

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION

COUNCIL OF THE GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Friday, February 12, 2021

PRESENT:

Chair: Debbabi, M.

Voting members: Agarwal, A.; Akgunduz, A.; Athienitis, A.; Bagchi, A.; Ben Hamza, A.; Campbell, S.; Contreras, I.; De Visscher, A.; El Ayoubi, C.; Fayyaz, F.; Goodarzi, B.; Gopakumar, G.; Hammad, A.; Hashtrudi Zad, S.; Jahanshahi-Anbuhi, S.; Khalid, Z.; Kuzgunkaya, O.; Lucia, W.; Maistre, M.; Narayanan, L.; Nazemi, A.; Ng, H.; Ormandjieva, O.; Paquet, J.; Pugh, M.; Qiu, D.; Ronci, D.; Rathore, A.; Safa, T.; Shayan, Y.; Shihab, E.; Singh, T.; Soliman, A.; Stathopoulos, T.; Thiel, S.; Vermeire, B.; Walia, J.; Witte, R.; Youssef, A.; Zeng, Y.

Non-Voting members: Bencheikh, Z.; Binsley, R.; Edwards, J.-M.; Ward, M.

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

Guests: Akman, E.; Beltran, G.; Charky, K.; Nelson, B.; Stuart, J.

REGRETS:

Voting members: Arabian, M.; Carr, G.; Morgan, A.; Pawelek, P.; Whitlaw, A.

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 2:05 p.m.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion 2021-01-01 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (T. Stathopoulos/M. Pugh), it was passed that the Agenda be adopted as submitted.

Vote: Carried unanimously

3. Approval of the Minutes of Open Session ECFC 2020-09 – November 27, 2020

Motion 2021-01-02 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (L. Narayanan/S.Thiel), it was passed that the Minutes be approved as submitted.

Vote: Carried unanimously

4. Chair's Remarks

- It was announced that Dr. Juergen Schumacher passed away suddenly over the winter break. Juergen was the Senior Advisor, Smart Cities within the Provost's Office and played a critical role in developing Concordia's place as a leader in Smart and Sustainable Cities and Communities. He will be deeply missed here at Concordia.
- Ms. Sarah Kenny also passed away recently. Sarah was a key member of the School's advancement team from 2007-2017. She played a critical role in developing our network of proud alumni and was instrumental in fundraising in her role as principal director of development.
- The university's advancement office, with the help members of the dean's office are planning the first ever Gina Cody School Appreciation Day on March 18. The plan is to make this day an annual celebration. Students, faculty, staff and alumni are encouraged to participate and share the invitation. The events will be virtual this year and additional details being communicated in the upcoming weeks. If you have any ideas or would like to be involved, please reach out to Michelle Miatello or Vincent Allaire.
- Enrolment for GCS is doing well and the winter numbers are finalized. Professor, staff, department chairs, undergraduate program directors and graduate program directors contributed to this success.
- The School has been working with the provincial government since 2019 to secure additional funding, resulting in them dedicating 18 million per year for Engineering and Computer Science. This is a total investment of 90 million over 5 years. 5 million dollars has been dedicated to undergraduates studying computer engineering, electrical computer science and software engineering. 13 million dollars has been given to the *creneau expertise*. Our share by the government for funding at Concordia is currently 3.14 million dollars per year. Therefore, more than 15 million per year has been given for the next 5 years. We have begun working on scholarships and must provide a list to the government by March 1st. The Provost and President's office will look at allocating funds for activities and hiring plans at the Gina Cody School.
- The Conference of Engineering of Quebec is working on a proposal for the government to increase the level of funding for engineering and computer science in the coming years.
- The university has begun planning for the summer and for the fall. No decisions have been made yet, but discussions are taking place.

5. Associate Dean Remarks

Anjali Agarwal, Associate Dean of Student Academic Services and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

- A call for CUSRA has been sent to all faculty and students. Please submit by February 26, 2021 at 5pm. The scholarship amounts have increased to \$7, 500. Supervisors will need to contribute \$500.
- A call for NSERC USRA has been sent to all faculty and students. Please submit by February 26, 2021 at 5pm. VPRGS will contribute \$1,500.
- For both the CURSA and the NSERC USRA - Chairs have to respond to the Dean's office by March 17th.
- The SAS team offers zoom drop-in sessions for all students on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- EDI is hosting two events for the month of March.
 - 1) March 6th, 2021 – WIE: We empower, We inspire.
 - 2) March 13th, 2021 - SHE Engineers, Why Don't You?
- If you know any female inspiring engineers, please recommend that they participate and speak at the SHE Engineers event.

