

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday April 2nd, 2024

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Microsoft Teams

Present –

Faculty: L. Antonie, N. Bruce, R. Chaturvedi, R. Dara, A. Dehghantanha, D. Gillis, M. Gong (Director), G. Grewal, F. Parast, X. Lin, J. McCuaig, D. Nikitenko, S. Scott, F. Song, M. Wirth, Y. Yan;

Staff: S. Brennan, J. DeFreitas (Recording), S. Dhindsa, C. Hosker, J. Hughes, K. Johnston, L. King, P. Patel, S. Shinin, T. Waite;

Student Representatives: S. Allana, D. Dombrovsky;

Regrets –

Faculty: D. Calvert, D. Flatla, A. Hamilton-Wright, H. Khan, S. Kremer, P. Matsakis, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada, M. Wineberg;

Staff: G. Klotz, R. Moroz;

Student Representatives: None;

Guests – L. Abediny, L. Gatto, K. Gordon, K. McRoberts, K. Sorensen, A. Zawazki;

1. Approval of Agenda for April 2nd, 2024

Motion: That the agenda for **April 2nd, 2024** be approved.

(G. Grewal, S. Scott)

In Favour: All. Abstentions: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Announcements

- Ritu Chaturvedi has received the CSA Teaching Excellence Award, for the 2nd year in a row. Congrats.
- Gary Grewal has successfully renewed his NSERC Discovery grant with increased funding. Congrats.
- Reminder CEPS Faculty, Staff and GTA awards nomination is approaching
- Reminder to keep the doors to the 2nd and 3rd floor meeting rooms locked to encourage undergrad students to book the spaces if they wish to use them

3. Approval of Minutes from March 5th, 2024

Motion: That the minutes from **March 5th, 2024** be approved.

(S. Scott, R. Chaturvedi)

In Favour: All Abstentions: None. **MOTION PASSED**

4. Lily Abediny, Associate Director, Co-operative and Career Education

SoCS S24 Co-op Employment Update (Appendix A)

L. Abediny presented the 2024 Co-op employment stats, challenges in the labour market, student behaviors, employer behaviors and some strategies her department is trying to improve employment numbers. She provided information for Faculty to advise students who are experiencing distress.

Highlights of the presentation-

- Coop sequence is a 5 year program in rotation between 5 work terms and 8 academic semesters.
- Of the 394 students enrolled in Coop program, 142 (37%) have employment for the summer
- Work Term 1 has 25% placement, WT2 has 38% and WT3 has 78%
- There are changes in the labour market due to financial constraints which are resulting in hiring freezes
- 2 new job developers have been hired to lead tech specific employer events on campus
- Students prefer to engage with their peers instead of with the Coop advisors
- The minimum requirement to qualify for a work term is 12 weeks or 420 hours

D.Gillis commented that the labour market is saturated and yet enrollment is still increasing.

G. Grewal commented that increased enrollment has produced more technically weak students along with many others who should not be allowed to continue in Coop after academic misconduct incidents.

5. Karen Gordon, Associate Dean Academic

Co-op Sequencing for CS (Appendix B)

K. Gordon outlined the Coop sequencing for the different units in the college and the Summer academic semester option, which has been avoided so far due to the cost. She hoped that Units would move to a similar sequence that works amongst multiple programs. She discussed constraints to consider and ran through the possible sequences to consider to optimize work placements.

D. Gillis asked about the additional resources to complete this optimization. K. Gordon replied that there is no commitment of money.

S. Scott supported mandatory coop with graceful exit options, which would reduce additional teaching tasks to maintain multiple streams.

Discussion was held about the sequence choices and a Summer academic semester.

K. Gordon replied to D. Gillis' question in the chat about targets for CS and SE. She shared her slide showing BComp increased by 20 spots to 321.

M. Gong proposed to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Motion: That the meeting time be extended past 2:30pm by 30 minutes.

(S.Scott, D. Nikitenko)

In Favour: All Abstentions: None. **MOTION PASSED**

6. Stacey Scott

Graduate and MCTI Updates

S. Scott deferred her presentation to the next meeting due to her time constraints.

7. Neil Bruce

Undergrad Curriculum

N. Bruce briefed members on a request from Physics to permission to amend their Biological and Medical Physics Program requirements from CIS*1300 to either CIS*1300 or CIS*1500.

Motion: To grant Physics permission to amend the calendar description associated with the Biological and Medical Physics Program to allow students to take either CIS*1300 or CIS*1500 before graduation replacing the requirement to take CIS*1300.

(N. Bruce, S.Scott)

In Favour: 12. Abstentions: None. Against: None. **MOTION PASSED**

8. Minglun Gong

Highlights from COAC Meetings (March 20) (Appendix C)

M. Gong conveyed that the Provost is promoting an increase in graduate enrollment. He shared some data showing graduate enrollment in various institutions. Guelph has been averaging 9 or 10% for the past 10 years compared with 20 to 25% for Queens and Toronto. The Provost countered the "lack of faculty supervisors" argument, with stats to show that

Guelph is at the lower end of the Student to Faculty Ratio and promoted growing the Graduate programs.

M. Gong relayed the goal of increasing the total graduate enrollment to 4000 students with 1400 PhDs, 1400 course-based Masters, 1150 thesis-based Masters and 50 Graduate Diploma

Highlights from Dean's Council meetings (March 26)

M. Gong updated that the proposed government funding was not included in the budget planning as there was no clear communication from the Province about the total or the timeline.

M. Gong outlined the revised research overhead policy which starts on May 1st. Grants and contracts will be treated the same and there will be 40% overhead charged by the University.

He advised that this will be the last summer with the old course outline system and that supports are available to switch to the new system.

Highlights from Budget Town Hall (March 27)

M. Gong relayed that the Provost is asking the Units to absorb 30% of the expected compensation increase due to the Bill 124 challenge and renegotiation. He was concerned that the revenue share earned by SoCS, for example, in supporting additional students, may be allocated to this 30% compensation before it gets to SoCS.

Consultation on J.D. MacLachlan Schematic Design

M. Gong regretted that there was too little time for extensive consultation on the JD MacLachlan design, but hoped that everyone had a chance to share feedback through Andrew Hamilton-Wright's survey, to determine the cost estimate. He affirmed that there will be opportunity to decide on finer details and furniture later on but urged members to provide feedback on the broader design before Thursday April 4th.

9. Any other business

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 2:47pm.