AURA Exec Meeting Minutes
30/06/2011 10:40AM
Stats Tutorial Room

Present: Andrew Chen, Vincent Ardern, Chris Stanton, Scott Goodhew, Cameron Edwards
Absent: Ryan Kurte

Meeting opened: 10:47am

1. Motion to accept the minutes of the last exec meeting (05/05/2011) without correction.
Passed Unanimously.

2. Overview of recent expenditure and funding - Andrew/Vincent
ECE granted $8000 to spend on robotics equipment. $7673.44 was spent on Vex Robotics parts, ordered via Kiwibots. New parts were authorized by Andrew, Cameron, Chris. Also purchased a variety of tools and boxes, equivalent to roughly $200, funded from club accounts. Roughly $200 has been budgeted for Electronics Research Team spending.

Club accounts currently hold about NZD$520.
NZD$560 from new membership fees, representing 28 new paid members.
USD$25 has to be held for 2nd College Team Registration.
Roughly USD$200 to be held in escrow for lunches at World Champs.

A stocktake was conducted before all the new parts arrived, 99% of parts accounted for.
https://spreadsheets.google.com/a/aura.org.nz/spreadsheet/ccc?
key=0Aq7DMVwQhIAFdEtpVzZyZnVpQkZjaF9renh6WE93TIE&hl=en_US

Accepted Unanimously.

3. Debrief on AURA Workshops - All
Most things worked pretty well.
Three workshop model (drivetrains, arms/lifts, sensors/electronics) was pretty good.
People should prepare their presentations before they present.
Giving them a challenge was a good idea, gave them a goal to work towards.
Time allocation was enough for university students (pretty close, need more for others).
General consensus fun and people found it useful - getting hands on experience was important.
We can offer to run them for schools for Kiwibots.

Accepted Unanimously.

4. Report on MECHENG223 Integration Project - Andrew
Project has been postponed until later in the year. ECE department suggested that we wouldn't be able to use the parts because there would be an inevitable situation where both groups need the parts at the same time. MECHENG223 will need to replace the lego equipment eventually,

but not until Semester 1 2012 so we have some time until we need to pitch VEX properly.

Accepted Unanimously.

5. Overview of Online Collaboration Structure - Andrew
Facebook - General announcements and reminders, marginally more important lolz.
Wikispaces - Collaboration platform for strategy, design, resources, rules, research, mentoring
Google docs - Collaboration platform for administrative documents, accounts, etc.
E-mail - Usually just announcements.
SVN - Programming and ERT code respository.
Skype - General Chat, three subgroups - On-topic, Off-topic, Exec

Accepted Unanimously.

6. Formation of Electronics and Mechanics Research Teams - Andrew/Ryan/Chris
Electronics Research Team - To develop electronics, sensor, and software systems to improve robot performance.
Mechanics Research Team - To develop mechanical systems to improve future robot performance and solve current problems.
Ryan appointed leader of Electronics Research Team.
Chris appointed leader of Mechanics Research Team.
$200 from ECE spending has been allocated towards ERT.
MRT using vex parts from general parts until we've identified a need for spending.

Accepted Unanimously.

7. World Cup - Andrew
Qualification: International teams get priority to enter World Cup, subject to balancing by Kiwibots. NZ teams will have to complete robot skills challenge, and post their video evidence of scores online. The top x number of teams will be picked to fill the remaining spaces. We are anticipating roughly 20 spaces available for NZ teams.
Entry fee for world cup is currently $500 per team, unless we can can billet 6 people per team, in which case there is a $450 discount on the rego fee.
Other information about world cup is available online.

Team Structure: We decided that skills for qualification is reasonably important, regardless of the number of available places. Chris will be in charge of building two skills robots, and Cameron in charge of building two competition robots. Andrew in charge of skills programming, Scott in charge of competition programming. Experienced builders are assigned into skills and competition teams, all the new builders can work on all robots.

