Dalhousie Women in Technology Society

Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2018
7:00pm – 8:00pm
Goldberg Slonim Room

Absent
• Heather Brunnell (Member at large)
• Julia Kroon (communications rep)

Present
• Alicia Wong (President)
• Emily Auclair (VP External)
• Emma Travers (Treasurer)
• Samara Burton (VP Internal)
• Ian Sifton (Tech Coordinator)
• Mira MacNeill (Marketing/PR, CSS Rep)
• Rebecca Ansems (Education Rep)
• Raghav Sampangi (Faculty Rep)
• Rasleen Kaur Gandhi (Events Coordinator)
• Maria Jessen (Interim Secretary)
• Kiera Flint
• Sofia Castro
• Sydney Morton
• Katie Quesnel
• Mia Cho
• Courtney Pick
• Yogen Niu
• Talia Marshall
• Anaik Chacon
• Chloe Risk
• Heather Aipperspach
• Rebecca Dass
• Jesse Rodrigues
• Kirsten Richard
• Bunmi Oladejobi
• Chelsey Williams
• Lini Ye
• Tolu Kareem
• Ava Paulino
• Spencer Kehoe
• Megan Deering
• Marlee Donnelly
• Anna Liang
• Megan Grennell
Agenda Items:

- Introductions & Attendance
  
  - Join the Society! [http://tiny.cc/new2WiTS](http://tiny.cc/new2WiTS)

- Announcements
  
  - Society Fair – September 20, 11am-3pm, Dal Quad
    - 200 societies from Dalhousie and off-campus with booths around quad
    - Rain-date Friday, Sept. 21
    - Let Samara know if you want to get involved
  
  - Women Entrepreneurship Week – October 13 – 20
    - In talks with Shift Key
    - Focus on basics of entrepreneurship, speakers from Shift Key
  
  - Can-CWiC – November 2-3, Nova Centre
    - Canadian Celebration of Women in Computing
    - National conference
    - Faculty doing bursaries
    - Career fair (including reps from Google, Carnegie Melon professors)
  
  - STEM Fest – November 3-10
    - WiTS is not officially involved at this time

- Executives’ Updates
  
  - President (Alicia)
    - Ratified society with DSU
      - Same perks as other societies (room bookings, etc.)
      - Follows DSU rules while adopting some from CSS
    - Peer Mentorship kickoff
      - Great turnout
      - Emails sent out today to match up mentors and mentees
      - Waiting on confirmation from mentees to give email addresses to mentors
➢ Contact WiTS or the peer mentorship program email to get in contact with your mentee

• Drop in event next Wednesday (bi-weekly)
  ➢ Chat, hang out, homework help
  ➢ Casual, drop in atmosphere

▪ Summer monthly meetings
  • Good turn out
  • Helped start planning process for some upcoming events

  o VP External (Emily)
    ▪ Worked on budget with Emma

  o VP Internal (Samara)
    ▪ Society Fair
      • Talk to her if you want to help with manning booth, putting together presentation/booth, input, brainstorming
    ▪ First newsletter posted

  o Treasurer (Emma)
    ▪ Money received from faculty, CSS
    ▪ Budgeting all events this year
    ▪ Tracking expenses
    ▪ Completed treasurer training

  o Secretary (Amy) (Interim – Maria)
    ▪ Will be taking minutes, sending email replies/announcements

• Council Introductions
  o Education Rep. (Rebecca)
    ▪ Contact her about getting involved with Canada Learning Code
      • Mentoring opportunity
      • Help teachers, students learn how to code
      • Only requires basic CS knowledge (ie. first year)
Tech coordinator (Ian)
  - In charge of website
    - Contact him if you have any website feedback

Faculty rep (Raghav)
  - Students who get involved with Canada Learning Code can get participation points for CSCI1170 (consult Raghav)

Discussion/Proposals/Feedback

Apparel Discussion
  - Majority of society wants sweaters, t-shirts or socks

Internal Event (proposals)
  - Must be student-budget-friendly
  - Boston Pizza in the past (summer event)
  - Ultimate frisbee
  - Laser tag
  - Roller skating
  - Mario Kart tournament
    - Have access to the supplies via Esports Society
  - Escape room
  - Paintball
  - Dodgeball
  - Boardroom café (must be during the day)
  - BBQ
    - Will be on a Friday (date TBD)
    - Anyone can come, just only announcing within the society

Future External Events
  - Peer Mentorship Event
    - Feedback on Kick-Off:
➢ Food needs to accommodate vegan, gluten free, dairy free
➢ More supplies for next event (eg. Snacks)

- International Women Entrepreneurship Week Event (Mid – October)
  ● Shift Key wants to partner to host event
    ➢ Grant from Shift Key arranging speakers, preparing some questions
    ➢ Shift Key also arranges workshops for students (also accepts suggestions from students for workshops)
  ● Potentially structured as “fire side chat” – informal discussion with founders from industry
    ➢ Panel discussion
    ➢ Open question period
    ➢ Not lecture-orientated, more workshop-focused
  ● Suggestions:
    ➢ Mingling atmosphere to get to know speakers and network

- We Talk Tech (Early November)
  ● Need a theme ASAP
    ➢ In the past: healthy living
    ➢ Want to welcome men and women, promote inclusivity while raising awareness of issues faced by women
    ➢ Suggestions:
      ▪ Breaking the glass ceiling
      ▪ Dal alumni speakers
      ▪ Imposter syndrome
      ▪ Mini conference setting combining above topics
  ● Open to public but targeted to CS faculty
  ● Expected attendance 30-80 (based on past), hoping for more
  ● Usually one evening
➢ Possibility to extend duration to accommodate more speakers, etc.
➢ Usually around 2 hours
• Usually week before or after reading week (CS week)
• Societies host events throughout CS week
• In the past: coffee house-style chats, panel discussions
• Suggestions:
  ➢ Lecture series (topic selections welcome)
  ➢ Hold externally (need to organize venue, marketing, etc.)

- Event Ideas
  • School visits (**cannot speak on behalf of Dalhousie**) 
  • Movie screenings
    ➢ Need to get licensing permission to avoid legal issues

Other Information:
• Stay Connected
  o Join Our Slack: dalwits.slack.com (use Dalhousie Email to sign-up)
  o Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/Dal.WiTS/
  o Website is currently https://wits.cs.dal.ca, will soon move to https://www.DalWiTS.ca