



# AGENDA of the 6th Meeting of the General Council

Claude T. Bissell Building, Room 705A  
16 March, 2019 | 2pm

## Attendance

### Executive Committee

Jamie Duncan, Co-President  
Emma Findlay-White, Co-President  
Matthew Innes, VP Finance  
Bronwyn Nisbet-Gray, VP Operations  
Jason Cheung, VP Communications  
Patty Facy, Executive VP

### Academic Affairs

Hugh Samson, Upper Year  
Gaurav Bamezai, First Year

### Social Committee

Christina Bondi, Co-Chair (regrets)  
Ciara O'Kelly, Co-Chair (regrets)

### Professional Development

Ritchie Singh, Upper Year (regrets)  
Rebecca Jeong, First Year

### MISC-MUSSA Liaison

Evelyn Feldman

### Alumni Association Rep

Viya Chen

### Tech-Fund

Hussein Hashi  
Rooney Lee

### GSU

Nicholas Lindsay-Lewis (regrets)

### Faculty Council

Danielle Crecca  
Susan Bond  
Stephanie Anagnostou  
Allen Kwan  
Andrew Micak (regrets)  
Erin Ruth  
Calvin Won  
Rumman Ferdous  
Jason Battencarew  
McKinzey Manes (regrets)  
Manda Vrkljan (regrets)  
Rida Idrees  
Meagan Lau

### Mental Health Working Group

Marta Cooper Burt  
Robyn Forman

# **AGENDA**

## **1. Call to Order**

*The meeting is called to order at 14:15*

## **2. Land Acknowledgement**

## **3. Approval of Agenda**

### **MOTION**

MOVED: Susan                      SECONDED: Rumman

**Be it resolved that the agenda be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED/FAILED**

## **4. Approval of Minutes**

### **MOTION**

MOVED: Hugh                      SECONDED: Marta

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

**CARRIED/FAILED**

## **5. Executive Reports (15 minutes)**

### **MOTION**

MOVED: Susan                      SECONDED: Gaurav

**Be it resolved that the following be approved as presented:**

#### **1. Report of the Presidents**

- dean search is underway
- video project is underway; interviews are being edited

- survey project is working; upcycling netbooks and things are going well
- faculty council: met with specific faculty to discuss constitutional change; had discussions of the best way to approach faculty
- merchandise: dependent on a budget reallocation
- elections: underway
- retreat: went successfully; would like to continue this tradition
- service promotion: s/o to Emma for working on this project!
- Mission Statement: thank to Nick for helping put together a board; did not get as much interaction as hoped for; could potentially do an online iteration
- essential university service: still in mind but there are no confirmations
- Inforum advisory committee: McKinzey will be sitting on it moving forward/in the external review process
- yoga: MISC, MUSSA and iRelax have collaborated on these. Had low turnout, but could be increased through more effective marketing
  - need to f/u on the instructor's payment, invoicing per her contract

## 2. Report of the EVP

- first year co-op program complaints; worked to bring it to faculty council. Patty has met with Colin Furness on this issue
- D&I - everyone is very busy, so things are still coming together, but focus groups should follow with assistance from UofT Student Life
- iTea: focus on D&I; should get input from MISC, social committee

## 3. Report of the VP-Operations

## 4. Report of the VP-Communications

- see report provided by Jason
- major takeaway: Anne B is working on the SharePoint site, but it requires significant buy-in; MISC decided not to put effort into this project earlier this year that this would be handled by now by Admin

## 5. Report of the VP-Finance

- see Matthew's report in the Google Drive
- Q: Susan - who is out auditor? A: the university; for student societies that make less than 20k, there is an audit exemption available (MISC is exempt)

**CARRIED/FAILED**

## 6. Officer & Representative Reports (20 minutes)

### MOTION

MOVED:                      Bronwyn      SECONDED: Jason

**Be it resolved that the following be approved as presented:**

1. Report of Social Committee
  - in the drive (browse at your leisure)
2. Report of Academic Affairs
  - copy will be available in the drive
  - a few meetings of the program committee since the last meeting; new courses - BI courses are being developed; summer courses: library test kitchen, others
  - committee on standing meeting: subcommittee on doctoral matters (coursework extensions, thesis title changes, org of doctoral committees - nothing out of the ordinary)
  - could be value having a VP academic for curriculum design, course design. Hugh sees value in having more interface with the executive to facilitate discussion
  - Susan: will there be descriptions for courses provided before enrolment? A: Hugh - I have descriptions I can give to students
  - Jason: how often do student recs get considered? Hugh: not really the role of students to make suggestions outright; rather students ask questions and comment upon issues
  - Susan: do changes get made only at the discretion of the instructor? Hugh: academic freedom is very sensitive; Professors dislike critique from students and tact is required. Content is rarely up for discussion, it is more a body for ensuring courses meet requirements.
    - Gaurav: when changes are required, they are often made outside of the official meeting (office hours) because it is viewed as less harsh
3. Report of Professional Development
4. Report of Alumni Liaison
5. Mental Health Working Group
  - OLA Superconference went well
  - Mental Health Scholarship had numerous applicants; awardees will be announced soon; because it is from the Dean's discretionary fund it is not guaranteed for next year
  - they have secured a domain name
6. MISC-MUSSA Liaison
  - MUSSA's year-end party is on April 16 (MMSt only)

