

End Of Term Report

Name: Franklin Fezeu
Position: Vice President Internal
Term: Winter 2006

Responsibilities

Deal with internal issues of the Computer Science Society
Sit on faculty meetings and delegate that responsibility when necessary

Performance during the term

- Dean's Executive meeting
 - This meeting is held every week in the Dean's board/meeting room.
 - All the committee head are present and give a report of what has been happening during their respective committee meetings.
 - This is the one meeting that you DEFINITELY do not want to delegate because even if no one goes elsewhere, you will know what happened during the other meetings.
 - There is only one student representative at that meeting and I believe that the VP-Internal (or any other executive) should be the one attending them.
 - During this term, the meetings were held on Wednesday starting at 10a.m.; this may change and therefore you need to be in contact with Anne Publicover to know what the schedule is for the Summer.

- Faculty Meeting
 - This meeting is held once a month in the GINIus conference room on the 4th floor.
 - All the committee head, the dean, and the faculty members are present at that meeting and present a report on their area of responsibility.
 - This is the single most important meeting in the faculty because all the decision affecting the faculty are made there and the students have two sits there: one undergraduate and one graduate.
 - It is very important that at least one executive sits on that meeting to at least be aware of what major decisions are being taken (once again, I believe that the VP-Internal should attend those meetings).
 - During this term, the meetings were held on the last Tuesday of the month at 10:30a.m.; this may change, so you will need to contact Anne to have the correct information for the Summer.

- Undergraduate meeting
 - This term, I delegated the responsibility of attending these meetings to the undergraduate representative; for more information about this meeting, please read his report.
 - In the past, the VP-Internal was responsible for attending this meeting, but I think it is pointless if you attend the previous two. Furthermore, if you are a graduate student you may not be the best person to attend this meeting.

- Graduate meeting
 - This meeting has traditionally been the responsibility of the graduate representative; however it falls under your jurisdiction.
 - This term, the graduate representative attended those meetings but he resigned at some point and there is no information on how to behave there; you will have to rely on the resourcefulness of your graduate rep.
 - My recommendation is to handle the graduate meeting as you would handle the undergraduate meeting (send the corresponding rep to those meetings); just as a graduate VP-Internal may not be the best person to attend the undergraduate meeting, an undergrad VP-Internal may not be the best person to attend the graduate meeting.

- Other meetings
 - We did not have enough people to attend the other meetings this term; therefore we didn't have a student representative at those most of the time.
 - My recommendation is to enlist the undergraduate reps and the members-at-large to sit on these other meetings; I have been trying to push in that direction and you could continue too.

- In-Reach campaign
 - We have initiated what we have called an In-Reach campaign this term: the short term objective was to let the student body know about what this council has done, the long term objective is to re-establish the communication between the students and the CS Society council.
 - We have identified different media or means of communication that we could exploit to get the word out. Unfortunately we have not had the time to effectively use them; there is a file dealing with the subject if you are interested in following up.

- Communication with new programs
 - We have also tried to reach the students in our new programs (MEC and MHI) because we have noticed that there was no communication there: we talked to the MEC students and I talked with the MHI representative. This effort needs to continue especially now that the bachelor of informatics (B.Inf) program is going to be launched in September;

if we are unable to reach the students from these two programs, how are we going to manage the students of yet another new program?

- We have already taken some steps into integrating the new B.Inf program by re-organizing the allocation of representative on the council (cf. constitutional changes bellow)
- Of course, I encourage you to develop new ideas in order to improve the communication between the student body and the CS Society council.

- **Constitutional changes**

- Another important project that we worked on this term was to revisit the CS Society constitution.
- We have added two new sections dealing with the InfoDesk management and the Bar management. Both areas were not dealt with in the past so we took upon ourselves to resolve the issue.
- The InfoDesk management and Bar management policies are currently in the by-laws of the constitution (which means that they are applicable right away); however our ultimate goal was to include them in the main body of the constitution. Given that you are in charge of internal affairs, you might have to spear-head the adoption of these changes because if you don't they will go down the drain like so many other interesting changes in the past.
- Beside the InfoDesk and Bar management policies, we have completely revisited the current constitutions and introduced some changes that we felt were sorely needed. The new document is far from perfect, but it is closer to the objective and you could always introduce other changes if you think they are needed. In this case too, you might have to spear-head the adoption of those changes. By adoption I mean organizing a referendum because all these changes have already been approved by this council and the referendum is the next step.

- **CS Seminars**

- This is a project that started with the Summer 05 graduate representative; she added some discussion in the usual agenda of the graduate students committee which would enable graduate students to discuss their work or practice their presentation skills.
- This term, we decided that the CS Society as a whole could benefit from the experience and we decided to formalize it and transform it from a graduate student committee event to a CS Society event. Eventually the faculty got interested in the idea and it became even bigger. Currently the term "CS Seminars" groups the former graduate talks and all other forms of seminars held in the CS faculty. I believe that the CS Society has a lot to gain with a continuous participation in this project especially because the "student talks" part was our idea. There is currently no solid tie between the CS Society and the CS seminars due to some minor problems; however you should try to fix that.
- The council has formed an ad hoc committee this term to handle the seminars but it was a one time initiative, you might want to look into that. The current student liaison for the CS Seminars is Haewon Chung, but she will not continue this task next term. The next/new student liaison will be Jaehyun Paek starting next Summer. You will be working with him in order to maintain the CS Society role in this initiative.

Possible Improvements

As I hinted before, there is a sore need for an improved communication between the council and the student body. We have initiated some of these changes, but you will have to continue in that direction if we want to have some changes.

You will also have to keep an eye on the CS Seminars because it will be a shame for us to lose the initiative: it will make the CS Society look undecided and weak because we started this and left the boat before the project was fully finalized.

Regarding the various meetings, I think you will need to continue my fight to have more people (especially the undergraduate reps and the members-at-large) involved. As a result of all these additions, we will have a stable student participation at all the meetings in the faculty without asking the impossible from one individual (YOU).

Suggestions for Incoming VP-Internal

Delegate, delegate, and delegate.

Most of my suggestions have already been covered previously so I will not bore you to death in this section.

I will just say that you may have the single most important job on this council 😊

I know that my opinion might be biased because this was my position for the term, but if you look closely you will realize that I am correct. You are the single person who is in charge of all internal affairs which means that whatever happens in all the other departments, they rely on you to succeed: use that position to initiate GOOD changes.

Incidentally, you are second in command. This simple fact means that you have to be ready to assume command at any time and you will be expected to perform well (I had to assume command position a couple of times this term and, trust me, it could happen to you too). You have to do your best to be objective and impartial. You have to be able to make difficult decisions or to support difficult decisions (even if they are going to hurt your friends or make you look bad), because hopefully in the end the others will understand your choices.