Present –
Faculty: D. Calvert, R. Dara, A. Dehghantanha, D. Gillis, M. Gong (Director), G. Grewal, A. Hamilton-Wright, S. Kremer, X. Lin, J. McCuaig, D. Nikitenko, C. Obimbo, J. Sawada, F. Song, D. Stacey, Y. Xiang;
Staff: T. Archbold, D. Byart, C. Hosker, G. Klotz, J. Lange, K. Gardiner (recording secretary);
Student Representatives: S. Modi;

Regrets –
Faculty: L. Antonie, R. Chaturvedi, D. Chiu, D. Flatla, H. Khan, P. Matsakis, S Scott, F. Wang, M. Wineberg, M. Wirth;
Staff: K. Johnston, D. Rea, L. Salmon;
Student Representatives: J. Fraser;

1. **Approval of Agenda for Octobr 10th, 2019**

    Motion: That the agenda for October 10th be approved
    (D. Calvert, C. Obimbo)

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

2. **Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2019**

    Motion: that the minutes from September 17, 2019 be approved.
    (A. Hamilton-Wright, D. Calvert)

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

3. **Business Arising from Minutes**
    - **Participation for One Health**

    M. Gong sent a memo on Sept 30th to assess the school's interest in this. Five faculty expressed interest whose CVs and number of students were then forwarded to OVC.

    - **Updated committee assignment**

    M. Gong noted a few changes on committee assignments; one to reflect Pascal on leave this term and next, who has been replaced with various faculty. An error was also corrected for T&P committee.

4. Announcements

M. Gong welcomed Josh Lange, Instructional Support Coordinator. He will be replacing the instructional support coordinator part of Opeyemi's position but is not responsible for academic integrity. He will be managing the TAs in full capacity.

M. Gong also shared that M. Wineberg had a laptop and lunch bag stolen from his office. A reminder to always lock offices and meeting rooms.

M. Gong referenced section 22.16 of the collective agreement and reminded that if a faculty member wishes to delay their sabbatical, this requires approval from the Dean. Some faculty members felt that this clause is newly introduced. C. Hosker noted that she has a copy of the previous collective agreement if anyone wishes to review. M. Gong also noted that if a faculty does not wish to retain the credit from delaying a sabbatical leave, the Dean's approval is not required.

5. Dave Calvert
- ### Voting for learning outcomes

D. Calvert wanted to share the return of the learning objectives from a couple of days ago.

Motion: that the learning outcomes be approved.

(A. Hamilton-Wright, J. McCuaig)

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

6. Joe Sawada
- ### Plan for reintroducing the PhD in CS program

J. Sawada provided a few updates from last time. As some graduate students have defended, there are now desks available for all current grad students. He also noted that sixteen (16) travel grants have been awarded totaling $8750.00.

He shared that there will be a talk in November from a Professor from Sherbrooke as part of a seminar series – Convocationally Speaking.. He also noted that if any faculty have any post docs that could come and give a little talk that would be great.

He noted that Ben Bradshaw has requested that all advisory committees have somebody outside of SoCS, as currently a few do not.

J. Sawada also reminded faculty to submit their progress reports, especially if there are any that are non-satisfactory.

He provided an update regarding the new PHD program. On September 19th he and Minglun met with Ben Bradshaw and Nadia Timperio. It was discussed that a large number of our current faculty don't fit into the current PHD of Computational Sciences and are therefore supportive of reintroducing the PHD in Computer Science. J. Sawada expressed a concern about having to add more courses, but they said that as it would be researched based, courses would

not be necessary. He also expressed concern about the drop in numbers for our current PHD. He noted that B. Bradshaw reassured him that this would not be a problem and there would be no pressure to close the current PHD program. J. Sawada shared that if we started the paperwork now, students could be transferred as early as Fall 2020 and we could start accepting new students as early as Winter 2021. He explained that if we can have SoCS council's support today, he can ask N. Timperio to start paperwork tomorrow.

