CS Student Council Meeting | November 18, 2019

- Introductions
- Updates from the Chair
  - Teaching faculty candidate — presentation today, new adjunct to teach core courses (170 in spring). Currently moving toward hiring two new teaching faculty.
  - Staffing: hiring someone to come on as a staff advising specialist, Megan to come back soon! On a positive path.
  - Beth has left the department, hiring a replacement graduate program coordinator. Interviewing currently, on track to increase staff by (net) 2 by January — things should run much more smoothly.
  - Donna and Sarah deserve a big shoutout for keeping everything running during a difficult semester.
  - Course registration issues/complaints/concerns
    - NLP filled really quickly — looking to offer that more frequently in the future
    - HCI — were able to double the capacity of the course (required for CBS majors), students can reach out to the instructor
    - Looking to increase our capacity of systems-like classes (e.g. OS), looking to offer more networking classes now that we have two faculty members who do research in networking
  - Question: hiring process for adjuncts vs. tenure track professors
    - Tenure: ad posted in the fall, faculty members on search committee advertise the position, submit a (2-3page) research statement, teaching statement (philosophy, diversity statement), selected paper, CV, letters of recommendation (3) — roughly 300 applications per role, reviewed by faculty search committee, offers in March/April
    - Adjunct: there are always open positions, we call and ask if people would be interested in teaching (Harvard Extension, post doc), meet with faculty members, submit CV — much lighter process
- Issues
  - Possible to improve coordination between Math and CS departments so that students have room to take Math pre-reqs
    - Math 135 synchronized with CS Machine Learning (COMP136)?
  - Possibility of creating an alumni database, i.e. through EAB, efforts to connect current students with alumni?
    - Working to get an alumni affinity group for CS alumni (Kathleen TODO follow up with alumni office on this)
    - Possible to add other relevant information to alumni database, e.g. what clubs were you involved in? Want to provide an avenue for students to connect with alumni
- TA Subcommittee
Hiring proposals

- Make it clear what the TA role looks like (collect descriptions of TA roles and post to COMP199, email lists, Piazza pages when applications go live) TAs
  TODO put together paragraph
- Standardized application questions to evaluate
- Kathleen TODO — get the TA information site sorted out (Megan might own this right now?)
- Committee TODO — organize a meeting with Megan

Rehiring

- Evaluation process

  - CS198 at Stanford, Meta-TAs at Brown —> possibility of creating a TA Program Coordinator role? Department would be willing to support this

Upcoming tasks for spring

- Finding new members at large
- Graduation speaker

- CSX recruiting for e-board, Polyhack
- 105 has been very different this semester from previous semesters — there are significant concerns that this creates an uneven educational experience
  - Issues with grading infrastructure
  - Ideally core course materials would be prepared and ready before the semester starts
- 160 grading is really behind and out of sync with exams — reason for lag in returning grades?
- WiCS has hosted a bunch of events this semester (several lunch and learns, social events, programs, planning to host a social event during reading period), elections coming up at the end of the semester, e-mentorship going well, $3k donation from Microsoft
- Involving students in research: hoping to start a club for students interested in doing research
- Suggestion: bring back Halligan helper in COMP11 and 15?
- CSLOL: bake sale coming up
- COMP11: smooth sailing lately, introducing some data structures, how are we doing in terms of keeping inexperienced students in the course?
- JumboCode mid-year presentations on 12/10, open to everyone, SEC atrium
  - Need to draft contracts to address legal concerns, meet with relevant Deans/administrators