

Mathematics Society Meeting Minutes

MC 5417 UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

Speaker: President Alex Lee *Secretary:* Kevin Li

ATTENDANCE

The following voting members were present

- Alex Lee
- Krishna Pasumarthy
- Clayton Halim
- Ina Wang
- Candice Lee
- Sofia Lin
- Junquiao Lin
- James Bury
- Arsheya Jain
- Alisa Lin
- Harleen Bhandal
- Jing Yi Wang
- Liban Osman
- Kanan Sharma

The following non-voting members were present

- Kevin Li (Secretary)
- Logan Grout (PMC)

The following members were absent

- Jennifer Lee*
- Bianca Filip
- Saquib Shahzad*

**excused*

PRELIMINARIES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, President Lee called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM.

MINUTES

Be it resolved that Council approves the public minutes for the September 27, 2018 meeting as presented.

Kanan Sharma and Alisa Lin

Motion passes unanimously

Regular Session

REPORTS AND UPDATES

PRESIDENT (ALEX LEE)

Alex noted that all communications should be routed through Mattermost, instead of Facebook. The rationale for this switch was to separate MathSoc communication from personal communication, and to insure all inter MathSoc communications are received in a centralized and orderly manner. Alex also mentioned a proposed increase in the Special Projects budget; this will be an agenda item later in the meeting.

Attention was drawn to UW smile day (October 15th) and Thrive Week (Oct 22 – 26th). It was also noted that there is an upcoming Fed AMA on the 18th of October. Alex along with the other Feds and Math Councilors will be participating.

VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS (CLAYTON HALIM)

A meeting was held with CSC. The main concern of these meetings are the prior exceptions granted to CSC by previous administrations. One such exception concerns keys, as CSC has 15 keys, compared to the regularly given 5. Though CSC does do much more than a typical club, and this helps facilitate their broad office hours, this exception does pose certain risk, such as security. It is likely that the number of keys will be reduced to 10. A memorandum is being written to formalize this agreement.

A permanent office schedule has been formalized, one that is satisfactory to the office workers. The price of shirts has been reduced from \$15 to \$10, to help move inventory.

Akshay Kapoor wants to set up a booth on the 3rd floor of MC, for the Waterloo Accelerator Center TA service. This service is one offering anonymized access to TAs online, as well as other miscellaneous homework help. It was noted that further contact should be made, should any help be required.

VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMICS (INA WANG)

Potential collaboration with CECA to help with work terms was noted, along with possible changes to the work term report.

Updates were given regarding the Education Advisory Council (EAC). Input was requested on the policy input proposal, as well as updates on the situation on the Fall Break pilot, and its replacement. It should be noted that everything with this is tentative.

Senate updates were given. Specialization majors are no longer majors, rather just specialization.,

A meeting between the Associate Dean of Mathematics and Ina will occur soon.

Clarification was requested for some information given concerning the proposed 4-day Study Break. To accommodate this proposal, orientation may be shifted early, with classes beginning on Wednesday. Some exams will have to be on Sunday, depending on logistics. A reminder was made concerning the fact that nothing was formalized.

VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE (KRISHNA PASUMARTHY)

StarCon has partnered with MathSoc for a conference and events. All finances will be done through MathSoc, with organization in conjunction with MathSoc. This has already been proposed and agreed to but is simply happening in the near future.

Complaints for MathSoc refunds were received, regarding the time taken. This is for verification that the student did not use MathSoc services during the time frame give.

mathNEWS has submitted their budget. It was noted that they have a separate budget process. This is to be discussed in the next board meeting.

List of all acquisitions for clubs have been made, and to be presented next meeting. It was noted that some cheque request forms are incomplete, resulting in some delays. Clubs should take care to submit a completed form.

VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNAL (KANAN SHARMA)

A first-year experience panel is to be hosted on October 18th. This panel would be to help first years deal with stress and mental health problems, likely in conjunction with EngSoc. The panel would consist of upper years discussing their own experiences

Due to late acceptances of volunteers, some delays have occurred, however, the situation is improving. Updates were given on MathSoc events. These include the CSC and WICS bonfire, as well as the events to be held for Midterm distress week.

A meeting was conducted with the faculty. Conversations included discussions of events hosted in conjunction with faculty. It was noted that a new counselor was hired for MUO. Due to the circumstances involving the previous Math Ball, the faculty would like MathSoc to organize the event this year.

