Section 3: Ballot Questions

In order to be successful, teams need to be well balanced with a complementary set of skills. Critical thinking, creativity, commitment, communication skills, and persistence, all play a central role in entrepreneurship. The balloting process is designed to allow you to demonstrate these and other skills.

Please create and submit a PDF with thoughtful and complete essay form answers to the following questions. Include the questions in your PDF in boldface, including the question numbers. Limit your submission to four pages or less using 11-point text with 1-inch margins.

1) **What is your last name, first name?**

    My name is Tianyi Li.

2) **What year are you enrolled in? (Examples: 4th year Undergraduate, Masters, PhD)**

    I am currently enrolled in my 4th year, Undergraduate.

3) **What is your University of Toronto student number and email address?**

    My University of Toronto student number is 1000929445 and email address is tianyidoudou.li@mail.utoronto.ca

4) **What U of T programs(s) are you currently enrolled in? (Examples: degrees, POSts, specializations, etc.)**

    I am currently enrolled in the Computer Science Specialist POSt.

5) **Include here information about whether you are applying for the fall or winter semester and whether you are applying for the combination Business of Software and the Capstone Design Project courses (CSC454/CSC2527+CSC491/CSC2600), or just the Business of Software course by itself (CSC454/CSC2527 only).**

    I am applying for both CSC454 and CSC491. I would like to enrol in the Business of Software course for Fall 2017 and the Capstone Design Project course for Winter 2018.

6) **What background do you have that might support your success in this course? (Examples: university courses, guided study, workshops, incubators, accelerators, etc.)**

    I have realized that just learning from school projects and books would not give me real-life experience when it comes to problem solving. I want to use and expand my abilities to tackling real-world problems and develop ideas to help individuals and businesses. This is also why I decided to participate in a 16-month long internship with IBM Canada in Professional Experience Year program to gain more real work experience and learn how do companies actually function n everyday. I worked in a 4 people team to solve practical problems on a daily basis.

7) **What extracurricular or co-curricular organizations are you involved in? Can any contribute to supporting your success in this course? If so, how?**

   While doing my internship with IBM Canada, I have also applied to the IBM Future Blue group and was selected as one of thirty-five interns representing all the interns across Canada. I am a Social Team Lead executive, running networking events for the student community at IBM. I am responsible for recruiting, leading and engaging a team of students to plan and execute these events on a bi-weekly basis. During this time, I have sharpened my communication, planning, and collaboration skills to make sure I can plan great events and also make them come true. These skills would definitely help me in these two courses; I can work more productively and effectively within my group and be a great team player. My teammate can trust me with my work and I will value all their skills, insight and abilities.

8) **If you have been involved in entrepreneurial or intrapreneurial projects or ventures, what were your responsibilities?**

   I have worked on one entrepreneurial project in high school where I started with what I wanted for my business as a base and build from there. I researched in the currently market file, designed my business structure, estimated my incomes and costs and improved on my original business ideas as needed. I worked on that project all myself, as big as my marketing approach and as small as my business logo.

9) **What is the most successful project that you have been involved in? How do you know it was successful? Why was it successful?**

   The most successful project that I was involved in came from the internship I completed for my PEY. I co-designed and implemented an automated testing bucket for my team; it automated execution of testcases and the process capture messages to verify different languages and detect corruption which were previously run manually. It was a successful project, because:

   - works on all Windows, Linux and Unix operating systems
   - cut down about 80% of the testing time
   - can run anytime on demand
   - manual testing can only cover 5% in overall, yet the bucket can test on every message
   - made the testing cycle flow more smoothly and efficient

10) **Describe your most significant project failures and the lessons you learned from them. How have your practices changed in response to these failures?**

   The most significant project failure would be my first computer science project from first year. I was confused about what to complete for the assignment and I was afraid to ask for help from peers, TA's and professors; I did not realize that collaboration can help me to go a long way. Ever since then, I know that I do not need to be embarrassed or shy to ask questions, and asking for help is a great way to learn.

11) **What are your major weaknesses, and how have or might they impact a project team? How do you plan to mitigate or compensate for those weaknesses?**

My major weakness would me was not paying attentions to details. Back in high school, I used to get lower marks on tests and exams, because I accidently misspelled words or misread the questions. Luckily, I realized this problem during Grade 12 and I will double check on everything I work on to make sure I do not make silly mistakes that would impact on my true performance.

12) **What key strengths and qualifications would you like your colleagues to bring to a project team, and why?**

The number one key strength I would like my colleague and myself to bring to our project team would be interpersonal skills, such as collaboration and communication skills. We should be able to work well within a team and communicate effectively with each other; we will help each other to achieve our goals.

In addition, the problem-solving skill would be essential as well. I would want my team to be in agile development and a mind-set that is not afraid of tackling difficult problems.

13) **What key strengths and qualifications do you bring to a project team?**

As I mentioned in the previous question, I value the interpersonal skills and problem-solving skills the most out of all, and those will be the key strengths I kept improving and will bring into my team. I would also want to bring in my professional work experience from the past internship to help the team function more smoothly and effectively. I would also make sure that I will be one hundred percent focus when I am working with my team and bring out my best ideas and solutions.

14) **Why do you want to take this course, and what are your expectations?**

I have taken a handful of Computer science courses and also wanted to learn more in the field of business. Nowadays, learning in classrooms cannot give us the first hand experience on tackling real-world problems. I want to work on a project that would benefit the world by providing solutions and also myself to learn more.

My expectation in this course would be working in a professor and a small group of students to study a challenging problem that is happening in the the software industry. We will build our own business concepts, then present and support the business proposal with the knowledge we will learn. Our group can build from our earlier experiences, while trying new ways of thinking to provide a practical solution.

15) Describe and justify 2 innovative ideas you have for course projects that would be disruptive. (Example: of high significance to a large number of people). How do you know it would be a disruptive form of innovation?

The first idea that I am interested in would be the new Blockchain technology. It is a distributed database technology that uses high-end cryptographic skills to secure and provide a record of transactions at any given time. The impact of the Blockchain for the technology world will be enhancing on existing systems. It will likely to replace our current method of storing data on a centralized database, with a system of only cryptographic keys and shared ledgers can form trusting digital relationships. Therefore, online transactions will become more secure and this technology can shape our year ahead.

I am also interested in the idea of automating the complete personal finance experience. For the past two years or so, more people prefer to complete their banking transactions on their personal mobile devices, such as smartphones and laptops, because it is more convenient and easier to make changes as they need. People can make a payment, check their balance 24/7 online and sometimes they do not even have time to got he bank branches since they are busy about their job and daily chores. Not just daily banking, I can see from now, financial advisors and analysts will also be replaced by robotics and machine. Also since more people are using technology in their lives, they will be more willing and want to adapt more technology on a daily basis. Eventually, e-banking will replace the old-school in person banking because of the saving on cost and efficiency.