World Cup is currently October 11-13rd (Tue-Thu, Week 11) - this will clash with university but we will deal with that problem later. Competition is being hosted in The Cloud, on Queen's Wharf. We are playing high schools competition rules.

Accepted Unanimously.

8. Report on Storage Structure (cupboards) - Cameron
Cupboard 1 (old one), Cupboard 2 (new one) - parts roughly split in half for each cupboard.
Up until world cup, 1 is Skills, 2 is Competition.
Vincent to get one copy of each key cut.

Accepted Unanimously.

9. Overview of Mentoring Programme - Cameron
Avondale - Going well, Cameron visiting.
MAGS - Cameorn visitng once a week, new students, new teacher, going okay.
Lynfield - Cameron & Vincent visit once a week or so, no problems.
WGHS - Nathan and TP will go and see them now exams are over.
Kristin - Nathan and TP will go and see them now exams are over.

Onehunga - Make contact at first scrimmage.
Takapuna Grammar School - Just received funding, will be helping set up a team next week.
AIC - Nothing to do with school, need to find the parent contact.
Baradene/St.Peters - Visiting first scrimmage.
Epsom Girls - Visited, but need to get funding. Possibly visiting first scrimmage.
Dilworth/Dio - Visiting first scrimmage.
AGGS - Interested in integrating into curriculum, we're doing a demonstration in August.
Need more mentors! Train up more people, but can't take on too many more schools right now.

Accepted Unanimously.

10. Social Events
We feel that it's important to have some social events, but not too often due to the large commitment already needed for robotics competition. Also they need to be reasonably cheap, as there is probably a large personal cost requirement for travel to worlds and such.

We're looking at running a LAN on July 9th to 10th, after the get to know the field day at Glenfield (but not everyone has to go to either of them) - $10 a person, includes some food. Looking to run it at the St. Judes Scout Hall in Mt. Albert. Scott to set up a server, Scott & Cameron to organise switches and ethernet cables, Chris to organise venue and food, will publicise online and today.

Accepted Unanimously.

11. Overview of upcoming calendar dates - Andrew
        - All scrimmages are on AURA and Kiwibots websites.
        - Auckland Girls Grammar demonstration in week of September 19th.
        - Uni Open Day is on Saturday August 27.

- World Cup is October 11-13.
- Social event LAN night planned for the 9th.

11. Meeting with Hamling and Maurice
Talked about world cup, nothing really new from the online information, not too many int teams.

Talked about dividing up Auckland into regions in order to deal with the problem of having too many teams for scrimmages. AURA pitch: split Auckland into zones and have separate scrimmages, held as qualifications for super-scrimmages. Two monthly scrimmages per zone qualifies top 8 teams from each scrimmage to the super-scrimmage, and all other teams compete in a practice scrimmage. Non-Auckland teams invited to compete in the practice scrimmage.

Asked us to maybe maintain a Central Auckland page - we would have a page on Kiwibots website which we maintain and update, and includes a newsletter for all teams in our area. They asked us to check the website and figure out what is outdated too.

Other college teams: AUT is setting up a team - current Dean of Engineering is an ex-Massey lecturer who is giving the programme a lot of support. Hopefully they will be hosting a field, which we can go and use. MIT also possibly setting up a team, same as Canterbury.

Accepted Unanimously.

12. Fundraising and Sponsorship update/discussion - Ryan
Contact details should be developed for all the companies that we could contact, and prepare standard sponsorship and fundraising letters ready so that we can use them whenever. Need to prepare promotional materials. Website needs to be updated.
Ryan was absent from the meeting, so no decisions were made.

13. Online Challenges
College teams are eligible to compete in certain online challenges.
RECF Team Educational Video.
FUTURE Foundation Robot Construction Challenge.
VRC Promote Award.
EMC Robotics Team/Club Website Challenge.
(Autodesk CAD TBC).
We should enter and try to do well because the prizes are vex vouchers and qualifications.

Accepted Unanimously.

Meeting closed at 12:26pm.