Minutes of 3/23/2020 Tufts Student Council
Conducted via Zoom

● COVID Issues
  ○ If anyone has internet connectivity issues at home, please email csadvising@eecs.tufts.edu — we suspect issues may be underreported, please encourage anyone you know who may encounter issues here to reach out!
  ○ Department webpages for students (linked) - recent information for students
  ○ Impact on grading scheme - email sent to all students, optional EP/F until April 27, drop date (W) extended to April 27 as well. EP “exceptional pass” so that courses can still count toward major and distribution requirements.
    ■ Same rules applied for A&S and Engineering (whew!)
    ■ Faculty reported many emails from students, majority requested optional pass/fail (not mandatory)
    ■ Applies to graduate students as well, but EP must be B- or better (EP or EN, EN = no credit)
  ○ Question: How will tests be administered?
    ■ Faculty is discussing this, there probably will not be a faculty-wide decision. There is an awareness that proctoring services are not scalable and exclude students without high-speed Internet access, government ID’s, etc.
    ■ Synchronous administration is not possible because of students in different time zones.
    ■ Leaning towards implementing strict honor codes.
  ○ Staying connected
    ■ The Tufts CS experience is really centered around community — Kathleen, admin staff, and faculty have been discussing how to continue the sense of community in a distributed way.
    ■ Donna, Ming, Megan: reaching out to students this week (seniors tomorrow), Zoom events in the works.
      ● Ideas: virtual lunch, senior dinner, trivia, Mead Hall (April 23?)
      ● Planning to separate class years to keep size manageable
      ● Thursday: welcome back/reconnect for seniors
      ● Unfortunately, the department cannot ship us alcohol.
    ■ Idea: standing open Zoom meetings for each of the Halligan spaces (kitchen, collab room) — schedule people to be in those rooms?
      ● Might help continue pseudo-academic conversations (choosing classes, finding internships, etc)
      ● Caroline TODO, follow up with Donna
- Donna to host office hours to chat about non-academic things
- TODO: collection of shared Zoom backgrounds, best Zoom background contest?
  - Issues facing undergraduates
    - TA Applications
      - Kathleen TODO, follow up with Megan/Richard/Mark on TA hiring for next semester
    - Question: do we anticipate that summer classes will be shifted online?
      - It seems possible, we have asked summer instructors to consider what it would be like if they had to teach their courses online.
    - Internships and COVID cancellations: Kathleen working with External advisory board, Ming also working on this — students should look for companies looking for remote work!
      - Possible to put together some kind of document with remote research and internship positions?
      - Whether research will continue in the summer depends on the lab and advisor - talk to the advisor you’re doing research with, it may be possible to continue remotely!
  - Issues facing grad students: defenses and quals going online
  - Issues facing teaching assistants
    - Caroline TODO, share Zoom docs from COMP11
  - Member at Large Selection Process: put off until Fall semester
  - Graduation: no information from university, postponing search until we hear more about how/if graduation will proceed
  - Chair updates
    - Hiring: David Lillethun to start in fall (teaching faculty), one other offer out and one teaching offer going out tomorrow, three tenure-track position offers going out this week — would be very squished until Cummings opens, but we’re excited about all the hiring that’s going on!
    - Cummings center: not clear what is happening with construction, if construction shuts down it will delay the building opening of course.
  - Subcommittee on Sanity
    - Yash (chair)
    - Caroline
    - Donna
    - Tasks: virtual hangout spaces