

Dalhousie Computer Science Society
Meeting Minutes
5pm – Thursday, May 8th, 2008 – Teaching Lab 3: Computer
Science Building
Compiled By: Liz Legere

Roll Call:

Andrew Aikens – Treasurer
John Doucette – President
Kat Magee – Senior Undergraduate Representative
Liam Spencer – Athletics Representative
Liz Legere – Secretary
Manya Sevanandam – Society Desk Manager
Mike McAllister – Faculty Representative
Scott Perry – Graduate Representative

Meeting called to order at 5pm by the president, John Doucette

1. Discussion of council's goals and plans for summer term:

- a. Constitution needs to be revised
- b. Social Ideas
 - Barbeque
 - Geekbeer
 - Pancake breakfast
 - wear a CS t-shirt and get free pancakes
 - Movie night
 - Paintball
 - CSS dinners (perhaps once or twice a month)
 - Games night
 - i.e. Starcraft, Counterstrike, etc.
 - Sporting events
 - i.e. tennis, badminton, volleyball
 - Liam is working on raising profile of intramurals
 - Video Games Tournament
 - Carnival
 - Games day
 - similar to sports but more of a team building exercise
- c. Newsletter
 - Bring to meeting for approval before circulating
- d. Frosh Week
 - Get an informatics rep for the fall

- Visit first year classes in first week
 - perhaps have a survey to find out what events the new students want done, pick one of the suggested events at the meeting to actually plan/hold and give the person who suggested it a free t-shirt or something
- e. Transition
 - Look for prospective fall council sooner since people in important positions such as treasurer will be graduating this summer.
- f. Improve CS merchandise
 - CS Sweatshirts with CS Logo
- g. Make sure the Dalhousie Computer Science Department does not switch to Evergreen
 - CS faculty has already denied the idea of this switch

2. Election of new council members:

- a. Senior Undergraduate Representative
 - Kat Magee – passes unanimously
 - Liam Spencer abstains
- b. Social Representative
 - Position still unfilled
- c. Undergraduate Informatics Representative
 - Position still unfilled
- d. Junior Undergraduate Representative
 - Position still unfilled
- e. Undergraduate Computer Science Representative
 - Position still unfilled
- f. V.P. Internal
 - Position still unfilled
- g. V.P. External
 - Position still unfilled
- h. Co-op Representative
 - Position still unfilled
- i. Member At Large
 - Position still unfilled
- j. Multidisciplinary Graduate Representative
 - Position still unfilled
- k. DSU Representative
 - Position still unfilled

3. Reports:

President – John Doucette

- With respect to new business, has been receiving loads of emails from students about building hours
- Has been meeting with the DSU President, VP Internal, and with a faculty member about this issue

- Has meetings scheduled for next Tuesday with the Dean and next Wednesday with the VP Student Services

Athletics Representative – Liam Spencer

- Has had contact from students wanting to know about intramurals
- Waiting for contact from Commerce athletics representative

Senior Undergraduate Representative – Kat Magee

- Nothing to report

Faculty Representative – Mike McAllister

- Faculty strategic plan
 - Currently getting together to make plans
 - would like student involvement
- Expect larger 1st year class this fall
- Thanks goes out for the mentorship program
- Graduation is on May 21st @ 9:30am, reception after, we are invited
- New \$5000 1st year general dynamic scholarship deadline was yesterday

Society Desk Manager – Manya Sevanandam

- Desk is fine
- Open 18 hours a week
 - between 10am and 4pm
- T-shirts
 - should be put at lower rates, have advertising and visibility raised

Graduate Representative – Scott Perry

- Is also the transition officer
 - has only 3 reports so far
 - waiting for the rest of the societies reports
- Went to grad committee meeting

Secretary – Liz Legere

- Nothing to report

4. New Business:

- **Appoint strategic planning representative**
 - John volunteers
- **Appoint associate dean research**
 - Scott volunteers
- **Need bartender for May 21st – morning**
 - Manya volunteers
- **Proposal from grad meeting**
 - Now grad students can drop a course with a w instead of a fail if they miss the drop without a w deadline
 - Want to increase profile, don't have a lot of money: ideas:
 - For PHD program:
 - * looking at dropping course requirements:
 - this will help make grad program more competitive
 - right now it 4 courses are required, hoping for 0 courses required
 - Scott will consult with current grad students
 - For Masters program:
 - * have an industrial internship
 - * take ½ of the required grad courses as 4th year undergrad courses
 - For MCS program:
 - * currently 6 grad courses are required
 - * dropping it to 4 grad courses, 1 seminar course, and 1 research course required
- **Issue with building hours:**

The Computer Science Building is no longer open 24 hours, now it is closed for all but grad students and informatics students between 12am and 7am

Issue 1: Lack of student input

Solution: meet with Bonnie Neuman:

Insist that for any future actions that will impact CS students, i.e. building hours, etc. that administration will consult with the Computer Science Society before decisions are made

Issue 2: The reason given to us of safety concerns seem vague, results detrimental

Idea: Closing the building prevents people from coming in and it is assumed that the people in the building besides grad students and informatics students will be flushed out when the building is closed.

- a. Concerns that female students have raised are that it will be less safe for them with this change. i.e. harassment and assaults are more commonly done by people they know, and therefore it may be safer to have more people in the building than less.

Solution: No good solution

Issue 3: Loss of necessary 24 hour workspace, many students require this work space

- a. This is the only 24 hour study space on Studley campus with access to computers and all the online Dalhousie libraries that students need. Some of Dalhousie's low income students will have no access to computers otherwise. Also a fair number of students commute and it is not always feasible for them to go home and work, assuming that they have a computer to work on which a fair number don't have.
- b. There are times when students require the use of the computers in this building around the clock, i.e. midterm time and during the exam period where the only time they have to work and study is during the 12am-7am time frame.

Solution: Open the building 24 hours or give all CS students key cards so they can at least use the building when they need to.

Issue 4: Question of money saving

- a. mention of money saving from this change was included only in internal email, question whether money is being saved or not and if so how much
- b. would like to see logs and other information used for making this decision

Solution: Get information for administration about the factors that were considered in making this decision

General Solution: John and Andrew will meet with the Dean and with Bonnie Neuman:

1. At the meeting with the Dean: John and Andrew will try to get one of the following solutions to be made:

- a. Key cards for all CS students and a lounge for undergraduate CS students: an isolated useful study space for undergraduate CS students that is open 24 hours
- b. Reopen the Computer Science Building 24 hours
- c. Have Student Services fund the key cards for undergraduate CS students
- d. Open Computer Science Building to the normal 24 hours during midterm period and exam time

2. At the meeting with Bonnie Neuman: John and Andrew will try to get one or both of the following solutions to be made:

- a. Future consultation with the CSS before major decisions that affect us are made in the future
- b. A formal apology

5. Q & A session with the new council (Ask us anything you want about the society or suggest things we can do to improve!):

- This is an opportunity for all students to give their input to the society

Meeting Adjourned at 6:24pm