

Report of the VP-Internal  
Dalhousie Computer Science Society  
Fall 2005

The Vice-President Internal is responsible for reporting on activities within the faculty. There are a number of regular meetings held within the Faculty of Computer Science and it is the responsibility of the VP Internal to ensure that students are represented at these meetings. The committees that hold these meetings include (but are not limited to) the Curriculum and Teaching Committee, the Undergraduate Committee, the Graduate Committee, Dean's Executive Committee and the Scholarship Committee. The VP Internal reports to society council on the issues and events discussed within these meetings and on other activities of various groups within the faculty. It is also the responsibility of the VP Internal to reside over society meetings in the absence of the president.

This fall, Andrew Wong took on the responsibility of student representative at Dr. Grundke's Curriculum and Teaching Committee meetings and Franklin volunteered to attend the Dean's Executive Committee meetings in my absence. Across all committees this term, the most important activities were the changes and additions being proposed to programs offered at the Faculty of Computer Science in the future. The Bachelor's of Computer Science program underwent some review this term, especially in the area of co-operative education.

It was noted that there were problems with declining enrollment in both programs, but that the problems were more significant in the co-op program. Changes to the co-op program were proposed and eventually approved in hopes that the co-op program would become more attractive to new applicants and to existing undergraduates in the regular program. So far, the changes to co-op have been approved. I am not aware of any Faculty URL that outlines the changes being made, so to summarize, the new plan for co-op is to start students into their first work term in the summer following year two, ending with an 8 month winter-summer academic term, and enabling students to graduate in October instead of May of the following year. It was noted that the faculty would need to commit more teaching resources to the summer term as co-op students would spend two academic terms in the summer instead of one. It was also noted that this would not be an issue.

The new Bachelor's of Informatics program proposed by Dr. Grundke is intended to help address the problem of declining enrollment and to better fill the needs of Canadian employers. It features a less theory-heavy curriculum and is intended to promote 'thinking outside the box' and integration with other disciplines. The last update with the status on this program in early December was that work was ongoing, but it was expected to be approved and put into place in time for the fall of 2006.

The snowball this year was very much successful thanks to Sean Smith. I helped with some of the student and faculty awards, and mention this because there were a couple of plaques that still needed to be delivered to the intended recipients. I left both in the

society office on the last day that I was in Halifax, so hopefully someone will take care of those sometime in January at the latest. Anne Publicover's staff appreciation award and Aaron MacKnight's student appreciation award were both left in their respective boxes and they need to be given to their intended recipients as soon as possible. I also had the Sринi award plaque that hangs in the lobby fixed and engraved with the past two year's recipients. The one award that we were able to get ready in time for the snowball was Dr. Norbert Zeh's teaching award.

As the VP-Internal, I made an effort to assist with setup and cleanup at weekly Geekbeers when I had the chance. I would recommend to all future society members to find time to volunteer at these sorts of events at least a few times each term. In the future, I think it would be nice to see a larger collective effort from council members being made to assist with or at least participate in society events. The events themselves might depend on it.

Brad MacPhee  
VP-Internal, Fall 2005