



MCMASTER ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Council Meeting Minutes



January 15th, 2018 | JHE H204 | 7:00pm

ALL ATTENDANTS: Please inform President of your presence.

Approved Absences: MJ Lindsay (night class, proxy Ian Currie), Tommy Siuda (night class, proxy Jocelyn Lee), Aisha Isiaka (night class, proxy Dani Lake), Christie Condron (absent, proxy Jacob Lamb), Adam Cianfarani (night class), Konrad Grala (sick), Danny Nguyen (absent)

PROXY: (Person for Person)

Quorum Count: 22

Ratification of the Agenda

Parsa: I would like to add a discussion on culture.

Mitch: okay.

Alex: Would like to add an amendment to presentation 2 (spelling error).

Mitch: friendly change.

Motion passes

Ratification of Last Council Meeting's Minutes

Motion passes

Executive Updates

President Michael Meier

Welcome back. IBiomed referendum coming up. Discussion with faculty on how the program started, setting up stream info sessions, etc. Redsuit revamp townhall happened. Still processing through info received, may have another town hall if needed. Student professional affairs committee is looking for 6 more people. Their purpose is to initiate short and long term planning and recommend policies and actions regarding engagement, employment, and *pertains* faculty and alumni. McMaster Energy Week will be happening sometime in March. Mike will be meeting with them next week to discuss a partnership.

Discussion:

Quinn: How often do you respond to emails?

Mike: As often as I can

VP Student Life Dani Lake

January MESsenger went out. Please send events in Feb that you would like to see on the newsletter. Went down to Narnia (MES storage closet) and did cleaning/accounting. MES Frost Week

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happened, and had a good turnout. No updates on the website. IT Coordinators still working on hatch room booking system. Started BTM Planning, Louise wants to bring in an outside company to help run some sessions for that. Strawpoll on whether people would rather do Easter weekend or weekend after exams? Note for a lot of you it won't actually be you, but more so gauging wider student opinion on which weekend is best.

Discussion:

Mike: How come we can't do a Saturday?

Dani: Louise told me why. I can't remember.

Liam: How about Easter weekend?

Jocelyn: Who attends Big Team Meeting?

Dani: Incoming council, clubs and teams, etc. (Straw poll, majority weekend after exams).

VP Academic Luka Samac

MacLAB was due today at noon. Went to Nancy to get updates about it. Endowment fund's principal \$4.3million. 4% interest this year. Spending budget of \$172,000 for this year. Last Friday admissions & recruitment meeting. Will send notes after council. Global factors have affected admissions. Last year increase in 105 admissions, students outside of Ontario and international. Unusual increase, narrowed down 3 factors. 1 Trump, 2 Brexit, 3 Canada ranked super high quality of education past year. Lots of notes, send in email. Past couple weeks organizing MEC winners to go to OEC, transportation, fees. Eng 1 operating committee meeting, no updates. MATLAB updates, meeting math department, curriculum policy meeting. No formal vote, but from discussion taking MATLAB & maple away from math department. Won't be teaching them, instead faculty will create custom videos encompass all of MATLAB. PDEs, no updates, faculty asked for student opinion, got it & gave it, haven't heard back.

Discussion: None

VP External Jocelyn Lee

Went to congress, weeklong conference by CFES. Report with outcomes coming out, presentation tonight on benefits of CFES. Going to be hosting workshop with delegates. National engineering month in March, any ideas for events let me know for a collaboration or support through money/branding. OEC, organizing transportation for winners of MEC, motion for that, presentation coming tonight. Queens loves McMaster now, had their proxy for congress, went well. Straw poll, changes recently with ECCS, do you feel updated? Would it be beneficial to have someone from co-op office come in and present?

Discussion:

Quinn: co-op changes? Big/small?

Jocelyn: biggest change co-op course. Lots of behind the scenes; events, outreach, little things.

Presentation? (majority yes, few down).

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VP Finance Liam McDermott

Helped fireball coordinators make Eventbrite for tickets online. Have to pay more for tickets there. Finally got student fees from faculty. Just short of \$491,000. \$30,000 from last year we were owed. Future plans for extra, don't plan on spending it. Spending money this semester for referendum projects from 2016. \$60,000 for machine shop fund, \$5,000 for storage. Makerspace fund, \$20,000 for that, giving \$10,000 this year to spend it and to maintain cash flows.

