



University of Toronto  
Faculty of Information

**Student Tech Fund Committee Meeting  
December 18 2012, 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
7th Floor Student Lounge, Bissell Building**

*Present:* Emily Porta, Periklis Andritsos, David Jorjani, Desiree Fuller, Jennie Fiddes (second half), Octavio Escalante Menchaca (via Skype)

*Guests:* Eva Kupidura (Director, iSI), Mari Vihuri (IS student rep)

*Regrets:* Ivan Sestak

1. Intro

a. What is the Tech Fund?

-buy tech, fund workshops, listen to students needs, move away from professor/classroom needs

2. Workshops -

a. HackerYou/Ladies Learning Code

-HY put on 2d/10h workshop, 25 students, \$7,000 custom curriculum

-problem=no contract about content, work hr breakdown sketchy, bad communication

-current agreement - repeat price will just be workshop not development

-verbal agreement (future = need written workshop contract, agree price before, use authority)

- Decision needed - Work with HY again?

- **Vote** - No with stipulation that possible future revisit (4)

-LLC

- attached to HY

- verbal agreement to workshop series at flat rate for each workshop (\$3,000)

-discount of ~\$500 per workshop

- still want to provide to content to students, but wary about working with company/affiliates

- Decision needed = go forward with companies?

- possible action - letter about future collaboration with Periklis, set hard terms with company

- **Vote** - Not go forward with workshop series (Look for other options)

b.iSI

- Cost recovery - no budget, no fund from faculty

- Courses - if minimum full paying students, then 60% discount, always available
- Need demand for course, have instructors with skill sets (Photoshop, etc.)
- Some instructors keep intellectual property, iSI owns most
- could customizes - might cost, but not \$3000
- Instructors - well qualified, outsiders = living by doing
- Assignments - hands on, work related, practical
- 8 week (24 hrs of instruction) - Web Development Course - \$450
- Decision needed - what type of courses interested in?

- workshop ideas - html/css, web development, decoding job descriptions, etc.??

- possible actions - speak to instructors (Patrick-dedicated) in January, decrease admin fees by Tech Fund taking admin role, open to public (work/learn with current professionals), survey students needs, looks at skills sheet/compare to workshop offerings, seek software companies sponsors

c. Relevant Tangents - what is programming? Institutional language html= programming (NOT - Periklis). MI should be several diff titled degrees? students in program intimidated by the programming? Not html? Then what? Web programming? Grad degree not for photoshop/html? Continuing education, should not be expected as part of the degree? What will increase employability? Pursue on own time. Tech Fund provide outside the classroom experiences. Can't qualify for every job. Talk to faculty - need tech skills. Need to get data to prove assertion about job availability and sought after job skills. Not curriculums place. Continuing Education does not stop after graduation, should endeavour to keep current.

d. Pearl Chen from LLC

- Java Script workshop from Inforum
- earlier attempts fell flat

e. Change Bylaw

- require contracts for workshops
  - make stock form
- look into further

f. Design workshop

- Octavio - in Mexico - has video format mp4
  - will try to compress
  - dropbox, secure copy, ftp or sep????
  - contact Ivan - fast/easy way to send large files

- speak to Ivan about a port
- surveys are ready - sent out

### 3. Budget and Finances

- Money spent - ????
- Money have - ~\$100,000 ( more accurate guess = \$80,000)
  - retroactive take back may or may not?
  - serious concern - take to Dean, Susan Brown!!!!!!!!!!
- Bank Account
  - at least for petty cash
- Ivan
  - access to Tier 1 vendors
  - purchase management system
- MISC backing
- In house balance sheet
  - categorize purchases
  - google - privacy concerns

### 4. Recent and Upcoming Purchases

- MISC approval \$60,000
  - replace borrowable technology
  - loans - extend period? keep older tech?
  - represents almost all money available
    - purchase in burst
  - Tech turnover cycle - aiming for 3, but preparing for more
  - 2 special types laptops - experimental gaming and design
  - stats in document - need better study, actual usage data
- MISC desktop
  - Mac or PC
    - bottom line iMac
    - **Vote** - yes (5)

- c. Need more gadget/experimental tech
  - Sam - raspberry pis
  - Ivan - interactive coffee table
  - leave out for students
  
- d. Fans and Stickers
  - ordered and arrive before end of the year
  - need more stickers
  
- e. Printing
  - Ivan working on
  
- f. Camera
  - purchase? No.
  - use old plan?
    - top of the line under tech fund control (1)
    - mid line - for student projects (2)
  
- g. Keurig
  - machine Vote - yes (5)
  - filters - Vote - yes (5)
  
- 5. Convocation
  - a. June 6th, 2013, 2:30 - 4:30 pm Con Hall
    - all SGS Masters
  - b. Douglas Coupland - potential speaker
    - submit to Office of Convocation
    - arts and information
    - back up - Wojciech Gryc - Emily meeting with tonight
    - Young, Rhodes Scholar, broadly information, social justice
  
- 6. Idea Party Results
  - a. E-waste - can't find in bulk
    - private companies and City of Toronto
    - credibility issue - have Ivan contact
  - b. Puppy Party
    - St. John's Ambulance
    - have to contact volunteers for availability

- Therapeutic Paws
- near exam time, with Tech Fund party
  
- c. Espresso Machine
  - Vote - No (5)
  
- d. Server stuff
  - no updates
  
- e. Screen Cleaners
  - Amazon/Best Buy
    - \$8-\$10 with spray
  - How logo?
    - branding companies
    - not necessary
  - How many?
    - 1 per iMac
    - few to be borrowable from Inforum (20 total)
  
- f. Bitey
  - has hole - need to fix
  - goo to enhance helium
  - hope for the future
  
- g. Meeting with Sam/Nikki
  - in Jan = TBD
  
- h. promotion
  - website
  - facebook
  
- 7. Practical Skills Seminar
  - Sue - box making
    - cost =materials, small stipend
  - Devrah - mounting making
    - cost = plane ticket, small stipend, materials
  - Long term plan
  - Timing - February and early March
    - look at syllabi



8. Tech Fund

- with Audrey Johnson and Jessica Gallinger
  - know about alternative funding
- Jan. 17th 4pm- 5pm

Meeting Adjourned 4:30pm