



28th, May 2021, 5:00PM - 7:00PM

MISC Council Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:03PM

2. Roll Call

| Name/Position | Present | Regrets | Absent |
|---|---------|---------|--------|
| Courtney DeMaeyer (President) | X | | |
| Will Power (VP Operations) | X | | |
| Usman Malik (VP Finance, Tech Fund Representative) | X | | |
| Hibo Roble (VP Academic Affairs, Committee on Standing Representative) | X | | |
| Julia Geisler (VP Communications, First Year PD Committee Co-Chair) | X | | |
| Ariana Cuvin (Social Committee Co-Chair) | X | | |
| Nem Hannah Brunell (Social Committee Co-Chair) | X | | |
| Lala K. Sondajaja (Upper Year Survey Committee Co-Chair) | X | | |
| Natalie Somerset (Upper Year MH Committee Co-Chair) | X | | |
| Emma Ratcliffe (Tech Fund Representative, Upper Year) | X | | |
| Mansi Jain (Tech Fund Representative, Upper Year) | X | | |
| Kamilah Ebrahim (GSU Representative) | | | X |
| Guests (Present) | X | | |
| - Lorena Almaraz (Diversity Working Group) | | | |
| - Patty Facy (2020/2021 Continuity Working Group) | | | |
| - Amy Farrow (Accessibility Interests Working Group) | | | |
| - Meagan Lau (Part-Time Students Working Group) | | | |

- First introductions to the rest of the 2021-2022 council



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3. Land Acknowledgement:

- Read by: **Ariana Cuvin**

I (we) wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

To acknowledge does not reconcile the suffering faced by these communities but we will continue to acknowledge the privilege we have to this land as we learn how to approach reconciliation with integrity.

4. *BIRT the agenda for May 28, 2021 be adopted.*

- Motion by: **Courtney DeMaeyer**
- Seconded by: **Ariana Cuvin**
- Carried/Failed: **Carried**

5. *BIRT the minutes from April 23, 2021 be adopted.*

- Motion by: **Courtney DeMaeyer**
- Seconded by: **Nem Hannah Brunelle**
- Carried/Failed: **Carried**

6. Previous Business

- *“BIRT the changes to the constitutional terms of the MISC Class of 2020 Continuity Working Group be accepted as presented.*
 - *Expand the Continuity Working Group as MISC Class of 2020-2021 Continuity Working Group”*
- Courtney briefly explained the above passage

8. Executive Committee Reports

- *“Wendy Duff is staying on as Dean*
 - *Preparing for a safe return to campus*
 - *Orientation guidance in relation to the Province of Ontario’s Roadmap*
 - *Faculty of Information is planning for an online orientation”*



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- Courtney elaborated on the above passage, offered Social Committee an opportunity to participate & help with orientation events
- Discussed monthly iSchool update; Dean desires as many in-person classes as possible, provincial measures pending

7. Executive Committee Reports

i. President

- Vacant spot for CRCSS position → call for nominations
- Talk with Dean about the U of T Censure (censure based on hiring practices in Faculty of Law) → Call for comments as per what MISC's response should be
- Lorena to bring up communication re: censure
- Desire via Cortney to address issues brought up in 2021 student survey: Panel & Q&A solution to be focused entirely on MISC instead of being a guest at other panels
- Planning for July/August and then when the Fall Semester starts (perhaps an AMA), early call for volunteers
- Long term desire also to promote election for the fall

ii. Vice President Academic Affairs

- Master recruitment and Academic Committee
 - Increasing diversity within iSchool
 - Increasing diversity within school by meeting with UTL at UTSC and UTM
 - Recruitment appears to be on par with last year re: offers accepted, offers ongoing - bit of a stall with international acceptance
- Programs Committee
 - 2 new course approvals
 - INF1005/1006 expansions into new fully-fledged courses
- Graduate Committee on Standing

iii. Vice President Communications

- Desire for MeetMISC to be set up this year for council to be introduced - weekly postings
- Switching social media logins on later.com



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iv. **Vice President Finance**

- Issue of signing authority to be transferred
- Budget drafting for next month → desire for consultation

v. **Vice President Operations**

- Website updating and maintenance ongoing
- Call for MISC members to communicate whether they have access to the Google Drive and if so, only to the appropriate folders

vi. **Executive Vice-President**

- Vacant

Motion: *BIRT the MISC General Council approves the Executive Reports as presented.*

- Motion by: **Courtney DeMayer**
- Seconded by: **Ariana Cuvin**
- Carried/Failed: **Carried**

