

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday January 30th , 2024
1:00pm – 2:30pm
Microsoft Teams**

Present –

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

Staff: S. Brennan, J. DeFreitas, S. Dhindsa, C. Hosker, J. Hughes, K. Johnston, G. Klotz, J. Lange, R. Moroz, P. Patel, T. Waite;

Student Representatives: S. Allana, D. Dombrovsky;

Regrets –

Faculty: D. Flatla, A. Hamilton-Wright, H. Khan, X. Lin, P. Matsakis, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada;

Staff: None;

Student Representatives:;

Guest: C. Gray

1. Approval of Agenda for January 30th , 2024

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

(S. Scott, N. Bruce)

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

2. Chandler Gray, Alumni Advancement Manager

Rob Varga Memorial Scholarship

http://uofg.convio.net/site/TR?fr_id=2612&pg=entry

C. Gray briefed members about the award which is in memory of Rob Varga, a SoCS alumnus, who died tragically last year. The scholarship will provide financial assistance to SoCS students who uphold Rob's legacy of compassion, empathy, innovation and academic excellence. It will be endowed by 2026 and donations are appreciated.

3. Announcements

- SoCIS has a new president Daniel Dombrovsky who invited members to an Ice Cream Social Friday February 2th
- D. Flatla taking 4-month sabbatical this term, X. Lin and C. Obimbo also on 8-month sabbatical this term

- The Instructional Support Coordinator position has been posted

4. Approval of Minutes from November 21st , 2023

Motion: That the minutes from **November 21st , 2023** be approved.

(R. Dara, D. Nikitenko)

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

5. Approval of Minutes from December 5th , 2023

Motion: That the minutes from **December 5th , 2023** be approved.

(S. Scott, A. Dehghantanha)

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

6. Purvi Patel

Updates on Recruitment Events - Appendix A

P. Patel reported on the International Virtual Open House which had record numbers attend. The GoCodeGirl (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/computing/outreach/go-code-girl>) will take place on February 3rd as well as Open houses on March 6th, March 11-15th and Campus Day March 24th . BattleSTEM will be held on May 9th and a final Open House May 14th – 17th.

7. Stacey Scott

Graduate and MCTI affairs - Appendix B

S. Scott outlined progress in the thesis based program. 4 PhD students recently finished, 3 in Computational Science and 1 in CS. 4 MSc finished in the Fall. The trend is 65 students, 35% are international, with equal numbers in the 2 programs. S. Scott expects there will be changes in enrollment due to the new federal government restrictions in International students, especially the MCTI program.

S.Scott reminded about grad deadlines. Progress reports due Feb 2nd, there is a minimum of 4 weeks notice for a MSc defense and 8 weeks for PhD with the final day of W24 as April 30th. Scholarship deadlines are upcoming including a new PhD S24 scholarship for \$2500 for all students.

For the MCTI program, S. Scott reported that there were only 11 students this semester, from 23 offers, due to study visa issues and housing difficulties. The target for F24 is 60 students.

8. Rozita Dara

Consultation on a proposed joint Health Informatics MSc program - Appendix C

R. Dara presented a proposed collaboration between OVC and SoCS for a new course-based masters program in health informatics. The objectives were outlined (Appendix C) with a focus on human and animal healthcare. The anticipated start date is 18 months and more discussion will be requested once the ODPS approves.

S. Kremer asked about the costs and benefits and if Jennifer would have to manage the added students. D. Gillis inquired about workload and M. Gong confirmed that the University is willing to allow SoCS to use our revenue share to hire faculty positions, as evidenced by the new MCTI tenure-track position.

9. Neil Bruce

Undergraduate affairs– Appendix D

N. Bruce relayed information and sought input on a prerequisite change and some requests from SoE. He outlined that CIS*3700 is difficult for Coop students to take with CIS*3750 as a prerequisite and proposed to use CIS*2750 as prerequisite.

Motion: That the prerequisite for CIS*3700 be changed from CIS*3750 or CIS*3760 to CIS*2750.

(N. Bruce, S. Scott)

Discussion was held. S. Brennan clarified that Coop students would have a work term in fall and then would need to take CIS*3750 in the winter term which means that would delay them taking CIS*3700 for another semester.

In Favour: 12 Against: None Abstentions: None **MOTION PASSED**

N. Bruce presented a request for CIS Minor qualification from Computer Engineering students as they are completing acceptable replacement courses in their program. Discussion was held as to the similarity of ENG courses to CIS courses especially ENG*1500 and CIS*2910. There was also discussion about the increased workload for SoCS Counsellors and also the issue of ENG courses not including the necessary material to prepare students to take CIS courses later on. N. Bruce tabled the motion in order to discuss with Curriculum Committee.

N. Bruce presented an issue with ENG*1410 and ENG*1420 not preparing students for CIS2520 and SoE requesting to introduce their own Data Structures course. Discussion was held on the implications for CIS*3110 later on and whether SoCS should support this parallel curriculum. There was consensus that SoCS should request SoE to fix the deficiencies in their courses.

N. Bruce briefed about an idea that SoE is planning which is to replace CIS*3750 and *3760 with ENG*4450 (Large Scale Software Architecture Engineering). Discussion produced a

resolution that SoCS should put the onus on SoE to prepare their students for SoCS 4th year courses. N. Bruce will have further consultation with Curriculum Committee and SoE about their plan.

M. Gong reiterated that the issue of unprepared SoE students in our courses has been reported to the Dean's office and they are aware of it. He concurs that a strong response from SoCS should be communicated.

10. Minglun Gong

Updates on Faculty search

M. Gong reported that all 3 positions are successfully filled with a July start date. The 2 regular roles will be held by Dr. Zhao Zhao and Dr. Gurgit Randhawa, and the teaching-focused one by Dr. Ed Sykes, a SoCS graduate. M. Gong thanked the search committee for their service. M. Gong added that a tenure-track position in Cybersecurity has been approved and posted.

Progress on the Tremaine Women in Science Event

M. Gong updated on the event upcoming at the end of September or beginning of October. The planning committee narrowed the choice to 2 from 13 candidates and they are both available to visit our school and give a talk. Final selection will be announced.

Highlights from Dean's Council meetings (December 14 and January 23)

M. Gong reminded about the University's call for Academic Hiring Plan and our request for 10 faculty positions in the next 2 years. He informed members that from 39 College requests, including VRIP, none were approved to be funded, and so our Cybersecurity position will be funded by our own revenue share. M. Gong is optimistic that after the new Revenue Share Model is launched, SoCS will benefit from attracting a large number of undergrads, and thus, revenue for new hires. He highlighted a new reduced DE revenue (\$32/student down from \$75) so offering DE courses is financially sustainable, as long as enrollment is >400 students.

M. Gong also reported the application numbers which show a 4.8% increase province wide and similar for Guelph. On the international side, however, Guelph has seen a drop of 500 international applications. SoCS had 3,000 applications and we hope to recruit 300.

Highlights from COAC meeting (January 29)

M. Gong highlighted a plan for a new funding model where the University will charge an overhead cost for all industry contracts or external sponsored research since there appears to be substantial overhead costs previously not recouped. He noted that there will be Town Halls and meetings in the coming months to instate the policy on May 1st.

M. Gong described the training for Chairs/Directors for learning about the University funding model and to understand the differing perspectives of the University and the Union, of which the chairs are members. The additional training will show Chairs that although the University has \$30 million in reserve, this money cannot be used for Unit's operating deficits, as it is earmarked for pensions etc. and the institution could potentially in trouble should the reserve be burned out.

11. Any other business

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.