Discussion: None

Presentation 01: Benefits of the CFES

Presented by: Jocelyn Lee

Jocelyn: benefits of CFES. Screenshot from platform points, look into benefits of external organizations. Look into services they offer, how they advertise, effectiveness. Also in mandate to review affiliations with student organizations. Some biases, biased towards issue, trying to be critical but maybe take things with grain of salt. Cons, money and efficiency. CFES 50 cents/student. Only take numbers from accredited program, not B.Tech/comp sci. They still get to go to CFES related events, but can't do national survey. Bit over \$1,700 for membership. Closed conference/competition fund, \$10,000, not all CFES; can be ESSCO, other stuff. Potential to spend up to that much. Total, \$12,000. Efficiency. Do you know about CFES? (straw poll, all up) All volunteers, sometimes can't get everything done. Pros of being member. Advocacy, opportunity. Pillars of CFES; conferences/competition, advocacy, idea sharing. Presidents' meeting, congress, semi-annual general meetings. Diversity conference, just had at Mac. New one, sustainability conference, similar to CDE but sustainability. Canadian engineering competition. Can't go to any of these things unless member of CFES. Also a certification course available. Advocacy, national survey on mental health, quality of teaching, etc. results, have stances (propose something organization believes in and want to stand up for it). Do we want to go over stances? (straw poll mostly up, kind of even)

Quinn: as representatives of all engineering students, our responsibility to know about it to share with students.

Jocelyn: first stance, accreditation. Believes that accreditation should serve interests of students, high & consistent standard of education, involve student voices in process. Next one, language electives. We're good with language electives, some schools aren't because of vague rules, not all schools allow. Next, student mental health & workload. All stakeholders have responsibility to ensure health & effective learning environment. Came out of survey directly. A lot are stressed, related to workload. Going to look into it more, should have balance. McMaster was talked about, course we do for technical elective, team member. A lot of work as engineers, trying to fix.

Quinn: see direct results of survey?

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Jocelyn: will send PowerPoint. Report being written, out end of January. Also requesting McMaster's specific data, can compare to national averages. Next stance, sustainability. Essential consideration, necessary to educate & engage, review internal practices. Starting point, we care about sustainability, looking into doing environmental footprint analysis. Quality of engineering internships, across Canada inconsistent and substandard, responsibility to revise practices for better values. Survey said every school's program is different, different pros & cons, individual issue. By having this stance, more backing if going to faculty. One other stance, didn't get passed, teaching quality. Tabled, more research needed before bringing it back. International partners, did CIESO presentation a while ago, international engineering competition. BEST, European version of CFES, BEST courses, \$60+flight ticket get to take a course. Idea sharing, biggest thing to create communication platform. Practices, share them, CFES in theory creates that opportunity. Discussion, first point closed conference fund. Right now, \$10,000 fund, ESSCO or CFES conference, can get 50% of delegate fees. Is this valuable? Bringing enough back to justify it? Shouldn't be paying for it, sending less students, sending more?

Quinn: where do you find documents they write?

Jocelyn: on google drive. Instead of conference report, not best way to share, more blog-styled posts. Website is work-in-progress, looking into that. CDE, instead of report hosting workshop, same thing for congress.

Quinn: should feature these in a way they're accessible for other students. If we're paying for them to attend, feature the ideas more effectively.

Elena: here for engineering students, should be supporting them, willing to come back and teach us things. Maybe, seems like it's always same group of people going. Maybe a way to reach out to students who have never done that. Same group, still beneficial, but reach out to people not as involved, make it more useful and beneficial.

Quinn: agree, all the same people are the ones who apply every time. Get out to encourage other people to apply, spread out knowledge.

Parsa: should we be advertising it more? Create some incentive to attract more outliers to break through sort of bubble?

Jocelyn: Mac is different than other schools. Up to 50% of what you paid. Windsor, \$20 deposit, get \$20 back if you go, basically free. Think it works at Mac because so many people highly involved, why we can bring big delegations. Other ways to promote.

Quinn: I'm guilty of it, sometimes talk about conferences here we have, sometimes talk to society people about it but sometimes not. In meetings, Jocelyn tells them about us here, sometimes forget to spread it, think if more prudent about spreading it might help. No one outside of this room necessarily knows what's going on.