8. Committee and Representative Reports

i. **MISC-MUSSA Liaison**

- Waiting for confirmation from designated student to take on role

ii. **Social Committee**

- Rough summer schedule has been drafted → summer social for mid-July, as well as orientation, which they are waiting to hear back on
- Brainstorming ideas for activities as well as social media activities, such as new groups for incoming students
- Beginnings of recruitment for committee → discussions with volunteers pending, to begin shortly
- Desire to experiment with event concepts informally (i.e., karaoke) as well as additional engagement via social media
- Long term, desire to use “GatherTown” and other platforms to make things more interactive
- Open call for concepts/ideas for social events as well as partnerships



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iii. Survey Committee

- Published 2020-2021 student survey
- Mental health survey & raffle prizes for extensive time use, perhaps to be launched on May 31 and run for 2 weeks
- Call to VP Comms to promote
- Open call for survey collaborations

iv. Mental Health Committee

- Mental health survey is key deliverable for this month
- Asking students about tools they have access to and best way to reach out to them about resources they might not already be aware of

v. Professional Development Committee

- Currently vacant
- Preparation to be undertaken for this position for person in Fall so they have something to work with

vi. Faculty Council

- Nothing to report

vii. Alumni Association Representative

- Vacant position, nothing to report from President

viii. T&R Working Group

- Vacant position, nothing to report from President
- Brief discussion about previous appointment and the search for a new candidate

ix. Graduate Students' Union Representatives

- Kamilah absent; nothing has been sent to MISC via UTSGU

x. International Student Representatives

- Position currently vacant



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- Gillian & Nadia working on promoting communication between international students and Faculty/MISC to find out best ways to support students → series of small interviews planned for later on
- What can we as a faculty/student association support this group better?
- Open call for volunteers to support this group

xi. Tech Fund Representatives

- Review of exit reports and former representatives as well as brainstorming and priority setting → Meeting with faculty to discuss said priorities
- Plan to continue to work on promoting tech fund to students → call to VP Comms for promotion
- New forms to be added to Inforum database
- Higher presence on social media
- Re-examining current equipment, including end-of-life times of machines
- Investigation into extending loan period for particular equipment (i.e., laptops) for when personal devices are sent in for repair, more appropriate for remote learning → current loan period set out by UTL, but this requires proposal
- Software license another avenue of exploration → potential survey, call to Survey Committee for collaboration
- Interest in partnering with local retail/tech repair service → reach out to Robarts Commons Information group
- Open to any suggestions from students/council re: 2021-2022 priorities
- New rules and examination of lost hardware, which is currently being handled on a case by case basis (sometimes students are charged, sometimes they are not) → this is an avenue for exploration to establish a standardized set of rules for all students
- Desire to invest in security tags for hardware to prevent theft: Details of what this will require as well as benefits to be explored

Motion: BIRT the MISC General Council approves the Committee and Representative Reports as presented.

- Motion by: **Courtney DeMayer**
- Seconded by: **Lala Sondjaja**
- Carried/Failed: **Carried**



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9. Working Group Reports

i. Accessibility Interests Working Group

- Event coming up on June 9th about what T&R means to info professionals
- Looking at deleting Facebook page to consolidate social media → updating dedicated website
- Concerns raised over equity of returning to in-person classes → Call for expressions about this
- Desire to conduct a survey for student accessibility concerns in the changing remote learning landscape
- Planning to redo workshops and advocate for accessibility inclusive materials in courses

ii. Class of 2020 & 2021 Continuity Working Group

- Patty delivered brief history of the group → many end-of-year events cancelled in 2020, resulted in MISC voting for allocating significant portion of budget to later years
- Survey went out to 2020 grads to determine what their priorities and desires were, new survey will go out this year for update
- Working closely with iSchool and Faculty as well as 2020 & 2021 grads
- Budget was allocated from 2020/2021 society fees, to alleviate concerns
- Discussion surrounding if allocated budget is enough → tentative yes

iii. Diversity Working Group

- Continuing with Syllabi deconstruction → finished with KMIM concentration, and starting on ISD
- Desire to make information more accessible
- WILU conference in June
- Continuing with recruitment
- CBC tour archives → call for MISC support re: promotion & desire to establish partnerships in industry
- Desire for late-summer speaker series & extension for peer-mentorship program that is BIPOC specific



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iv. Part-Time Students' Working Group

- Attempts at recruitment
- Currently working to advocate based on past survey
- Part time students reported lack of knowledge on certain things as well as advocating for things like co-op eligibility
- Open calls for collaboration with other groups

Motion: BIRT the MISC General Council approves the Working Group Reports as presented.

