

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 9th, 2019
1:00-2:30pm, REYN 1101**

Present –

Faculty: L. Antonie, R. Chaturvedi, D. Chiu, R. Dara, A. Dehghantanha, D. Gillis, M. Gong (Director), G. Grewal, A. Hamilton-Wright, H. Khan, P. Matsakis, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada, S. Scott, F. Song, F. Wang, Y. Xiang;

Staff: O. Adesina, D. Byart, C. Hosker, K. Gardiner (recording secretary), J. Hughes, D. Rea, L. Zweep;

Student Representatives: J. Fraser;

Regrets –

Faculty: D. Calvert, D. Flatla, S. Kremer, X. Lin, J. McCuaig, D. Nikitenko, D. Stacey, M. Wineberg, M. Wirth;

Staff: G. Klotz, K. Johnston;

Student Representatives: S. Modi;

1. Approval of Agenda for July 9th 2019

Motion: That the agenda for July 9th be approved

(A. Hamilton-Wright, Y. Xiang)

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

2. Announcements

M. Gong announced that O. Adesina's last day will be July 26th as he has accepted a position at the University of the Fraser Valley as an assistant professor.

He also noted that going forward, the Announcements part of the agenda will be used as an opportunity to remind council of upcoming due dates. If anyone has due dates they would like to be announced at the meeting please let M. Gong know. For example, textbooks and TA preferences are now overdue.

3. Approval of Minutes from June 18th, 2019

Motion: that the minutes from June 18th, 2019 be approved. K. Gardiner acknowledged that there was a minor typo on the last page of the minutes that were sent out. "Finding" will be changed to "funding" before the minutes are uploaded to the SoCS wiki.

(C. Obimbo, D. Gillis)

In Favour: All. Abstentions: A. Hamilton-Wright. **MOTION PASSED**

4. Business Arising from Minutes

- **College Representative for the NSERC graduate scholarships committee**

M. Gong thanked S. Scott for offering to be the college representative on this committee however the position has been filled by someone in another unit.

- **Funding for SOCIS for events like CS games**

M. Gong reported that he received information that the school stopped funding events like this about a year ago due to budget constraints. As next year's budget is not yet available, we can not promise any funding to student groups. M. Gong acknowledged that these programs have great value and hopefully in future through or other revenue generating streams we will be able to support them. M. Gong also noted that CEPS student council has funded CS Games earlier this year.

S. Scott asked J. Sawada if he will be running the ACM competition. J. Sawada said this will be time permitting.

L. Zweep asked what the current funding was for CS games. M. Gong was not sure, he estimated in the thousands.

- **Policy for putting funds to General-Purpose accounts**

As per last meeting, M. Gong inquired with Ben, the assistance Vice President of Post Docs and Graduate Studies office, who confirmed that the School of Engineering puts \$1000 to the General Purpose accounts for faculty who supervise students. If SoCS introduces a course based masters program, this would therefore be possible for us to implement as well. C. Obimbo asked whether supervising projects for MCTI students also counts. M. Gong agreed to look into it.

5. Pascal Matsakis

- **New SoCS T&P guidelines (See Appendix A).**

P. Matsakis explained that the current T&P guidelines are from 2001 and are not currently in sync with the UFGA collective agreement from 2006. He explained there have been three to four attempts to update these guidelines.

He explained that in September 2016 SoCS rejected the new CEPS guidelines that were accepted by some of the other units. Since we rejected them and need guidelines, there are two options. The first option is to take the CEPS guidelines and revise them or take the SOCS guidelines and revise them. In October 2016 it was decided that we will revise SOCS guidelines. In May-June 2017 a first draft was created and went to the SoCS T&P committee for review. In July-August 2017 a second draft went to SoCS Council for review (this being the third internal but first external draft). In October 2017 this draft was adopted by SoCS and submitted to the College for review and feedback. Based on feedback provided, SoCS created a second external draft in February 2018. M. Wells, CEPS Dean gave a third draft in August 2018, reviewed November 2018 and a fifth draft was created February 2019. This draft was reviewed by the SoCS T&P Committee and then sent to CEPS T&P Committee. There is now a sixth draft as of June 2019. Pascal also noted a changeover of SoCS T&P committee members in 2017.

Pascal explained that in order for this draft to pass, it requires a two thirds majority which would be 19 votes out of 28 “In Favour”. Once approved by SoCS, it will go to the Provost, hopefully accepted and effective September 1, 2020.

He explained that at this point in the process we can not be making small changes; the current draft is being put to the SoCS committee for an “in favour” or “opposed” vote, not for additional comments or additions, although questions for clarification are fine. A qualtrics survey will be sent out following the meeting with the option of “in favour”, “opposed” or “abstention”. P. Matsakis noted he is hoping for nineteen “in favour”; if not, the entire process will have to be started again.

A. Hamilton-Wright had two questions. The first was that in paragraph 2.1 (which had been added), it mentioned the college not needing to follow categorization. P. Matsakis explained that the SoCS T&P Committee must rate on every category, but the college does not (although they can if they want).

