Co-op Office Strikes Again: Imposes Limit of One Course on Work Term

The Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs has mandated, through the Coop Program, that any student on a Coop Work Term is now limited to taking a maximum of one single course while working. The explanation given for this course of action was that a Coop Work Term is considered a full course load.

Further investigation revealed that the number of requests for this type of preemptive course taking, and or catch up, was on the rise. So much so, that it was ‘becoming the rule rather than the exception.’

Continued on Page 2

Girl’s Night

This Friday, the girls in engineering are meeting up for a social afternoon. The afternoon will start with minigolf and end with dinner at 5th Street Bar and Grill. If you are a girl that can't justify studying on a Friday night, then this is your last ticket to a social outing before exams hit.

Who: All the Girl(s) in Engineering

What: Minigolf and Appetizers

When: Friday 3:30pm - 8:30pm

Meet at the ESS Office at 3:30pm. The minigolf is free and appetizers will be provided.

Contents Of This Edition

- Term Recap
- What Grinds My Gears
- Co-op, Co-op and
- More News from the Co-op Office
- And Much More

No Fall Co-op Placement Yet?

Haven’t found a job yet? After exams, the co-op office will be hosting a jobs club to help students find placements for the fall.

These sessions will run 10am to 11am, every weekday from August 16 to September 3 in ECS 660.
# Tubes And Wires Satisfaction Survey

All submissions are anonymous, your input is greatly appreciated

On a scale of awesomeness, please rate the following: (This may determine how we choose content in the future)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Pretty Awesome</th>
<th>Super Awesome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tubes and Wires</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain Busters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Sudoku</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles about Coop</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles about engineering topics (WEC, APEG, IEEE)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Info (promotions and recaps)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What Grinds My Gears</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How can we improve Tubes? / Suggestions of things to run in the future.

Drop This off in the box on the orange Tubes and Wires stand outside the ESS OR just email essb-com@engr.uvic.ca with suggestions

ALSO, just because we are not in courses next term does not mean you can't contribute to Tubes, if you have written something you would like to publish in Tubes and Wires, Please send it to essb-com@engr.uvic.ca so we have something to print in January.
MyCoop: Employment Tool or Obstacle?

We engineers face many challenges when trying to get co-op placements, not the least of which is the heavy course load we’re required to take as we job-hunt. I believe that Mycoop was designed to remedy this by making the application process easier for students and employers. However, the obstacles we encounter with its use often make it frustrating to deal with. If Mycoop were revamped or replaced, it would benefit UVic students and make our much-touted co-op program worthy of its accolades.

Mycoop’s weaknesses seem to fall into three categories: technical bugs, program constraints and structural shortfalls.

Technical Bugs

An obvious criticism is that the site suffers from clumsy navigation; you must refresh, resend and retry its web pages instead of simply using the web browser’s “back” button. Shockingly, when you open a resume for modification, the entry fields that you configured previously have to be double-checked to protect against inadvertent switching by the program. This is all in addition to confidence-eroding rumors of job offers that were delayed by the system or not relayed to the student at all.

Program Constraints

The system used for listing jobs is difficult to work with. Instead of separating jobs into two lists, “new and updated” and “open,” the program should always sort them by date, highlighting new jobs instead of segregating them. At the moment, jobs that are variously selected as interesting are automatically moved out of the main job list into separate folders, a technique that makes seeing the “big picture” of a job search difficult.

Another frustrating feature is the cover letter drafting tool; it isn’t conducive to good writing at all. Why must each paragraph be entered in a different box? Why does the entire page need to be refreshed to add a paragraph? This is one of many examples of Mycoop’s misplaced granularity; we have options where they aren’t needed and we lack them where they are.

Mycoop insists on a way of sorting information that doesn’t allow for creativity or flexibility, filling our resumes with redundancies and making

Continued on Page 5
What Happened In the ESS This Summer

- The Cinecenta was rented out and featured Super-troopers.
- Slushies were made on Fridays
- Bellrose featured two successful pubcrawls
- Surfers spent their reading week at Tofino
- Money was raised for prostate cancer research.
- Tubes and Wires Spanned 36 pages over 7 issues.
- Petty fixed stuff that broke on the website, uploaded more exams and worked to put tubes and wires online.
- Annie represented our student voice at faculty meetings
- Jubinville met with student representatives from other universities at WESST EM
- Girls night was hosted negative one days ago.
- The plant was not watered

What To Do With All My New Found Free Time

So it’s been great working on tubes for the last two months but all great things must eventually come to an end.

With this term pretty much over, my thoughts have turned to next term and the crap loads of free time that it represents. My goal is to make an Arduino controlled sprinkler system for the small garden outside the room I rent. Why? For one, because it turns out I am too lazy or busy to water it every day. Also, a fully automatic, Arduino based sprinkler control system would be awesome. If that works out, my robot army comes next.

