

End of Term Report

Name: Haewon Chung
Position: VP External
Term: Fall/2005

Contribution to the Society

As Vice President-External, my responsibilities included working with the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) and possibly working with other external organizations to try to represent the Dalhousie Computer Science Society (CSS). My duties included attending bi-weekly DSU meetings, Academic and External committee meetings with DSU, and CSS meetings. I have attended other DSU events such as the society roundtable, budget meetings and councilor orientation as well. I have worked to make certain that the CSS would be fairly represented at all these events and made sure that events within CSS were advertised to the external organizations.

Achievements towards the Advancement or Improvement of the Society

Since I was in charge of organizing both undergraduate and graduate orientations 2005 this summer, earlier this term, I worked hard to make those plans materialize. As part of CS orientation, I worked with undergraduate and graduate advisors (Scrimger & Srini) to throw fun events, such as BBQ and potluck dinner, as well as setting up academic meetings between the students and the advisors. I think the majority of faculty and students would agree that those events were a success and I hope that this tradition can continue to be a success in the future.

Within DSU, there was an effort to revamp how DSU is run currently and most of DSU meetings consisted of general discussions regarding this matter, which I found to be non-specific to CSS. Overall, there wasn't much communication between DSU and CSS due to DSU's focus on improving its internal structure.

Areas for Improvement

Although I felt that my position at DSU played more of an advisory role to other smaller societies at Dalhousie due to CSS's past successes, I felt that CSS this term was struggling to maintain itself.

From my experience of organizing the orientations this year, I felt that when it came down to organizing a group effort for society events, there is a huge lack of interest in participating. Although I made an effort to establish a committee for CS orientation, there was just no interest within the society in participating organization part of this event. I ended up pretty much throwing the orientation by myself with help of CSS secretary, Ashley George, and CS orientation is one of the major events in our calendar. I saw same situations occurring for other society events as well, where there weren't enough volunteers for them. In the future, it should not be a responsibility of one person to throw an event; everyone on society should feel that it is part of their responsibility to make any CSS events a success and participate when they can.

CSS meetings this term were of poor quality as well. There were many members who barely attended any meetings yet continued to hold their seats on council. I feel that in order for CSS to maintain its position as one of the top societies at Dalhousie, we need to have a major reconstruction of CSS as DSU continues to revamp itself as well including improved communication within council.

Suggestions for Incoming Student

As for someone coming into this position, I recommend that it is important to work with external organizations but it is also important to make an effort to hold together the organization that you represent. Although there may not always be much to do DSU regarding CSS, just having your presence known to others at Dalhousie as a CSS representative and maintaining some sort of relationship between the societies at Dalhousie to keep the communication channels open would be a good idea.