Verksamhetsberättelse MRCIT

About the committee

For the 2020-2021 period, MRCIT consisted of the following members:

- Emil Josefsson (Chairman, MPIDE)

- Elina Olsson (Treasurer, MPIDE)

- William Levén (Member, inofficially Vice-Treasurer, MPSOF)

- John Segerstedt (Member, inofficially Event Organizer, MPIDE)

- Naren Harakrishnan (Member, inofficially Secretary, MPSOF)

Summary of the year

The master reception is very different to the bachelor reception, as seen in previous years. Events are fewer, the reception is shorter and the attendance is smaller and generally lots of students already know each other from previous programmes. Our year was not different in those regards. Because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, further challenges were introduced which had to be solved halfway through the year. Nevertheless, the goal of the committee never changed: we wanted a reception that allowed the new students, from different backgrounds and programmes, to become friends with one another that is helpful for their studies.

Events

MRCIT had originally planned for a "normal" reception, but the ongoing and growing pandemic made us switch to a 100% remote reception, which we decided upon for different reasons. First of all, student count were close to 200 and as a group of 5, we did not think we could arrange events with minimal risk of spreading infection. We also opted for the most inclusive reception; remote events allows everyone to get to learn each other and not be hindered by location and risking disease. This caused us to completely rewrite the operation plan and derive a new budget. Approximating attendance numbers was also hard, because we had no clue about how many students that would be interested in online events which heavily depended on personal opinions about Covid-19 and if students had moved to Gothenburg yet.

The master reception consisted of the following events:

Introduction

Students were introduced to the university, where we advertised our events and gave information about the union. We showed how they can get help, in these times, by including representatives from StyrIT and snIT. Each student was also given a Pressbyrån voucher, to compensate for the "fika" they would have been offered in our original plan.

We ended the introduction with a Socrative Quiz with various mixed questions that allowed students to guess about their classmates and learn about them.

Speed Dating

Software Engineering and Interaction Design were divided into two zoom rooms, where we in each room assigned the students 2 and 2 into breakout rooms where they got to chat for a few minutes. The event started at 12:00, but student's lectures did not end in time, causing a slight delay of about 15-20 minutes before the event could get going completely. Students that attended seemed to enjoy it, but the small count inevitably resulted in duplicate pairs which meant that interest died out.

Game Night

The two master programmes was once again split up into two different zoom rooms, where we offered three suggestions of games to play. The event was designed to be self-organized; MRCIT hosted and split people into groups, while the students themselves were in control over what to play and for how long.

Virtual Amazing Race

Students were split into groups and given a challenge to find a location using a set of sub-challenges, like in the real Amazing Race TV programme. The challenges consisted of activities such as poem-writing and solving a rebus.

Big Finale

The Big Finale was an event in Minecraft which consisted of a set of minigames, such as boat races and snowball wars. Students were split into teams and given points for the teams placement in each of the minigames.

Aspning Event

The aspning event was an open Q&A session (on Zoom) were students interested could hang out with current MRCIT members and ask questions about anything that was related to being a part of MRCIT. A handful of students attended and were further interested in applying. However, due to the nature of the split between Chalmers and GU on a master's level, they could not apply for the positions as they were a part of the GU student union, rather than the Chalmers Student Union. No member of the Chalmers Student Union were interested, inevitably leading to no applicants for MRCIT21.

Non-reception related work

During the year, MRCIT created and moderated a Slack workspace called *IT at Lindholmen*, with two purposes:

- allow bachelor students at Johanneberg to connect with master students at Lindholmen

- serve as a platform for communcation and general "hang-out"

The Slack channel works as a complement to the Facebook groups that were created for each programme.

Concluding Remarks

Returning to the set goal of the year, we are happy to have proceeded as we did. Student count per event and amount of events were similar to previous years, even though the events were held online. The reception was most appreciated by exchange students. We received thankful messages since some students could not make it to Gothenburg and since the studies are remote, they wouldn't see their peers otherwise.

Although, we are sad to see that no MRCIT21 were elected. We hope to see a group of students do the same as we did, as well as how previous years were elected: join the committee in an attempt to develop it further.