Meeting Minutes – Nov 1, 2016

UCC 315 (Council Chambers) – 6:30pm

Absent: Aniket, Danny, Olivia, Dorothy, Hannah, Graeden, Yesh, Craig, Sam, Hirad,

Motion to call to order firsted by Samir, seconded by Yousuf

Motion to adopt the agenda firsted byVLK, seconded by Elliot

Motion to ratify last meeting's minutes firsted by Adam, seconded by Shivani

1. Speaker Announcements (Jake W)

- Jake will be tallying demerit points soon probably not before next meeting. Information to come soon.
- Placards will be here for next week's meeting once we determine the computer science dep rep at today's meeting.

2. Member's Announcements

- *Andriy:* Board of directors for USC applications is coming out. It's a 2-year term where you sit on the corporate side of USC.
- *Thao:* For all the sophs, let your Actuarial Science first years know that they can request an act sci mentor.

Western Song

3. Council Business

a) *Motion:* Adding Medical Health Informatics (MHI, a BMSc module) to the Computer Science Department Representative Constituency

- *Motion firsted by Noor, seconded by Corey F.*
- **Mover:** MHI is not properly represented on council yet. MHI is too small of a module to have its own BMSc dep rep (as we do representation per ratio on council), but we could add them to another dep rep's constituency. We found that they have some overlap in terms of courses with computer science. The only issue we found with adding MHI to comp sci dep rep is that this would combine BSc and BMSc roles.
- **Question & Answer:**
    - *Courtney:* Did you consider grouping MHI with another Med Sci dep rep?
        - *Noor:* We did, but the problem is that the courses they take is so different with other Med Sci modules that it didn't really make sense to group MHI with them.
    - *Sean:* Is MHI just computer science with a focus on health, or is it more BMSc focused?
        - *Noor:* MHI needs to take 3.0 computer science courses.
        - *Nick:* POI – Only 1.0 of MHI required comp sci courses are shared with Computer Science students while the rest only MHI students are required to take.
- **Debate:**
    - *Courtney* (Against): Considering that they only share 1.0 comp sci courses with Computer Science Dep Rep and that the two programs are from different departments, I believe MHI should be put underneath an already existing Med Sci dep rep. I do feel that it would be

unfortunate for those MHI students who want to run for Comp Sci Dep Rep today if they cannot run.

- *Jake W:* POI – Result of this motion will not affect the vote today as no MHI students are running.

o *Michael* (For): Currently, Epidemiology and Biostatistics (my program) is underneath the IMS dep rep. I do not take any courses similar to people in that module. Personally, I think it would make more sense to put Biostats with Act Sci. It's a similar case for MHI students. The computer science they do, BMSc students would not understand, only comp sci students would. So, topically, I believe that MHI should be with Computer Science.

o *Noor* (For)*:* We need to match up the ratio of representation on council. Putting MHI with Comp Sci would work in terms of numbers.

o *Corey F* (For): Anyone in computer science technically can take any of the MHI computer science courses as they have the prerequisite.

o *Nick* (Against): There is way more course overlap of MHI and Med Sci modules than MHI and comp sci. After speaking to other comp sci students, we feel as though a MHI student could not best represent the computer science constituency.

o *Adam:* POI – MHI might best fit with Pathology as they have 3.0 course overlap.

- **Noor withdraws the motion.**

b) Computer Science Department Representative By-elections: Andre Z.
- Adam moves to ratify Andre as Computer Science Dep Rep. Seconded by Victoria LK.

c) Governance committee elections:
- *Adam:* Need 2 voting members to be on committee.
- *Noor:* This internal committee makes changes to the constitution to keep it as relevant as possible. Any big issues will be brought to council as a motion.
- *Nick:* Can additional non-voting members be part of the committee?
  o *Adam:* No, but you can raise any concerns you have regarding the constitution to the committee.
- ***Elected members:*** Matthew Yip and Yousuf Ahmed

