

Set/ Rep Meeting Minutes
of the School of Computing and Academic Studies
Thursday, December 5, 2013

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

Set/Tech Reps

Name	Set	Name	Set
Alex Clark	CST1A	AJ Bridgden	CST2A
Andres Aguilar	CST1B	Tyler Hlynsky	CST2B
Stephanie Lachapelle	CST1C	Tristan Gillon	CST2C
Emi Yamniuk	CST1D		
Rene Ye	CST1E	Deanna Cooney	CST3A
		Morgan Wynne	CST3B
Kyle Hsueh	CIT1A	Chris Chapman	CST3G
Sam Humphrey	CIT1B		
		Justin Tom	CIT3A
Joseph Krump	CST4C		
Arthur Newman	CST4D	Ross McTague	BTECH5D
Matt Linder	BTECH7H	Jeff Poussard	BTECH5H

Staff: Amy Smith, the BCITSA Program/Clubs Coordinator

Guest Speakers: Steve Eccles, Dean of the School of Computing and Dean Hildebrand Associate

Dean

Hung Le opens the meeting at 5:45 pm.

- **Steve Eccles, Dean of the School of Computing**

Steve Eccles thanks Hung for the invitation to attend the meeting, and welcomes Dean Hildebrand to his new role as Associate Dean. He gives a brief update of what's happening with the school. Steve wishes students best of luck with finals, acknowledges the challenges and anxieties of

programs. He encourages students to offer positive feedback as well as criticism to help give a balanced perspective.

Steve expresses his very good impression of BCIT as an institute, and observes that the program wait-lists indicate this good reputation.

He urges students to complete surveys that are handed out in class, as they make a difference.

Changes in the last year include the addition of Rob Nielson and Bethany Edmonds as new program heads, and these are key players who are making a difference. They are new to their roles, but Steve trusts that time will reveal their impact.

Another change regarding Dean, who is a top-level leader, is his new management strategy which means he is handling both forensic science and tech as well as computing. It takes a while to have changes make their effect, so thanks for your patience.

Steve notes that the feedback has been thoughtful and respectful so far, and understands the frustration and anxiety around certain issues. The Deans are here to address these issues.

- **Guest Speaker introduced: Dean Hildebrand**

Dean Hildebrand introduces himself and thanks the set reps for this invitation. He has been at BCIT for several years and has just recently been on a management track. His background is in Biotechnology. Dean sees himself as an advocate, and has chosen to imbed himself close to faculty and students.

Dean explains that there is definitely a push for renewal with program reviews, teaching excellence, and performance development for faculty.

He insists that they really do use surveys and instructor evaluations to make changes.

- **Question Period**

Q/C: what about negative feedback?

A: That counts too. It helps them focus attention on a certain issue.

Q/C: For some set reps who have been around for 4 years (3 as a set rep), the same issues has come up before. What new mechanisms are being put in place to change the way things are dealt with so that it doesn't keep happening.

A: main role of set-rep is to bring these issues forward. It may not be necessary to have more than just the set rep communicating. Start with the instructor first, unless it's an extreme case, and if you're still unsatisfied take it up the chain.

PDS system needs to be reviewed to get everyone to on a formal cycle of development.

Q/C: 4 year cycles are fine if you're in a bachelor's program, but majority of students are in shorter programs. They won't see the benefits of this system.

A: This is just one foundation of the system, there's also other ways to communicate feedback and see changes occur.

A: Instructors can feel cornered, and these systems do take into account the well-being of instructors too. He hears students think there's nothing that can be done, but that is not accurate. It takes time, and there's a mythology in post-secondary schools that instructors can get comfortable.

Q/C: Can you give a concrete example of things being done differently?

Q/C: The deans being present for this meeting is evidence of change.

A: the program review process is brand new, although some of these systems have been in place for years, they're receiving a new treatment. There is renewed focus in the PDS system.

Q: Are their surveys from Alumni?

A: Yes, they are asked to review how their education helped them with career goals. It's part of the program review umbrella.

A: for example, they knew they has an issue with the admissions process and were able to make changes on the fly.

Q/C: Has been told by instructors that no one reads evaluations.

A: First 6 times an instructor teaches a course the associate dean reviews the entire evaluation. Later, they only see the summaries.

Q/C: Can the questions be more specific, less redundant?

A: There is some methodology around re-asking questions, but so far not sure about this.

A: Written statements are more accurate.

Q/C: It should be noted that students who don't bother filling out forms for teachers they like.

QC/ Could D2L evaluations be compulsory to ensure compliance?

A: There have been glitches with online evaluations, needs to be looked into.

Q/C: Should we expect to see something happen about a specific exam next week?
Program changes, changes with this particular instructor?

A: a power point is now available on D2L. Use the instructor's time to address questions and concerns, he is available. For next term, they're looking into reviewing the course and enhancing instructor performance. Coordinate yourselves around the information you need.

Q/C: Whether I pass or fail the class, I will re-take the class from another instructor because I feel the material is vital.

Q/C from Dean: Can you give some feedback on the power point that was provided?

A: There is too much information, 40 chapters covered, and he won't give back quizzes.

Q/C: What about the labs?

A: There was no answers to questions on labs, and students didn't understand the relevance.

Q/C: Without a previous exam students provided themselves, they wouldn't have passed the midterm.

Q/C: Can we get a practice exam for the final?

A: Not sure that would help narrow down the material that will be in the final.

A: Please study. They will take this feedback from tonight away. There's a bigger issue than just passing the exam, you need competency out in the industry.

Q/C: could we have an evaluation mid-way through the course, as a suggestion. Might help students feel that the suggestions will affect them and not be a waste of time.

A: Will be considered. Good idea.

Q/C: No labs and lectures for students in other schools in the 2 weeks up before finals.

A: This is the characteristic of BCIT; they are reviewing the workload and erroneous courses.

Q/C: I agree with the benefits of accelerated work-load. But can there be a break for sleep?

A: We have a bit of work to do on this, you are being heard. The new president, Kathy Kinloch, is very change supportive. She acknowledges the difficulty. They will rally and follow up tomorrow regarding this meeting.

Next Meeting: January 9th, 2014 in Council Chambers

- **Adjournment**

Hung adjourns the meeting at 6:10 pm