Report to Faculty Council
17 October, 2014

Presented by Hilary Barlow, MISC President

Improving the MISC Intranet
Spearheaded by our Webmaster Mari Vihuri, MISC is improving its intranet/shared drive this year. We already have a drive that’s better organized and more accessible than in years previous. There are now more exit reports and other documents that help the executive, committee chairs and representatives become acquainted with their positions. We are optimistic that this will help cut down on lost knowledge between years since communication between predecessors and their successors is not always possible.

Meeting with Dean Ross & Dean Rowe about part-time degree completion
On 16 September, members of the MISC executive and part-time student Stephanie Abba met with Dean Ross, Dean Rowe of the School of Graduate Studies, and other representatives from SGS and GSU to discuss degree completion times for part-time MI students. We are extremely grateful for the time and attention of all those present and are gratified by the result. Quoting a document summarizing the meeting from SGS Governance & Policy Coordinator Emma Thacker, “it was agreed that students who entered the part time program in the Fall of 2013 would be grand-parented and that their part-time program length would be 8 sessions.” We look forward to discussing implementation with Dean Ross and communicating the results to part-time students that entered in 2013.

TALint Q&A with Wendy Duff
MISC hosted Professor Wendy Duff at our 16 September meeting to answer questions about the TALint program. After the meeting, MISC released the minutes online for those unable to attend. Students have responded positively to the Q&A, whether they attended in person or read the minutes, and several said they found it to be informative. MISC looks forward to continuing our dialogue with Professor Duff about the program and we hope to see a student representative on the TALint committee moving forward.
2014-2015 Governing Council Elections Concluded
MISC held its fall elections September 23-27. The voter turnout was 80, which is relatively high compared to previous Council elections. At this time, all MISC Governing Council positions are filled.

IPS Specialization Survey
The Survey Working Group is undertaking a survey of current and former students of the Identity, Privacy and Security Specialization. MISC has received word from several students that they have found the specialization difficult to complete due to required courses not being available and/or at least one required course inaccessible without a computer science background. This survey seeks to find out if these are common issues among IPS students or not. It asks students’ academic background prior to entering the IPS Specialization, what resources they use if they have questions about the specialization or course requirements etc. At last count, the survey had received 10 responses.