

Graduate Students Report

The main duties I performed last fall include:

1. Running the Graduate Students Committee meetings
2. Organizing the Grad talks.
3. Attend the Graduate Committee meetings.
4. Overall: To represent the interests of CS grads in the CS society and the faculty in general.

1. Grads Students Committee Meetings/ Grad Talks

I ran regular grads meetings together with Grads talks. Many issues were discussed during these meetings. We embedded the Graduate talks along with the meetings and it worked quite well. However there is a suggestion that we extend the audience of the grad talks to the faculty and perhaps devise a better model of holding them so that they can draw wide audience. This idea is still open and may be discussed in the next grads meeting. There is a promising support for these talks from Grad Coordinator's office.

As for the first talk this semester, Hadi Kharrazi (kharrazi@cs.dal.ca) is willing to give out a presentation about "Knowledge in the Head and in the World".

2. Grad Committee Meeting

I attended the Graduate Committee meetings chaired by Srin. The most contentious issue discussed in most of the meetings was the proposed new Graduate Curriculum. The proposed structure is aimed at utilizing the faculty resources and serves the graduate students in a better manner.

There was a Town Hall meeting in December 2005 where the Graduate Coordinator presented the draft proposal to students. Comments were presented and collected for inclusion in the draft. Updated draft proposal can be obtained at the Graduate Coordinator's office. This issue is still under discussion. There will be another Town Hall meeting sometimes this semester to discuss among other things, this issue and the PhD proposed monthly allowance increase.

3. With the support from the CS Society and a good number of grads, I coordinated that Grads Social Night on 13th Jan 2006.

4. Problems

- It was pointed out that the CS society is not very supportive to grads in some ways. It is understood that 50% of CS society members comprises grad students. During summer, the society funded (provided money for snacks & drinks) the CS grads talks/meetings but, it was a different story during the fall term as the society refused to fund the gatherings.