

CSSS General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Meeting called to order at 15:34 in TASCI 9204E by Jonathan Loewen.

Minutes taken by Dawn Chandler.

Attendance

Name	Email (@sfu.ca)	Affiliation
Ali Khamesy		Member
Anna Tang		First Year Rep
Ben Katz		Member
Ching (Jeff) Wang		Member
Corbett Gildersleve		Honourary Member, Alumnus
Courtenay Huffman		Director of Events, WiCS Communications Coordinator
David Miller		President
Dawn Chandler		Director of Archives, WiCS President
Eric Gao		Exec at Large
Eric Ly		Honourary Member
Evan Coulter		Member
Gurkaran Aujla		Member
Henry Zhao		Director of Communications

Jeffrey Leung		FAS Rep to SFSS Board
Jonathan Loewen		Vice President
Kasra Jamshidi		Member
Kia Mirsalehi		Director of Resources, SFSS Council Chair
Matthew Morrison		Member
Mitchell Gale		Member
Noble Tan		First Year Rep
Oscar Smith-Sieger		Member
Paul Allan		Member
Ryan Vansickle		Exec at Large
Vijender Bakhshi		Member

1. Report of Officers

a. President (David Miiller):

- i. Has a meeting with David Mitchell (Associate Director of the CMPT Undergraduate Program) next week, where he will provide feedback from CSSS members regarding the proposed 2.4 GPA policy.
- ii. Attended the first FAS Formal meeting today. Many CSSS members on organising committee. CSSS will probably sponsor event for same amount as last year (\$400).

b. Vice President (Jonathan Loewen):

- i. Ordered more hoodies, waiting for response from seller.

c. Treasurer (Dustin Cao):

- i. Regrets:
 1. Update on finances:

- a. Dev Equipment: \$4003.37
- b. Contingency: \$1000.19
- c. Community Service Package: \$3913.58
- d. Core: \$1848.49

2. Note that Core funding has rolled over from last semester.

d. Director of Communications (Henry Zhao):

i. Regrets (arrived late):

- 1. Overwatch event in CSIL went well. Thank you to Ryan Vansickle for supervising.
- 2. Blender club trial also went well. Has spoken to Lee Greenough and booked them in CSIL every Monday from now on. But CSSS is only able to sponsor one club per term for regular bookings in CSIL. Will have to ask about expanding.
- 3. Ready to send out another newsletter when David Miller is ready to add items to it.
- 4. Discord server is running well.

e. Director of Events (Courtenay Huffman):

- i. Boardgames Night is this Friday, October 13. There will be boardgames and free food.

f. Director of Resources (Kia Mirsalehi):

- i. Pop order arrived and we paid.
- ii. Eric, Cloud, Anna did a Costco run for general common room tea/coffee/food supplies.

g. Director of Archives (Dawn Chandler):

- i. Remote attendance for CSSS general meetings via Discord now being advertised in meeting notices.
- ii. Minutes are being uploaded to appropriate places.

h. First Year Reps

- i. Anna Tang:
 - 1. Nothing to report.
- ii. Noble Tan:

1. Nothing to report.

i. Exec at Larges

i. Ryan Vansickle:

1. Cleaned the common room.

ii. Eric Gao:

1. Bought popcorn and put it in the common room.

Members may make popcorn in the common room using the microwave. Ask Eric Gao or Ryan Vansickle if you need instructions.

2. Also purchased coffee, tea, and related supplies that should last for a month.

j. SFSS Board FAS Rep (Jeffrey Leung):

i. Not much work with SFSS because DSUs are busy with Halloween and other events.

ii. Most of his recent work has been internal.

iii. FAS Formal meeting was today. Committee established.

iv. Meeting (appx. 3 hours) to discuss formation of a FAS Student Union coming up.

k. FAS Rep to SFSS Council (Kia Mirsalehi):

i. Nothing to report.

l. WiCS President (Dawn Chandler):

i. 9 WiCS members went to the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing last week in Orlando, Florida.

ii. Google hosted a lunch/Q&A event for WiCS and WiE members.

iii. There is a technical interview event with HackLounge on Monday, October 16, open to all FAS students.

iv. There is a EA TechTalks event on Tuesday, October 17.

