

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday March 22, 2022

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Microsoft Teams

Present –

Faculty: L. Antonie, N. Bruce, D. Calvert, R. Chaturvedi, R. Dara, A. Dehghantanha, M. Gong (Director), 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, M. Wineberg, M. Wirth, Y. Xiang;

Staff: S. Brennan, D. Byart, J. DeFreitas (recording secretary), C. Hosker, J. Hughes, J. Lange, A. Nguyen, D. Rea;

Student Representatives: Students were not invited to this meeting due to the sensitive nature of the agenda items.

Regrets –

Faculty: D. Flatla, D. Gillis, P. Matsakis, D. Nikitenko;

Staff: K. Johnston, G. Klotz;

Student Representatives:

1. Approval of Agenda for March 22, 2022

Motion: That the agenda for March 22, 2022 be approved.

(J. McCuaig, G. Grewal)

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

2. Minglun Gong, Yang Xiang

• **Updates and Discussions on CEPS Restructuring (Appendix A)**

M. Gong apologized for calling a meeting with short notice but he felt that there were concerns about CEPS restructuring that needed to be addressed. M. Gong reported that he emailed 3 SOCS concerns to R. Zytner and B. Bradshaw, co-chairs of the CEPS Restructuring Steering Committee. These concerns were:

1. Although we understand the name is temporary, we feel that CS is not properly represented in the name of the new college
2. There is no CS representative on the Steering Committee, but Y. Xiang and M. Gong explained J. Dutcher should speak for all Science units at the Steering Committee.
3. The selection criteria for an outside expert, highlighted by Y. Xiang

M. Gong emphasized that his apprehension, apart from the issues themselves, is with the actions of the PCMS committee, which ignores or votes down SOCS' requests. He then asked Y. Xiang to report on his recent interaction with PCMS.

Y. Xiang presented his recent experience with the PCMS Committee surrounding the selection of an expert external consultant. He demonstrated the membership of the PCMS committee (Appendix A) as well as the expectation provided by the CEPS Restructuring Committee regarding the PCMS selection of a Subject Expert Consultant. This person will have a significant role in shaping the proposal of the future College.

Y. Xiang conveyed the requirements of the Expert and the candidates they have identified so far. He acknowledged there will be compromises in choosing a person that will represent all the units and explained his ranking criteria, which treats all units fairly. He made a compelling argument about his ranking of the candidates but ultimately, was not supported by other members of PCMS.

J. Hughes, as a member of PCMS, established the reasons for her ranking, recognizing the strict time line they are working with and was confident that SOCS concerns would be heard.

A Hamilton-Wright expressed concern that a time line was introduced and believes there should be no rush to a decision. He distrusts the process where the top committee has given a candidate's name as a suggestion to PCMS.

C. Obimbo concurred and added his concern that a suggested candidate has been placed in the top 3 choices. He queried whether there was another avenue for getting our concerns heard instead of just through a vote.

M Gong updated that he sent an email expressing his concerns to R. Zytner and B. Bradshaw, as co-chairs of the College Steering Reconstruction Committee, but it was met with neutral responses, although R. Zytner did agree to attend a SOCS meeting to answer questions directly.

M. Gong added that he contacted J. Dutcher as well to try to get our unit's issues heard at PCMS without the involvement of a higher committee. He reported that J. Dutcher declined the offer to have Chairs address PCMS members and that may be a forewarning of our consideration in upcoming meetings.

G. Grewal offered that although the other units have leverage right now, SoCS could expose the unfair practices during the report writing phase. He affirmed that a meeting with J. Dutcher to discuss issues was warranted.

M. Gong opened the floor for ideas on how to proceed. He noted that an invitation for J. Dutcher to attend a SOCS council meeting will probably be declined but explored the option of Y. Xiang inviting PCMS committee instead. Additionally, he mentioned the option of requesting an extra CS representative at the CEPS Steering Committee, if there is consensus within SoCS.

Discussion ensued on chat.

J. McCuaig evaluated that the interactions Y. Xiang and M. Gong have had with PCMS, the pressure to change Y. Xiang's vote and the rush to make decisions on candidates based on incomplete information, should be documented and sent as a memo to the Chair of the Steering Committee. They should be framed as inappropriate procedural problems to ensure they receive attention.

D. Stacey argued that inviting PCMS would not be effective but suggested a memo expressing our non-confidence in the process should be sent to the committee, the Interim Dean and the Provost.

There was support for these ideas in chat so M. Gong proposed a non-confidence memo be drafted which will be voted on in the next meeting. D. Stacey will draft a memo which will be circulated before the meeting.

3. Any other business

T&P Committee Nomination Update

M. Gong thanked R. Chaturvedi for her willingness to serve on the T&P committee, however, FASR reminded him that tenured faculty members are needed. Hence, a second round of nomination is being conducted and the deadline is 4:30 today. If no tenured faculty members are interested, UgFA will be consulted for an exception that allows R. Chaturvedi to serve.

No other business. Meeting adjourned at 1:58pm.