

SoCAS Set Rep Minutes
Feb 28, 2019
5:30pm Council Chambers

Chair: Justin Cervantes, Chair School of Computing and Academic Studies
Staff: Carly Watson, Club Program Coordinator

Guest Speakers: Matt Hardwick, Chair School of Business
Mirela Gutica, Professor in SoCAS Program

Agenda

1. **Stop Drop and Swap - Matt Hardwick**
2. **Study for women in STEM - Mirela Gutica**
3. **Open Forum**
4. **Elections and Executive Positions**

Justin calls the meeting to order at 5:30pm

1. **Matt Hardwick, Chair School of Business - 5:30pm**

- Matt talks about the Stop Drop and Swap item swap on March 25, 2019
- Bring gently used items to be able to swap them for other items
- If you don't have items to swap, you can also bring monetary donations to purchase items at the swap
- All un-swapped items and money will be donated to local charities

2. **Mirela Gutica, Professor in SoCAS program - 5:35pm**

- Discusses diversity and inclusion in computing education and her research around it
- Study observed building advanced technologies to improve Girl's and women's participation in STEM
 - Results
 - Generally, participants confidence to pursue and persist in CS and technology education was increased by:
 - Role models (parents, high school teachers, role models)
 - Studying at BCIT
 - Support
 - Teamwork
 - All participants were coded as having stereotypes
 - Generally, participants claimed not to hold stereotyped beliefs, however, they contradicted themselves in their responses when asked about stereotypes indirectly
- What can set reps do
 - Be aware
 - Be inclusive
 - Be supportive of diversity
 - What can set reps do

- Mirela opens the floor to questions

Q: Do you know the percentage of what female applicants there are vs. how many get in? Just because getting in is only based on two questions which makes it hard for diversity.

A: I don't, but that would be something interesting to look in to and have data on.

Q: When they split the sets do they do it by gender at all?

A: There was a discussion about what we do with sets, one option was to put all girls into the same set, but in order to change that we need to talk to the ethics board. Personally I don't think we should have only one set with all the women, I believe they should be spread, but we are trying to work on it.

Q: Do you know how BCIT plans on using the results of this research?

A: Our Dean said it's a good idea to start by bringing awareness to set reps, then we are planning to look at how we can improve admission. I also presented these studies at various conferences and when I did the research I said I wanted to do something concrete as opposed to just exploratory. BCIT is very keen to improve the gender diversity.

Q: Will the interview videos be publicized?

A: No, I can't disclose any of the videos because it is confidential.

Q: What can we do to participate in another study?

A: Right now my study ends and I will be planning for a new study and when I'm ready I'll send an email reaching out for participants.

3. Open Forum - 6:42pm

Justin opens the floor to have students discuss their experience through the SoCAS program so far.

Concerns brought forward from students

- Students really tired of sitting all day and would like to potentially like for BCIT to experiment with getting standing desks
- Students would like more massage opportunities at downtown campus
- Scheduling with the exact same teachers' back-to-back classes and we have some classes where we're in the same room, with the same teacher for 4 hours
- Couldn't access midterm schedule easily because it was on learning commons and there was no general announcement
- Difficult to get internship over summer because May is taken up with project term, but most jobs go from May - August, wondering if you could get out of doing project term if you have a job that is related to industry and if this has been brought up with BCIT

4. Elections and Executive Positions - 7:14pm

- Justin discusses the upcoming elections and all the opportunities for students to become part of the SA Executive team
- Justin describes the role of the Chair of the School of Computing to sell it to the set reps

Q: How much time do you put into the role per week?

A: They tried to break it down, but I would say it ranges between 30 hours and 0 per week. It really depends on what you do early in the summertime, and what you do during school. As many hours as you want, the more the better for the BCIT community.

Q: How would the election process work?

A: There is a campaign period where you can put posters around and go to various classes to get people to vote for you.