

Minutes of the GSC Academics Committee

June 19, 2003

Attendance: Ramesh Srinivasen, Alan Drummond, Stephanie Chow, Mike Fleming, Theo Strinopoulos, Jeff Bergthorson, Julie Liu

Everhart Lecture Series (ELS) – Last years lectures went well. We spent an average of \$160/lecture. It was webcast by public events, and they did it for free last year. If it is not going to be for free this year, who will pay for it? Dean or Alumni Association were suggested. Are there statistics for the number of people who watched the lectures online?

We decide to have 1st lecture at the start of the 2nd term, then at the end of 2nd term and in the middle of the 3rd.

We have also discussed advertising ELS to the outside community and should talk to PR about this.

Ramesh will be around and able to fill in the new lead organizer, Alan and Julie have volunteered to help out with the ELS organization this year.

Teaching Awards: There were too few nominations. Having nominations every term is a good thing. We decide not to advertise to undergrads as ASCIT has their own awards. Theo has recruited George Matthieu to help next year and Julie has volunteered as well.

Teaching awards - There were concerns that many graduate students who TA undergraduate classes are "left out" of the GSC awards. Since ASCIT runs its own teaching awards, we felt that it would be better to have the GSC TA awards be given to TAs of graduate level classes. We will talk to ASCIT to find out what awards they give out and if there is no award for undergraduate TAs may change this decision.

Advising issues: want TA feedback to happen.

Other updates:

Online Registration - Jeff and Marissa met with the registrar, Judith Goodstein, to discuss online registration and to inform them of our concerns with the system. We were concerned that some students registration would not get completed due to their advisors not approving it. With the current paper system, a student tracks their advisor down and makes them sign their form on the spot. With the online system, it will not be in the students control when (and if) the advisor approves their registration.

Due to Marissa's suggestions at the first meeting, they will now automatically inform the advisor when a student has completed the registration and it needs approval. As well, the student will be automatically notified when their registration has been approved. In those

cases where a student is unable to get their advisors approval, they can go up the chain - first to the Option Representative who may log into the system and approve the registration, next to the Executive Officer of the division, then to the Division Chair. Failing all of this, the Registrar may approve the registration directly. There should be no visa issues as no information is sent to INS without being looked over, if a student has allowed their registration to lapse, the situation will be handled internally to get things straightened out before reporting to INS.

The Registrar is not authorized to make any changes to the current advising system; they are merely taking the current paper system and making it electronic. Any failures in the current system that are brought to light by this changeover should be brought up for review with the Faculty Board. The changeover is scheduled for the spring term of 2004, for initial registration only. Adds and Drops will be handled by paper as usual.

SURF - Lauren has worked with the SURF office to improve communication with the graduate student co-mentors. This has been a big improvement and they held 4 information sessions for the co-mentors. They will also try to organize informal discussion groups of co-mentors to discuss any issues or problems they are facing with their SURF students.