

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 21st, 2023
1:00pm – 2:00pm
Microsoft Teams**

Present –

Faculty: N. Bruce, D. Calvert, R. Chaturvedi, A. Hamilton-Wright, , H. Khan, D. Gillis, M. Gong (Director), S. Kremer, J. McCuaig, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada, F. Song, F. Wang, M. Wineberg;

Staff: S. Brennan, D. Byart, J. DeFreitas (recording secretary), C. Hosker, J. Hughes, G. Klotz, J. Lange, R. Moroz, P. Patel;

Student Representatives: A. Kohut, T. Trinh;

Regrets –

Faculty: L. Antonie, R. Dara, A. Dehghantanha, D. Flatla, G. Grewal, X. Lin, P. Matsakis, D. Nikitenko, S. Scott, D. Stacey, M. Wirth, Y. Yan;

Staff: K. Johnston, D. Rea, T. Waite;

Student Representatives: none;

1. Approval of Agenda for February 21st, 2023

Motion: That the agenda for February 21st, 2023 be approved.

(R. Chaturvedi, C. Obimbo)

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

2. Announcements

- David Flatla is on leave for personal reasons; his course is being managed by a graduate student
- ECS is replacing their current claims system with CONCUR in Sharepoint, with the switchover scheduled for March 22. This transition may result in delays at year end so please consider that when sending your claims to Jacqui.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 17th, 2023

Motion: That the minutes from **January 17th, 2023** be approved.

(C. Obimbo, R. Chaturvedi)

In Favour: N. Bruce, D. Calvert, R. Chaturvedi, A. Hamilton-Wright, H. Khan, D. Gillis, S. Kremer, J. McCuaig, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada, F. Song, F. Wang

Abstentions: M. Wineberg. **MOTION PASSED**

4. Purvi Patel

Update on International Virtual Open House (Appendix A)

P. Patel reported on the Zoom event held February 11th. The recruitment event aimed at grades 11 and 12 included a mix of student panels and presentations. P. Patel regarded the event as a success with engaged students from all over the world. P. Patel thanked the volunteers and noted that the deadline for international applications, previously February 15th, is now extended to March 31st.

P. Patel briefed about the well-attended Go Code Girl event held February 18th targeted at Grade 7-12, which had 66 participants. She then announced upcoming events: A STEM webinar on March 4th and Open House March 26th.

5. Joe Sawada

New Graduate Entrance Scholarships (Appendix B)

J. Sawada outlined the new funding in the form of 2 entrance scholarships \$5000ea for students starting S23, F23, or W24, to be processed at the beginning of semesters, for MSc or PhD, domestic or international. These will replace the previous Dean's in-course scholarships.

J. Sawada also briefed about OGPS funding which has allocated SOCS 2 awards \$6000ea/year for 2 years, for international MSc students admitted between now and March 15th. He advised to contact Jennifer by March 1st with your selection.

New Funding for International MSc

J. Sawada announced the new International Masters Tuition Scholarship of \$10,000/year for 2 years (Thesis-based MSc) and \$6000/yr for 2 years (course-based MSc). He will promote this new funding at a Graduate Information event next Tuesday February 28, 1-2:30 in Reyn 1101.

6. Minglun Gong

Consultation on Course Offering Changes

M. Gong informed that the funding model for DE courses has been changing from Units receiving \$75 per student pre-Covid, to Sessional and TA funding during the pandemic, when all courses went online. However, starting F23, the center will not provide any funding support for DE courses- *1200 and *1050. M. Gong proposed to reduce offering these DE courses to once per year, *1200 in Fall and *1050 in Winter. M. Gong will pass the issue on to N. Bruce and the Undergrad Curriculum Committee to decide how to proceed, as changing the calendar will require permission.

Updates from Dean's Council Meeting on February 17th

M. Gong relayed that the University's Reserve Fund is now at a record low level and that the Provost's Office is asking Units to delay hiring, cut spending and maximize revenue.

M. Gong reported from the ADA that a new syllabus tool is being tested, to be integrated into CIM. He noted that existing course outlines will be imported to the new system and faculty have the option to remove their course outlines. He will inquire if Faculty choose opt in, instead of opt out of the use of their course outlines.

The University Teaching and Learning Conference will return this year and M. Gong encouraged faculty and staff to attend.

As for recruitment, M. Gong briefed that the zero-round of offers went out in December and there was good intake. This was followed by the 1st-round offers which were sent in early February. He noted that the University wishes to increase the International student component for Engineering and CS so the domestic target will be adjusted.

S. Kremer detailed a plan by the University to contract Navitas, an Australian owned for-profit private education services company, which provides an alternative pathway to admission for international students, to prepare them for 2nd year entry at Guelph. His concern is protecting faculty IP. M. Gong will inquire about that.

M. Gong relayed information from M. Cojocarui that OGPS is under pressure to increase Graduate enrollment but SOCS is doing well and thus, there is no required target for us to increase immediately.

M. Gong announced there is to be an in-person college appreciation event to be hosted by the Dean's Office to recognize researchers and external funding partners, government and industry. Space is limited to 70, first come, first served. Memos with details on event date/location to be sent to faculty by the Dean's Office soon.

Regarding minimum funding for MSc students, M. Gong conveyed that OGPS will require no minimum so he asked M. Cojocarui whether the College policy will stay. M. Cojocarui agreed to revisit the policy. He asked for input from members whether to keep this requirement as is or reduce/ eliminate it.

7. Neil Bruce

The Revisit to the Software Design Stream

N. Bruce briefed about the ad hoc committee that is being formed to revisit the Software Design stream. He has been consulting members in the Software Engineering stream for opinions and asked Council if anyone would like to be involved in the consultation process.

Typical issues may be the designation of a course as a 0.5 or 0.75 credit or the number of SD courses offered etc. He is hoping to present findings to Council after W23.

M. Gong thanked N. Bruce for taking on this project since a proposal was included as a follow-up item in the CPR report.

8. Any other business

D. Calvert in chat asked for an update from the external consultants about restructuring. S. Kremer replied that although he was not able to share the latest report, one new item was a consideration for SOCS to exit with SOE. There was also discussion within PCMS Committee about the name of the new college, with College of Foundational Sciences (COFS) debated.

On the additional space front, M. Gong briefed that himself and K. Johnston, along with PR, have toured JD Maclachan with an eye for renovations for SOCS and he is encouraged that our needs are being considered.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24pm.