

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday March 21st, 2023

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Microsoft Teams

Present –

Faculty: D. Calvert, R. Chaturvedi, R. Dara, D. Flatla, G. Grewal, A. Hamilton-Wright, D. Gillis, M. Gong (Director), S. Kremer, X. Lin, D. Nikitenko, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada, S. Scott, F. Song, M. Wirth;

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

Student Representatives: A. Kohut, T. Trinh;

Regrets –

Faculty: L. Antonie, N. Bruce, A. Dehghantanha, H. Khan, P. Matsakis, J. McCuaig, D. Stacey, F. Wang, M. Wineberg, Y. Yan;

Staff: J. DeFreitas, T. Waite;

Student Representatives: none;

1. Approval of Agenda for March 21st, 2023

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

(C. Obimbo, S. Scott)

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

2. Announcements

- Fangju Wang will be retiring after 33 years at the end of summer
- Deb Byart has announced her retirement after 20 years as of June 30th; last day in office is May 26th
- Award nominations due end of March
- New claims reimbursement system is in place and the switchover is March 27th
- NSERC year end is March 31st. Please forward to Jacqui by the end of the week
- A. Hamilton-Wright will serve on the EDI Committee
- M. Gong will be travelling April 4th – 12th, J. Sawada will serve as Acting Director

3. Approval of Minutes from February 21st, 2023

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

(S. Scott, R. Dara)

In Favour: All Abstentions: M. Wineberg. **MOTION PASSED**

4. Joe Sawada

Discussion on the steps for nominating external examiners for PhD (Appendix A)

J. Sawada presented details of the current nomination process and affirmed that he is attempting to streamline the process before defenses. He proposed many options including reducing the number of external nominees required, checking availability after approval, and having formal guidelines for their qualifications.

Discussion took place among faculty. Support was made for nominating 1 person, clear criteria for qualifications and ranking if 3 nominees are required. J. Sawada will bring suggestions back to the Progress Committee.

5. Stefan Kremer

Updates from PCMS Committee

S. Kremer briefed Council with the purpose and members of the PCMS Committee. He noted that the other Units are similarly concerned about resource allocation after the split. He explained that the Consultants will deliver a report to the University in the next few weeks and have encouraged Units provide statements of their vision for the new College. He stressed that there is an opportunity to show what we could do with more resources.

M. Gong endorsed a response which shows that SoCS can grow and generate revenue with increased resources. He shared slides from PCMS Restructuring Committee (**Appendix B**) showing Market Analysis and trends in Occupations which align with our current offerings signalling potential for SoCS to grow.

M. Gong welcomed input on the Strategic Plan (**Appendix C**) specifically to identify core departmental principles as well as any other additions to create a strong argument. The Draft document will be shared Faculty for comments and is due this Friday March 24th.

6. Minglun Gong

Updates from Dean's Council Meeting on March 16th

M. Gong confirmed that the tuition freeze will continue in the 2023-24 academic year so there will not be additional revenue from the Province. He outlined changes to be implemented since the University is concerned about cash flow.

- Units can spend money if it will generate revenue
- Section sizes are capped at 15 undergraduate and Graduate course threshold is 5 and courses will be cancelled below those levels
- Programs or Majors with less than 40 students and Grad programs with less than 10 students will be at risk

- Sections may be combined

M. Gong explained that with no across the board cuts, the above parameters do not affect us in SoCS but we do have to be mindful of Grad course attendance. He noted that the University's goal for generating revenue will come through Internationalization and they have changed the process for making offers to acceptable international students.

- There were more offers made this year
- The number of accepted offers has doubled over last year
- Transfer students will now be vetted by Central instead of Undergrad Admission Committee

M. Gong updated that R. Zytner visited 2 Navitas locations in SFU and Manitoba and his impression was that it appeared to be progressing well and he is in favour of the program. M. Gong conveyed his concerns about quality assurance and argued that if SoCS is successful in recruiting international students, there won't be a need for our unit to work with Navitas. UoG is aiming for 500 incoming international students for F23 compared to Manitoba who take 1000/year. The 2 year training at Navitas will allow students to transfer into 2nd year.

M. Gong reported that the Round 2 offers have been sent out with cutoff averages between 94% and 95% in SoCS 5 programs. The domestic target is 158 this year compared to 186 last year but he advised to be prepared for more International Students F23.

M. Gong relayed from M. Cojocar that she is planning a Summer Junior Visitor program for international students currently in Ontario high schools in hopes of recruiting them.

Updates from COAC meeting March 20th (Appendix D)

M. Gong highlighted the dates for the upcoming T&P application process which includes a choice for members who started before January 1st 2021 to extend their probationary period by up to 2 years. Members starting after that date can extend by 1 year. He also highlighted important dates on the SOD and External Assessors.

Discussion began about the reallocation of admission spots to international students. M. Gong explained that SoCS no longer has input into admission decisions since the Registrar has taken over that role. He will appeal for additional resources if we exceed our target.

7. Any other business

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 2:42pm.