Dalhousie Women in Technology Society

Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2018

7:00pm – 8:00pm

Goldberg Slonim Room

Present

- Alicia Wong (President)
- Emily Auclair (VP External)
- Samara Burton (VP Internal)
- Emma Travers (Treasurer)
- Maria Jessen (Interim Secretary)
- Rasleen Kaur Gandhi (Events & Social Rep.)
- Sanju Swami
- Tabea Marzlin
- Sydney Morton
- Mellat Mafei
- Megan Deering
- Katie Quesnel
- Sean Devine
- Nicola Do Matteo

Absent

- Heather Brunell (Member At Large)
- Ian Sifton (Technical Coordinator)
- Julia Kroon (Communications Rep.)
- Rebecca Ansems (Education Rep.)
- Mira MacNeill (Marketing & PR, CSS Rep.)

Agenda Items:

- Introductions & Attendance
  - Join the Society! http://tiny.cc/new2WiTS
- Announcements
  - Internal Event – December 1 (Saturday) starting at 7pm
    - Boston Pizza
    - Last event for the semester

- o Next Semester's Meetings Poll – Due on December 20th
    - http://tiny.cc/WiTSwinter
    - Please select all time slots that fit into your schedule
    - Going to be after 6:30 pm due to work terms
- o Next Meeting – Week of January 14th (second week of School)

- Executives' Updates
    - o President (Alicia)
        - Collecting Shoebox project donations tonight (last day to donate)
        - Merch
            - Email back from company
            - We have received money for it
            - Let Emma know if you have design ideas
        - We have a LinkedIn account now
            - Please follow us if you use LinkedIn
            - Sanjana volunteered to help run the account
        - Time Capsule
            - Event Thursday at 4:15pm (photo)
                - o Find Emma, Emily or Maria at the event
            - Le Marchant Place Lobby (off South St)
            - Our submission is a letter written by the exec and a signed t-shirt
                - o Signatures and messages from members at tonight's meeting
            - Time capsule to be opened in 50 years
        - Changes in exec – Amy will be returning, Maria stepping down as secretary
        - CoReCS meetings (Culture of Respect in Computer Science)
            - Planning World Café in January
                - o Resources such as Writing Centre, other academic services will come to talk in the atrium
                - o Food provided
                - o WiTS will be there
    - o VP External (Emily)
        - Getting bank account set up with Emma and Alicia
    - o VP Internal (Samara)
        - Prepping for newsletter
        - Planned internal event

- o Treasurer (Emma)
  - ▪ Getting bank account set up
    - • Meeting on Friday
    - • Will mean smoother budgeting
  - ▪ Planning merch
    - • Let her know if you have design ideas
  - ▪ Sorting out reimbursements for expenses covered by exec members
- o Secretary (Amy) (Interim – Maria)
  - ▪ Last meeting as secretary; Amy will be returning in January
- Discussion/Proposals/Feedback
  - o Past Events Debrief/feedback
    - ▪ Halloween Social, Self-care Night
      - • Pretty good turnout for both
      - • Feedback for Halloween
        - o Too much Christmas music
        - o Cookie decorating was good
        - o More food next time, more candy
      - • Feedback for Self-care Night
        - o Knitting was popular
        - o Need more events like this
        - o The fruit went over well
        - o Activity suggestion: balloon animals
        - o Nice to see people getting away from work
    - ▪ We Talk Tech
      - • Need to coordinate food better so that it arrives on time
      - • More fruit
      - • Small groups were good
      - • Rotating the tables didn't work as planned, but allowed for more natural/organic conversations
      - • Discussions may lead to course/curriculum changes
      - • Need more diversity of speakers, not just from one company
      - • Should have a subcommittee within the society to plan the event from the start of the semester so it isn't rushed
      - • Could have different levels of speakers: students, co-ops, employers, etc.
        - o Better for newer/younger students
      - • Have speakers present first, then networking, etc.
        - o That model works for any style of event, can prepare questions

- Food:
    - Too many salads
    - More fruit
    - Cookies were good
    - Need something vegetarian without egg
    - The fancy sandwiches were good
- Book the auditorium and atrium at the same time for more space
    - Easier to find than the Slonim room
- Theme suggestion: career paths
    - Women in Tech Day
        - Some of the attendees wanted to see more female presenters
            - Few female faculty members: very busy, hard to get them to volunteer
        - Valuable experience for the students
            - Good representation from WiTS
        - Industry representatives may not have been relevant to high school students
- The Newsletter
    - Available on the website
    - Talk about experiences, express your ideas
        - Articles can be on anything you want to talk about
        - Timeline:
            - Proposals: December 5th
            - Drafts due: December 19th (after exams)
            - Rough copy released by email: January 2nd
            - Tentative Release: January 6th
        - We can be flexible with the timeline if you get in touch with us about what you want to do
        - We can also publish artwork (must not be graphic/inappropriate)
- Future Events Proposals
    - Co-op showcase night
        - Organized faculty-wide
        - Panel of co-op students
        - Trying to let everyone know that co-op is an option, get people engaged with the process
        - We may do our own event (TBD)
            - Give you our tips/advice, help make sure you get your applications in on time

- WiTS skating night – January, date TBD (a Saturday afternoon)
  - Free, just bring government photo ID for rentals
- Bowling
  - Could get funding from Dal After Dark
- Course planning workshop

- A WiTS Celebration/Appreciation Night (mid-end of March 2019)
  - No awards, just a night to go over our accomplishments
  - Table games
  - More casual than Snowball, smaller scale

- Suggestions from members:
  - Food at meetings: snacks
    - Fruit, chips
    - Not pizza
  - Peer Mentorship
    - Some male students also want mentors
  - Male involvement in WiTS
    - Some male students want to join but feel awkward
    - We want male support as well; improve outreach
    - Want to promote inclusivity, diversity
    - Need to maintain our identity as a society focused on women
      - Keep emphasis on women's issues while being inclusive
    - Need to promote our issues to get more involvement
      - Could brainstorm at next meeting
      - Push our goals to better the community's understanding
      - Invite your male friends
      - Send slides to faculty, go to faculty meeting: have faculty promote events for us
    - Could reach out to the Women in Tech Society at Carnegie Melon for ideas
  - Could host an Ask-Me-Anything on social media
    - Partner with Communications office
  - Facebook group - Computer Science Faculty one exists
  - Going to see a movie
    - Want to look into reserving a screening at a theater
    - Possibility for funding from CSS
  - Treasure hunt around campus

Other Information:

- Stay Connected
  - Join Our Slack: dalwits.slack.com (use Dalhousie Email to sign-up)
  - Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/Dal.WiTS/