for applying and interviewing for them.
- Co-op students will not be eligible for practicum courses.
- Moving Forward:
 - The current design has to pass Faculty Council approval
 - It is on track in being include in the 2015 fall courses
 - Isidora will be creating a co-op handbook

Digital Discourse course cross-listed with the Cinema Studies Institute

- The Dean is not prepared to approve this as a joint course yet because revenue transfer has not been formally arranged with the Institute.
- Normally courses are offered as special topics classes for 3 years before officially being put in the calendar, which is not the case with this course. However, it is broad enough that many faculty members could teach it, so it is an appropriate exception.
 - Dean Ross suggested that there should be a policy in place regarding new courses and whether they need to spend 3 years as special topics courses.
- Programs Committee had previously approved this course as a regular class, so we decided to send the proposal to Faculty Council to gain initial approval then readdress it in a future meeting.

MI Thesis

- Changes to MI Thesis program are being submitted to SGS

- Will allow students to do a concentration AND a thesis
- Will help avoid the previous ugly process of trying to turn thesis credits into reading course credits if a student drops out of the thesis program

Graded Work Before Course Drop Date

- Having to return a graded assignment before the add/drop date is a university-wide policy for undergraduate courses, but only a best practice in our faculty
- This used to be a policy for graduate courses as well, but it was dropped
 - Nadia Caidi will look into why this policy was dropped
- Will be addressed at the next Faculty Council meeting
- Was generally seen as a good policy to have in place

Research MA

- Revisiting an idea that was proposed a few years ago, creating an MA degree that would advance the ideas and work of the faculty that is not served by the professional degrees
- Costis Dallas will look into this idea and report back to the Committee
- Concerns raised included that these degrees would need to be funded, and that this could create a two-tier master's program with the MI thesis option, and that this degree would not be meaningfully different from the MI thesis
- Potential benefits would be the option to give this degree to PhD students who do not complete their degree, so that they would not leave empty-handed