

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday April 5, 2022

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Microsoft Teams

Present –

Faculty: L. Antonie, N. Bruce, D. Calvert, R. Chaturvedi, A. Dehghantanha, M. Gong (Director), A. Hamilton-Wright, H. Khan, S. Kremer, X. Lin, J. McCuaig, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada, F. Song, D. Stacey, F. Wang, M. Wirth, Y. Xiang;

Staff: S. Brennan, D. Byart, J. DeFreitas (recording secretary), C. Hosker, J. Hughes, K. Johnston, A. Nguyen, D. Rea;

Student Representatives: Students were not invited due to the sensitive nature of agenda items

Guests: R. Zytner;

Regrets –

Faculty: R. Dara, D. Flatla, D. Gillis, G. Grewal, P. Matsakis, D. Nikitenko, S. Scott, M. Wineberg;

Staff: G. Klotz, J. Lange ;

Student Representatives:

1. Approval of Agenda for April 5, 2022

Motion: That the agenda for April 5, 2022 be approved.

(A. Hamilton-Wright, N. Bruce)

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

2. Dr. Richard Zytner, Interim Dean of CEPS

• **Addressing Concerns on CEPS Restructuring**

R. Zytner began his address by sharing the news of the passing of Dan Ashlock, Chair of Math and Stats. He then shared his thoughts about SOCS' restructuring concerns:

- The subject matter expert that would assist the proposal writer does not have to be an expert in all the subjects, just have administration experience and a science background;
- The proposal writer and CEPS will look for growth in all 4 sciences;
- Growth ideas must come from the Units and Consultant will speak directly to each one;
- Unit must show their strengths and identify challenges;
- If SOCS has a concern with what the consultant says, M. Gong can communicate to him or B. Bradshaw;

- RFP (Request for Proposal) was released last Friday and 1 additional candidate was selected to be included with the top 3 chosen by PCMS, Dr. J. Schaeffer from Univ. Alberta, who has Computer Science background. All 4 will submit quotes for the job;
- The process is just getting started and he doesn't believe SOCS is being ignored;

R. Zytner opened the floor for questions.

D. Calvert gave his perspective on SOCS' historical position in the college and suggested a more collegial approach to the process. He doubted there would be revenue to support growth as evidenced by the neglect to address opportunities identified in program reviews.

R. Zytner responded by mentioning the new hybrid budget model to be introduced where Units will keep revenue earned in their department. He conveyed that any SOCS ideas not included in the proposal can be dealt with during the process.

A Hamilton-Wright expressed concern about the notion of complaining after the proposal is written and that an expert needs Computer Science expertise to guide the process.

R. Zytner reiterated that decisions on budget will not be made at PCMS level but at his Steering Committee level. He assured all that their ideas will be included but it was SOCS' job to generate SOCS ideas.

D. Stacey addressed neglect and considered the example of a dedicated Outreach person which SOCS fought for and attained, resulting in much higher recruitment numbers, but which was subsequently taken away and combined with the college. She also inquired why the proposed hybrid model is being conflated with the restructuring of the college. In addition, she expressed her belief that our discipline, historically, has not been valued by the university.

R. Zytner established that the hybrid model was considered as an option to generate revenue to support the restructuring plan, and that keeping revenue within the unit will allow for new liason officers to be hired. He reiterated that Glaston-Tor identified the current plan as the one with the greatest benefits to the university.

R. Zytner added that the hybrid model will allow growth programs like Cybersecurity and Data Science to keep revenue. M. Gong clarified that MCTI revenue has arrived in our School.

J. McCuaig in chat pointed out that a key problem is that the PCMS committee has a decision making process that is not collegial. She suggested that the PCMS Committee develop a decision-making process that strives for consensus rather than SOCS asking for Dean interventions as we progress.

M. Gong wrapped up by reiterating J. McCuaig's opinion that the problem is the PCMS decision making process, which is not collegial. He affirmed that Y. Xiang's proposal to request a Subject Expert have administrative experience over all 4 units was a fair requirement, but ultimately

was disregarded by PCMS. He does not believe an Expert without CS experience will intentionally disfavour our Unit, but the decision-making process should be adjusted.

R. Zytner repeated that he welcomed concerns as we progress and is optimistic that the proposal will suit SOCS in the new college. He added that the lowest Main Consultant bid does not have to be accepted and advised M. Gong to identify any space needs and communicate them to the design consultant for the new building.

3. Approval of Minutes from February 15, 2022

Motion: That the minutes from February 15, 2022 be approved.

(A. Hamilton-Wright, C. Obimbo)

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

4. Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2022

Motion: That the minutes from March 22, 2022 be approved.

(A. Hamilton-Wright, N. Bruce)

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

5. Deb Stacey

- **Discussion and Potential Motion for a Non-confidence Memo**

D. Stacey outlined her memo available here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VeBFre96XcRHqQio6nEWyqzHxPe5b4SNn3LOgaJ6uR8/edit?usp=sharing> . She added that registering concerns up front will protect SOCs should there be any issues with the Consultant in the future and welcomed edits to the document.

Y. Xiang responded to A. Hamilton-Wright's inquiry about the choice of consultant and explained that Dr. Lipson was seemingly chosen as merely an example, however, Y. Xiang perceived it to be an indication that having experience in CS was not an important criterion.

Discussion ensued regarding the criteria and final say for selection of the consultant. M. Gong was encouraged by the addition of a fourth candidate with CS experience to the consultant list.

M. Gong invited comments regarding updates to the memo. He encouraged everyone to add their input, with track changes, to the document and re-visit in 1 week at the next meeting.

6. Minglun Gong

- **Updates from Dean's Council Meeting**

M. Gong updated that the higher admin is pushing for a new High Flexibility Delivery model for the fall semester. He explained that this is different from the hybrid and blended options and will enable students to access lectures remotely. M. Gong explained that, different from hybrid option, instructors will provide recorded lectures but can still require in person attendance to labs and exams. They may only be required to enable Zoom at the start of the lecture but he expressed concern if they were responsible for monitoring participation in both formats at the same time.

M. Gong updated that tenure track faculty members that are interested can make 2 early tenure attempts.

M. Gong reported there will be 2 convocations this spring, the whole university on June 14th and the following week, individual colleges can run a make-up one for 2020 and 2021 graduates.

- **Support for Data Science Program**

M. Gong reminded that SOCS offered 2 required courses for the Master of Data Science (MDS) program but negotiated full cost recovery for each and seats for our graduate students. There are currently 6 MDS students and he agreed to support up to 20 MDS students. Any more than that will require revisiting the agreement as SOCS is limited by teaching capacity.

M. Gong relayed that Nick Pankerichan, manager Graduate Studies, offered a new proposal:

- SoCS offers dedicated sections for MDS program so that they can recruit more students;
- M&S pays \$20K for each course to SoCS, instead of the current \$10K for cost recovery (Lang School of Business pays \$18K to other units to teach for them);
- SoCS is free to hire sessional lecturers to teach these courses;

M. Gong requested feedback on the new proposal. With no issues raised, he agreed to support the program with those conditions.

7. Any other business

No other business. Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.