

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION  
COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Friday, January 17, 2020  
EV 2.309

PRESENT:

Chair: Asif, A.

Voting members: Agarwal, A.; Ait Mohamed, O.; Akgunduz, A.; Alecsandru, C.; Bagchi, A.; Ben Hamza, A.; Butler, G.; Carr, G.; Chen, M.; Contreras, I.; De Visscher, A.; Debbabi, M.; El Ayoubi, C.; Fancott, T.; Fayyaz, F.; Fevens, T. (for Narayanan, L.); Gopakumar, G.; Hashtrudi Zad, S.; Lucia, W.; Maistre, M.; Manirov, V.; Mariotti Lapointe, J.; Mehmet Ali, M.; Ordonselli, S.; Paraschivoiu, M.; Pugh, M.; Shayan, Y. R.; Shiri, N.; Singh, M.; Stathopoulos, T.; Stojda, A.; Terekhov, D.; Thiel, S.; Ye, Z.; Zeng, Y.

Non-Voting members: Howse, E.; Little, G.; Pawelek, P.; Udvud, E.

Observers: Allaire, V.; Clarke, A.; Fiorentino, N.; Gosselin, G.; Himmo, M.; Latimer, J.; Martel, C.; Miatello, M.

Guests: Waclawek, A.; Cmore, D.; Lei, C.

ABSENT:

Voting members: Ge, H.; Goyal, N.; Gueheneuc, Y.-G.; Hammad, A.; Narayanan, L.; Nourani, H.; Silber, J.; Soliman, A.; Whitelaw, A.; Youssef, A.; Zahangir Kabir, M.

Non-voting members: Kraulis, I.

Observers: De Melo, D.

1. Call to Order of the Open Session

The Chair called the open session of the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

2. President Carr's Remarks

The highlights of the President's remarks are summarized as follows:

- President Carr thanked the members of the community who provided support in organizing memorial events after the airplane crash which took two lives of recent GCS graduates. The creation of a memorial scholarship fund will be announced soon to honor Siavash Ghafouri-Azar and Sara Mamani.
- President Carr also thanked Dean Asif for his service to the university and expressed his confidence that the school will be in good hands with the interim dean, currently associate dean of research and graduate studies, Dr. Mourad Debbabi. The search for the new dean will be started after the other two dean positions are filled.
- In terms of funding the university is anticipating from the provincial government, it will be a tight

budget next year. The reinvestment by the provincial government is continuing, but at a slower pace than over the previous couple of years. Additionally, enrollments are less than forecasted.

- A series of consultations with various research units and communities were held to gather information on how to further advance the ‘double our research’ strategic direction. The university has been investing heavily in faculty hiring, graduate student support, and in post-doctoral recruitment. The conversation in progress now is how to effectively address staffing needs to support all of that new research.
- We are launching a federal government relations strategy to link the university more closely with Ottawa.
- We have grown tremendously in the last few years; not only in terms of the numbers of students but also with the activities of the University – we have rapidly increasing needs for additional research and studio space.
- President Carr remarked on the success and leadership of GCS in the area of equity, diversity, and accessibility.

Questions and further discussion touched on issues related to the size of classes, the growth of research activities, the necessity of hiring more personnel to cover administrative needs, and the inability of Concordia’s PhD students to apply for part-time faculty positions.

### 3. Adoption of the Agenda

*Motion 2020-01-01      Upon motion duly moved and seconded (M. Pugh / A. Bagchi), it was passed that the Agenda be adopted as submitted.*

*Vote: Carried unanimously*

### 4. Approval of the Minutes of Open Session ECFC 2019-07 – November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*Motion 2020-01-02      Upon motion duly moved and seconded (M. Pugh / A. De Visscher), it was passed that the Minutes be approved as submitted.*

*Vote: Carried unanimously*

### 5. Presentation: 4<sup>TH</sup> Space, A. Waclawek, Manager

Anna Waclawek provided detailed information on Concordia’s dynamic public vitrine that can accommodate a variety of experiential learning activities. She reported on past and current activities and provided information about future events that might be interesting for our faculty members and students. She encouraged researchers to submit proposals to showcase their work in 4<sup>TH</sup> Space.

### 6. Presentation: eTextbooks, D. Cmor, Associate University Librarian C. Lei, Open Educational Resources Librarian

Diane Cmor presented working with open educational resources as one of the University’s digital strategy projects. The digital infrastructure environment supports open educational resources (OER), more specifically, the use of open source text books. Chloe Lei gave a thorough explanation of different types of OER, described the advantages of using OER for students and faculty members. Additionally, she presented the grants available to faculty members who develop OER content at Concordia.

## 7. Chair's Remarks

- We grieve the lives lost on Flight PS752, including Siavash Ghafouri-Azar and Sara Mamani—two of our alumni who recently completed their Master's degrees in the Department of Mechanical, Industrial, and Aerospace Engineering (MIAE). I would like to thank the Department of MIAE, especially Maureen Thuringer and Chair Martin Pugh, and Guy Gosselin for organizing the memorial event on Friday, January 10. Over 250 people attended, including GCS students, faculty, and staff, as well as externals.
- The Teaching Day on decolonizing the engineering and computer science curriculum will be held on February 18 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- The next Law Meets Engineering lecture is on January 28 in EV 2.260. We're pleased to receive Kathy Baig, President of the Ordre des ingénieurs du Québec (OIQ). She'll talk about the engineering code of ethics. The event is currently sold out.
- Concordia's Concrete Toboggan Team is participating in the 46<sup>th</sup> annual Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race, the longest running and largest Canadian undergraduate engineering competition of its kind, in Toronto from January 29 to February 2. This year's team is made up of more than 30 students from across the university. Last year's team won the most sustainable team award, and finished first in top speed. We wish them the best of luck!

## 8. Associate Dean Remarks

Mourad Debbabi

- 148 tuition waivers are available for PhD students.

## 9. Committee Reports (ECFC 2020-01-01)

Reports were submitted for the following committees:

- Board of Governors

## 10. Other Business

## 11. Adjournment at 4:31 p.m.

Erica Howse  
Secretary of Faculty Council  
Gina Cody School of Engineering & Computer Science