



Set/ Rep Meeting Minutes
of the School of Computing and Academic Studies
Thursday, September 12th, 2013

Chair: Hung Le, Chair of the Computing and Academic Studies

Set/Tech Reps

Spencer Katowick
Matt Linder
Adam
Morgan Wynne
Tyson Guenther
Haheg Regun
Kelvin Koon
James Pedé
Norman Wong
Mat Siroski
Shane Spoor
AJ Brigden
Deanna Cooney
Joseph Krump
Aguilar Andres
Sam Humphrey

Rajpreet Sidhu
Tyler Hlynsky
Justin Tom
Tristan Gillon
Jay Jung
Quan Wu
MarkyNiehe
Akos Sebestyen
Stephanie Lachopelle
Paul Mendoza
Alex Clarke
Emi Yamniuk
Ryan Markoff
T. Ramayane
Kyle Hsueh
Arthur Newman

Staff: Amy Smith, the BCITSA Program/Clubs Coordinator

Guest Speakers: Steve Eccles, Dean of the School of Computing and Academic Studies;

Shebia Leung Industry Liaison and Marketing Coordinator Computer Systems Technology;

Norman Wong and James Pedé from the Games Development Club; Rebecca Davidson,

Student Executive President.

1.0 Hung opens the meeting at 5:30 and welcomes the Set Reps.

- **Guest speaker: Steve Eccles, Dean of the School of Computing and Academic Studies**

The guest speaker Steve Eccles introduces himself and welcomes the Set Reps. Mr. Eccles explains his role on the board of trust for the Great Northern Way Center for Digital Media, jointly owned by UBC, SFU, BCIT and Emily Carr University. He expresses the need for student feedback on what is going well and where improvements can be made within the School of Computing and Academic Studies. A primary focus would be how the department can better log feedback in order to recognize pervasive themes.

Steve asks who among those in attendance had read BCIT's 2014-2019 strategic plans. Student Executive President Rebecca Davidson is the only person who responds in the affirmative. Steve recommends reading this document. He stresses the importance of the implementation aspect of planning.

The 5 main themes of the School of Computing Strategic Plan are illustrated:

- Develop and deliver exceptional curriculum
 - review curriculum more frequently
- Integrate technology better into delivery
 - making sure the technology is relevant and functional
- Monitor and determine how students are learning
- Define a workplace culture
 - finding balance
- Promote citizenship values
 - encouraging staff and students to perform greatly and make real contributions to their community

Questions/comments from the floor:

Q/C: The issue of technology or equipment failing in the classroom seems to be related to instructors' not knowing how to use the equipment, and then class gets held up.

A: Steve believes that addressing this issue is a matter of instructors being better prepared.

Q/C: Students are finding lectures to be trivial and theory-based. Can there be a more practical component to lectures?

Q/C: Are you anticipating feedback to be given mostly one-on-one? Is there a preference?

A: Steve explains that students wanting to give feedback directly to instructors, and to speak with their chair if they're not comfortable doing this.

Q/C: There is a concern that students will not know how to give feedback or feel comfortable doing so.

A: Steve explains that this may be remedied by looking at and possibly refining the instructor evaluation process.

- **Guest Speaker: Rebecca Davidson**

Rebecca Davidson introduces herself to the Set Reps and explains her role as the Student Executive President. She would like Set Reps to bring concerns or feedback to her as a secondary contact or sounding board, if for some reason Hung is not an option. They can email her or visit her in office. She welcomes feedback on the Student Association as a whole.

1.1 Meeting Break for Food at 6:15

1.2 Meeting Resumes at 6:30, Hung welcomes the next guest speaker.

- **Guest Speaker: Shebia Leung, Industry Liaison and Marketing Coordinator for BCIT School of Computing**

Shebia welcomes the set reps and explains her role as helping to bring new students into BCIT School of Computing, and help connect current students with relevant industry professionals and organizations. Shebia's role is to inform students of when companies may be hiring, and also to link start-up companies and their projects with students who stand to gain work experience. She also sends out industry news to students to help them stay connected.

September 27th is the Telus Open House.

Shebia is also responsible for letting students know about internships, scholarship information, and 18 awards and bursaries that are relevant to School of Computing students.

Shebia organizes industry events to engage students:

Career Talks which feature employers, gifts, food, company openings, usually happen Wednesday afternoons. Last year 10 Career Talks were held. Shebia advises that even if you're not looking for work, attending this talks may help you decide your career direction, and is a valuable networking opportunity that could be useful in the future.

Part of Shebia's marketing coordination duties includes facilitating the Big Info sessions on campus. Students are encouraged to volunteer with Big Info as a networking opportunity, to promote their program, and to give back to new students. Student volunteers with Big Info receive a \$50 honorarium. The Games Development Club is usually present at Big Info.

November 6th is the next Big Info session.

Shebia would like students to share their career success stories with her.

Q/C: Coming out to Career talks reflects well on school and adds value back into programs.

- **Guest Speakers: Norman Wong and James Pede from the Games Development Club.**

Club President Norman Wong and Club Treasurer James Pede introduce themselves and talk about the Games Development Club. The Games Development club was created as a way for students to gain experience in the design and creation of games outside of class. They stress that companies are more interested in potential employees with real world experience in addition to an academic background. The club is also a great way for students to connect with each other.

- **Guest Speaker: Amy Smith, Clubs Coordinator from the SA**

Amy welcomes the Set Reps and gives a power point presentation. She explains to the Set Reps the BCITSA Vision and Mission Statement, the role of the BCITSA on Campus, communication structure and Set Rep job description. Expectations of the Set Reps are also discussed, as is the role of the Chair in respect to the Set/Class Reps. Student Association resources that are available for the Set Reps are the Student Advocate, Chair of the School, VP of Student Affairs, Outreach Coordinator, BCIT Student Judicial Affairs and BCIT Harassment and Discrimination (these positions are waiting to be filled currently).

Q/C: Both drop-in tutoring and one-to-one tutoring \$16/ per hour are available through the SA and library commons (free drop-in).

1.3 Hung Le to discuss advocacy and his agenda

Hung Le explains that we have a student advocate, Robyn Lougheed, who will speak at a meeting soon to explain more about her role. Hung explains that there is a student code of conduct, which is retroactive, meaning that students can be held accountable for action that occurred while they were students, even after they have graduated or left school. Hung will provide more on the student code of conduct at a later meeting.

Hung also discusses academic integrity, and that there is a process for contesting grades. All students have a right to see their final exam.

Hung discusses that one item on his agenda as School of Computing Chair is to connect the different schools via opportunities to socialize and mix.

Next Meeting

Next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 10th, 2013, from 5:30pm-6:30pm in Council Chambers, SE2.

Adjournment

The Chairperson, Hung, adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.