

Spring 2019 General Meeting Report

July 12, 2019

Tiana Zhao
Vice President, Academic

Hi Mathies!

Here's my report with updates from committees I sit on, my advocacy work, events, and a couple other items. Feel free to let me know any concerns you have about academics, coop, etc! My job is to represent and advocate on behalf of Math students to external groups (eg. the Faculty, CECA, etc.) on academic/coop issues.

This report is current as of time of writing, July 12, 2019.

If you have any questions about the report, feel free to ask me anytime. You can reach me by email at vpa@mathsoc.uwaterloo.ca.

Tiana

Committees/Councils

Senate Undergraduate Council (SUC)

Senate Undergraduate Council is a committee of the University Senate that deals with matters related to Undergraduate studies, typically additions, modifications, or deletions of courses, academic plans, etc.

- A number of new Entrance Scholarships, Upper-Year Awards, and Athletic Awards
- Various course approvals that have made its way through various other committees I sit on (UAPC, UAC, FC), which now have to be approved by Senate
 - AHS will be introducing a new course - AHS 106 - Mental Health Literacy - that is open to all Waterloo undergraduate students
- Discussed restrictions on double counting of courses

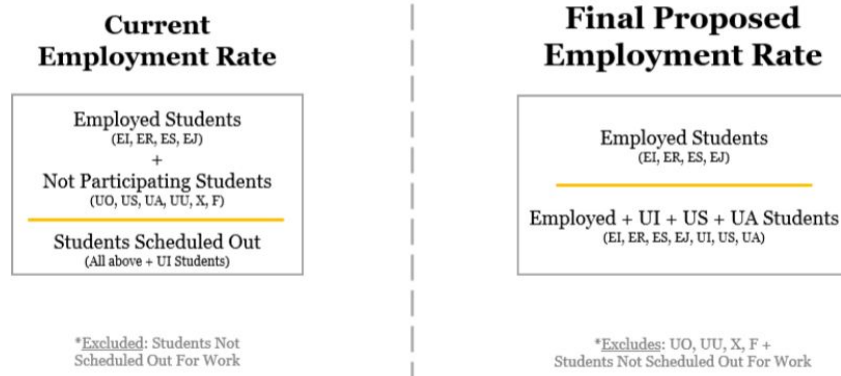
Co-op Education Council (CEC)

Co-op Education Council provides oversight and advice to the University for matters related to co-operative education.

- More transparency in how employment rate is calculated
 - The new updated employment rate is already included in marketing and brochures and CEE will create a web page to describe the updated calculation in fall 2019
- Coop Fee Setting

- A handful of groups (such as CEE and IAP) are jointly working on setting the coop fee for fiscal year 2021
- CEE is working on increasing job opportunities for first-year students through targeted job development
 - Goal is to create 60 jobs for first-year coop students
 - Accomplishment highlights:
 - 716 first work term students hired by employers who have never hired a 1st WT student in the past 2 years
 - 437 first work term students hired by employers who have never hired any students from us in the past 2 years

Employment Rate Proposal



Co-op Students Council (CSC)

Co-op Students Council is a committee of Students' Council which advises Co-operative and Experiential Education (CEE) and the Feds VP Education on matters pertaining to co-operative education.

- New pre-screening tools are available to employers:
 - A set of additional questions that generate once a student has applied to help employers make more informed choices with minimum extra load on the students.
 - 13 employers have posted a combined total of 27 questions to test this feature.
 - CEE is working closely with legal services on campus and has a clear resource for their staff in Employer Services to determine what's off-limits.
- Rate my Work Term - planned WaterlooWorks integration in Fall 2019
 - Students rate their jobs for other students to see while applying.
 - 5 terms worth of data are required before a company's rating is visible to respect student anonymity.
 - Students will get access to this on the job posting itself on WaterlooWorks. They won't be able to filter by rating.
- CCA and WatPD are currently redeveloping PD1 which will launch in spring 2020.
 - Some proposed changes are tone of the course and more flexibility in resumes.

Education Advisory Council (EAC)

The Education Advisory Council is a committee of Students' Council and advises the Feds VP Education on matters pertaining to academics, external relations, and government and university affairs.

- Discussed FEDS VP Education Action Plan, snow day and pedestrian safety policies and recommendations to Undergraduates of Canadian Research-Intensive Universities

Undergraduate Academic Plans Committee (UAPC)

The Undergraduate Academic Plans Committee is responsible for the undergraduate curriculum for the School of Computer Science and manages the various School majors, minors, options, and specializations.

Disclaimer: These approvals were made at UAPC, but some/all are not **fully** approved yet, as they have to make their way thru committees like UAC and SUC, then Senate.

- The committee agrees to have a subcommittee to explore, create, and integrate a proposed app development course into the curriculum.
- The online version of CS 115/116 (designed to support the FARM online program) will be launched in 15-19 months. The majority of course development will occur Spring 2020.
- Discussed double counting of courses for the Computational Math and CS majors.
- The BMath (Data Science) and the BMath (CS) can no longer be used towards the double degree program due to agreement with the Ontario Ministry.
 - Only the BCS degree can be used towards the double degree program in Computer Science.
- CS 452 will move to a FW schedule.