G. Grewal asked if we would have to apply to external bodies (i.e. government) as every student that comes in would require funding, or if could be done internally. J. Sawada confirmed it would be done the same way as MCTI.

J. Sawada noted that there are different degrees; computational science is interdisciplinary. G. Grewal expressed that we would have to put a strong argument forth for a new PHD program to justify having two at Guelph. He noted that since we had to shut down the old one in order to add the new one, and haven't had anyone through this new one yet, the government will not likely support adding a second one again. He also questioned what made starting the paperwork so easy. J. Sawada clarified that the paperwork is easy, the hard part is convincing the government, and that he will address these concerns with B. Bradshaw to ensure he is confident.

S. Kremer noted that he doesn't have a good sense of the current PHD program in regards to how it is doing. He also noted that our program is different and unique from other programs which is what led to us having the Computational Sciences program here. He questioned if being different is still important and if so, how will we differentiate this new PHD program.

A. Dehghantanha asked if this new PHD program would be starting a full new proposal process and it was confirmed that yes, this is the case.

D. Gillis pointed out that although B. Bradshaw is claiming the current PHD program will not be shut down with only 5-6 students, in a few years it may be someone else with the power to make such a decision. D. Gillis expressed concern about the new PHD program affecting the existing one. J. McCuaig added that we have students in the interdisplinary PHD who are strong, but would not be admissible into the new one. M. Gong shared that his takeaway from the meeting was that B. Bradshaw believes SoCS has the capacity to reintroduce the PHD in Computer Science.

M. Gong also shared that in terms of approach, B. Bradshaw offered two options. The first would be to reintroduce the new program and by next September have two PHD programs. The second option is completing a major modification to the existing PHD program to create two streams/routes of completion; one through collaboration and the other through straight forward computer science, which could be a solution to the concern of hosting two separate programs. M. Gong also shared his personal opinion that reinroducting a new program would be less of a disturbance to the existing one.

G. Grewal asked for clarification of B. Bradshaw's use of the term "capacity". M. Gong noted it was in regards to research capacity; J. Sawada explained that since we have recently strengthened the school's research profile with recent hires, we are in a position to make a strong case.

G. Grewal noted that pragmatically, a lot of time was spent building the other PHD program. He reiterated that we shut it down in order to build the new one, which is not currently

full, and now are trying to build a second one and externally this will not reflect well. It is difficult to say we have the capacity when we can't be sure that we have the capacity to run one successful PHD program as is. G. Grewal also questioned B. Bradshaw's perspective on computer science as 'theoretical'. M. Gong clarified that he meant fundamental, not theoretical.

C. Obimbo noted we should look at the history of losing the first PHD in Computer Science. He expressed that the department dropped the ball by not responding to the reviews on how to improve it. He noted that we accepted the current program not because we wanted interdisciplary but we wanted a PHD program, which has now shrunk/diminished. He felt that the department thought they were going to lose their current program and so salvaged it by making it interdisciplanry. If new faculty are not interested in interdisplincary they will want to know how to apply for their NSERC. It also does not allow professors to have PHD students on their own under the interdisplincary PHD.

M. Gong shared that he thought it was good that B. Bradshaw approached us. He expressed concern about changing back and forth and said that personally he would prefer to go with option one rather than take on major modifications.

G. Grewal requested that before too much work be done in this process that we check with the government to see if they would actually lend their support. He explaind that his understanding is that the government will look at the big picture and determine whether it's worthwhile to give tax dollars to Guelph for a second PHD program.

M. Gong wanted to know if the funding model is based on number of students or number of programs. C. Obimbo explained that the Ontario government forces the University instititutions to write down objectives in their stragetic planning and weigh them against the other university's submissions to determine funding. They will more or less be the ones to approve a PHD program. C. Obimbo said that he agreed with Gary. We shouldn't go to the government with nothing prepared but should not spend too much time or do too much work before talking to them.

