



EGSC Minutes – November 11, 2011

Voting Member Attendance (19/27):

Andrew Kang
Cathy Chen
Yinghuang Ji
Pranjal Gupta
Chaitanya Rastogi
Ryan Turner
Michael Lamprecht
Zen Liu
Hesam Parsa
Sonali Bhatnager
Kevin Dooley

Badri Hiriyur
Shihab Hamati
Vipul Singh
Kyle Wendler
Hanyue Hu
Vokram Joshi
Haofeng Lin
Jonathan Barclay
Di Wang
Qi Zhou

1. Budget Committee

1. Graduate Student Group Recognition Proposal

Ben Wu, an IEOR Master student gave a short presentation about their group -- Columbia University Global Alpha Investment Association. It started in October and has about 5 people who are served as the executive board now. The group wants to host several seminars with junior alumni talking about their career and some other issues. It's open to all Engineering graduate student body, but the primary members will be IEOR students. However, the president himself will graduate at the end of this year. EGSC consider this group to be useful and interesting as long as they can get enough group members. We need their membership list, and will continue the discussion next week.

2. EE Department Thanksgiving Social Proposal

EE department has more than 300 Master and Ph.D. students this semester, while their operating budget remains the same. Last time, above 200 people showed up in EE Halloween Party. So they ask EGSC to help funding their Thanksgiving Social. EGSC all agree that if we fund EE, then there should be equal distribution of funding to every department based on the numbers of students. After a hands-up-hands-down vote, we decided to not fund EE department Thanksgiving social.

2. Senate Update – Student Course Evaluations

The senate, Ryan Turner, brought up the discussion of an official university course evaluation database. People think that the open class evaluations should be specific to class

and professor. On the database, students will be able to rate their own professors, pick a professor or class to see other's comments and they can also like or dislike a comment to help people find the most useful comment. The quality information will contain issues about how many hours do you spend on this course weekly, what ability (reading, writing, calculating, etc.) does this course require most and so on. The accountability of teaching quality will definitely help students to find good classes and professors, and also make the professors to adjust their classes. The only drawback is that the open discussion may lead students to choose easy courses rather than hard courses.

Ryan will bring those points to their Senate meeting. Hopefully they will make all the schools to begin the Student Course Evaluations from next semester.

If anyone still have any comment and thought on this issue, please email to Ryan Turner (rct2115@columbia.edu).

3. Vacant Position Elections

Associate members Avichal and Kyle both gave a one-minute presentation. After a hands-up-hands-down vote, Kyle got the vacant EE rep position. However we welcome all associate members to stay active and involved. Avichal would like to help building a better EGSC website. We will make a proposal for the website issue very soon.

4. EGSC Logo

Andrew will sign up an account on 99 designs website to come up with a new EGSC logo.

5. Academic Affairs Committee

There are two proposals to be written:

- 1) Graduate Student Awards Proposal
- 2) Mudd Facilities Proposal

6. Library Seats Occupy Issue

Hanyue brought up the issue that students occupy seats in the library while leaving for hours, so those who just walk into and want to study right away cannot find a seat, especially in Butler reference room. Kyle gave several suggestions and will also contact the librarians to see what solutions they may have.

7. Alumni/Career Committee Updates

Tech Talk - Wednesday, November 16, 6pm in Davis Auditorium

8. Social Committee Updates

1. Game Night student life mixer - Wednesday, November 16, 8pm in TC Cafeteria
2. Social with Uptown medical students - Nov. 17th
First 50 people will get free drinks.
3. All EGSC is invited to Master's Dean's Signature Event - Tuesday, November 29.