

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday December 5th, 2023
1:00pm – 2:30pm
Microsoft Teams**

Present –

Faculty: R. Dara, A. Dehghantanha, D. Gillis, M. Gong (Director), G. Grewal, A. Hamilton-Wright, H. Khan, S. Kremer, J. McCuaig, C. Obimbo, F. Parast, S. Scott, F. Song;

Staff: S. Brennan, S. Dhindsa, C. Hosker, J. Hughes, K. Johnston, J. Lange, R. Moroz, T. Waite;

Student Representatives: Not invited

Regrets –

Faculty: L. Antonie, N. Bruce, D. Calvert, R. Chaturvedi, D. Flatla, X. Lin, P. Matsakis, D. Nikitenko, J. Sawada, D. Stacey, M. Wineberg, M. Wirth, Y. Yan;

Staff: J. DeFreitas, G. Klotz, P. Patel;

Student Representatives: None;

1. Approval of Agenda for December 5th, 2023

Motion: That the agenda for December 5th, 2023 be approved.

(S. Scott, H. Khan)

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

2. Announcements

- Josh Lange will be departing the university for a new opportunity effective January 5th, he will assist on a part time basis until his position is filled

3. Stacey Scott

MCTI Mitacs project process (Appendix A)

S. Scott advised that there are new funding levels for grad thesis based programs. PhD will increase to \$25K/ yr for 4 years (up from \$21,500) MSc will rise to \$20K (from \$16,500), effective F24.

Regarding MCTI enrollment, S. Scott reported that there were 46 students this term, many others deferred to W24. There are 54 expected in January.

S. Scott gave an overview of the Mitacs project process in the event a member is interested in becoming a faculty supervisor for a new Mitacs call, which has a different funding split. Mitacs will fund \$10,000 of the project with industry partner funding \$5000, instead of the \$7500 even split previously. Domain areas of cybersecurity and AI related projects would qualify and

the MCTI internal review process would expedite it. S. Scott described the process timeline in detail (Appendix A) as well as the expectations for faculty supervisors.

In response to a question about security of funding from S. Kremer, A. Dehghantanha outlined the selection of projects to ensure they meet requirements.

4. Minglun Gong

Feedback from COAC Meeting on November 30th

M. Gong reported from the meeting that although the Provost is retiring, she will focus on the Strategic transformation and budget. She does not expect any increase in government funding but will report back from the Blue Ribbon Panel. The Provost is also not optimistic for income from the International student front due to Visa complications.

M. Gong relayed an update from Rene Van Acker, interim VPR, that the Ontario government has requested that all universities submit their international collaboration information. This is similar to a request from the Federal government, but theirs is accompanied by financial support to prepare the report. The universities are resisting the province due to the lack of funding.

Report on progress of Faculty search

M. Gong updated that he has reached out to the top 2 candidates for the regular faculty position, Gurgit Randhawa, Assistant Professor at UPEI, and Zhao Zhao from McMaster, are both expected to accept the offers.

For the teaching focused position, M. Gong will offer the position to Ed Sykes as soon as the paperwork is ready.

Status of J.D. MacLachlan Building renovation

The University issued a Request For Proposal for JD MacLachlan renovation 2 months ago and 7 proposals were received. M. Gong briefed that he participated in the review process and once 1 is chosen, a plan will be developed including relocating the FARE office. The proposal is due in April and faculty staff and student members will be consulted about needs for the space.

Update on the Director term renewal process

M. Gong will accept the extension for another term as Director after much discussion with the Dean and consultation with FASR. He thanked all members who voiced opinions and committed to maintain transparency with information sharing and decision making.

Follow-up discussion on the joint PhD program with Shenzhen University (Appendix B)

Referring to slides from the previous meeting, M.Gong asked for input from members about the potential collaboration with Shenzhen University. S. Scott asked for more opportunity to discuss grad affairs and get more information about the research and the benefits for all involved. M. Gong acknowledged the challenges of virtual visits with the time difference, and if they would visit in person without any agreement in place, but will check with them. S. Scott proposed that they provide a video highlighting their research and an alternative.

J. Lange voiced concerns about international data privacy laws, power differentials between the two institutions, distribution of funding, the pre-enrollment process of candidates and the political state of affairs. M. Gong assured that the higher university admin and the Internationalization Office would handle many of those logistics. He will not influence the decision one way or the other due to his perceived conflict of interest, as he is already collaborating with Shenzhen University with his research. M. Gong will relay information as he consults with all parties concerning the issues aised today.

Plan for enrollment discussion on December 14th

M. Gong conveyed the plan for the meeting to discuss enrollment and invited members to attend and explore how to effectively manage large classes.

Women in Science event October 2024

M. Gong identified that SoCS will host the event in October where a female researcher will visit and give multiple talks. He sent an email asking for volunteers and hoped that female faculty members would engage to organize the event.

5. Any other business

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.