- Motion by: **Courtney DeMayer**
- Seconded by: **Lala Sondjaja**
- Carried/Failed: **Carried**

10. Other business

- **Discussion:** Questions if anything is required of council members to set up things for orientation week → Would be prudent to coordinate with social committee

11. BIRT the meeting be adjourned

- Motion by: **Courtney DeMayer**
- Seconded by: **Hibo Roble**
- Carried/Failed: **Carried**

Meeting adjourned at 6:04PM



President's Report

May MISC General Council Meeting

Short-term

Contact with BISA

A second-entry information program began last year at UofT. They've created their own student council. I've talked to their co-presidents at an initial meeting, but they or other members may reach out to you with administrative questions or for the logistics of how things are run for ideas how to run themselves.

CRCSS Designate

Appointed representative to the pool of students who may be called to serve on the University's Complaint and Resolution Council for Student Societies panel.

- Appointment by June 1st
 - Any recommendations?

Position on Censure - Tuesday Talk with Wendy

It looks as if the Faculty of Information may be taking an official stance on the UofT censure.

- June 1st
- Importance on the process and not the politics
 - Politics may or may not play an aspect in a few ways, but reasoning needs to be grounded to their relation to their process and not personal sentiments.
 - Contradictory allegations and unavailable supporting documents

Long-term

MISC Panel and Q&A

Aimed at incoming students and current students to learn and better understand the existence of MISC and our functions. Explanations of existing roles and exploration of available resources and opportunities.

- Date TBD (tentative late July or August)
- Participation by other members is encouraged but in no way mandated

MISC AMA

For willing MISC participants, to engage with iSchool students to answer any questions they may have based on position and/or casual questions to make us seem approachable.

- Beginning of Fall-Term
- Doubles as promotion for Fall election

Social Committee Co-Chairs' Report

May 2021 MISC General Council Meeting

Nem & Ari



What We Did

- Met & created living schedule for the summer semester, including the summer social (set for mid-July) and orientation
- Brainstormed ideas for activities
- Set up Incoming iSchool 2021 Facebook group and plugged it at the iSchool Meet & Greet
- Began recruitment for social committee...committee
- Working with previous chairs Veronica and Jessica to learn more about Orientation Week events



What's Coming Soon

- Meeting with the signed up volunteers to discuss vision for the summer and work on Summer Social
- Experimenting with event concepts informally (Ari wants to do karaoke pretty pls)
- More engagement on social media side



Long-Term Items

- Using Gather Town to make events feel more interactive, allow for side-conversations, etc

Survey Committee Co-Chairs' Report

May 2021 MISC General Council Meeting

May Work Items (Major)

- **Mental Health Survey**
 - Planned & created survey with 27 questions <https://bit.ly/3fCLew5>
 - Open for May 31 June 13 (?)
 - Promote on: MISO Business, Discord, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
 - Raffle Prize: one \$15 gift card for about every 20 participants
- **Student Experience Survey (SES)**
 - Approved & published on MISO Business and Survey Center

Other Work Items (Minor)

- Anyone else wants a survey this summer?

Budget

| Past Items | Cost | Notes |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| N/A | | |
| Running Total | \$0 | |
| Planned Items | Cost | Notes |
| Mental Health Survey Raffle | \$30~60 | Depends on number of participants |
| Planned Total | \$60 | |
| Projected Total | \$60 | |



International Students Representative Report

May MISC General Council Meeting

[Position Vacant]

Focus Group/Interviews

Gillian and Nadia are working on a focus group to get feedback from international students. The original intent was a focus group but it's predicted most responses will be through interviewing due to more flexibility on times/dates. Questions will cover the topics of:

- Best forms of communication
- If you could change one thing
- How can the iSchool best support you
- Etc.

(Anyone one have any leads on who may be interested?)

We want to strengthen our faculty support, and be able to take previous concerns and form something tangible but are somewhat at a standstill as to what that can be. Some of the questions and concerns cannot be addressed by the faculty for legal reasons. There's the CIE, but it's regularly forgotten, and some don't like that they have to go to the general UofT resources as they feel they should be able to directly ask their faculty.

If anyone comes to you with questions on immigration or visas, either generally or in pandemic circumstances please direct them to the CIE. It's been mentioned the can either cover or help cover the costs in case of needed quarantines on arrival and such.

DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP REPORTS TO MISC

Report submitted for 28 May 2021 MISC Meeting

INITIATIVES/ NOTEWORTHY HAPPENINGS

- The Syllabi Deconstruction project continues, wrapped up KMIM and continuing with ISD
 - General results and insights will be submitted to journals (potentially Journal of Education in Library and Info Science, Reflections)
- WILU Conference

UPCOMING PLANS

- Summer Recruitment
 - Two new members!
 - CBC tour
 - Speaker series
- BIPOC peer mentorship
 - Collaboration with Peer Mentorship Program