

School of Computer Science

Council Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2022

1:00pm – 2:00pm

Microsoft Teams

Present –

Faculty: N. Bruce, R. Chaturvedi, R. Dara, D. Flatla, D. Gillis, M. Gong (Director), A. Hamilton-Wright, H. Khan, S. Kremer, X. Lin, J. McCuaig, D. Nikitenko, J. Sawada, S. Scott, D. Stacey, F. Wang, Y. Xiang, Y. Yan

Staff: S. Brennan, D. Byart, C. Hosker, J. Hughes, K. Johnston, G. Klotz, J. Lange, P. Patel, D. Rea, T. Waite

Student Representatives + Guests: A. Marshall Green, A. Kohut, T. Trinh

Regrets –

Faculty: L. Antonie, D. Calvert, A. Dehghantanha, G. Grewal, P. Matsaki, C. Obimbo, F. Song, M. Wineberg, M. Wirth

Staff: J. DeFreitas

1. Approval of Agenda

- Meeting approved with no objections

2. Announcements

- Yang will be retiring, and Dr. Yan was welcomed to SoCS and offered some introductory words.
- Tricia is welcomed to the staff team, as well as Purvi Patel.
- Neil is filling in as associate director of undergraduate studies, Joe plans to step down from associate director of graduate studies by the end of April 2023, to be replaced by Stacey.

3. Amoy Marshall Green, Career Advisor for CEPS

- Amoy Marshal Green talks about the career services for SoCS Students via a slide show presentation. The presentation focused on the available supports from Career Services to SoCS students, how to contact, and upcoming events.
- Stacey Scott Question (paraphrased): A number of students have asked, 'is there an opportunity for you or one of the staff to come and speak to the students [who are not aware that career services is for all students]?'
 - Amoy was happy to accept the offer to enter the classroom to discuss the career services.

4. Approval of Minutes from June 21, 2022

Move: Neil Bruce

Second: Stacey Scott

- No additions or changes requested; vote is called.
- Negative voting indicated unanimous consent to approve

5. Neil Bruce

*Motion: To form an ad hoc committee with the mandate of carefully examining the content of Software Design I-V courses, and their interaction with software methodology courses (CIS*3750 and CIS*3760). This committee will bring forth recommendations for better delineating the material covered in each of the Software Design courses and methodology courses towards a plan for formal action that can be acted upon by the curriculum committee.*

Preliminary Notes:

- How much overlap exists within the software design stream has been an issue that has arisen often, but no specific discussion has been done in detail.
- A secondary discussion was also had about the method courses (CIS3750/60); specifically concerning the number of different cohorts (co-op, non-coop, CS, SE, other background) that might create redundancy.
- The initial task was to consider if the software design courses should be reorganized, then moved to 3750/60.
 - o Need to be considered in concert to avoid adjusting one set of courses and then another, and so on.
- For the software design courses, there is a lot of text that is duplicated across the descriptions.
- Those who are familiar with these courses are encouraged to provide input or amendments to the motion.

Move: Neil Bruce

Second: Daniel Gillis

Motion is passed, discussion begins (see below notes)

Notes:

- Dan Gillis asked if this includes the discussion related to re-weighting 3750/60. Neil Bruce indicated that this is something that could be considered as part of this motion.
- Neil Bruce: an issue with the mechanics of this: how does this ad-hoc committee get formed?
 - o Believes that the best approach is to have self-nominated individuals, unless that is insufficient in building a committee large enough and well-informed enough. The other side of this is the discussion on having upper-year students on the committee as well.

- Dan Gillis notes that the committee should have co-op considered as well.
- David Flatla asks if the CoE will be adjusted to accommodate service on this ad-hoc committee, Neil Bruce indicates that the work will hopefully be spread out enough to not impact other duties; Minglun indicates that a note will be added to the DOE, but workload reductions for other committees must be discussed with him (Minglun).
- Joe asked whether this was within the purview of the curriculum committee, to which Neil expressed that the level of expertise from the members, related to the courses in discussion on the committee, is too small. Having individuals that teach them or were involved in the initial creation of the courses is what is recommended to be given to the curriculum committee for review.
 - o Neil Bruce “At the foundation of this, what needs to be known is what is currently being taught, what is being taught in each course, what delineates each course”