4. Executive Reports

a) VP Academic (Victoria) and Advocacy (Jacob F)
- ***Advocacy:***
  o Course selection survey: Dep reps have beta tested it and now it's ready to be shared online in relevant Facebook groups. Dep reps, please share with your constituency. This information will be used to advocate for course selection changes.
  o *Dep rep roundtable:* The topic was academic counseling and the main areas of concern identified were giving out misinformation and make existing information more accessible.
    - These issues will probably not be tackled until after the course selection progress.
- ***Student support:*** The next Wellness Wednesday will be Nov. 2 from 12:30-2:30 in Taylor library and it will be fall themed crafts & cider.
- ***Graduate Studies Fair:*** So far, we have gotten all of Schulich, biology departments, Ivey Masters program, law, biomedical engineering, and FIMS
- ***Fall preview day:*** Please fill out doodle poll & Google form by tonight. Tour guides wil have a separate training with Martha.

- ***Dep rep shoutouts***
  - Hannah: She met and discussed with the Deans of Neuroscience about the course selection issues.
  - Corey F: Been working with undergraduate studies to help create a new lab course for Physiology and Pharmacology.

b) VP Communications (Yesh)

None

c) VP Student Events (Ghania) + Student Events-at-large Commissioner (Page)
- ***David Suzuki:*** 40 tickets sold just from SSC office in one day. More were sold online, at the UCC atrium, and in the purple store
  - Promotions reached to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and external London organizations (Reforest London, City of London). CTV will be covering it too!
  - General info: November 17 at 7pm with a 30 minute Q&A session afterwards
    - Dinner with David (VIP Package): $70
      - At the Wave for 20 people to purchase.
      - There are 5 tickets to raffle off to those who purchased tickets in the first 48 hours.
      - *Supriya:* are graduate students eligible for this raffle?
        - *Ghania:* Yes!
  - Please promote the online link.
- ***First year dance:*** Will be at the Wave on December 2nd
- ***Formal:*** Will be at The Aleolian, which is beautiful but quite far, on February 10.
  - We plan on providing shuttles to and from the venue and Western
  - The costs will be kept relatively low so hopefully that will be an incentive.
  - *Nick:* If budgeting is an issue, I believe that adding an extra $5 for the shuttle wouldn't be an issue to students.
    - *Ghania:* Will focus on budget after Discovery week.

d) VP Finance (Adam)
- ***David Suzuki Ticket Sales:*** Made $1500 in just one day
- USC has a service charge for online ticket sales which is why it costs a bit more online.
- Finance committee approved a group grant of Yousuf Ahmed to attend CUCOH conference as a delegate.
  - Motion moved by Adam and seconded Caleb
  - **Motion passes.**

e) President (Noor)
- ***Head soph interviews:*** 3 selected for interviews based off of applications, which will take place this week. Next week, the head soph will be announced.
- ***Senate regulations:*** Talked to deans asking them is there anything SSC can improve on in terms of communicating with them.
  - Deans wanted to know what council is doing, not just initiatives that we need deans to fund. So, we plan on having more frequent meetings with the deans to update them on what's happening.
- ***SSC Resources:*** Want to provide information in the best way possible (ex. pamphlet or info graphic)

- o   Currently collecting resources we can offer to science students
- **Internal review committee:** going to get started soon now that the members are picked. Throughout the year, we will bring you motions regarding constitution changes.
- **Policy committee:** first meeting will be on Nov. 9th 2016 at 5:30pm

5. Commissioner Reports

  a) Charity (Kaitlin and Laura)
- Had a collaboration with SSC events to do pictures on Halloween in SSC office
- **Marble slab night:** Will be getting promotional materials for that soon and typically council will do a cover photo change for it
    - o   Happening the week after Suzuki so will coordinate promo timing to avoid taking away from that event.

  b) Communications-at-large (Nick)
- Hired committee with an assortment of skills with video, photo editing, visual arts, and vectors
- If you have promotional material needs, please fill the Communications Typeform request form, giving us as much notice as possible.

