



Set/ Rep Meeting Minutes
of the School of Computing and Academic Studies
Thursday, March 6, 2014

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

Set/Tech Reps, Guests

Name	Set	Name	Set
Stuart Budd	CST1B	Burke Lougheed	CST3C
		Ross Gribble	CST3D
Stephanie Lachapelle	CST2C	Tristan Gillon	CST3L
Mao Sato	CST2E		
		Akos Sebestyen	CST4G
Kyle Hsueh	CIT2A	Paul Mendoza	CST4G
		Mark Niehe	CST4G

Staff: Amy Smith, the BCITSA Program/Clubs Coordinator;

Guest Speakers: Steve Eccles Dean of School of Computing

Hung Le opens the meeting at 5:37 pm.

1. Steve Eccles, Dean of the School of Computing.

Steve is here to follow up with students about their concerns and questions about program delivery at BCIT. Steve comments that he really appreciates the participation of students from the School of Computing at events such as Big Info and the dedicated SOCAS information session held previously. He believes it more effective and impactful to have current students advocate for the school to prospective students, rather than staff.

Steve explains the role of PDS (Professional Development System) in how they monitor and improve program delivery. One key of this is to watch instructors in action. Dean Hildebrand has been to observe instructors in the classroom; you may have noticed him in your classrooms. Steve expresses that he is very impressed by the fact that he has been able to contribute so much observation in his first 3 months in the position. Steve feels they are raising the bar as they bring in new staff, and notes that positive feedback is very helpful about instructors on what they are doing well.

Some of Dean's observations have shown that students are generally engaged and participating in class. However, at times it has been noticed that sleeping, or more often, gaming, is happening in class. Students need a nudge to get back on track, from classmates or the instructor.

An issue arose with an exam being compromised. An instructor's resource was being circulated which shouldn't have been publically available. Questions in the resource guide were used directly on the exam. If a student shares information like this with you, give them the feedback that they are in breach of policy. In reviewing programs, the integration of courses, timing of assignments, credit load, and other aspects are being reviewed so that programs have a more even-handed and intentional design. These changes can take time, and will be enacted in the next year. For students graduating this year, it will be a situation where their feedback benefits others.

Q/C: Can you comment on any developments with issues of specific instructors?

A: No, due to guidelines around privacy. We can isolate and neutralize the most effective comments received.

Q/C: With surveys, do the bubbles filled out get looked out, or just the verbatim comments?

A: The bubbles do get analyzed, but the comments section is very impactful. We do have good instructors, and the positive feedback really counts toward identifying what is working.

Steve gives an example of a particularly effective instructor who comes prepared with a One-note presentation, and hands out questions that she goes through and adds notes from her Think Pad.

Steve discusses the overall brilliance of the math department, which starts with a great program head and hiring, as well as benchmarks set internally.

Steve has seen the impact positive feedback has on instructors, so keep it up.

Q/C: BCIT doesn't provide a lot of inspiration to students. One instructor recently gave a very motivational speech, and it made a big impact.

A: That's very helpful information.

Q/C: It's neat that we have a business course as part of the program, but it could be done better perhaps.

A: Steve discusses complacency and apathy at BCIT. These are the days of plenty, and it's still important to stay innovative and not get too comfortable during these periods.

Kathy Kinloch is the right president for this time, as she is very external. Over the 50th anniversary at BCIT, there will be a significant amount of energy put into elevating the BCIT brand.

LAN party

On March 7th the Games Development Club and the SA are holding another LAN Party. This time it will be held in the SE6 computer labs. Register online at Gamesdevclub.bcit.ca for \$7, which includes food, games, and raffle prizes.

Beach party

This Spring Break kick-off party will happen March 7th, 12pm at Professor Mugs Pub. There will be lots of games, challenges, and prizes.

SA Elections

Hung explains that student executive nominations for 2014 are coming up. There are 11 positions in total, 7 chairs and 4 vice presidents.

Hung discusses the structure of the SA, and how student executives inform the decisions made by the SA.

Benefits of being a student executive include your own office, monthly honorarium, discounts at SA retail locations and food services, invitations to special events, and great experience.

Hung explains the responsibilities of being a student executive, which include attending student council and other related meetings, and being accountable to the student body.

March 17th - 21st is the nomination period. March 17th there will be a Q & A at 5:30 in council chambers.

March 28th campaigning by confirmed nominees begins, followed by a voting period.

Contact Eirene at VPSA@bcitsa.ca

Q/C: The new C guy just shows slides, most people don't come to lectures.

Java instructor still hasn't given back exams or labs. Won't have them back before mid-term.

Hung adjourns the meeting at 6:30.