School of Computer Science

SoCS Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, November 3, 2015
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
Reynolds Room 219

Attended: S. Kremer (Director), D. Chiu, B. Gardner, D. Gillis, X. Li, P. Matsakis, B. Nonnecke, C. Obimbo, F. Song, F. Wang, Y. Xiang, D Byart (Undergraduate Program Assistant), S. Cantlon (Recording Secretary), L. Zweep (Recruitment Officer), G. Klotz (Program Counsellor), K. Johnston (Systems Analyst).

Absent:.R. Dara, D. Calvert (on leave), G. Grewal (on leave), J. McCuaig (conflict), D. Stacey (on leave), J. Sawada, M. Wineberg, M. Wirth.

1. **Approval of Agenda**
   Motion: David Chiu, Xining Li
   Motion carried unanimously

2. **Director's Remarks – S. Kremer**

   a) Congratulations to D. Gillis – UGFA Teaching Award
   Big congratulations to Dan. We heard this before but he was now officially been awarded this. S. Kremer would also like to thank everyone that was involved with this nomination and in writing the letters to support Dan.

   b) Faculty Hiring Committee.
   - Proceeding steadily – hoping to have a short-list of approximately 20 candidates in about 2 weeks.

   c) Graduate Program Assistant Update
   - Still being processed in Dean's office.

   d) Upcoming Tasks

      1) Undergraduate Curriculum
         - Charlie Obimbo has graciously agreed to Chair.
         - Their main task will be to move forward with the Mobile Computing major.
         - Additionally, there are various updates and house keeping tasks.

      2) PhD Program
         - On the graduate side, one of the biggest tasks is to move forward with the PhD interdisciplinary program.

- We will need to formalize the rules and processes (committees, seminar rules, qualifying rules, defence rules, develop modules (we talked about having education modules fro students in particular that don't have as much CS background and how we can give them learning modules), etc.)
- S. Kremer is very pleased that Yang Xiang has agreed to Chair the PhD Committee to help develop this program and help put together those rules in place to help govern that program so we aren't making things up as we go along.

3) <u>University's Strategic Renewal Plans</u>
- People will have got emails about this. This is a new process that is initiated out of the President's office.
- There are two links:
  - news.uoguelph.ca/conversations – this is where you can initiate conversations with others on campus.
  - strategicrenewal.uoguelph.ca – this outlines the strategic renewal process, which is still being formalized as we go.
- We need to be actively engaged in this and make the on-going case for SoCS and CPES. We need to push SoCS to raise the profile on us as the non-biological side of U of G.
- Going to be a slow process and subject to the same challenges as PPP, U-PIF, etc. and is to define where the University will be 10 years from now. We should not rely on this to solve our immediate resourcing problems.
- Some of these processes S. Kremer is sceptical about. For example, we got nothing from U-PIF. On the other hand, it was interesting as S. Kremer was given the opportunity to talk to the VP-A, VP-F, and Registrar. We got more than what was proposed in U-PIF and we got money for additional GTAs, Mac Lab renewal, regularization of staff, and 3 tenure-track faculty positions.
- It was questioned if they engaged outside consultants like PPP. S. Kremer commented that this is very much separated from PPP. He senses that is no one wants this to look like PPP.
- It was noted that this could be just as flawed as PPP was, but at least with PPP there was at least a methodology. Maybe it is that conversations can go on long enough so then there are enough data points so they can pick what they wanted to do originally. There is a sense of a lack of consultation on how the PPP was initiated and there is a sense that the new administration wants to fight this.

e) <u>SoCS Growth</u>
- We need to continue to properly resource existing growth, planned and anticipated growth. We are continuing to grow and there is continuing interest in CS. Recruitment events have been very successful and this suggests more students will come again next year. This has been the trend for five or six years now.
- We have had success in:
  - more faculty,
  - more staff, and
  - new labs.

- We need more of this.

4) <u>DOE Forms for F16-S17</u>
   - These will be coming soon.

f) <u>W16</u>

1) <u>Sessional Postings</u>
   - 2 sessional postings likely – CIS*2500, CIS*3110.

2) <u>TA postings</u>
   - If you are teaching in the Winter term and there is an anticipated enrollment number high enough that we anticipate hiring, you would have received the TA posting email. The first part is the requirements and these are very important when we look at the applications as this is the only criteria we can use. We have to match this posting criteria. If you need a student, for example, in explaining proofs; make sure that is there. Make sure you can decide on how you would determine that, i.e. take a lot of math classes to be able to explain proofs.
   - Right now we have an initial allocation plan based on estimated enrollments. You would have got an email from the Dean's office in the summer on how many we anticipate.
   - There is one important rule that was agreed upon by the CUPE Union and University and that is starting W16 a student can only hold one 10-hour/week job per person. Good side of this is that graduate students will only do one TAship, not two TAships so they can devote time to their studies. The bad side for the School is when we didn't have enough students for the TA positions needed; we could ask students if they wanted more than one position.
   - The way around this is to increase the undergraduate TA numbers.
   - It was questioned if we start converting GTA positions to UTA positions, will there be an issue moving them back. S. Kremer noted that the Union would want more GTAs hired as we pay the students more
   - It was questioned that even with new rules, it was heard that we could hire based on exceptional circumstances that approved by the Dean's office.
     S. Cantlon commented that there could be an exceptional case that needs to get approval from the Director. S. Kremer said there was based on exceptional cases but we shouldn't plan to be able to do that for all cases.
   - S. Cantlon noted that the new rule applies to one TA or one sessional, students cannot have both a TA and a sessional position. Students also cannot have more than one position across campus.

3) <u>Graduate program funding – revised amounts</u>
   - $4,500 and $6,500 were the previous amounts and now they are talking about increasing that.
   - In addition to that, they will talk about developing a system to top-up NSERC.
   - The third news is that the University will actively engage with competitive engagement with other University scholarships

- Additionally for aboriginal students there will be additional funding.
- None of these have been formulated. It's just news that money is on the horizon. If you have any applicants, let S. Kremer know when you are getting close and he can go knocking on as many doors as possible to see if we can get more of a competitive offer, (i.e. let him know that you want to bring in the student in this semester, and this is what you have to offer.)

4) <u>Security system</u>
The security system will be updated for the start of the semester (January 11).

3. Any Other Business

a) <u>Results of IT study.</u>
We have not received the results. S. Kremer will follow-up.

b) <u>Meeting Minutes.</u>
S. Kremer understands the issue around this and he will see what he can do.

4. Meeting Adjourned