  c) The Current Editor-in-chief (Bethia)
- The Current team met and articles will be coming out in a week and a half.
- Trying to give The Current a more Western focus.
- **David Suzuki:** Planning on a feature article with him after a quick 5 minute interview at the meet & greet dinner event.
- **Dep rep events:** Get in touch with me about your events and reporters can come and attend your event, reporting on it afterwards. Great promotions.
- **Videos:**
    - o   Meet your First year reps video got 2600 views.
    - o   Mean tweets/reviews video for professors video project will be starting soon.

  d) Internet (Sam)

   None

  e) Orientation (Olivia)

   None

  f) Photography (Michael)
- Currently working on generating a lot of promotional material with Yesh (including Rave cards for David Suzuki which will be littered around on campus), editing photos for the Halloween photo booth, and taking one more headshot.

  g) Student Services (Andriy)
- **Finance Committee** will be meeting with different dep reps to have strategy sessions regarding their budgets.
- **Organic Chemistry Makeup Exams:** Meeting with Chemistry department head to discuss the possibility of creating makeup exams for Organic Chemistry. In touch with John De Heus.
- **Exam bank:** Want to bring this new service to science students onto our SSC website. This will also drive more people to the website.
    - o   *Yousuf:* Could you possibly combine that with Sci Wiki as well?

- - - *Andriy:* Yes! Will work out logistics afterwards.
  - *Grace:* Try reaching out to dep reps to help collect these exams for their particular constituency.

h) Student Support (Nicole H)

   None

i) SciWiki (Matt N)
- ***Ask me anything*** (Reddit-inspired AMA) where people who are in medical school from Western can answer any questions science students may have for them.
- ***Professor Forums:*** Emailed 10 professors and 5 have already replied expressing interest

6. USC Report (Matt Yip)
- ***OUSA survey:*** Ontario's Undergraduate Student Alliance meeting will be taking place this week where many policy papers will be discussed. There will be a survey that will be distributed online. Please fill it out and share with others so that we can be more informed when debating the policy papers.
- Brief discussion from Eddy Avila regarding Orientation Board of Governance and Orientation Programming Committee.
- ***London Community Grants:*** very preliminary at the moment
  - Eddy released a survey asking what kind of space would you like to see on campus and what kind of services should receive more funding? Ex. Propel, Peer Support Centre
  - Based on the survey, many changes will be implemented.
- ***Crisis Exam Counseling:*** In partnership with Canadian Mental Health Association, there will be crisis exam counseling in the Peer Support Centre during the exam period.
- ***Western's Mental Health Strategic Plan:*** Western is developing this plan for the first time. Many other universities already have this plan.
  - A mental health research assistant posed the following questions to USC and it was decided to table the discussion for the next meeting so that counselors can discuss with their constituents.
    - What doesn't work? What works well? How do you spread information? How do you encourage more mental health seeking behaviours?
    - *Noor:* Eddy advised us to bring her in to record our discussion of these 4 topics, which will probably happen at the next meeting.
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7. Senate Report (Courtney)
- ***Annual Direction meeting:*** discussed what advocacy topics to focus on this year
  - Early exam schedule release, pass/fail courses, general database for course outlines, and 3 in 23 exam accommodations.
  - If you want to be more involved or have something to say about these topics, let Courtney know.
- ***MTP Program:*** There has been a motion to cut this FIMS program. There's been a huge student uproar as they wanted to sign up for courses and couldn't get into them because of this program cut. We opened the meeting to students and about 50 students sat in the back. We debated against the motion, but unfortunately it was cut. It does show that with proper communication, students want to be involved in the conversation.

- *Adam:* A lot of students haven't been very happy about the new policy of receiving 15% of your mark before the drop course deadline.
  - The new policy isn't the problem but rather the assessments are. Ex. moving up a 50% midterm instead of breaking it down to smaller assessments. It has contributed a lot of stress to students. Can senators bring this up?
  - *Courtney:* We recognize this issue and as the first response to it, we are trying to advocate for an earlier reading break during the thanksgiving weekend.

8. New Business

None

Motion to adjourn firsted by Jack Whelan, seconded by Shivani