Lacey: question, \$10,000, set number year to year? Other factors?

Jocelyn: fluctuates. Usually around the same. Influence, location of conferences, number of people we can/want to bring. My recommendations to next VPX, very specific on who you should bring (types of people) and how many.

Aya: some schools have 100% coverage. What do those students do for it?

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Jocelyn: able to afford, send less students. Technically Mac pays the least, but we're one of more critical about students bringing things back. Western, used to do a night after the conference, host sessions for people to come out, go and learn about it. That's what we're trying to implement. Most schools do either report or nothing.

Luka: two angles; MES making investment in whoever sending to conference (i.e. someone interested in becoming VPX), council representing 5,000 students, how many of those students care about having good VPX and being represented at conferences? What's good for MES vs. what's good for students.

Jocelyn: investing in students, also think about are we sending students to go and learn for themselves, bring back to engineering society, or both?

Quinn: also consider who can afford to go, if we can help someone to go learn something they might find valuable, think that's worth it. As a society, important to fight for everyone, but also don't want to create system where only people who can afford to go are able to. Restricts students.

Jocelyn: do we think that CFES membership is valuable? Do we get enough benefits for how much we pay? Beneficial? Do we want more from them? Do we still want to be members?

Parsa: does CFES have any hand in helping us with tuition discussion/investigation? ESSCO?

Jocelyn: tuition best done provincially, government organizes it. Tuition working group is under ESSCO.

Michael Barbosa: Montreal students tried to leave, fined?

Jocelyn: CFS. Members tried to leave, tried to sue for millions of dollars, not going to happen here. Over course of congress, UofT sent email to exec, not going to pay fees this year. Exec didn't feel like that was pulling away, just confusion. New policy, need to pay outstanding fees, provide meeting minutes on decision to leave. Tabled.

Michael Meier: conferences initially appears like a few people go, only those students benefit.

Conferences great way to get people involved. Past few conferences, people selected to go continue on in leadership roles for MES. Even though small number get to go, gives a lot to MES.

Luka: great but expensive way to get students involved. How much do we value them?

Jocelyn: \$1,700 we pay is for services in general. Closed conference fund is how we fund students to go. Hypothetically, still be member and not send anyone to conferences, still get advocacy and survey stuff.

Quinn: if we leave, send no students to conferences?

Jocelyn: yes, no conference invites, including CEC.

Quinn: worry about not being part of CFES, it's a good way to broaden horizons, learn more about others, meet people outside of school. Conferences valuable, dissemination of ideas is good.

Luka: agree, implied it's either leave or stay. Varying levels of involvement. Right now, heavily involved. Can reduce involvement, leave altogether. Maybe we don't send people to conferences, proxy votes.

Queens did for congress, did that devalue it? Did students care? Or, send more students, increase budget, level of involvement depends. Maybe don't entirely leave, just adjust involvement.

Aya: CDE was hosted here this year, got a lot of students to realize conferences happen. A lot of students from Mac involved, saw things from conference, those people got good experience. Gave more exposure.

Dani: hosting conferences, can't unless you're CFES member. Also looks good on us externally.

Jocelyn: CFES, hosting conferences, if we end up with huge deficit, CFES takes that on. ESSCO conferences, deficits we have to pay for ourselves.



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Marc: CEC not being able to attend, what's the point of hosting OEC?

Jocelyn: still host it, make it to OEC, Mac students wouldn't be allowed to go to CEC. Past, CFES policy is can't go unless special permission. French school, ETS, not part of CFES, one of biggest engineering schools. If they don't go, companies question, in past were allowed to go, loophole now closed. With ESSCO, OEC-only members, go over in another presentation.

Luka: what are you going to do with discussion? Vote?

Jocelyn: yes, straw poll, do we want to stay members of CFES? If super one way or another, might actually look into motion to leave, stay.

Luka: more options to straw poll? Varying levels of involvement?

Jocelyn: we're super members, still involved/member but decrease involvement, leave completely.

Luka: answer for those, what're you going to do with that.

Jocelyn: biggest thing, since no more CFES conferences this year, recommendations for next year VPX budgeting, also in my report writing soon.

