



MATHSOC

Academic Services Updates and Long-Term Plan

Tiana Zhao, Vice President Academic

Overview

The Vice President Academic is currently in charge of MathSoc's exam bank (online) and textbook library (located in MathSoc's general office - MC 3038). This document provides updates and outlines a long-term plan for these two services and potential new services.

Textbook Library

Improved Marketing

Concern: The MathSoc textbook library has almost 150 textbooks but not many students are aware of this service, and thus, it's not being used as often as we would like. This is mainly due to the ineffectiveness of marketing.

Updates: I have put up posters around math buildings, promoted on MathSoc's social media and worked with FEDS' marketing department to promote the textbook library. I am also working with the website manager, Jason P'ng, to create a textbook library section under the new website.

Recommendation: In the future, the Vice President Academic should continue working with various organizations such as FEDS and the Faculty's Communications department to better promote the textbook library.

Better Management System

Concern: Currently, some students who borrow textbooks simply do not return them since often, a textbook is more expensive than the replacement fee of a Watcard (\$30). So we need a better management system.

Updates: This term, I have focused on creating a more organized database. With the help of my textbook library director, Julia Tu, all the textbooks available in the MathSoc textbook library can be found at <https://uwaterloo-mathsoc.librarika.com>. Students can also check the books' availability on Librarika. I have also communicated with Gurpreet, the FEDS Society Accountant, and explored the option of invoicing students if they do not return the textbooks within the term.

Recommendation: In the future, the Vice President Academic should keep exploring options to enforce students to return the textbooks by the end of the term. The Vice President Academic should consider setting up a more organized system that keeps track of students who check in and check out the books.

Meet Student Demand

Updates: This term, I've created a Google Form that allows students to give recommendations on which textbooks to purchase.

Coordination with Clubs

Updates: Some clubs have their own textbook libraries. I have communicated with those clubs to make sure no duplicates of textbooks were bought.

Exam Bank

Allowing Students to Submit Exams

Concern: The majority of exams we have in our exam bank are outdated, and thus might be misleading to students. Since it is hard to reach out to every professor requesting for exams, we should allow and encourage students to submit exams and then ask the respective professors for their permission to publish the exams.

Updates: I have created a Google Form where students can submit their exams, which can be then put into the exam bank if the professor(s) who teaches that course approves of the action.

Academic Concerns

Addressing Academic Concerns

Concern: Not many students are aware that the Vice President Academic can help address their academic and co-op concerns to the faculty and/or the respective university organizations.

Updates: I have created an online form on the new website and a feedback system in the MathSoc office to provide students a way to voice any concerns they may have regarding their academic and/or co-op experience.

Recommendation: In the future, the Vice President Academic should continue to monitor and advertise the academic concern form as well as finding new ways to address students' academic/co-op concerns.

Implementation of New Services

Academic & Co-op Resources

Concern: Students are generally not aware of what services the University, Faculty, and societies provide to support their academic career.

Updates: I am setting up academic, resume and interview FAQ sections on the new website with the help of the website manager, Jason P'ng, to address some common academic and co-op concerns students might have.