



AGENDA of the 5th Meeting of the General Council

Claude T. Bissell Building, Room 705A
12 December, 2018 | 6pm

Attendance

Executive Committee

Jamie Duncan, Co-President (Regrets)
Emma Findlay-White, Co-President
Matthew Innes, VP Finance
Bronwyn Nisbet-Gray, VP Operations
Patty Facy, Executive VP

Academic Affairs

Hugh Samson, Upper Year
Gaurav Bamezai, First Year

Social Committee

Christina Bondi, Co-Chair
Ciara O'Kelly, Co-Chair

Professional Development

MISC-MUSSA Liaison

Evelyn Feldman (regrets)

Tech-Fund

Hussein Hashi
Rooney Lee, First Year

GSU

Nicholas Lindsay-Lewis

Faculty Council

Danielle Crecca
Susan Bond
Stephanie Anagnostou
Andrew Micak
Erin Ruth
Rumman Ferdous
Manda Vrkljan (regrets)
Rida Idrees
Meagan Lau

Mental Health Working Group

Marta Cooper Burt
Robyn Forman

Alumni Association Representative

Viya Chen

Guest

Ben Mitchell

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting is called to order at [13:43]

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION

MOVED: Bronwyn SECONDED: Andrew

Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED/FAILED

4.0 Approval of Minutes

4.1 Approval of November 2018 Minutes

MOTION

MOVED: Marta SECONDED: Erin

Be it resolved that the minutes of the November MISC meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED/FAILED

4.2 Approval of December 2018 Minutes

MOTION

MOVED: Patty SECONDED Rumman

Be it resolved that the minutes of the December MISC meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED/FAILED

5. Executive Reports

MOTION

MOVED: Marta SECONDED: Susan

Be it resolved that the following be approved as presented:

1. Report of the Presidents

Jamie: sits on the advisory committee to the Provost re: hiring a new Dean at FIS. Meeting in December; certain threats include class sizes, divergent needs of students, precarious work, need to foster better networking connections/opportunities for students. Next meeting Feb 11

- Co-op: will have more discussion later today
- class rep: did not work out, MISC does not have the means to admin this initiative - if anyone wants to help they can speak to us
- interview project: underway. 4 videos completed and more interviews to come
- survey collab: underway. Will be using decommissioned netbooks to facilitate
- faculty council constitution changed: received latest round of changes from Colin Anderson last month. Changes: ongoing. Stephanie Rose will be the point person moving forward
- merchandise: 2 possible vendors (Entropy or UofT Bookstore) and will have FIS/UofT insignia. Will charge at cost, and will be getting an order form out soon
- reading week faculty retreat will happen as planned feb-22-23. Emma will be booking a bus in the next few days. Cost: about \$15-20/student
- essential university services - will discuss this later. This could affect MISC but we are working with larger orgs who are better suited to advocate on this

2. Report of the EVP

- met with all first year members earlier this month
- working with the D&I committee. Patty and another student will look to lead focus groups

3. Report of the VP-Operations

- everything is going as before

4. Report of the VP-Communications

5. Report of the VP-Finance

- not much - encourage everyone to look at the complete budget update as a point of reference (can be found in full report for this month)
- audit went through
- SSI initiatives were approved
- Marta: is it normal to have this much money left for student projects
 - Matt: yes, it never gets used
 - Emma: created a post to promote SSI; will add something to MISCellaneous on a weekly basis
- Andrew: what happens to the money?
 - Matt: it goes into MISC's bank
 - Emma: as best practice, we try not to have a large amount of surplus. May have a discussion later about what to do with this money this year
 - Hugh: bursaries?
 - Matt: typically have 5k in surplus
 - Rida: it cannot be allocated for projects within MISC?
 - Matt:
- Ben: class reps - I was the class rep for Colin Furness' systems class. Comments on why it didn't work: low support from faculty
 - Emma: will f/u with class reps
- Patty: SSI - conflict of Interest MI = Matthew Innes, not Master of Information
- Ben: merchandise - some people may not feel comfortable wearing hoodies
 - Ben D&I: please elaborate
 - Patty: struck to address issues related to diversity in the iSchool. Includes faculty and students from across FIS, Would like to lead focus groups as an initial outreach method
 - Ben: would like to contribute
 - Ben: SSI - newsletters are deleted; found social media better for outreach
 - Emma: will also include some posters throughout the building
- Andrew: merchandise: what is happening with the revenue
 - Matt: will be sold at cost; no revenue expected
- Marta: a mug would be great b/c it can be brought to work
 - Emma: ceramic or travel
 - Marta: ceramic

- **Patty:** colour pattern would be great to have on something (clothing, merchandise, etc)
 - **Emma:** people would appreciate the FIS insignia, opposed to the new geometric pattern used by FIS
- **Rida:** book a room that is private for future meetings
 - **Emma:** sure, will talk to Glen M
- **Nicholas:** As it stands who is the Dean?
 - **Emma:** Wendy is back

