

SoCAS Set Rep Meeting Minutes

November 21st, 2019

Item 1 – Opening

1.0 – Mike Starkey, Associate Dean for the School of Computing

- Worked for IBM
- Looking to work with students to increase tech industry awareness and preparedness
- Focus on growing technical leadership, developing soft skills like communication and presentation
- Office at DT and BBY, room 113 in SW02 for BBY

1.1 - Ice breaker and team bonding

Item 2 – Follow Up Items

2.1 - Action items from last meeting

2.1.1 – Introductory email for Set Reps

2.1.2 – Reinforcing communication hierarchy

2.1.3 – BCIT procedures for transit strikes

- Currently, BCIT's stance won't change. Students must be in class. Will push for further information from AD to understand the procedure if students can't make it to school during an exam/midterm week.

2.1.4 – CST Communication channels

- Slack doesn't meet student needs, isn't used actively by CST students.
- Potential alternatives: WhatsApp, Discord, Reddit, emails
- No solution preferred for Set Reps, just don't use Reddit. Discord is the most likely solution.

2.2 – Executive Objectives

2.2.1 – Engagement events

- Lan Party – what were the reasons for students not signing up?
 - \$15 too expensive to come play games

2.2.2 – Network for women in tech

2.2.3 - Tech industry connections

Item 3 – Focus Group

- Postponed due to time

SoCAS Set Rep Meeting Minutes

November 21st, 2019

Item 4 – Student Issues discussion

4.1 - Instructors/Program Heads/Deans

Feedback from instructors:

- Instructors' quality of teaching varies. Some instructors are excellent, but a lot don't teach in an engaging way.
- Some instructors read straight off slides which are available online – results in lower to almost no attendance in lectures
- For one course, students have to submit proposals, but the graders go away on holidays and aren't available to grade at a convenient time. Students get 3 chances to submit this proposal which is worth a large portion of their grade.
- Some instructors haven't given back any feedback for any assignments or quizzes making it impossible to know how well we are doing.
- Some instructors had strange marking schemes that don't seem fair. For instance, you get docked 10% because your staple is not angled correctly
 - According to Advocacy, teachers can get away with this if they tell the students that they will grade this way ahead of time.
- Some instructors do not cover material that is on the course outline, or add on a test without changing the original course outline.
- Some instructors make changes to labs and assignments after the first lab session, causing students that complete this lab ahead of time to have to go back to their assignment and make changes.
- In general, several teachers seem disorganized and unprepared and students are the ones that pay the price.

4.2 – Schedules/exams/midterms

- Students seem content with exam schedule.

4.3 - Content/programs

- We should be trusting instructors to be up to date, know what the students should be learning, and be ready for industry.

4.4 - SA Services

- Students who stay late don't have places to eat after hours. Most of our program stays late, there are no convenient options nearby.
- Would it be possible to have a partnership with Uber Eats or Skip the Dishes after hours?
 - No, because these would be competing with catering

4.5 - BCIT services

- No major discussion points

4.6 – Infrastructure

SoCAS Set Rep Meeting Minutes

November 21st, 2019

- NE1 doesn't have enough outlets for students.
- SE12 does have outlets, but they are hard to reach, would it be possible to get outlet poles in SE12 and NE1 rooms?
 - Will check to see if this is possible.

4.7 - Other issues

- Overview of what I (Louis) plan on discussing at the PAC meeting
- What issues would students like to bring up?
 - No major discussion points
- Topic of test banks:
 - Are people aware of the issue? What would be a feasible solution?
 - Tests should be weighted less, especially since this institution focuses on experiential learning (should weigh more on labs/assignments)
 - Alternatively, should test banks be made available to all students?
 - Term most affected by this is Term 1, where students are competing with DT and other students for co-op positions.

Item 5 – Closing

5.1 – Review of action items for this session

- Currently compiling list, will send to Set Reps soon.

5.2 – Reminders

5.2.1 – Events:

- QDS Hacks
- Every set rep must push 1 student to sign up

5.2.2 – Next meeting in January / February

Item 6 – Meeting adjourned