Mitch: 3 options voting. Keep current involvement, stays same. Reduce involvement, still member and recommendations made for next year VPX. Leave, future council meeting vote on whether or not retain membership. Current (15), reduction (11), leave (0).

Presentation 02: Organizing OEC Representation

Presented by: Jocelyn Lee

Whereas: The MES funds 100% of registration fees for MEC winners to attend OEC, and OEC winners to attend CEC

And whereas: currently, the VP External and VP Academic have been organizing transportation for winners to attend OEC and CEC

And whereas: the MEC Coordinator is overseen by the VP Academic

BIRT: the following addition be added to the Policy Manual:

B. Structure and Organization

6. Appointed Positions

6.10 McMaster Engineering Competition (MEC) Coordinator

The MEC Coordinator position may be held by Co-coordinators. The MEC Coordinator shall:

m) Organize transportation for winning competitors to attend OEC and CEC

BIFRT: starting the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the VP Academic is responsible for the costs associated with OEC and CEC instead of the VP External

Jocelyn: this year, 28 people attending OEC on behalf of Mac. Did promise we'd be funding their transportation. Right now, Luka and I organizing, hectic. Better fit to be put under MES chair, is year-

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long position, also in charge of organizing workshop for winners before OEC. If you'd like, split motion with BIFT clause, splitting it for budget, overseen by VP Academic.

Michael Meier: have to give them a ride to OEC? Concrete, something they're expected to do. Interpreted as having people organize own rides.

Luka: suggestion. Person can take this and use best of their abilities to make judgement calls.

Jocelyn: scale of competition increasing. We're a big school, send a lot of people. Going to represent Mac, makes more sense to organize a bus. Luka, talk more about transportation and faculty?

Luka: this year promised, fund them 100%. Doesn't make sense for winners to have to pay for it. Given opportunity, good enough to go, think they should be funded. Asked the faculty for contribution, agreed. Also looking into continuing that, contract with faculty so in future years can split delegate & transportation costs. Would like to amend motion, instead of organize transportation, also delegate fees, whole shebang.

Jocelyn: not a motion, presentation. Work on it.

Aya: covering transportation costs, also covered from McMaster?

Luka: splitting a bus with Western, paying for that, students going to OEC for free.

Aya: student wants to go OEC, didn't win MEC, still get to go?

Luka: technically no, MES handles registration for delegates. We choose who we send. In past, people sent kind of vague, up to MEC chair and VP Academic. Think we should write a policy.

Jocelyn: pretty sure it is in policy. First place all paid for, second place express interest and cover everything for themselves.

Michel Meier: BIRT, budget of VPX for this sent to VP Academic?

Jocelyn: right now, VPX budget accounts for OEC and CEC. This year, communication breakdown, I'm not in charge, based on last years numbers. Organizationally, makes sense person who oversees MEC chair in charge of submitting budget.

Michael Meier: might be more policy rewriting to make clear VP Academic in charge.

Other Business:

Welcome Week Culture – Parsa Beheshti

Parsa: EAD meeting last week, got some input. Culmination of personal observations of culture, perspective of redsuit and WW rep. My view, MES exec and WW committee decides what we push in terms of culture; cheers, activities. Don't poll redsuits or general members to see what their thoughts are on it. Could make changes easier if more involvement. If there are changes that to some seem extreme, may be resistive. Example, older generations cheers taken away, if attached to it would be more resistive. In terms of WW reps/redsuits, biggest promoters, good for them to be involved; if they're going to be voicing it, better for everyone to be on same page, more unionized image.

Quinn: summarize in a sentence. Think everyone should have a say?



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Parsa: think there should be more feedback from reps in terms of changes. Leaves more to be desired, lack of communication between reps, i.e. this year no longer doing Chicago. Only communicated to bus monitors, other suits didn't find out.

Lacey: what are you looking for from us?

Parsa: you're student reps, your thoughts on it? Is this something you'd like to see, more input and involvement on how we shape it?

Michael Meier: some traditions pulled, usually really good reason. Don't want to come across as oppressive, discriminatory. Sometimes blurred line, more often definite. Want more communication?

Parsa: yes, more back and forth. Form between reps, communication wants, discussion.

Michael Meier: reason we pull things is because there's no room for it, shouldn't be discussion for it because oppressive. Good there's discussion outwards, but inwards don't necessarily see point.