Undergraduate Affairs Committee (UAC)

The Undergraduate Affairs Committee is a subcommittee of Faculty Council, responsible for issues surrounding undergraduate studies in the Faculty of Mathematics, eg. admissions, academic policy and standings, courses, curriculum, etc.

- We approved a number of course additions / changes in various programs

Advocacy

WatPD

- Suggested more interactive materials
- Raised concerns about the usefulness of PD1 Resumes, provided feedback on the PD1 Resume Rubric

- Gathered student feedback on PD1 Redevelopment and sent a [proposal](#) to CCA and WatPD
- Collaborating with PD on gathering feedback from math students

Cooperative & Experiential Education

- Advocated for better framing of employment statistics and including at least 4 terms of it for reference
- Discussed employer “info sessions” outside of CEE events
- Networking events + concerns around student groups running these
 - MathSoc & its clubs can run networking events as long as they’re not meant to give offers to students
- Collaboration between CCA and student societies
- Collaborating with CECA to organize a career fair/networking fair in the fall term
- Investigating on how CEE collects, discusses and implements student feedback
- Advocated for establishing a better support system for students

Associate Dean, Co-op

- Advocated for flexibility in type of Work Term Reports
- Work Term Report grade basis change (cr/ncr instead of numeric) will be effective for students who will be completing their work term in fall 2019
- Math is overhauling the Work Term Report over the next 2 years, focusing on learning outcomes. Surveys and Focus Groups to come.
- Investigating where the Math Work Term Report fee goes (\$14/term)
- Discussed splitting COOP 101 (an optional introduction to co-op workshop offered to students prior to the term they apply for coop) into several smaller and more focused workshops
 - Effective as of winter 2020
 - Proposed session outline: introduction to co-op + co-op application process, academic requirements, tips on job search and career, international consideration (i.e. international students + students working abroad)
 - Discussed the possibility of making the workshops a requirement for co-op students

Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies

- Undergraduate Education
 - Conducted a survey on student opinions on first-year cohorts and presented my report to the associate dean
 - Discussed possibility of having some course materials (such as course outline and schedule) prior to the first day of school
 - Discussed possibility for instructors to share final exams with students
- Student Representative on Curriculum Committees

- Explored the option of giving undergraduate students voting seatings on department curriculum committee
- Secured a seat for Eli Margolis (actuarial science representative) on SAS curriculum committee
- Faculty is developing a computational calculus course (MATH 137L)
 - Worth 0.25 credit; pass or fail based on some assessments
 - Teach students to use Python to learn about calculus

Undergraduate Recruitment

- Advocated for shadow program for out-of-province and international students
- Discussed the option of having an online live Q&A for prospective students

Events

Resume Critique

- Conducted on May 15; event was very well attended

Mock Interviews

- Conducted on May 22, collaborated with CCA
- Interviews were scheduled + the schedule distributed, interviewees mostly 2nd-year MATH/CS/SE

Professional Photoshoot

- Chang Liu (Director) organized a photo shoot for Tuesday, May 7

Study Party

- Ran with UW VR Club on Thursday, July 4; event had great attendance

Upcoming Events

- Bob Ross Paint Nite with the VPI and EngSoc (July 16th)
- MathSoc Election (Council for F19 + Prez + VPA)

Academic Resources

I have written a report with detailed updates and plan for academic resources that is published on the MathSoc website.

Textbook Library

- Revamped the textbook library and set up an online database of the textbooks
- Communicated with FEDS accountants on sending invoices to students who do not return the borrowed textbooks

- Worked on better promoting the textbook library
- Added a few copies of actuarial science exam study manuals

Exam Bank

- Discussed instructor concerns with the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies
- Created Google Form for students to submit their own exams to be shared on the exam bank

Academic, Resume, Interview FAQ

- Wrote Academic FAQ, Resume FAQ, Interview FAQ (all of those are currently being updated on MathSoc's new website)

Center for Academic Policy Support (CAPS)

- Promoted CAPS through social media and brought brochures to the MathSoc office (MC 3038)

Special Projects

First-Year Mentorship Program

- Started a first-year mentorship program for incoming first-year students where mentors (upper-year students) will be paired up with mentees (first-year students) and help them transition into university.
- Collaborated with a handful of faculty departments and school organizations.
- Applications for mentors are open till July 22nd, you should apply!

Society Secretary

- Updated Policy Section 1.3.1 (Elections)
- Updated governing documents on MathSoc's website
- Suggested policy rewrite for clubs overspending

Miscellaneous

- Collaborated with Teaching Fellow, Brian Forrest, in advertising for the Faculty of Mathematics Award for Distinction in Teaching
- Sit on the Dean Selection Committee as undergraduate representative
- Set up academic concern form on MathSoc's website
- Wrote awards proposals for establishing MathSoc volunteer awards and faculty awards
- Drafted policy on CnD catering with Harleen (At-large Director of the Board of Directors)
- Working on creating a MathSoc mental health blog with Alan (President)