

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday April 30th, 2024

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Microsoft Teams

Present –

Faculty: L. Antonie, N. Bruce, R. Chaturvedi, R. Dara, D. Gillis, M. Gong (Director), G. Grewal, A. Hamilton-Wright, S. Kremer, F. Parast, J. McCuaig, S. Scott, F. Song, M. Wineberg, M. Wirth, Y. Yan;

Staff: S. Brennan, J. DeFreitas (Recording), S. Dhindsa, J. Hughes, K. Johnston, L. King, G. Klotz, R. Moroz, P. Patel, S. Shinin, T. Waite;

Student Representatives: S. Allana, N. Johnston;

Regrets –

Faculty: D. Calvert, A. Dehghantanha, D. Flatla, H. Khan, X. Lin, P. Matsakis, D. Nikitenko, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada;

Staff: C. Hosker;

Student Representatives: None;

1. Approval of Agenda for April 30th, 2024

Motion: That the agenda for **April 30th, 2024** be approved.

(S. Scott, R. Chaturvedi)

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

2. Announcements

- R. Chaturvedi received her promotion to Associate Professor with tenure
- A. Dehghantanha and D. Gillis have been promoted to Full Professor
- The 2024-25 SOCIS President is Noel Johnston
- Along with other CEPS Units, SoCS support staff in-person summer hours will be Monday-Thursday, with remote availability on Fridays from May 1st to August 16th
- New HRMS system scheduled to roll out in July. All summer hires must be submitted to C. Hosker by 10am Friday May 10th. Another hiring window will open May 16th-June 27th for special circumstances only. HRMS will be unavailable June 27th - July 11th
- C. Hosker will be unavailable May 13-17
- Deadline for retreat survey is May 3rd

3. Approval of Minutes from April 2nd, 2024

Motion: That the minutes from **April 2nd, 2024** be approved.

(S. Scott, R. Chaturvedi)

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

4. Purvi Patel, Recruitment Officer

Schedule for 2024 Tremaine Women in Science Visiting Speaker (Appendix A)

P. Patel updated members on the plans for the event to be hosted at UoG, including the background on the speaker series. Dr Joanna McGrenere, Professor and Co-Head of Computer Science at UBC, will represent the field of Computer Science in several sessions, from October 15-17. The SoCS committee planning the event are M. Gong, C. Hosker, P. Patel, J. Hein, K. McLean, C. Gray, Y. Yan, S. Allana and W. Zhang. Members will be reminded to invite students to the sessions.

Update on Outreach events

P. Patel shared the details of the March Open House which was the largest in UoG history, with 2100 students attending, due in part to the earlier than usual offers. BComp information sessions were well attended with 232 students. Inquiries were mainly about Co-op with some course questions. P. Patel thanked the student volunteers and shared the next Open House for SoCS will be on May 16th. She asked for a faculty member to provide a 30 min sample lecture for the event.

5. Stacey Scott

Graduate and MCTI Updates

S. Scott updated on the Accelerated Master's Pathway for excellent UoG BComp students to complete some required master's coursework in their senior undergrad year. She presented the admission criteria and policies proposed by the Grad Curriculum Committee as well as a contingency plan (Appendix B).

Motion: Move for the Council to approve the introduction of an **Accelerated MSc.CS Reasonable pathway** detailed on prior slides, and summarized here:

- UofG students
 - Who meet our regular MSc admissions criteria,
 - Who have existing research experience and an identified SoCS supervisor who supports their Accelerated pathway,
 - Can complete 2 MSc.CS course requirements during their undergraduate degree, normally including CIS*6890
 - Can complete their remaining 3 MSc.CS course requirements during their MSc.CS degree, and
 - Will expect to complete their MSc.CS thesis within 4 terms after completion of their undergraduate degree
 - Reasonable Application Date to be determined by Admissions Committee

(S. Scott, J. McCuaig)

In Favour: 11 Abstentions: None. Against: None. **MOTION PASSED**

Discussion was held regarding the need for Summer courses as well as deadlines for applications to the pathway and required research projects.

S. Scott announced that this was her final day as Interim Director of MCTI and A. Dehghantanha will resume duties. She will assist with F24 admissions and is aiming to make 150 to 170 offers for 60 target enrollment. There have been 74 accepted offers so far including deferrals. S. Scott identified a threat from College course-based Masters programs.

S. Scott reported that the MCLC program has been approved by Senate and the Province with a F25 start. She outlined the impacts on SoCS (Appendix B) and showed a proposed program schedule.

Discussion was held regarding the teaching credits for the courses, domestic enrollment numbers and transparency of the budget.

6. Minglun Gong

Highlights from COAC meetings (April 23)

M. Gong reported that the VPR is asking for feedback about the University's subscription to The Conversation Canada (Appendix C), a service to publish and market research findings.

M. Gong shared some slides presented by B. Bradshaw showing data from graduate enrolment and growth plan (Appendix D), showing growing trends of course-based Master's, especially from international students. He noted that the University is targeting 4000 grad students by F28 with 1400 Course-based Master's 1400 PhD students and 1150 thesis-based Master's. He also shared the available and forthcoming options and also the supports associated.

Highlights from Dean's Council Meeting (April 24)

Regarding the budget, M. Gong briefed that the Dean is urging Units to grow their course based Master's programs or face budget cuts. We may receive some channeling of students from Conestoga College however, in return, they would like some credit for their courses towards our programs.

Master's Collaboration Spec Research and Communication

M. Gong relayed a new course based Master's with Collaborative Specialization on Research and Communication, proposed by M. Cojocar, for Physics, Math and Chemistry. The proposal is to have 6 courses and 1 language course and 1 experiential learning seminar course. M. Gong expressed concern if their program will use any CS courses with no funding supports or credit provided to us, and asked for feedback from Council.

S. Scott asked about activity based funding and grad courses. M. Gong replied that AB budgeting is limited to undergrad programs and there is a revenue share for course based master's programs, not individual courses. He repeated his request for feedback from members about the potential use of our courses.

MCTI Tenure Track Faculty Search

M. Gong conveyed that final interviews for the MCTI TT position will be held the week of May 13th and invitations will be sent out shortly.

J. McCuaig asked if the MCTI TT position is replacing the recently retired positions. M. Gong clarified that it is not. He outlined the refusal of any centrally funded positions for the college during the previous round of academic staff plan. S. Scott asked if the addition of a new MCTI faculty would release some of the other MCTI faculty to teach CS courses. M. Gong replied that the teaching contract is for the whole school and not a particular program. D. Gillis expressed concern that MCTI seems to be supporting their own program to the detriment of the rest of the school and M. Gong reiterated that MCTI revenue supports staff positions and the new PhD scholarships. He plans to work with Rick and Ali to present high-level MCTI budget in a future meeting.

Pathway Program with SFU Updates (Appendix F)

M. Gong reported on an earlier conversation with SFU about their intention to provide pathway programs with other Canadian departments. He explained that he, S. Scott and N. Bruce met with directors and admin teams there and discussed the idea. This arrangement would benefit SoCS with more options for senior undergrad courses and perhaps recruit stronger students from high school. It will be limited to 25 students/year. M. Gong will bring a motion should the plans progress.

7. Any other business

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 2:46pm.