

SoCAS Set Rep Meeting Minutes

November 16 2017 – 5:30pm

Chair: Spencer Pollock, Chair School of Computing and Academic Studies

Staff: Carly Watson, Club Program Coordinator

Guest Speakers: Karl Chen, Representative from the Marketing Association
Robyn Lougheed, Advocate

Meeting Agenda

- 1. Christian Colquhoun (15 min)**
 - a. Christmas event**
- 2. Advocacy training/advice (20 min)**
- 3. More than a bystander competition? (15 min)**
 - a. What is it?**
 - i. <http://endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/be-more-than-a-bystander/>**
 - ii. Stand up against violence on woman**
 - iii. Big in computing (as it is a predominantly male community)**
 - b. Thoughts?**
- 4. Old Chair business / update (10 minutes)**
 - a. Computing Updates and Announcements**
- 5. Position updates (20 minutes)**
 - a. Community**
 - i. Discord/LAN**
 - b. Knowledge about SA Roles**
 - i. Time to talk about it**
 - c. ISEP Alumni (10 min)**
 - i. BCIT would like help on the program**
 - ii. Feedback on how it works**
- 6. Open Forum (30 min (minimum))**
- 7. Reminders**
 - a. LAN!**

Spencer calls the meeting to order – 5:34pm

Spencer greets the set reps and introduces Karl from the MA to speak about an event that is being hosted by clubs from all the schools of BCIT.

- 1. Christian Colquhoun – Karl speaking for Christian during his absence (5:34pm)**
 - a. Christmas event**

Karl presents to the set reps about the upcoming end-of semester Christmas party that is being hosted by 14 student led clubs.

WHEN: December 15 – 9pm

WHERE: Harbour events centre

- First 100 people through door get free drinks
- Beer pong tournament
- More information will pop up around school in the coming weeks.

Ticket sales start November 25

- \$15 early bird tickets \$20 after

2. Advocacy training/advice – Robyn Loughheed 5:36pm

Robyn introduces herself and what the advocacy program can do for the students.

- Students have rights advocacy wants them to know that
- All services are free and confidential
- Advocates can attend meetings that you may have with faculty with you to give you support, but they cannot speak for you
- Trying to highlight policy this year, ex. As a BCIT policy you are required to be handed a course outline.

Important policy – instructors don't have right to kick students out of course, program or school. They can remove you from a classroom for whatever reason, but they cannot kick you out of an entire class or program.

Robyn opens the floor to some question from the set reps.

Q: We have a midterm week. Can an instructor schedule a midterm outside of that week?

A: There are very clear policies outlining final exams, but not midterms. So essentially yes they can, but you can put forward complaints as to why all midterms should be within that week, etc. As long as them having a midterm outside of that week is in the course outline it is ok.

Q: Midterm week is five days, you're not allowed to have anything due during those 5 days, but you can something due midnight on the Sunday before this week due. Is this allowed?

A: That is within the rights of teachers to do that.

Q: I have a policy issue. I have an assignment due Wednesday. The prof set out specific instructions that were very unclear so we asked for clarification. The teacher is telling us to do one thing but was contradicting them self so they started correcting the document, but at the same time was telling us to do the instructions that were originally assigned to us. Now we're all confused as to what we are supposed to do, the original instructions or the ones re-written.

A: What you can do in that case is do the assignment as written, but if it changes as they're marking it or you lose mark because you didn't put something in that you were 'supposed to' you can appeal that on the grounds that you weren't given the fair grounds to complete the assignment.

Robyn encourages the set reps to let their classmates know to document everything. If there is an issue or one arises document it and keep track of following issues.

Q: So I could email my prof for this course and then cc advocacy and Spencer asking if this issue can be resolved?

A: Yes, ask them first and then if it's not resolved include us. Always try to solve the issue with them first before you bring in backup.

Q: Would it be appropriate to include the copies of what he has said by slack in the email?

A: You want it to be short and concise the more you add the less they'll read.

Q: On a test our teacher had a question in the test that was directly from the slides and everyone memorized the slide and wrote what was said but everyone got only 2/10 on the test, and apparently the prof wanted more explanation, but that wasn't outlined in the test.

A: That is when you can get your test re-examined, which all students have the right to do. Students have 20 days to appeal a mark so you can't take the test in September and then in December after finals decide you want to appeal that mark.

Q: For 20 days for an appeal does the 20 days start when you receive the mark?