Quinn: Co-OCs picked not by student body, also picked by faculty, MES. Also representing something faculty wants, not just students. I was in favour of change, but some Co-OCs ago decided to get ride of super frosh and lady Godiva, wasn't communicated well. They eliminated tradition they thought didn't have place, but it was part of their role to make sure it happened, eliminated it without communicating it. Agree that communicating issues is important.

Marc: was one of points when we ran, being more transparent. Is job to make the changes, don't want to blindly make changes. Plan on taking opinions, hold maybe town hall meetings to get more opinions on things we plan on doing, not just cut things out. Things that are cut out are done so for good reason.

Parsa: agree. Perspective of people not as supportive of change. More communication would help things. Not just blindsiding them. Straw poll, up more decentralization, thumbs down think exec/committee have judgement.

Mitch: up for more community engagement, thumbs down think current system of removal from need is needed. Third option, more communication of changes. More community involvement (0), current system (0), more communication (everyone).

Supdates:

Lizzy(Admin): sweaters are here, meet in office afterwards to pick them up. SAGM, EOHSS submitted for March 26th, tentative date. Nametags done, grab them before the beginning of meeting so I can keep track of attendance. Meeting dates for semester were sent out. Last meeting council transition on April 9th, will have dinner afterwards, sending out poll about that.

Tommy (Civil): Civil, Chem and Materials have a Snow Tubing event January 20th from 12-5pm. Tickets are \$20 and there are only 46 tickets available. You can buy the tickets online through a link on the event page.

Mitch (CRO): presidential elections starting soon, campaigning on Wednesday. Voting Jan. 24-26. I'm not going to be at fireball, Mike's going to present. B.Tech reps same campaign and voting times.

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(Hatch): workshop looks good, mostly up and running, just waiting on welding because of the fumes. EOHSS loves us for shop, almost had no changes for our propositions. Courses are being posted to avenue. 3-tier system, as you progress more access to tools. Test on avenue, watch video, in-person test. Working really well, clubs and teams, good feedback.

Lacey: Mitch's voice on some of the videos.

Helena (Mechatronics): working on getting patches. Looking at doing end-of-year events.

Michael Meier: hebocon?

Mitchell: Eng phys.

Andrea (Chem): info nights, first year fairs coming up soon. Chem, Monday March 5th. Coffee house, anyone interested in partnering up let me know. Planning on running t-shirt contest & sale.

Marc (Drain): new dress socks in, \$10. Working on flask pre-order, next week. Booked leather jackets guy to come back. Still working towards making drain central information hub. Map of campus, map of JHE/Hatch, whiteboards. Working on FAQ sheet. (Co-OC): committee picked, info sessions last week. Rep application up on website with info on how to apply. Will be giving committee jobs before tryouts. Working on booking pub for tryout pub, almost done EOHSS. Getting in contact with MOOSE this year to coordinate welcome weeks. Only 2 Eng reps who went last year, generally lots of first years.

Aya (MEC): committee applications out, were due tonight but extended until Sunday.

Luka (VP Academic): in December, curriculum policy meeting, passed innovation minor by faculty. Sent email out about that.

Alex: already out, can take it?

Luka: next academic year.

Alex: so already made? Saw MSU candidate platform point to do this.

Luka: our faculty already did.

Victor (PR): fireball award nominations are out. Any faculty, TAs, friends, send in nomination. Print or email me. Setting up professional development workshop for next Tuesday, sponsored by Microsoft. More details later.

Jakob (Management): alumni night on Jan. 30th. Food ordered, this week last push to get students signed up.

Luka: how did you get alumni info?

Jakob: all through alumni office.



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Liam (VP Finance): possibility we could increase student fee with CPI to match inflation? End of January, option to say if we want to increase student fee with inflation. Keep purchasing power, OSAP is inflation adjusted every year. History, been at \$92.17 for the last 3 years. 2014 was \$90.

Luka: don't think council has authority to do that?

Mitch: in policy manual, does say they can be adjusted to match inflation. By MES executive.

Luka: what does it say in constitution?

Mitch: all other than CPI is SAGM, but CPI is exec.

Michael Meier: bigger discussion on whether we think we can fund everything. Think it's good to save our members money, but if we need it we need it.

Marc: actual dollar amount?

Liam: predication, \$92.17 to \$93 if we use last year's inflation. Less than \$2.