Vote is called in relation to the motion (positive voting)

Support: Dan Gillis, Yan Yan, Deb Stacey, Hassan Khan, Rozita Dara, Judi McCuaig, Denis Nikitenko, Davis Flatla, Neil Bruce, Stacey Scott, Fei Song

Abstain: Yang Xiang

Against: Joe Sawada

Motion Passed

6. Minglun Gong

Updates from COAC meeting on Sept. 8th

- Gwen provided an update on enrolment; largest first-year cohort so far, but only 3% higher from the pre-covid year. We took more domestic students, with international student increases are marginal.
- Funding has been allocated for additional one-time support for the increases.
- This year, we had ~200 international students, the target for next year is ~500, and then ~1000 the year thereafter. This is a very ambitious goal of the university.
- Gwen mentioned that the increase should not change the total number of students we have – it should be on par with what we have this year. This year we took in more domestic students than needed for meeting the provincial corridor target.
- Stefan Kremer: “How much additional TA support in \$ did SoCS get for the added students?”
 - o Response to SK: there is no specific amount determined to SoCS, it will be related to the amount hired in the fall or winter term. We would then get funding transferred from central to cover the additional expenses.
- Daniel Gillis: “What supports are being provided for the international growth plan?”
 - o We do not see any on the undergraduate side; however, they are claiming to be building out activity-based funding model, but it not yet implemented. The university is currently investing in international recruiting.
- Minglun agrees that arguing for additional TAs is necessary (in agreement with Dan’s comment).

Updates from Dean's Council meeting on Sept. 27th

- Dean's message indicates that internationalization is the top priority of the university. 500 next year (up from 200). If we don't get there, we will see another 2.5% cut (in budget). Increasing international students leads to increased funding.
- A large percentage of "international" students are actually international students that study in Ontario while in high school, so the 100% growth rate might be significantly higher than the projected number if we aim to accept international students (who are not already in Ontario).
- Richard reported that the college restructuring process is moving forward. Currently in the process of hiring consultants to create proposals for the future College of Engineering, and the College of Physical Sciences.
 - o Process was held up by public purchasing (competition), but is moving forward.
- Richard also shared that we still have reserves, but it is still dropping.
 - o Reductions in reserves lead to a lower credit rating, making borrowing more difficult.
 - o To this end, the University is looking for a 2.5% cut. Unlike in previous years, the College used carry-forward to account for this, but this year it must be prepared.
 - o This cut will be proportional to the unit budget.
 - o Positions will be frozen, no CL hires, and talks about cutting TA support. The Care-AI hire, Sabina Sabato, who did not end up taking the position – this is now in limbo.
 - o Our goal is to increase revenue generation from MCTI program to counteract the reductions.

Updates on space-related issues

- Successful Board of Governors visit in Spring; net effect is that the BoG is impressed by the growth of our school and recognized the lack of space for our school.
- A new space has been identified within the research park and we were told to use that space
- Currently there is no agreement on the cost; at current, the renovation is moving forward.
- The initial estimate for renovation was \$500,000, but went way beyond.
- The good news is that Ben Bradshaw has indicated that the University is paying for the renovation. Ben indicates that it is also his goal to pay the rent, but we may have to cover some of the rent. This is based on the revenue share model.
- New classroom that seats about 60 students, a few offices, meeting room and/or research lab. The space looks like it will be ready for Winter 2023.
- University also initially planned the extension for SoE building to accommodate growth. This then turned into a detour of a new building somewhere on Gordon Street. We have been involved in the extension wing, and are now involved in the new building that will host SoE and SoCS.
 - o To support the cost, there are plans for increased enrolment within ENGG and CIS.
 - o Currently we don't know where this is going, but we are in early plans to grow while also cutting budget.

Consultation on future meetings (online vs in-person)

- Covid moved us to online which has its benefits, but now we need to consider how we will handle it in relation to return to campus.
- Concern for hybrid is related to equipment – in person and online experiences may differ greatly

- Hybrid or Online is the preference based on chat responses; no verbal input was provided.

7. Any other business

- None

Meeting Adjourned.