

**School of Computer Science  
Council Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday July 21, 2020**

1:00-2:30pm;

**Microsoft Teams**

**Present –**

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

**Staff:** D. Byart, C. Hosker, J. Lange, K. Gardiner (recording secretary), J. Harwood, G. Klotz;

**Student Representatives:** K. Rourke;

**Regrets –**

**Faculty:** G. Grewal, P. Matsakis;

**Staff:** K. Johnston, A. Nejedly;

**Student Representatives:** A. Murcias Rios;

- A reminder that for motions, silence will now be considered a “yes” vote, and participants should speak up for a vote of opposed or abstension.

**1. Approval of Agenda for July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

Motion: That the agenda for July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 be approved.

(A. Hamilton-Wright, D. Calvert)

J. McCuaig requested to be added at the end of the agenda to speak briefly about a potential shared calendar for assignments.

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

**2. Announcements**

- M. Gong introduced and welcomed N. Bruce to the department, who joined us on July 1<sup>st</sup>. He highlighted the popularity of N. Bruce's Machine Learning course offered at Ryerson and N. Bruce's recognition as one of the 6 raising stars at Faculty of Science of Ryerson.
- M. Gong announced and congratulated X. Lin for being nominated for the Bank of Canada fellowship.

- Our second PhD student in Computational Science successfully defended her thesis on June 29<sup>th</sup>. Our third PhD defense is being lined up soon.

### 3. Approval of Minutes from June 23rd, 2020

Motion: That the minute from June 23rd, 2020 be approved.

(A. Dehghantanha, J. Sawada)

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

### 4. Business Arising from Minutes

- None.

### 5. J. Sawada

- **Motion: The School approves moving forward with the proposal to re-introduce the PhD in Computer Science, understanding there will be minor editorial edits based on feedback from the consultation of other Schools and the Curriculum Manager (see Appendix A).**
- In addition to working on the proposal and calendar copy, the curriculum committee has been working on determining appropriate external reviewers. From a list of 6 distributed to the school, 2 were removed due to a conflict of interest. Of the remaining 4, 2 have accepted, 1 has rejected. Four names are to be submitted to OGPS, who will select the final 2.
- Additionally, letters of support must be obtained, in particular from SOCIS, Math and Engineering. A current proposal draft has been sent out to these parties. Feedback from Engineering has already been received and distributed to SoCS.
- The proposal that has been seen has been passed on to Grad Curriculum manager for review. November 2020 is an estimated goal for external review.

**Motion: The School approves moving forward with the proposal to re-introduce the PhD in Computer Science, understanding there will be minor editorial edits based on feedback from the consultation of other Schools and the Curriculum Manager.**

(J. Sawada, S. Scott)

- Discussion: S. Kremer expressed the importance of being clear and honest about the required resources for the new program. He specifically noted that the proposal states our lab space as “ample” which is untrue and that more lab space is required.
- S. Kremer also asked about GTA funding for the program. M. Gong and J. Sawada both acknowledged that GTA funding will not be able to be secured until further down in the process, once there is a better sense of enrolment.

In Favour: All. Abstentions: J. McCuaig. **MOTION PASSED**

## 6. M. Wirth

- **Information on F20 course delivery**
- M. Wirth: fall enrolment is currently underway. He wants to be able to provide more information for incoming students for each class on the SoCS wiki regarding video and audio recording, lab attendance etc.
- K. Rourke noted that the SoCS wiki is a reliable source of information for students and is glad to see this information will be provided.
- M. Wirth noted that class conflicts are only matched and resolved for required courses, not elective.
- S. Scott noted that a lack of response to the surveys sent out are in part due to the fact that faculty are still figuring out how they are laying out their plan for the fall.
- M. Wirth encouraged faculty to share what information is finalized (i.e. if there will be a final exam). He also noted that faculty should be prepared that the Winter semester in 2021 will likely be run similarly to the fall.

## 7. M. Gong

- **Research phase in**
- The University is opening campus for research purposes. Faculty members must fill out a checklist and will require approval from the Chair and Dean’s office.
- For short term office access for the purpose of preparing for teaching (obtaining items from office etc), faculty may e-mail M. Gong for approval.

- Physical resources will be installing social distancing signage on campus.
- **Update from Registrar**
- At June 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 council meeting, M. Gong confirmed enrolment for Fall 2020 of 201 incoming students. It has since been increased to 216.
- So far, there has not been an increased number of deferred acceptances due to COVID-19.
- **Information from Student Accessibility Services (see Appendix B)**
- Instructors are not required to accommodate students unless the student is registered with SAS.
- M. Gong asked if the council felt it necessary for SAS to present at a SoCS Council meeting, or if the shared powerpoint was sufficient. Powerpoint was deemed sufficient.

## **8. Any other business**

- J. McCuaig: as part of the preparation for Fall 2020, she noted the importance of knowing when other classes' assignments are due, especially for distributing TA workload. She proposed utilizing our current co-op students to create a shared calendar to map out assignment due dates. This would be circulated around faculty, not the general student population. If you are teaching in the fall (including graduate courses) and interested in partaking, please e-mail J. McCuaig an approximate time of your tentative assignment due dates.
- No other business. Meeting adjourned 1:55pm.