A: Yes, 20 business days not including weekends or holidays

Q: Is there a maximum amount of time an instructor has to mark something?

A: In the policy it states that an instructor must return assignments/etc in a 'timely fashion.' It's so vague and we are trying to make a policy, but at the moment there is no maximum time. How long has it been since you got your assignment?

Q/C: We just got our midterms back and we took them in mid-October.

Q: How often can an instructor leave the classroom early?

A: Depends on how early that means?

Q/C: An hour early.

A: If your class is 2 hours long and the instructor gives you an hour to work on your assignments, you have still paid for instruction for 2 hours. If that is happening I need to take that information and bring it to the vice president. Send me an email with the date and when he left class, the date and then when he left class. That is an associate dean issue.

Q: I had the same issue last semester, and from a student's perspective we have to provide documentation of when we're sick, but is that expected on the instructors end too?

A: There could be a real concern there so I would bring that to the associate dean. Put it in writing always follow up after a conversation so there's no misunderstanding of the information.

Robyn leaves her contact information with the set reps to reach out if they have any further questions or issues they need resolved.

Robyn Lougheed

advocate@bcitsa.ca

604-456-1161

Drop ins are welcome, but it is much easier if you make an appointment.

Spencer encourages set reps to come talk to him about any issues as well.

3. More than a bystander competition? – 6:10pm

Spencer explains what More than a Bystander is and the importance of the training for computing students.

a. What is it?

Ending violence against women in the workforce, which can be a big issue in computing because it's a more dominated field.

An idea has been passed around that the set that has the most people turned out to the more than a bystander training events the set that has the most will get a paid for pizza party.

- i. <http://endingviolence.org/prevention-programs/be-more-than-a-bystander/>
- ii. Stand up against violence on woman
- iii. Big in computing (as it is a predominantly male community)

Spencer opens the floor to questions from the students about the training.

Q: Is the turnout by percentage or numbers?

A: It would probably be by percentage, not numbers.

Q: How long is the course?

A: I will get back to you.

4. Old Chair business / update – 6:14pm

Game of schools

- Around the campus competition
- Games, trying to get 30 people to represent SoCAS at the games

a. Computing Updates and Announcements

Spencer mentions he sat down to talk to Bethany. In their discussion she mentioned that they are cracking down on plagiarism and cheating in SoCAS and will have heavy repercussions for students who cheat or plagiarize. Bethany is also working on partnerships with amazon, EA about getting them out to help out with project terms.

Q: Do we have to cite our answers in order to not be considered 'cheating?'

A: It would be safe to.

5. Position updates (20 minutes) – 6:15pm

a. Community

- i. Discord/LAN

NOVEMBER 17 tomorrow come help set up

Q: Can you join two different tournaments?

A: It's better if you only do one because we want things to move fast. If you're busy playing in one when it's your turn at another it can slow it down.

b. Knowledge about SA Roles

- i. Spencer explains his role here at the SA to ensure the set reps know about his connection and how he can help all students in SoCAS thrive.

c. ISEP Alumni – 6:26pm

BCIT is doing a review and overhaul on ISEP (International Student Education Program). BCIT wants to revamp it and needs the feedback from whoever has been part of the program.

Spencer encourages people to ask their students if they were in the program and send him an email of their feedback on the program.

6. Open Forum – 6:29pm

Spencer opens the floor to set reps to bring forward questions or concerns they have or ones that have been brought to their attention from a classmate.

Q: I know you mentioned there are teachers who are really hard to budge, but I tried talking to one of them about this issue already, and no resolution yet. Basically, we get one assignment and then the next week we get another one, but we haven't gotten our first assignment back and we need the first assignment to complete and do good on the next. I also tried to go see him and he forces you to make appointments, but his window of available time is very slim and he will not accept you if you just drop by.

A: You've already approached him on the topic; maybe try to address the issue of not having flexible office hours. Talk to him again and explaining that you need the assignments back to then use them to build on the next one. If he still says nothing follow up with an email after the talk and cc me.

Q: On the same topic with another instructor, with our option assignment to do a web assignment, we had a project for one assignment due earlier in the semester, but haven't gotten anything back about it or feedback and we have a second assignment exactly same as the first that hasn't been handed back so I don't want to do the same assignment wrong twice, but the assignment is due on Sunday.

A: Send him an email outlining this so you have documentation of the conversation.

The group continues to discuss questions and concerns about the programs/assignments.

7. Reminders

- a. LAN! – November 17th

Spencer adjourns the meeting at 7:03pm