First Faculty Strategic Plan Implementation Committee meeting was held, and suggestions were solicited by Kanan regarding this topic, preferably by email. The same offer applies to the Student Wellbeing committee. For that committee, Ina and Kanan likely to be in attendance, and participate in workshops offered. A offer was made to any member who wanted to join, though no guarantees were made.

GENERAL ORDERS

FEDS VP EDUCATION – POLICY DRAFT (INA)

Discussion was held on the what policy proposal that MathSoc should support to the EAC. The two proposed policies concern Cannabis and Teaching Assessments. It was clarified that if one policy was rejected, then it could still be implemented on a faculty basis, and that a Cannabis proposal would be implemented regardless. Discussion commenced on both topics.

Various points were raised concerning the Teaching Assessment. One concern was the possibility of bias, with previous experiments concerning gender conducted in Waterloo raised. To amend this, the point of adding rationale was brought up, but as a counterpoint, it was also raised that due to resource constraints, most of these would be left unread. It was also brought up that Canadian culture may limit the impact of bias, due to less bias being present in Canadians. The point of efficacy was also brought up. However, it was also noted that the information may be beneficial to the students. Past implementation of system was raised, such as the previously compiled data available to students. However, due to the workload being offloaded to MathSoc, and the lack of resources, compiling student feedback has stopped in recent years.

Various points concerning Cannabis were also raised. Clarification was made on alcohol policy and smoking policy, and that Cannabis policy would be much like those policies if no proposals were made. Opinion was given on how Cannabis policy at the university would be viewed by foreign students. Implementation in other universities was also raised, such as those who banned all Cannabis. It was also noted that due to the nature of a Cannabis proposal, it would be best to propose it on a school wide basis, whereas Teaching Assessments would function equally well within the Math Faculty.

- During the last Education Advisory Council (EAC) Meeting, Matt Gerrits (FED VPED) explained that he will write a policy draft for Winter 2019, to be proposed to the University. He is writing one topic out of the following: Cannabis and Teaching Assessment.
- If Matt chose to write on Cannabis, then he will draft a policy about regulations for cannabis on campus, in housing situations, on medical use, on public transportation, etc.
- If Matt chose to write on Teaching Assessment, he will draft a policy on teaching assessment guidelines, highlighting the importance of having students' opinions when assessing a professor/lecturers' teaching skills and qualities for that term. The main reason for this topic is that many in the university believe that students are an unreliable source to base professor evaluations on. Matt wants to argue against that.
- The EAC will make a decision during the next meeting; which will be next week or the following week. Ina will be voting on behalf of the MathSoc council's decision.

Whereas MathSoc must submit one policy draft to the university for Winter 2019,
And Whereas MathSoc is broadly in favor of submitting a proposal on a teaching assessment,

Be it resolved that MathSoc will prioritize a policy proposal to the university on teaching assessments

Ina Wang and James Bury.

Motion passes with majority.

SPECIAL PROJECT – REVAMPING GAMES (ALEX)

Whereas past games directors have gone through the current MathSoc games collection;
Whereas there are numerous games that have been suggested to be replaced due to poor condition;

Be it resolved that the Special Projects budget for the President is increased by \$1400 (from \$2200 to \$3800) to replace the games;

Be it further resolved that “securing the MathSoc Gmail account (\$200)” is removed as a comment to the Special Projects budget line and is replaced by “replacing games in poor condition (\$1600).”

By friendly amendment, the increase in the Special Projects Budget was changed to \$1800 from \$1400.

The motion now reads:

Whereas past games directors have gone through the current MathSoc games collection;
Whereas there are numerous games that have been suggested to be replaced due to poor condition;

Be it resolved that the Special Projects budget for the President is increased by \$1800 (from \$2200 to \$4000) to replace the games;

Be it further resolved that “securing the MathSoc Gmail account (\$200)” is removed as a comment to the Special Projects budget line and is replaced by “replacing games in poor condition (\$2000).”

Kanan Sharma and Junqiao Lin.

Motion passes with a majority. Junqiao Lin and James Bury abstained.

NEW BUSINESS

It was brought up that the PMC VP Finance wants to sell shirts and was unaware of the logistics of the matter. It was raised that CSC sells shirts, and functions under a system where a portion of the money is allocated in their budget, with the proceeds of the sale returning to MathSoc at the end of the term and added to their budget. It was noted that audits would have to be made.

As Kanan is a member of the Mental health committee, he wishes to hear more opinion on the matter from members of MathSoc. An informal committee was formed for this task.

Volunteers: Arshia.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no new business, Alex adjourned the meeting at 7:28 PM.