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School of Computer Science
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday November 22nd, 2022
1:00pm – 2:00pm
Microsoft Teams

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Present –
Faculty: N. Bruce, R. Chaturvedi, D. Flatla, D. Gillis, M. Gong (Director), G. Grewal, A. Hamilton-Wright, H. Khan, S. Kremer, X. Lin, J. McCuaig, J. Sawada, S. Scott, F. Song, D. Stacey, F. Wang, M. Wirth;
Staff: S. Brennan, D. Byart, J. DeFreitas (recording secretary), C. Hosker, J. Hughes, K. Johnston, G. Klotz, J. Lange, P. Patel, D. Rea, T. Waite;
Student Representatives: A. Kohut, T. Trinh;

Regrets –
Faculty: L. Antonie, D. Calvert, R. Dara, A. Dehghantanha, P. Matsakis, D. Nikitenko, C. Obimbo, M. Wineberg, Y. Yan;
Staff: none;
Student Representatives: none;

1. Approval of Agenda for November 22nd, 2022

> Motion: That the agenda for November 22nd, 2022 be approved.
> (N. Bruce, D. Gillis)
> In Favour: All. Abstentions: None. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Announcements

M. Gong reported that the MCTI Manager position has been filled by Rick Moroz currently the Associate Director, Information Services, University of Guelph Alumni Affairs and Development. He will start on December 5th.

M. Gong conveyed the preference for Faculty to print final exams in-house due to our reduction in spending, with J.DeFreitas and D. Byart providing assistance if needed.

3. Approval of Minutes from October 25th, 2022

> Motion: That the minutes from October 25th, 2022 be approved.
> (Hamilton-Wright, D. Gillis)
> In Favour: All. Abstentions: None. **MOTION PASSED**

4. Joe Sawada

J. Sawada outlined his presentation with regard to our PhD in Computational Science and the desire to change it from a 3 year to a 4 year duration (Appendix A). He explained that the original rational for 3 year was intended to attract strong research students but in reality, the majority complete it in 4 years. There are resulting implications for study permits and guaranteed GTAs which will be resolved by the change.

Motion: Change the official time of completion for PhD.CSCI admission offers from 3 years to 4 years. (J. Sawada, S. Scott)

Discussion: D. Flatla in chat asked if it would be retroactive and J. Sawada replied that it is only for new students.

S. Kremer asked about the additional year of GTA and the budget for this. M. Gong replied that it will come from the GTA fund. He then called for the vote.

In favour (12): N. Bruce, R. Chaturvedi, D. Flatla, D. Gillis, A. Hamilton-Wright, S. Kremer, X. Lin, J. McCuaig, J. Sawada, S. Scott, F. Song, D. Stacey

Abstain (2): G. Grewal, M. Wirth

Against (0): None. **MOTION PASSED**

5. Minglun Gong

Updates from the COAC meeting on Nov. 10th

M. Gong briefed on the meeting where the Provost provided financial updates. To summarize, the annual operating fund had 1.8M surplus in 2019-20 and now due to the pandemic and the domestic tuition reduction, it is down to 22.7M deficit in 2021-22. The Board of Governers asked for a further reduction in the planned budget of 15M deficit. They were asked to make an additional 2.5% cut and diversify the revenue income.

M. Gong explained that in 2019, the average Canadian university diversified revenue was 46% compared to 25% at Guelph. Hence, the focus is to increase International tuition and fees, as well as other non-traditional revenue to assist in our financial deficit situation. Consequently, the 2024/25 base budget cut will largely depend on international enrollment.

S. Scott inquired why there was a difference between Guelph and other universities. M. Gong explained that the stated 46% non-traditional revenue encompasses international tuition fees and other revenue from Certificate or non-degree programs. Relatively, UoG does not have a large international student component.

Discussion began on the merits and drawbacks of increasing the international student quota to alleviate the deficit. Concerns mostly surrounded the possibility of lower quality students being admitted for the benefit of tuition incomes.

Updates from Dean's Council meeting on Nov. 17th

M. Gong conveyed that CEPS has submitted its revised budget plan to meet the 2.5% cut. Our School was able to meet the target through retirements so as a result, all the positions we posted and interviewed, are now allowed to move forward. There is an idea that the CARE AI position could be supported in part by MCTI revenue to allow the hiring to move forward or at least to hold the position. All future budgeted positions need to be approved by a committee consisting of 3 VPs while approval for unbudgeted positions can be very difficult.

With regard to the expectation for online exams, M. Gong briefed that the "automatic abnormality detection" of Respondus may introduce bias so the university is considering removing it for online exams starting in the winter term.

To combat deadline applications by graduate students, M. Gong conveyed that the ADR suggested to individual units to remove graduate program application deadline dates which hopefully will encourage them to apply earlier instead of right before the deadline.

S. Kremer proposed, with regard to faculty hiring, that our Strategic Planning Committee start advocating for new Computer Science faculty positions to fulfill the requirement of 40 new hires as part of the new Collective Agreement.

M. Gong commented on the dichotomy of budget cuts and a massive hiring requirement as well as plans for expansion. In addition, M. Gong stated that he has presented our School's needs to Council and proposed an additional 10 Faculty necessary to support the extra 100 incoming students plus a Summer academic term. He emphasized that all of our staffing and instructional support needs were also stipulated.

Discussions on CPR external reviewer report and response

M. Gong proposed a faculty and staff retreat in 2 weeks to discuss in-depth how to respond to the report. He added that the report was quite supportive to our School and our response would convince higher Admin that we need to grow our programs. Suggestions and comments on the structure or format of the response were welcomed and M. Gong offered to provide a draft before the retreat for everyone to inspect and comment.

M. Gong conducted a poll to see how many people were interested in online vs in-person retreat and the results encouraged him to suggest an online survey to determine dates.

M. Gong updated that there is a response template provided by IQAP where our School fills in what our plan will be to implement recommendations made by the External Reviewer. Many of the recommendations can be tied into additional resource requests.

6. Any other business

No other business. Meeting adjourned at 2:22pm.