

**School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday March 5th, 2024

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Microsoft Teams

Present –

Faculty: L. Antonie, N. Bruce, R. Chaturvedi, A. Dehghantanha, D. Gillis, M. Gong (Director), G. Grewal, S. Kremer, F. Parast, S. Scott, F. Song, M. Wineberg, M. Wirth, Y. Yan;

Staff: S. Brennan, J. DeFreitas (Recording), S. Dhindsa, C. Hosker, J. Hughes, K. Johnston, L. King, R. Moroz, T. Waite;

Student Representatives: S. Allana, D. Dombrovsky;

Regrets –

Faculty: D. Calvert, R. Dara, D. Flatla, A. Hamilton-Wright, H. Khan, X. Lin, P. Matsakis, J. McCuaig, D. Nikitenko, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada;

Staff: G. Klotz, P. Patel;

Student Representatives: None;

1. Approval of Agenda for March 5th, 2024

Motion: That the agenda for **March 5th, 2024** be approved.

(A. Dehghantanha, R. Chaturvedi)

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

2. Announcements

- Lauren King has joined us on February 28th as the new Instructional Support Coordinator. She graduated from Guelph in 2019 with a BAS in Neuroscience and Psychology
- Shamsi Shinin also joins us from CCS as an IT Analyst III

3. Approval of Minutes from January 30th, 2024

Motion: That the minutes from **January 30th, 2024** be approved.

(N. Bruce, A. Dehghantanha)

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

4. Daniel Dombrovsky, SOCIS President

Updates on SOCIS and the other clubs (Appendix A)

D. Dombrovsky shared a newsletter of upcoming SOCIS events and encouraged members to share the information.

5. Stacey Scott

Graduate and MCLC updates (Appendix B)

S. Scott updated on the Grad programs covering the Accelerated Masters Pathway Program that was first raised in November. She announced that the Curriculum Committee is finalizing admission criteria and policies to bring to Council at the next meeting.

S. Scott reported on the Grad funding options available to recruit strong students including a Summer scholarship, Grad domestic tuition scholarships, Dean's entrance scholarship, competitive matching fundings and the International Doctoral tuition scholarship.

The W24 MCTI Award winners were announced and congratulated by S. Scott. They were the top performing students and received \$5000. Regarding admissions, the deadline was extended to March 1st and there are now 200 applicants, from which the target is 60 incoming F24. S. Scott confirmed some challenges getting company placements but there are options to take a course or project.

With regard to Grad admissions, S. Scott outlined a potential new process where the OUAC system is replaced by an in-house admissions system. The benefits were outlined. S. Scott also briefed on the MCLC program as the current stage is that it will be reviewed again by the Board of Graduate Studies in March as requested changes have been made.

D. Gillis in chat asked about the revenue share from the MCTI program. M. Gong noted that the revenue sum will be 1 million if all 60 students are international, less if there is a mix with domestic. He clarified that revenue is not profit since there will be costs to run the program. As for the MCLC program, the revenue model will be 20% University 40% Lang and 40% SoCS, with the Dean's office likely taking a cut of our 40%.

6. Minglun Gong

Update on the Tremaine Women in Science Event

M. Gong updated that the selection committee, formed by Chandler Gray, has chosen Dr. Joanna McGrenere, professor and co-head for the Department of Computer Science at UBC. She will be the guest speaker in the fall when we host the event. S. Scott was invited to highlight the expertise of Dr. McGrenere.

Update on T&P Process for Fall 2024

M. Gong relayed that the upcoming TMP performance review for all faculty has been cancelled and the next one will be in 2 years. As for the committee, 2 members, D. Flatla and

S. Scott's appointments will end August 31st 2024. M. Gong is welcoming nominations for the 2 positions. L. Antonie and D. Gillis remain until 2025. In addition, S. Kremer's term on the College Member University Appeals Committee is also coming to an end on August 31st so there will be a college-wide call for faculty member to serve in that role. G. Grewal will continue as SoCS rep on the college TMP committee until August 2025.

Highlights from Dean's Council meetings (February 27)

Government Funding: M. Gong reported that there will be an increase in provincial government funding to the University, 12% over 3 years. However, the increased funding will not go into the base. He also noted that a tuition increase will be allowed for students from provinces other than Ontario. In addition, there will be a 1-time STEM fund available to Units. He also updated that it is still unknown how the Study permits for international students will be allocated, but a new report has shown that a majority of permits went to colleges, especially Conestoga. A new federal government decision will now allow colleges to offer course-based Masters Programs.

Enrollment Plan: M. Gong updated the target domestic enrollment for F24 keeps increasing due to the shortfall in international students but there is no indication what the numbers will be in September. The target for international is 150 and domestic is 6500.

D. Gillis asked about SoCS preparedness for an influx of students, since our Unit consistently enrolls a large percentage of the total University complement of international students. M. Gong clarified that the School will maintain the cap on section sizes and if additional sections are needed, we are prepared to hire Sessionals.

M. Gong advised that due to the competition for Course-based Masters programs from Ontario colleges, he expects that we would need to act quickly if we want to develop new programs.

Update on Revenue Share Model

M. Gong highlighted the details of the new revenue share model for undergrads.

- 1/3 of the tuition revenue increase based on the 2019-20 baseline will be shared with units
- 50% of this share is distributed by program and 50% by courses
- SoCS will receive \$1,381 for each additional domestic student and \$6,608 for each additional international student
- SoCS will also receive \$138 for each additional domestic students in our courses and \$661 for international students in our courses
- If this RSA were implemented for 2023-24 academic year, SoCS would have received over 10% increase in our budget
- One disadvantage is that SoCS overshot the target in the 2019-20 year so comparisons to that year will be unusual

D. Gillis asked if we have a reduction in enrollment from the baseline of 2019-20, will there be a reduction in the budget. M. Gong confirms that budget reduction is possible under the new model. However, he does not expect this to be a problem for SoCS since we have increased student numbers in the upper year courses and the RSM is based on all years not just 1st year enrollment. This new plan will begin May 1st.

Consultation on School Council Meeting time slot

As we are having some challenges meeting the quorum requirement for meetings, M. Gong proposed that there be some feedback on changing the Council meeting day or time to accommodate colleagues who have teaching commitments. He noted that G. Klotz inquired with central Scheduling if there could be a spot during the week reserved with no SoCS classes and they could not do that, but they can assist with identifying a time slot at the start of each semester. He questioned whether evening time slots, such as the one used for Senate meetings, should be considered. The feedback was negative.

Consultation on J.D. MacLachlan Renovation

Discussion was held on the size and layout of teaching labs on the 2nd and 3rd floor as well as the computational labs in the basement, and the layout of offices.

7. Any other business

No other business.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32pm.