M. Gong pointed out the other side of the coin; the important of having support from the higher levels of the University administration. He said that because B. Bradshaw and his team are supportive, it will make it easier for the school to move forward with a new PHD program.

C. Obimbo suggested we talk to S. Scott about how this all may related to stragetic planning. M. Gong asked if people were interested and S. Kremer noted that most people are likely 50/50 and require more information about the climate.

D. Gillis required something in writing from B. Bradshaw stating that the current PHD program will not be closed if numbers continue to decrease. J. McCuaig pointed out that a shut down may occur regardless of numbers and relating to the value that is seen in the program.

M. Gong mentioned that there was discussion on whether or not to the Computational Sciences program should be a PHD program or a professional Doctorate program. B. Bradshaw felt that, since not all students are in computer science programs and they are not all on track to become computer science professors; perhaps Doctorate is a more appropriate term than PHD. J. Sawada added that, in a later meeting with B. Bradshaw, B. Bradshaw has changed his opnion.

7. Xiang Yang

Y. Xiang provided an update on the college working group of restructuring. He shared a brief history that in April 2019, the Sedra report came out from SOE which generated all this

discussion. The Provost and Dean then held a townhall meeting. Afterwards, there was a grass roots survey where faculty and staff shared several concerns. Over the summer, the college began organizing the working group which consists of the Dean, two associate Deans and one faculty member from each of the five departments as well as three staff from three units for a total of 12 members. This working group has met three times so far to plan the next step which is a public consultation taking place at each of the five departments. What will happen is two committee members will go to a unit and engage in a public consultation with the faculty and staff in that unit, gather concerns, opinions and bring them back to the working group to discuss. The Dean assigned different committee members to different units; Y. Xiang has been assigned to chemistry. A committee member from physics or chemistry will come to SoCS early November. In the Sedra report, two restructuring options were articulated. Grass roots survey came up with two additional options. So publicly there are now 4 options on the table. The working group will not be confined by these four options. If anyone has cocnerns for Y. Xiang to bring to the working group he is happy to do so.

7. Minglun Gong
- ### AI faculty search update

E-mails have gone out to candidates invited for in-person interviews. The first one is taking place on Wednesday October 16th. Three of four are scheduled, last one is pending.

- ### CEPS strategic planning

Townhall meeting scheduled for next Tuesday. M. Gong found a few encouraging observations for SoCS, including the new PHD program discussed earlier. D. Gillis questioned the date of October 15th at 1:30pm, noting this was not in faculty calendars and that information had not been sent out. R. Dara noted that a time and location were shared but never a formal invitation. M. Gong said he will ensure the information is forwarded.

S. Kremer asked if the stratgetic planning that took place in December 2018 would be a part of this. Y. Xiang shared that his understanding is that after the December 2018 retreat, S. Scott and the stragetic planning committee worked with the extrenal consultant and that the feedback fits into the report from the Dean.

M. Gong further explained the observations for SoCS:

1. Setting up a PhD in CS is stated in the plan. There is support from both OGPS and CEPS to move this forward.
2. There are confirmed position increase for SoCS. The biggest concern heard was that SoCS does not have sufficient teaching capacity. So he worked with Dean to push for converting the two CL positions into tenure-track positions. This is now reflected in the stragetic planning document.

3. The accreditation of the SE program. He shared that M. Wells has not heard requests about having our SE program accredited, so hopefully in the future we will not be pressured.

S. Modi shared there will be another Undergraduate Townhall meeting on October 30th.

- **Self study report**

S. Stacey started this process and provided a draft to M. Gong in early September. M. Gong presented part of the report to the council.

9. Any other business

M. Gong shared that D. Chiu will be retiring in January 2020. We have two positions opening up, one to replace this retirement and one in AI.

S. Modi asked which SoCS committees currently have student reps. C. Hosker will provide him with this information.

It was also noted that the SoCS deficit has been slowly decreasing with the work of C. Hosker.

No other business.   Meeting adjourned 2:25pm.