

CO-OP REP. REPORT FOR WINTER 2007 TERM

JOHN DOUCETTE

My duties this semester were focused around 4 items:

- 1: Attending the Co-op office's rep. meetings.
- 2: Keeping the CS Society Council up to date with the program's situation.
- 3: Relaying student concerns to the co-op office & vice versa.

- 1: Attending the Co-op office's rep meetings.

Co-op meetings were held more or less bi-weekly throughout the term, and, with a few exceptions due to logistical mix-ups, I attended all of them. Meetings typically lasted between 20 and 40 minutes, and sometimes included brainstorming sessions in addition to the main agenda. The meetings provided an opportunity to present student concerns to the co-op coordinators, as well as to receive data on the number of students currently placed in jobs, and to help coordinators try to deal with the lack of interest in the program on the part of most CS students, which was a major theme this term.

- 2: Keeping the CS Society Council up to date with the program's situation.

CSS Council meetings were generally held once a week and I believe I attended them all. At the meetings I would provide council with a summary of the most recent coop meeting's discussion, with a focus on placement statistics and co-op office concerns about the general apathy of CS students towards the program, with many students failing to apply for jobs.

- 3: Relaying student concerns to the co-op office & vice versa.

Throughout the term, students approached me with questions regarding the co-op program, which I either answered myself, or presented to the co-op office as soon as I could. The co-op office's concerns were focused on the apathy of CS students both in and out of the program. Those in the program tended to apply for very few jobs, and constituted only a small portion of the student body, which led to concerns about retention of past employers who did not receive much of a response to their postings. Attempts to establish a focus group to examine the issue ended in failure when only 4 students (including myself) indicated an interest in attending, despite the offer of compensation for our time. Discussions about restructuring the program were also underway this term.