You know who else thinks random engineering stuff you do outside of school is awesome? Co-op employers, first years, and us!

I think it is awesome enough to start running a segment in tubes starting January which would be dedicated to extra-curricular engineering/DIY projects. Do you agree? If you have any thoughts or you have a project you want featured in January, email essb-com@engr.uvic.ca.

- M. Anderson

On A Happy Note

Back in June we received news that Ross Sherman (3rd year mechanical engineering) was badly injured in a motocross crash during the second round of the Canadian Nationals.

Today we are happy to report that Ross is up, talking and on his way to being back on his feet. We wish him a speedy and full recovery.

MyCooP

Continued From Page 2
them too long. When you have to describe skills in one section, work experience in another and volunteering know-how in a third, repetition is inevitable.

Structural Shortfalls

I was quite surprised to learn that we are only given twenty-four hours to accept a job offer. There are many things that need to be considered before accepting a job offer. Consider that virtually no promptness is expected of employers; many employers shortlist students months after their jobs close.

But the most detrimental result of the current system is that it takes away the distinctions between individuals by shoe-horning everyone into using the same resume organization format and application system so there’s no way to show initiative to the companies that use Mycoop. And that’s what getting a job is supposed to be all about: distinguishing oneself from the competition.

In Closing

The litmus test for software acceptability at university should be the same as what’s used everywhere else: Would it sell on the market? For the reasons outlined above, I don’t think Mycoop would.

We need to acknowledge that changes are needed – big, structural changes as well as small aesthetic and organizational changes. The coop department helps many students develop their careers. Criticism should remain constructive, even if some dismantling is needed before the rebuilding can begin.

- E. Kyfiuk

“It’s not the resolution of your microscope that counts, it’s what you do with it”

Dr. Herring
Calvin travelled to Manitoba in early July, joining the yearly migration of country and western fans to the Dauphin Country Fest and networking with manufacturing companies in Manitoba. This is Manitoba's homecoming year and he caught the tail of the Winnipeg Jazz Festival, and just missed the Bombers/Tiger-Cats game. He was able to meet with Manitoba Hydro, New Flyer Transportation, a gaming company, a couple of pharmaceutical companies and several different aviation companies. This job development trip was in preparation for a more intensive trip to Winnipeg and Saskatoon in October.

Another big player is Manitoba Hydro, responsible for the design, production and distribution of power in Manitoba. It serves the needs of some 532,000 electric customers throughout Manitoba and 274,000 natural gas customers, and has a very interesting EIT and co-op program.

Manitoba Lottery Commission has a massive computer infrastructure to monitor all their gaming machines 24/7. The Commission is heavily focused on security, and has a very impressive computer system that stores information on players, credit and bank cards, wins and pay-outs.

Boeing had openings for 11 students this summer while Standard Aero has 6 different facilities spread out around Winnipeg and is one of the largest independent aviation maintenance, repair and operation businesses in the world. Bristol Aerospace is an integrated, solutions-oriented provider of products and services to aircraft and engine manufacturers and defense and space agencies worldwide. The folks at Micropilot were surprised to see someone from UVic and were impressed we found them down a gravel road. They are celebrating their 16th year as the world leader in miniature autopilots for unmanned micro aerial vehicles.

The two different pharmaceutical groups are in smaller communities outside of Winnipeg – one is a contract manufacturer and the other is making a precursor for an active drug. Both are doing well; the first is expanding its product pipeline and the second is infusing some new money from a recent takeover.

You might have seen some of New Flyer’s fuel cell buses in operation at Whistler during the Winter Olympics. You might even ride their buses here in Victoria.

If you would like any more information on these companies or would like us to visit any specific companies in Saskatchewan or Manitoba in October, come in and talk to Cal.
Fun Facts

- The elephant is the only animal with 4 knees
- On average, there are 178 sesame seeds on each McDonalds BigMac bun.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver and purple.
- In the past, when a clan no longer wanted a member in it, they would burn down their house. This is where the expression “to get fired” comes from.
- Electrical engineering students currently taking elec 250 will be destroyed by third year elec courses when they realize they haven’t learned the pre-req material needed.

Super Sudoku

What Grinds My Gears

When I Forget To Push My Clutch In

Despite popular belief, the clutch is important for gear shifting in cars.

Professors Who Put Research Before Education

There is nothing more comparable to a slap in the face than the feeling that someone with doctorate has passed off his research as being more important than the time he spends babbling about ‘trivial’ engineering topics to us students.

Brain Buster

Answer to Last Weeks Problem:

How to tell the difference between a SEngie and a CSc student:

Ask the student in question to do a convolution or Z/Fourier/Laplace transform. If he cringes when he hears the question, he is the SENG student.

Contributors:

Brandon Nikolaisen
Mike Anderson
Eric Kyfiuk