MISC report for Faculty Council

October 10th, 2013

Fall 2013 Elections Results

The MISC organized its fall 2013 elections. The results of the election were approved during our October 10th meeting. These are the new Governing Council members:

Executive
   Vice-President: Samantha Pirner (Acclaimed)
Committee Chairs
   First-Year Professional Development Co-Chair: Jessie Wionzek
Representatives
   Alumni Association Representative: Catherine Lamoureux
   MISC-MUSSA Liaison: Sanja Ljaskevic (Acclaimed)
   GSU Representative: Hilary Barlow
   First-Year Tech Fund Representative: Akash Venkat (Acclaimed)
   Faculty Council Representatives (11 - all Acclaimed): Amanda Chernawski, Laura Chuang, Kyra Folk-Farber, Matthew Gertler, Karolina Grzeszczuk, Hannah Loshak, George Raine, Ned Struthers, Lucy Szcesniak (2 positions are filled automatically by the president and the vice-president)

Letter to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies. Re: Changes in Policies for Part-Time Students

The MISC Executive Committee wrote a letter to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), Brian Corman, Ph.D., to communicate the concerns and problems that the new policies represent for part-time students. The letter also included preliminary survey results which indicate that most incoming students did not know about the policy changes before they accepted the admission offer from the University of Toronto. The full letter can be found following this URL http://goo.gl/rKgCiw. The MISC is still waiting for the requested written response and will request a waiver from the new SGS’s policies for students who started the MI program in September 2013. The MISC is also preparing a report on the findings regarding how these changes were communicated by the iSchool to incoming students.

Amendments to the MISC Constitution Approved and Tabled

The MISC’s Governing Council approved and tabled for a week the amendments the Constitution of the MISC. The amended constitution can be found following this URL: http://goo.gl/oblGL8
Academic Affairs and Class Representatives

All the summer 2013 classes at the faculty of information had a class representative and we got reports from all of them. Almost all the classes have a registered class representative for the fall semester. We will be sending individual emails to professors who are teaching a class with no class representative to find out how we can help them fill the missing position.

MISC/MUSSA O-week BBQ and Campus/iSchool tours

The event had a good turnout (50 new students approx.). The tours around the iSchool and the St. George campus were very successful as well. However, some students confirmed their attendance after the deadline and could not be offered a spot. The lessons learned will be documented to improve the service level in the upcoming years.

Professional Development Events

The Professional Development committee organized a couple of successful events, namely the “iSchool Students Working – A Panel Event“ and “Students Sponsored Initiative Fund Gala”.

Changes to the IS&D Admission Requirements

The MISC would like to express its support to the changes in the admission requirements for the MI program and particularly for the IS&D concentration. However, the MISC would also like to communicate the concern from some members regarding the body that approved the changes (namely the Programs Committee). According to the Faculty Council’s constitution and by-laws, these changes should have been approved by the Admissions Committee instead. The MISC encourages the observance of the pre-established guidelines, laws, and by-laws and attempts to act accordingly.