CARRIED/FAILED

6. Officer & Representative Reports

MOTION

MOVED: Gaurav

SECONDED: Susan

CARRIED/FAILED

Be it resolved that the following be approved as presented:

1. Report of Social Committee

- february iTea in the works; recently moved to the inforum
- Ciara will not be available, Christina will have work until 5. Need help with set-up around 3:30 - if anyone is able to help out, get in touch - Robyn will help. Connecting with Peer mentor team for other volunteers
- beginning to plan the end of year celebration (no longer the iBall - name change impending)
- faculty club has been booked for Thursday April 11. Food is still in progress
 - there will be dancing and music - if you know any DJs, reach out.
- **Hugh:** the "INFormal"
- **Nicholas:** the "Info"-down

2. Report of Academic Affairs

- see report in the drive
- **Marta:** had conversations that the way that the Qs were asked, it is hard to give a negative review, so people do not feel like giving their opinions
- **Matt:** it ends too early (the survey)
- **Andrew:** what made faculty concerned?
 - **Gaurav:** very low participation
 - **Hugh:** no single event
- **Patty:** the course eval's structure only has 1 text box in the middle of the survey - weird structure

- Nicholas: a while since i did a course eval, but it seems that they have changed a lot - putting it online displaces some of the responsibility of the activity to students, when it should be owned by the faculty
- Ben: these have a lot of meaning to younger faculty, but at the end of the day, have no value to students (esp in a program that is only 2 years)
- Hugh: there were several faculty members who said they do appreciate feedback (esp when thoughtful). Wonders if the MISC survey could include some questions about evaluations
- Erin: critique of the evals, critique of the timing - used to doing them in the period after assignments are due, but before grades are provided. Does not make sense that evals close Dec 11 (note: UofT determines this date)
- Hugh: FIS should perhaps be taking a leadership role in making this better, given that we steward information studies for the university
 3. Report of Professional Development
- employer showcase took place January 24
 4. Report of Alumni Liaison
- having their first meeting in Feb
 5. Mental Health Working Group
- See report in drive
- Proposal for future of iMH: Self-Care/Peer-Support related training for iMH group leaders Wellness Recovery Action Planning training. Ongoing WRAP training/practice available (free) through Stella's place, an external mental health/peer-support organization for young adults in Toronto <https://stellasplace.ca/programs/>
- would be happy to become a standing committee; constitutional amendment will happen at our final meeting
- Matt: if you do require the funds, get in touch soon
- Robyn: will the provincial government changes to uni funding change how MISC receives funds?
 - Emma: will discuss in item 7.3
 6. MISC-MUSSA Liaison
 7. Graduate Students' Union
- see report
 8. Tech Fund Report

- In November, the Tech Fund approved the purchase of 2 surface pro 6 tablets and pens, but the price was higher than expected (\$2,985 initial estimate). Would like to open this to the Council
- Hugh: made some suggestions for purchase - are there protocols for communicating that purchases are approved? If not, could this be put into place
 - Hussein: will reach out to students when they make proposals
- Andrew: does the tech fund provide training?
 - No

MOTION

MOVED: Bronwyn SECONDED: Gaurav

Be it resolved that the Master of Information Student Council General Council approve the tech fund purchase of 2 x Surface Pro 6 and 1 x surface pen in the amount up to \$3,500.

CARRIED/FAILED

Be it further resolved that the Tech Fund explore multiple options for vendors and prices and in good faith attempt to purchase the most cost effective options.

MOVED: Nicholas SECONDED: Patty

CARRIED/FAILED

9. MRAC Committee

- very high interest in the BI
- strong enrolment in the MI
- admission offers will be sent in a more timely manner
- hoping to gather more information on website analytics, data from recruitment
- plan to develop partnerships with corporate sponsors (Mastercard)
- target enrolment: 279 students in the MI

7. Other Business and Discussions

7.1 Co-Op

7.2 Mental Health Peer Support Network

- See Discussions Report
- Robyn: useful and thoughtful points; support/connection is important for grad students' success.
- Marta: concerned about the capacities of student leaders and their ability to deliver on initiatives. Suggested students request accessibility if attendance is an issue.
- Erin: attendance is tied to ALA accreditation
- Nick: to Marta and Robyn, what are your long term goals? To provide resources to help students through U of T or to teach students long-term and life-long coping mechanisms?
- Marta: A mix of both. Managing life, school and work is like a marathon. Students at this age have a host of responsibilities and learning to manage these in a learning institution should be inherently tied to early-career information professionals' training.

7.3 Others

8. Adjournment

MOTION

MOVED: SECONDED:

Be it resolved that meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED/FAILED

The meeting is adjourned at::