- v. WiCS will have a Halloween social after the meeting on Monday, October 30.
- vi. Regular events (CodeMavens, Veggie Lunch, meetings) still going on.

2. 2.4 GPA Restrictions Update

a. David Miiller:

- i. David Mitchell (Associate Director of the CMPT Undergraduate Program) wants to (not sure when) enforce the policy that states that students are not allowed to enrol in CMPT courses if their CGPA is below 2.4.
- ii. Currently, students with a CGPA below 2.4 must see FAS academic advising to get into CMPT courses.

b. Discussion:

- i. Maybe it's a good idea to discourage students from earning CS degrees if they're not suited to the program.
- ii. Bad idea to implement a policy without considering what the effect, in terms of numbers, will be.
- iii. The School expects affected students to take GPA boosters to get back into CMPT classes. It would be a better idea to let them retake the CMPT courses that brought their CGPA down.
- iv. The School of Engineering Science has a similar, harsher policy.
- v. This policy is being proposed because there are too many CS program students trying to get into 200 and 300 level CMPT courses. This policy is targeted at the bottom bracket of 3rd and 4th year CS students.
- vi. There should be a warning system aside from having to see the FAS academic advisors.
- vii. Perhaps this policy should consider CMPT CGPA, not overall CGPA.

- viii. There is a point where a student's CGPA cannot be moved easily, especially if they cannot retake the courses that have brought their CGPA down. So this policy would essentially kick some students out of the program.
- ix. The School of Computing Science wants to improve their reputation with this policy.
- x. If this policy is grandfathered, it won't have an effect. If it isn't grandfathered, it will kick a lot of current upper division students out of their CS programs.
- xi. We can expect the threshold for this policy to move. (Ex. 2.4 first semester, 2.3 or 2.5 in future semesters.)
- xii. Why is the School of Computing Science even bothering to ask for our feedback? We probably can't change their minds.
- xiii. The average CGPA of students in CS programs is 2.3. It's expected that not every student will end up graduating. The School's goal is not to shrink their department, but there's no obvious way to fix the problem without doing so.

c. Conclusion:

- i. CSSS members may speak to David Miller (President) or message the Executives on Discord to provide further feedback.
- ii. At the meeting with David Mitchell next week, David Miller will relay the main points from this discussion.
 - 1. David Miller will also speak to David Mitchell about:
 - a. The possibility of retaking courses under this policy.

- b. Joint program students having less choices for GPA boosters.
 - c. How this policy will affect students who are not in a CS program.
- iii. David Miiller will inform CSSS members of what is discussed during his next meeting with David Mitchell, including when the changes to the policy will be implemented. (Most likely next semester, as the class waitlist situation is urgent.)

3. Hackathon

- a. David Miiller:
 - i. CSSS Hackathon will be on Saturday, January 20, 2018 and/or Sunday, January 21, 2018, pending SoSy approval (since we want their support).
 - ii. Will continue to give updates at meetings and ask for feedback.
 - iii. Still accepting ideas for theme and name.
- b. Let David Miiller know if you want to join the CSSS Hackathon planning committee.
- c. CUSEC [<http://2018.cusec.net/>] will be Thursday, January 11, 2018 to Saturday, January 13, 2018.
- d. nwHacks [<https://www.nwhacks.io/>] will be on Saturday, January 13, 2018 to Sunday, January 14, 2018.

4. Hoodie Sale Update

- a. Jonathan Loewen:
 - i. Placed an order for more SFU/CS-branded hoodies, sweaters, and t-shirts.
 - ii. Order was roughly \$1700.
 - iii. Restocking hoodies and t-shirts.
 - iv. The sweaters will be crewnecks, not v-necks.
 - v. No red clothing because historically not popular.

- vi. Did not order pink hoodies because still waiting to hear back from Tracy Bruneau about changing the design to exclude "School of Computing Science."

b. Discussion:

- i. We will not take cheques unless we know the person.

