

**School of Computer Science  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 26th, 2019  
1:00-2:30pm, REYN 1101**

**Present –**

**Faculty:** L. Antonie, D. Calvert, R. Chaturvedi, D. Chiu, R. Dara, A. Dehghantanha, D. Flatla, G. Grewal, A. Hamilton-Wright, H. Khan, S. Kremer, X. Lin, J. McCuaig, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada, S. Scott, F. Song, D. Stacey, F. Wang, Y. Xiang (Interim Director);

**Staff:** O. Adesina, D. Byart, K. Gardiner (recording secretary), C. Hosker, J. Hughes, K. Johnston, G. Klotz, D. Rea;

**Student Representatives:** F. Hasson, J. Fraser

**Regrets –**

**Faculty:** , D. Gillis, X. Li, P. Matsakis, D. Nikitenko, B. Nonnecke, , M. Wineberg, M. Wirth;

**Staff:** L. Zweep

**Student Representatives:** None

**1. Approval of Agenda for March 26th, 2019**

Motion: That the agenda for March 26th be approved  
(C. Obimbo, A. Hamilton-Wright)

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

**2. Dean – Mary Wells**

**Graduate student funding policy**

**3. Approval of Minutes from February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Motion: That the minutes from February 26th, 2019 be approved.

(A. Hamilton-Wright, D. Flatla)

In Favour: All. Abstentions: D. Stacey and S. Scott

**MOTION PASSED**

**4. Interim Director's Remarks – Y. Xiang – See Appendix A**

**AI Faculty Search**

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the job posting was approved for posting. It will be posted for 60 days (UofG Faculty Recruitment website, University

Affairs website, CAUT Bulletin, Government Job Bank, CS Chairs and Computeroxy) and close late May. It was suggested to combine the search for D. Chiu's retirement replacement with the AI faculty search. Discussion of this possibility with the Dean received positive response. If two excellent candidates emerge, the search committee can make a case to hire both.

D. Flatla asked if D. Chiu's retirement replacement position was designated as AI. Y. Xiang explained that position could be anything, to be determined by the new director, but since D. Chiu specializes in AI, replacing with another AI faculty is consistent with the current context of SoCS relative to CARE-AI center and CSAI Master.

### Upcoming Events

A. There will be an undergraduate townhall meeting taking place on Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>. This meeting is to discuss replacing "Area of Application" by a Minor in B.Comp. This was previously approved by SoCS council however when the motion was passed, the undergraduate student rep was not present. The townhall will take place to ensure that everyone is on the same page before it goes to the senate, to address any questions or concerns ahead of time and prevent any complication on the motion down the road. An online survey for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years may also be sent out to gather further feedback.

B. Next SoCS Meeting will take place Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will have two visitors: Malcolm Campbell, VP of Research, to discuss research service by the Office of Research, and Karen Gordon, Associate Dean Academic, to discuss new rules on Major switching in the B. Comp program. As of now, students in high school are able to be enrolled into less competitive Major and switch into the more competitive Major easily once accepted into the University. The new rules in place will ensure that students are actually doing well academically before switching.

C. MTCI launch event is taking place April 18<sup>th</sup> and will include major industry partners, Dean, provost and press coverage.

### Cyber lab setup and program marketing

A consensus has been reached on cyber architecture. CCS was very concerned about security impacts across entire university and possible public repercussions. From the teaching faculty perspective, the usability of the architecture was a major concern. Placing too many restrictions on cyber security students will impact their learning experience. A balance had to be found. Since everyone has different levels of knowledge of various facet of the issues, communication among all players to reach consensus is not effort-less. Last meeting took place Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup> and final architecture was decided. It was determined that the cyber security program will take place on cloud-based servers with individual laptops for students with pre-configured VMs.

Funding has been requested for \$247k for the first year and \$108k annually. This funding has been mostly approved; some costs from the \$247k startup may be spread out over first two years. The annual funding includes costs of giving laptops for students to own.

For tuition, the domestic target is \$25k/year; international target undetermined at this time. Marketing began March 13<sup>th</sup> in the form of a one-pager, website update, an information session, mail out to CS schools as well as digital marketing.

A few concerns were brought up regarding F19 admission:

1. Tuition cost may not be attractive to new graduates (as it is 3x higher than most programs).
2. Full time requirement may limit working professionals from applying
3. Unknown international tuition so far may limit visa students, since students wishing to begin in F19 must apply by the end of April

Y. Xiang explained he spoke to the Dean this morning and learned that Graduate Studies does not expect SoCS to do any marketing. He explained that a meeting planned for Mar 27 on digital marketing between SoCS and Office of Communication and Public Affairs had been cancelled, to avoid overstepping.

S. Scott asked about continued funding and what portion of the 25K tuition would flow back into SoCS. Y. Xiang explained that funding and tuition are currently parallel processes that don't interact directly as far as he understands. There has been talk of 50/50 revenue sharing for course-based masters, so theoretically we could be eligible for this down the road, but right now we are just asking for the funds needed to run the Cyber Security program. S. Scott noted that this is counter to what the Dean had previously indicated and was confused how other departments have this arrangement but SoCS does not.

C. Ombimbo pointed out the growth of the program, as the current maximum is 20 students. Y. Xiang explained that although the lab capacity is 36, because of cloud based architecture, we do not need to rely on or be physically restricted by the lab capacities. Essentially, we only need a larger monitor in the classroom for every student, so we can accommodate more than 36 students. D. Flatla asked that because of the cloud-based architecture if the program could be eligible to be moved to DE. Y. Xiang confirmed that this is considered for future in the approved cyber program proposal.

Y. Yang mentioned regarding the above concerns from faculty, we should possibly consider a part time pathway for cyber Masters and start the process to have that approved in case we don't receive a lot of full time applicants for F19.

## **5. Chair of Computing Infrastructure Cmt – Deb (See Appendix B)**

### **Infrastructure Update**

Since Oracle did not deliver what they were contracted to do, we are going to look into the possibility of getting some of our money back through Purchasing services, perhaps through a performance clause.

S. Kremer asked if this program was a drop-in replacement and D. Rea confirmed yes, from last summer.

S. Scott confirmed we are talking about a new 1500 for CS Majors and CS centered engineers.

## **6. Any other business**

F. Hasson noted that the undergraduate townhall conflicts with the University budget townhall and asked if the undergraduate one could be moved. D. Calvert explained no it could not, as a lot of effort was put into scheduling it, however we could conceivably have an additional townhall meeting on a different day and different time. F. Hasson pointed out that the student choice initiative is completely changing how student clubs receive funding. D. Calvert agreed to see if he could do something about finding an additional time for a second undergraduate townhall.

Meeting adjourned 2:31pm.