- election nominations are March 25-29; election voting opens after
- FIAA trivia night will happen next wednesday March 26 at 7pm; we provided some funding
  7. Graduate Students' Union
    - elections occurred; their new exec came into power
    - last meeting was pretty bad (very long meeting, did not get through meeting items)
    - amendments did pass and financial audit was received
    - student choice initiative was discussed to manage losses
    - GSU is protected because they offer health/dental benefits
      8. Tech Fund Report
      9. MRAC Report
  - meets once per semester; nothing has happened since our last meeting; will hopefully prepare something for the next meeting so MISC can provide input to MRAC

**CARRIED/FAILED**

## **7. SSI Requests (30 minutes)**

### **7.1 Budget Reallocation**

-Budget has approximately \$1,200 left

-Many SSI requests coming in at the end of the year, too many to fund under the current structure

- 5 pending SSI requests = ~\$1,700

- there are a few places we can reallocate funds

Be it resolved that MISC move in camera at approx. 15:15

moved: Susan      Seconded: Rida

Motion carries with one abstention

Be it resolved that guests to this meeting may remain in the room during in camera discussion

Moved: Susan                      Seconded: Evelyn

Motion carries

Exit camera at 15:46

moved: Susan                      Seconded: Matthew

Carried

MOTION

Moved:        Susan                      Seconded: Marta

Whereas the MISC Vice-President Finance and the MISC General Council discussed and debated an anticipated \$1749,97 of surplus funds, as will be presented in the VP-Finance Report;

BIRT the MISC General Council approve the distribution of said anticipated surplus funds towards the SSI budget line item.

**CARRIED**/FAILED with one abstention from Matthew

## **7.2 Discuss IM Student Conference**

### **7.3 Discuss WIPO**

- 12 iSchool students are going to the WIPO conference; looking for funding to cover costs
- Q: Matthew: what other sources have been tapped? A: The OLA, Dean, travel bursaries, GSU; they think they're at approx. \$4,000
- Q: Hugh - why these students? : it was open for all 200 students, but has been cut down to 12 students who could commit the time/money to go; includes students from different concentrations, but within three courses taught by Dr. Caidi, Jean Dryden, and Ms. Owens
  - this is not technically open to all students, and MISC's funding should support all students
- Q: Marta - numbers do not match up - what will funds be used for? Money will not go towards professors? A: \$1600 is a ballpark per students based on time of flight bookings
- Q: Patty: are you booking through the university travel centre? A: no.

- Q: Hugh - concern is that this is a great initiative. However, the people who are going stated they could potentially cover the cost; it disallows students who initially could not pay for the trip. We could steer funds towards students who could not afford the trip
- Q: Matthew: what will you do if you if this funding is not guaranteed? A: regardless of the financial responsibility, will pay out of pocket
- Jamie: conferences are necessary costs that people take on, on a regular basis, and this is not necessarily fair
- Hugh: agree that it is problematic, but that does not necessitate people continuing in it
- Evelyn: the way that this is happening feels disingenuous. It is important for students to have funding, but the current model of SSI funding is not appropriate for this type of initiative (e.g. MISC should have a say in who gets to attend with our funds)
- Bronwyn: Are professors actively seeking funding?
- Patty: do you have a breakdown of funding in specifics? The university has guidelines around accommodations - we need to ensure the trip is in alignment with those standards. A: yes
- Erin: this is not the first trip that came out of a class that was considered by MISC...A: that trip to Quebec got funding elsewhere. Two considerations; cannot fund things related to coursework - interpreted this rule liberally; bigger issue: was this really open to the whole student body
- Joanna: are all events open? A: SSIs have been public events/initiatives in the past, this is not
- Allen: perhaps moving forward we could have a travel grant related to SSI
- Matthew: we do not give out the funding up front - we repay on receipt from the requestor. How will that work? How will we ensure the funds are provided equally to students on the trip
- Susan: Do we even want to get into the business of giving out conference funding
- Jamie: is that even sustainable? We are approaching this as an ad-hoc issue, but this is not a simple issue
- Marta: is very first reg that it has to be open to all students? A: yes. R: then closed issue.

BiRT that the council will move into camera at 16:23

Moved: susan      Seconded: Marta

BiRT MISC exit camera at 16:38

Carried

MOTION

Moved: Marta                      Seconded Erin

Whereas Funding Regulation 7(A) precludes MISC from funding initiatives that are not available to the full body of students;

and, whereas the request from WIPO suggests the event is not open to all students;

BIRT the MISC General Council deny the request of \$1500 towards the WIPO initiative as requested, in accordance with Funding Regulation 7(A)

Abstentions: Rida, Matthew, Jamie, Jason, Robyn, Rumman, Danielle, and Bronwyn

The motion carries

Action item: MISC suggests that WIPO initiative approach the iJournal and Digital Tattoo for funding for any knowledge mobilization efforts related to the WIPO conference

## **8. Other Business and Discussions (45 minutes)**

### **8.1 Elections**

### **8.2 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

- Doodle poll will determine the date (including elections)
- if you can prepare transition documents for this meeting that would be ideal

### **8.3 Student Choice Initiative (SCI)**

- many student organizations are concerned about this change by the Provincial government. This will likely take significant effect because MISC is an independent student organization. MISC is currently unprotected
- the exec is in conversation with the dean and faculty

We the Students Say NO - Walk Out At UofT

# We the Students Say NO - Walk Out At UofT

Weds March 20th <https://www.facebook.com/events/565152223978818/>

organized by [APUS - Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students](#)

## 8.4 Other

- photos from Hart House farm for the website? Yes!!
- reports for meetings put up as unofficial along with meeting minutes

## 9. Adjournment

### MOTION

MOVED: Marta SECONDED: Bronwyn

**Be it resolved that meeting be adjourned.**

**CARRIED/FAILED**

*The meeting is adjourned at::*