Mitch: based on fact it's meant to be run by exec, tabling until future meeting.

Keeran (AVP Events): last week Graffiti pub, success. Wednesday, MEC, McMaster Euchre Competition, JHE lobby 7-10pm. Starting to work on St. Patty's pub, week before or after musical.

Gabe (AVP Clubs): conversation with Saigon for MES card deal. Looking this week for hairdresser for ladies for Kipling.

Dani (on behalf of Aisha, Director of Sports): teaming up with athletics and wellness and science to do Eng sci girls dodgeball tournament. Planning ratboy. Inside Ride with science society. Anyone first-aid certified please message her, think it's for ratboy but not sure. Advertising for intramural requests, at least 80% engineering students can get money back.

Quinn (Society): industry night this past Thursday. I ran the event, personally think it went well. Currently organizing brewery tour, \$5 for society and \$10 for not-society. Nickelbrook again, more than 1 pint, otherwise going to Grain & Grit and other one.

Michael Meier (President): side project, group noticed no contracts we sign with us and MES card partners. Liam and I have started talked to DLD group (bookkeepers) on forming contract. Hold them accountable.

Lacey (Mechanical): go to walk through mechanical wing, looks like it's from the 70s. Crowded, people just dump old projects. Getting revamp over summer, working order for September. Hangout place, new machines, hopefully get MacLAB help. Event with Chem, looking into things. T-shirt designs are done, waiting on UofT to get order numbers.

Gabe M.: see designs?

Lacey: was in Facebook doodle, will repost.



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Carley (Materials): last semester industry night with Chem eng. Another one this semester. T-shirt contest, picked designs, ordering next week. Tubing night, buy tickets.

Marc: which design won?

Carley: thermo one, fireball one, don't remember third one.

Michael Jobity: eng phys hosting hebocon, info sessions this Thursday 6pm in BSB 105. Application opens Jan. 18th, same day, event is Feb. 2nd. Basically low complexity robots, fighting in sumo-style battle. Industry night on Wednesday, hoping to partner with Chem Eng on coffee house.

Desmond: eng phys society asked if first year reps can also advertise that in groups.

Elena (ECE): last week Tuesday industry night, went well, good feedback. Exact number was 222 students officially signed in, a lot more showed up & left. First meeting, events for the year. Survey for MacLAB, actually took it seriously, changes will be implemented. Patch design contest.

Alex (First Year): potential first year movie night tomorrow pending EOHSS, Logan.

Michael Barbosa (B.Tech Rep): BTA new council. First event LinkedIn photo shoot.

George (BEAMS): industry night next Wednesday, week after is a social.

Linford (Culture): discussing with Waterloo about getting hardhat. Doing a lot of events with other universities in coming weeks, UofT, Waterloo, Ryerson.

Amy & Kat (Kipling): 65 days DTK. Booked a lot of stuff. Everything's set to go.

Desmond (PDC): professional development conference Feb. 3, \$15. Collaborating with ECCS week after conference for LinkedIn week. Speaker coming in, talk about how to set up profile. Drop-in session for critiquing LinkedIn profile. Mon. Feb. 5th having second LinkedIn photo shoot, Andrew McBride.

Ian (Software): pub night at Emerson on Thursday. Planning a t-shirt design contest soon.

Jocelyn (VPX): anyone hosting event, want to involve button maker I got a free one.

Marc: clubs & teams?

Jocelyn: reach out & we'll talk. Also, vote was split a little bit on CFES. Clarification, 50 cents per student is general students, invitation to conferences. Closed conference fund is what funds the students. If want to decrease involvement, should be re-evaluating open conference fund, funding Queens space, Chem eng conference, etc.

Mitch (CRO): when B.Tech rep-elect is announced, Sunday after fireball.



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Jocelyn (VPX): back to my point, some of those conferences might specifically affect your societies, how your people would feel.

Michael Meier (President): currently opening for university planning committee, undergraduate student representative from the faculty of engineering. All got an email about it.

Parsa: is that only for people who are full time for two consecutive years?

Michael Meier: would assume.

Dani: clarification, was first-aid volunteers for ratboy.

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting

Motioned by: Desmond

Seconded by: Joanne

Majority for

0 opposition

0 abstentions

Motion passes