A. Hamilton-Wright also asked about paragraph 4.2 C (also newly added), specifically the use of the word “sustainable”. He noted that it was not well defined and could create disagreement between the faculty and the college regarding definition of the word. P. Matsakis noted that there will be wording issues such as this across any guidelines or collective agreement. At some point we have to trust the people interpreting these documents to do so fairly.

C. Obimbo pointed out some issues on page 5 regarding undergraduate student examinations and advising. P. Matsakis acknowledged that the SoCS T&P Committee had the same issues but the Dean was insistent. He explained that these categories have already been revised three or four times. He noted that the committee understands that faculty may not be able to accomplish these piece logistically, but it is still technically part of their job. He reassured that faculty unable to do this will not be penalized. D. Gillis asked if faculty should record undergraduate student examinations advising on their CVs. P. Matsakis replied that they can, but are not obligated to. S. Scott had a follow up comment that URA advising is under the same category as undergraduate advising which is a helpful way to “check the box”.

P. Matsakis expressed that the guidelines will not be perfect, but the current draft is better than the existing one and once the new collective agreement is finalized in September 2021 we can then make additional minor adjustments.

6. Deb Stacey and Dan Gillis

- **UN Sustainable Development Goals**

D. Gillis explained that he and D. Stacey were discussing how to engage students with 4900 and 4910 and ensuring the projects they were working on were interesting and relevant. They thought they should look at some of the UN Sustainability goals (such as no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well being etc). They wanted to see if faculty would be interested in selecting some of these goals and creating pods of students from 4900 and 4910 to work on these goals. This could lead some to some positive media coverage and be featured on our facebook and instagrams. This will help increase recruitment as well as gain coverage for

businesses who may want to invest in scholarships. If any faculty are interested, they can e-mail D. Gillis with which UN sustainable goal that may already line up with their existing projects, or what a potential project could be, how many students etc.

If faculty are not interested in taking on students in this manner, there may be an opportunity through a class assignment to align with one of the goals. If this is the case, let D. Gillis so he can feature it on the website. He noted that we are already doing a lot of this, so may as well turn it into a story and feature it.

7. Report from SoCS Committees

No reports from committees.

8. Minglun Gong

- **Feedback received on course-based M.Sc. program**

M. Gong and J. Hughes met with OPGS to discuss a course based masters. They were very supportive but also explained that we do not actually need to create a whole new program; rather we can revise our current program but explain that there is a new and additional route option to complete it. He also explained that no external approval is required, it only has to be passed by the Senate which could be done as early as January 2020.

M. Gong and J. Sawada met and decided a few things. First was that they will not rush for a January 2020 start rather aim for September 2020 instead. Secondly, they will speak to the Coop office to see if they are interested in supporting coop options for course based masters students. Thirdly, they are going to get confirmation from OPGS regarding a revenue share model. Fourth, it was determined that a half time graduate assistant position would be necessary to help process the additional applications coming in. M. Gong said he will speak to the Dean about supporting this position for the first year.

J. Sawada noted that this course based masters program would force us to operate 1-2 courses in the summer which we do not currently do. This would require more faculty but would be very positive for our students wanting to take summer courses. The first summer semester would not take place until 2021. M. Gong noted that he feels adding these summer courses is very manageable.

- **Consultation on M.Sc. on Data Science**

M. Gong had a meeting with M. Wells and the Chair of the Math department and was updated on the various programs CEPS offers in data science. There is currently an online certificate program run by Open Ed with 14 students currently enrolled. Math is proposing an Area of Emphasis for their undergrad students. Students take 5 courses, 4 of which from CS (CIS 2500, 2520, 3530, 4020). The 3rd program is about MSc in Data Science, which is still under planning.

M. Gong talked to D. Gillis, D. Calvert, and R. Dara afterward and gathered more information. His understanding is that there were multiple proposals on Data Science developed in the past,

each has different focuses. Given the situation, he is open to Dean Mary's suggestion for letting Math Department to take the lead.

C. Obimbo noted that this could be a good idea however data science led by Math and Stats would look very different than data science led by the School of Computer Science. M. Gong acknowledged that the Math department does not necessarily know what the program will look like either, as they don't have the current expertise to move it forward and will consult the School of Computer Science for input. M. Gong expressed that he does not want to push for ownership of the program as we already have Cyber Security and possibly a course based masters. Taking on data science would be too many programs to effectively manage.

C. Obimbo expressed concern about our school and faculty doing work for the MSc in Data Science without receiving appropriate credit. M. Gong said we as a school will argue due credit. He noted that Software Engineering "owns" the AI program but we still benefit from it and receive the appropriate credit. He also said that if SoCS wants to have ownership over data science, that could be moved forward as an option.

D. Gillis expressed that he is against an online data science masters program as it is a program best accomplished in a team setting. He agreed that we can work with Math and Stats but if we get involved we should push for it to be course and thesis based together.

C. Obimbo expressed concern about taking on additional workload but not receive the adequate support (i.e. new hires) or other resources. D. Gillis suggested doing what they have done with AI, where there is a centre with a director associated with it. This may be easier to manage with two units working together. M. Gong noted that people seem to want it to be course based, in which case SoCS can benefit from revenue share.

9. Any other business

No other business.

Meeting adjourned 2:15pm.