Report to Faculty Council
28 November, 2014

Presented by Hilary Barlow, MISC President

CFS Referendum
Beginning 24 November and ending today, graduate students are voting in a referendum to determine whether the Graduate Students Union will remain in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). At our 11 November meeting MISC hosted Ashleigh Ingle, a student who has been spearheading an effort to get the GSU to leave the CFS. At that same meeting, the MISC Governing Council voted unanimously to endorse the No Campaign and their effort to defederate. At the time of writing, MISC is doing its best to get out the vote at the iSchool and encourage students to make an informed choice.

IPS Survey Report
As mentioned at the 17 October meeting of Faculty Council, MISC Committee on Standing Representative Diana Kulpa conducted a survey of students in the Identity, Privacy & Security (IPS) Specialization. The survey has received 11 respondents to date and we are prepared to present the findings. Diana will present her report in more detail, but to summarize some highlights: a majority of respondents indicated that the IPS Specialization is difficult to complete given typical course offerings. Respondents also indicated that a solid ECE background is necessary to complete the ECE courses.

The Inforum
On 31 October, a group of MISC councillors sent an email to Dean Ross and other members of the UTL/Inforum working group calling for student participation in the plan to remodel the Inforum and to revisit the issue of the Inforum’s reduced hours. On 14 November, I was a guest at a meeting of the Information Services Committee where I discussed the Inforum’s remodelling as well as the current hours with Professor McEwen and other members of the committee. It was a very productive discussion and I was glad to hear faculty and staff share our concerns about the reduced hours. We are excited to see Saturday hours in late November and hope to see evening hours returned. MISC is also in favour of a town hall or similar opportunity for students to contribute their voice on ideas for remodelling the Inforum.
Remembrance Day Wreath
At this year’s University of Toronto Remembrance Day ceremony MISC laid a wreath on behalf of the Faculty of Information. 2014 marks the hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the First World War so it was an especially meaningful ceremony. This project was led by MISC Vice-President Christopher Hogendoorn, with the backing of Dean Ross. MISC looks forward to continuing this tradition in collaboration with the administration, MUSSA, and the DSA.