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](http://tiny.cc/new2WiTS)
- Announcements
  - Internal Event – December 1 (Saturday) starting at 7pm
    - Boston Pizza
    - Last event for the semester
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- Next Semester’s Meetings Poll – Due on December 20th
  - [http://tiny.cc/WiTSwinter](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
- Next Meeting – Week of January 14th (second week of School)

- Executives’ Updates
  - 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)
      - 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
      - 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
      - Resources such as Writing Centre, other academic services will come to talk in the atrium
      - Food provided
      - WiTS will be there
  - VP External (Emily)
    - Getting bank account set up with Emma and Alicia
  - VP Internal (Samara)
    - Prepping for newsletter
    - Planned internal event
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

Secretary (Amy) (Interim – Maria)
- Last meeting as secretary; Amy will be returning in January

Discussion/Proposals/Feedback
- Past Events Debrief/feedback
  - Halloween Social, Self-care Night
    - Pretty good turnout for both
  - Feedback for Halloween
    - Too much Christmas music
    - Cookie decorating was good
    - More food next time, more candy
  - Feedback for Self-care Night
    - Knitting was popular
    - Need more events like this
    - The fruit went over well
    - Activity suggestion: balloon animals
    - 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.
      - Better for newer/younger students
    - Have speakers present first, then networking, etc.
      - That model works for any style of event, can prepare questions
• Food:
  o Too many salads
  o More fruit
  o Cookies were good
  o Need something vegetarian without egg
  o The fancy sandwiches were good

• Book the auditorium and atrium at the same time for more space
  o 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
    o Few female faculty members: very busy, hard to get them to volunteer
  • Valuable experience for the students
    o Good representation from WiTS
  • Industry representatives may not have been relevant to high school students

 o The Newsletter
  ▪ Available on the website
  ▪ Talk about experiences, express your ideas
  • Articles can be on anything you want to talk about
  • Timeline:
    o Proposals: December 5th
    o Drafts due: December 19th (after exams)
    o Rough copy released by email: January 2nd
    o 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)

 o 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)
      o 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

  o 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
        o Keep emphasis on women’s issues while being inclusive
    • Need to promote our issues to get more involvement
      o Could brainstorm at next meeting
      o Push our goals to better the community's understanding
      o Invite your male friends
      o 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)