5. Open Floor

a. Food for Boardgames Nights:

- i. Courtenay Huffman: We need to talk about food for Boardgames Night tonight.

ii. Discussion:

1. Trying to limit our discussion about what kind of food to get.
2. Mount Athos has cheap, decent pizza.
3. Costco has even cheaper pizza. If someone has a car, we can drive to the location at the bottom of Burnaby Mountain and pick some up.
4. Do will we do about the ever-rising food budget for Boardgames Nights?
5. 9 pizzas from Mount Athos is \$111.37
6. Costco pizzas are bigger but a similar price.
7. Some people are tired of pizza, but we can do pizza every second week since it's cheap.
8. Costco also has cheap fries.
9. Bamboo Garden was temporarily shut down last week for health and safety violations.

- iii. Ching (Jeff) Wong motions for \$150.00 from External to buy food for Boardgames Night on Friday, October 13, 2017.

1. Oscar Smith-Sieger seconds.

2. Discussion:

- a. We'll get 10 pizzas from Costco and use the rest of the money to buy fries.

3. Motion passes. (Oscar Smith-Sieger and Paul Allan opposed.)

6. Missing French Press

a. Yesterday around 14:30, Paul Allan was in the common room with ~7 other people and saw someone (not a regular) leave with the French press.

b. Discussion:

- i. Someone offers to donate his own French press.
- ii. It's possible that someone will return it.
- iii. It's not a good precedent to take no action when someone takes something from the common room.
- iv. David Miller will report the theft to Security and review the camera footage with them, as per policy.
- v. Anna Tang saw someone with a French press in CSIL yesterday.
- vi. It's possible that this was not a theft, just a mistake.
- vii. We could put up a nonjudgemental "missing" poster.
- viii. Has anyone checked the CSIL lost & found?
- ix. We will send out a search party.
- x. Someone on Discord posts about seeing someone with a French press in CSIL. Several people leave the room to research this further.
- xi. Later: someone posts a photo of the found French press on Discord.

7. Common Room

a. Ryan Vansickle: A lot of things are stolen from the common room.

b. Discussion:

- i. Can we attach chains to the microwave or super-putty the microwave to the counter?
- ii. We need a new microwave, one that is lighter, smaller, and can cook popcorn better.

- iii. There is not enough counterspace for the microwave.
- iv. Unless the microwave has its own circuit, we will blow a fuse, have to call Facilities to flip the breaker, which takes a day, during which time no one can charge their laptops.
- v. Should reorganise space in the common room somehow to use more vertical space and create more storage space, through shelves or cubbies.

8. LAN Party

- a. Ben Katz: When will we have a LAN Party?
- b. Discussion:
 - i. This is for the First-Year Reps to organise. Please ask them.
 - ii. We could host it in CSIL, so that participants don't have to bring their own laptop/tower.
 - iii. We could give out a few dozen accounts for a few games.
 - iv. In the past, we've only been able to have one event in CSIL per month. But we might be able to ask for more (non-gaming) events, since we have a formalised system for booking CSIL for events now.
 - v. People don't have to play games either, can just hang out.
 - vi. In the past, we've used a 48 port switch, everyone connected to LAN.
 - vii. A downside of using CSIL is that we don't have admin permission to install games on the machines.
 - viii. We could also book out a room if people are okay with bringing their own laptops and towers.
 - ix. CSIL has other restrictions. We can't have big multiplayer games.
 - x. Booking out a room in TASCI might allow for a better atmosphere. We can have food in other rooms.

xi. We could probably get a few monitors from the common room or Facility Services for people's towers if they needed them.

xii. We should do a survey on whether people want a LAN party in CSIL or TASCI.

c. Please see the First-Year Reps for more discussion about planning a LAN party. We still have a switch.

9. Common Room Microwave

a. Corbett Gildersleve:

1. We could put the microwave outside the common room and could pay people to clean the microwave. School of Computing Science might pay for that because it's a service to the community.

2. We could rearrange the circuits in the common room to give the microwave its own circuit. It's a lot easier to do than installing water. It might take a whole break to do. We might be able to get it done over a few weekends, to avoid closure of the common room. We'll have to inquire with Lee Greenough.

ii. Discussion:

1. We could run cables elsewhere to free up space.

2. If we can't renovate the common room ourselves because that counts as union work, we can still Mighty Putty things or move furniture.

3. We could use more vertical space.

b. Common Room Window

i. Paul Allan: Can we frost the CSIL side of the window in the common room that looks into CSIL?

