

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday February 16th, 2021

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Microsoft Teams

Present –

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

Staff: K. Gardiner (recording secretary), J. Hughes, K. Johnston, G. Klotz, A. Nejedly, A. Nguyen, D. Rea, L. Zalewski;

Student Representatives: A. Kohut;

Regrets –

Faculty: D. Flatla, G. Grewal, X. Lin, Matsakis, C. Obimbo, M. Wineberg;

Staff: D. Byart, C. Hosker, J. Lange;

Student Representatives: K. Rourke;

1. Approval of Agenda for February 16th, 2021

Motion: That the agenda for February 16th, 2021 be approved.

(D. Calvert, Y. Xiang)

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

2. Announcements

- M. Gong reminded Council not to give unauthorized access to on-campus buildings to anyone who doesn't have card access.

3. Approval of Minutes from February 2nd, 2021

Motion: That the minutes for February 2nd, 2021 be approved.

(A. Dehghantanha, Y. Xiang)

In Favour: All. Abstentions: A. Antonie, D. Gillis, J. McCuaig. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Stacey Scott (see Appendix A)

- **Report on Go CODE Girl**
- S. Scott shared that GWiCS ran Go Code Girl on Saturday February 13th on Zoom and the event went very well. 39 female students attended the event. Thank you to J. Hines from the Dean's office for her help with registration etc. as well as GWiCS volunteers for their efforts.

- **Discussions with A&AD on event and fundraising for 50th Anniversary**
- There is a SoCS Alumni virtual event being planned for Thursday, June 25th to coincide with Alumni week. This event will also be a preview to SoCS 50th Anniversary celebrations which will begin in the fall.
- In recognition of SoCS 50th anniversary, AA&D and SoCS will be launching an ambitious campaign to raise \$50k in student scholarships for both undergrad and graduate.

5. Minglun Gong

- **Policy on Study/Research Leave deferral**
- At an October 2019 council meeting, M. Gong reminded the council about Clause 22.16, which implies that faculty members need Dean's approval for deferring their SRL, or they will lose their service credits accumulated due to the deferral. When handled by Dean Wells, faculty deferral requests were approved without requiring faculty to submit an SRL application. However it is now the expectation under the current Dean that faculty members submit their SRL request to T&P for approval before a deferral is granted. M. Gong hence reminded faculty members to submit their SRL request on time.
- **Teaching focused faculty positions**
- M. Gong shared an update on his advocacy for increasing the SoCS faculty compliment. He explained that higher administration considers SoCS having received two new faculty positions: one for CARE-AI and one for the external director search. Dean Wells had promised the conversion of our 2 CL to regular tenure-track positions, however with Dean Well's departure, we have lost that commitment to the department.
- In December, M. Gong received a request for providing an academic hiring plan. Himself, Y. Xiang, D. Calvert, J. Sawada and S. Scott submitted a detailed justification for the needs for the position conversion. The Provost did not support direct conversion but gave SoCS permission to hire 2 teaching focused faculty positions to replace 2 CL faculty retirements. One of the two positions is new, but the other needs to bridge with a future retirement position.
- M. Gong expressed his disappointment for the future retirement position loss, however feels it is important to secure the two teaching focused positions as soon as possible. He has consulted with the admin team and has submitted a hiring plan. Once approved, M. Gong will call for nomination for a search committee.
- S. Scott echoed her disappointment in this loss. She noted that during the last round of union negotiations, there had been an agreement made for the University to add faculty positions, including SoCS which was specifically listed as being under resourced. She asked if anyone has record about this commitment. M.Gong noted that he heard about the agreement on new positions as the result of signing the new pension plan. However, there maybe different

interpretation what qualifies as new hires.

- M. Gong explained that recent hire faculty hire T. He has deferred her start date to July 2021 due to the pandemic. He is hopeful she will join us as to not lose this position.
- M. Gong noted D. Calvert's suggestion on using our enrolment target of 200 students as a bargaining chip with the University for increased faculty compliment. He will make such attempt when we face a future retirement. Both D. Calvert and M. Gong agreed that the university may not agree to change target enrolment, but this is a way to press the university.
- ***Support for Data Science Program (see Appendix B)***
- M. Gong shared that at that last council meeting, he argued for the support for the Data Science program, noting potential benefits to our program. However he shared a few recent and concerning changes including the loss of a future retirement position.
- He also noted a concern with the push to start the program in Fall 2021 and expecting SoCS to offer both courses as early as Winter 2022. He expressed this concern to the Dean's office but felt they were ignored.
- After the February 2nd council meeting, M. Gong shared our conditional support for the Data Science program. He met with Dean Darlington, who pushed for SoCS to accept more than 20 students. M. Gong explained that SoCS does not have the capacity for this.
- During this meeting, M. Gong raised two questions regarding elective courses: 1) whether faculty members have any control for signing students into their courses based on their background; 2) whether there will be any revenue sharing for SoCS teaching Data Science students in elective courses.
- For 1), Dean Darlington said that all graduate courses in Guelph are open to all students and there is no prerequisites, so we cannot add any screening.
- For 2), Dean Darlington used the example of the course-pased M. Eng program, which allows students to take up to 2 courses outside of SoE and they do not provide any revenue sharing.
- M. Gong felt that he could not make further requests given these examples. He argued that he would need to consult the council on whether all 5 courses listed in the Data Science proposal can be used as elective courses (2 of the courses listed are being deleted).
- F. Song asked which of the 5 CS courses have been selected by Data Science for electives. M. Gong confirmed they were CIS*6020, 6050, 6070, 6160 and 6320. No concerns were raised by faculty members.
- M. Gong invited feedback on the draft support letter for the Data Science program that he shared (Appendix B). N. Bruce asked if we are setting ourselves up to heavily support the data science program but receive none of the revenue and if there is an argument for being more of a joint partner. M. Gong responded that the School had concerns on the proposed Data Science

program due to the lack of central support and hence a motion on participating as joint partner was voted down. The situation on central support didn't change and hence he didn't revisit the issue. He felt allowing Data Science students to take two of our courses with enrollment cap will not take too much of SoCS resource.

6. Any other business

- S. Kremer noted that a memo was sent out regarding the Respondus exam monitoring system; if student a student doesn't feel comfortable with being monitored by Respondus, they can contact their academic advisor who can contact the faculty, however S. Kremer noted that the memo was sent out 3 days before an exam. Although he does not personally use Respondus, he wanted the council to be aware of the memo.
- No other business. Meeting adjourned 1:55pm