Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2011

Member Attendance
Andrew Kang, Aishwarya Seshadri, Sonal Shetkar, Pranjal Gupta, Chaitanya Rastogi, Ryan Turner, Viona Sun, Mike Lamprecht, Hesam Parsa, Sonali Bhatnagar, Kevin Dooley, Badri Hiriyur, Andres Uribe, Abhinav Tallapally, Annie Hu, Vikram Joshi, Haofeng Lin, Jonathan Barclay, Di Wang, Qi Zhou

Associate Members
Kyle Wendler, William Qaqish, Jonathan Stark, Ellie Bastani, Britney, Renee

I. **Voting on EGSC Constitution Amendment**
   a. The constitution amendment passed by unanimous vote (14 Y, 0 N, 0 A).
   b. Provisional members will have a 5 week trial period. After 5 weeks, they will be asked to fill out an application and the council will hold an internal election to vote them in.

II. **EGSC Logo Design**
   a. Cathy will compile all the internal logo designs and send out to all members.
   b. We will vote internally whether or not to adopt any of the designs on Friday, November 11.

III. **Dean Pena-Mora Visit**
   a. Columbia University RFP
      i. Dean Pena-Mora explained the vision behind the RFP and how engineering is taking the lead on the initiative. He emphasized that certain aspects of the RFP could directly impact graduate engineering students:
         1. Since the overall plan is an interdisciplinary collaboration between multiple schools, the possibility of joint degrees (MBA/PhD, etc.) was talked about
         2. Also the possibility of M.Eng and D.Eng degrees, with an emphasis on training people to go to industry and required practicum experience was discussed.
      ii. The Dean stated that if Columbia won the competition, the engineering school would effectively double in size, in terms of faculty and graduate students, not necessarily undergraduate students, however.
   b. **SEAS Graduation 2012**
      i. The Dean reiterated that the graduate student speaker at SEAS Class Day would become a tradition, and would continue in 2012.
      ii. Jonathan and the Dean both confirmed with us that SEAS PhD graduates, for the first time, will be invited to SEAS Class Day
         1. Last year, the request was put in too late to overcome the sizable logistical hurdles.
      iii. However, the Dean and Jonathan also warned us that they don't really have any control of when PhD Convocation (GSAS PhD ceremony) will be scheduled and that SEAS Class Day and Convocation could overlap.
      iv. On the issue of hooding, the Dean mentioned that hooding is normally a very intimate and unique graduate ceremony and should be handled on a smaller scale (possibly within departments?)
   c. **Graduate Student Awards at Graduation**
      i. Graduate students will not be able to be considered eligible for current awards given to undergraduate students.

        ii.   If we're strongly interested, the Dean challenged EGSC to come up with a graduate student award with the following stipulations:
1. Rigorous selection process
2. Decide what it should represent
3. Start the process now if EGSC wants it instituted for 2012

d. Mudd Facilities
        i.   On the issue of Carleton Lounge, the Dean mentioned that no EGSC feedback was given to him last spring when he visited last time.
        ii.   He emphasized that any renovations to Carleton would have to be "band-aid" solutions due to the logistics (asbestos in the floors would require an overhaul of the entire floor, including library and CS)
        iii.   He asked EGSC members to come up with a renovation proposal (examples: furniture, TV monitors, etc.) and submit to him ASAP
        iv.   The Dean also will take the idea of better bathroom/facilities upkeep to heart and will explore ideas to improve the maintenance and upkeep
        v.   Several EGSC members mentioned that the wi-fi signal throughout the building, especially in certain parts of the library, was severely lacking and should be addressed.

e. Dean Pena-Mora also challenged EGSC to give more feedback to the Dean's office
        i.   He asked us to look at the past semester and decide how we were responding to student needs
1. Too many social activities?
2. How are Tech Talks going?
3. How are the signature events?
        ii.   He requested an end of the year report to the Dean's office on our progress this year and how we assessed ourselves