1. Discussion:

- a. We could get a frosting (full, strips, or patterns) to cover the window on the CSIL side of the glass, so that people would not be able to see into the common room. We could also write on the glass and use it as a whiteboard. It would not be expensive. We could ask Lee Greenough for some. Would allow light to enter common room. Could easily be peeled off.
- b. Or we could get a curtain, which we could use as needed. But it would take up a lot of space and it would be hard to attach to the drywall.
- c. We already have 2 whiteboards; probably don't need a 3rd one to cover the window.
- d. We could use the window as advertising space, just tape up posters. But would have to consult Lee Greenough, because we don't have domain over what faces CSIL.
- e. The common room would feel claustrophobic without a window.
- f. The point of blocking the window is because people in CSIL stare into the common room and see poor behaviour. But why are we hiding this poor behaviour instead of improving it?
- g. We have some spotlights that need fixing.
- h. A 2 way mirror is another option.

10. State of Common Room

- a. Paul Allan: The common room is a mess and needs to be cleaned. There is not enough space to circulate. Furniture needs to be thrown out or reorganised.
- b. Discussion:

- i. We will get rid of the annoying table whose surface area is less than the space it takes up. Oscar Smith-Sieger and Eric Gao will find a replacement table from somewhere on campus. Perhaps we cannot justify the space needed for a table.
- ii. David Miiller has already asked Kia Mirsalehi (Director of Resources) to reorganise the common room.
- iii. Members may make suggestions for how to reorganise the common room to David Miiller or Kia Mirsalehi.
- iv. The microwave, kettle, tea/coffee supplies could be moved to the front of the common room. But the kettle and microwave draw a lot of power, need their own circuits. (Else will blow a fuse and have to call Facilities to have them reset the breaker, which takes one business day.) We could redo/upgrade some circuits.

11. U-Pass Referendum

a. Jeffrey Leung:

- i. A referendum for students to vote on the U-Pass agreement in November.
- ii. There is no price increase.
- iii. The SFSS Board has recommended to the BC provincial government that they start paying for the U-Pass.

12. CMPT Workshops

a. Ryan Vansickle: There are capable students studying hard for CMPT 120, but still aren't doing well. Is the CSSS not going to help them?

b. Discussion:

- i. If a student is struggling with an intro CMPT course, should he/she really be in a CMPT program? The department wants to filter out interested students who can't perform well.

- ii. But if students will come to workshops offered by the CSSS, why not offer them?
 - iii. There is a fine line between giving a workshop and enabling academic dishonesty. The School of Computing Science might not like course-specific workshops.
 - iv. The ongoing weekly CMPT 361 workshops are a test.
 - v. These workshops would have to be taught in a way such that workshop leaders are not giving answers to students. We could safely teach specific topics related to programming or high-level concepts.
 - vi. We could safely have the instructor, TA, or former instructor give the workshop.
 - vii. What happens in the common room is ad hoc study groups. We could formalise these study groups by regularly booking rooms and having volunteers supervise.
 - viii. Many students in CMPT 120 do not do enough hands-on work in the labs, which creates bad habits for future CMPT courses. The TAs take attendance in labs, but do not verify identity or how much work a student has done.
13. BCTECH Summit [<https://bctechsummit.ca/>]
- a. Ben Katz: BCTECH Summit is being held in downtown Vancouver May 14-16, 2018. Earlybird tickets go on sale November 15, 2017. Can the CSSS get some passes for members?
 - b. Jonathan Loewen: Members are welcome to apply for SFSS Travel & Conference Funding at a CSSS general meeting.
14. Canadian Undergraduate Software Engineering Conference (CUSEC) [<http://2018.cusec.net/>]
- a. Kasra Jamshidi: What is going on with CUSEC?
 - b. Courtenay Huffman (SFU Head Delegate):

- i. January 11-13, 2017 in Montreal, Quebec.
 - ii. Registration is \$60, but Courtenay might be able to get it waived for SFU students. Main cost is flights and hotels.
 - iii. Will start holding info sessions the week after next.
- 15. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. Kia Mirsalehi motions to approve the minutes from Wednesday, September 27, 2017 with amendments.
 - i. Paul Allan seconds.
 - ii. Motion passes.
- 16. Motion to Adjourn
 - a. Jonathan Loewen motions to adjourn meeting.
 - b. None opposed
 - c. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 16:52.