Ali Akgunduz, Associate Dean, Academic Programs

- An accreditation visit will take place next year for the Aerospace Engineering program, held by MIAE and ECE. The CEAB will be holding the visit virtually.
- The university is considering opening in-person teaching activities in the summer and perhaps more in the fall. A meeting will be held with the department chairs next week to begin discussions.
- Faculty are encouraged to attend the lecture series of Law Meets Engineering. The next event is on February 18th.
- We are continuing to address the challenges of exams being offered virtually. Please watch out for CHEGG.COM, which is commonly used to access answers to exams.

Hoi Dick (Eddie) Ng, Associate Dean Academic Affairs

- The departments are currently working hard on the course planning for the next academic year. The part-time postings will go live on February 18th and the application deadline is March 10th. We will begin to issue next year's workload letters at the beginning of April.
- This week we received a call for nominations for the Provost's Circle of Distinction. Please let your department chairs know of any nominations.
- We also received a call for the President's Excellence in Teaching Award. This year's Dean's Teaching Excellence Award recipients will be considered automatically. Please note that you can still submit names of any candidates that you wish to be considered to my office with a rationale by the first week of March. You should have recently received an email with additional details.

Emad Shihab, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies

- The curfew attestation letters can be requested for researchers who need to be on campus after 8pm. Guy Gosselin sent out details on how to obtain the letters.
- For fieldwork off campus, please send requests to Dr. Shihab. VPRGS will be sending the approvals.
- Award allocations for international tuition remissions from the school of graduate studies have been communicated. We received 166 tuition remissions for PhD students. Some awards have been repurposed to help us attract local students who would like to do their PhD. Communication has been made with the department chairs on the award details.
- We had 190 PhD admissions in the year 2020-21 and hope to register 200 PhD students next year with the course remissions. We are on-track for the Masters student numbers.
- CURC competitions are happening over the next 2 weeks. The FRC will meet to discuss the dossiers.

6. Curriculum changes

- a) Undergraduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2021-2022 Academic Year
Department of Building, Civil & Environmental Engineering: BLDG 498 (ECFC 2021-01-01)

Motion 2021-01-03 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (A. Akgunduz/A. Bagchi), it was passed that document ECFC 2021-01-01, be ratified as submitted.

Vote: Carried unanimously

- b) Undergraduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2021-2022 Academic Year, Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering: IADI 420, IADI 401, IADI 301 (ECFC 2021-01-02)

Motion 2021-01-04 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (A. Akgunduz/M. Pugh), it was passed that document ECFC 2021-01-02, be ratified as submitted with the following edits:

- On page D4 – Change “Pass in CIADI 301” to “Pass in IADI 301”
- Change the Academic Year for 2022-2023 to 2021-2022

Vote: Carried unanimously

- c) Undergraduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2022-2023 Academic Year
Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering: Changes to Electives (ECFC 2021-01-03)

Motion 2021-01-05 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (A. Akgunduz/M. Pugh), it was passed that document ECFC 2021-01-03, be ratified as submitted.

Vote: Carried unanimously

- d) Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2021-22 Academic Year, Department of Building, Civil & Environmental Engineering: Various changes (ECFC 2021-01-04)

Motion2021-01-06 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (E. Shihab/M. Pugh), it was passed that document ECFC 2021-01-04, be ratified as submitted with the following edits:

- Page 1 - change the memo date

Vote: Carried unanimously

- e) Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2020-21 Academic Year
Department of Building, Civil & Environmental Engineering: CIVI 691 (ECFC 2021-01-05)

Motion2021-01-07 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (E. Shihab/A. Bagchi), it was passed that document ECFC 2021-01-04, be ratified as submitted with the following edits:

- Page 1 – change the memo date

Vote: Carried unanimously

- f) Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2021-22 Academic Year, Department of Building, Civil & Environmental Engineering: Various Changes to MEng (ECFC 2021-01-06)

Motion2021-01-08 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (E. Shihab/A. Bagchi), it was passed that document ECFC 2021-01-06, be ratified as submitted.

Vote: Carried unanimously

Action: Dr. Shihab will request the following clarifications at the ECSGSA: The method for naming and grouping courses should be uniform and consistent. Also, the one credit seminars and how they are offered should be harmonized across the faculty.

- g) Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2021-22 Academic Year, Department of Mechanical, Industrial and Aerospace Engineering: Program Requirement changes to MEng and MECH-6761 (ECFC 2021-01-07)

Motion2021-01-09 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (E. Shihab/M. Pugh), it was passed that document ECFC 2021-01-07, be ratified as submitted with the following edits:

- *Page 1 – change the memo date*
- *Page D5 – Change implementation date from September 2020 to September 2021*

Vote: Carried unanimously

- h) Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2021-22 Academic Year
Changes to Degree Requirements for Doctoral Program (ECFC 2021-01-08)

Motion2021-01-10 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (E. Shihab/S. Theil), it was passed that document ECFC 2021-01-08 be ratified as submitted with the following edits:

- *Remove – specifics of the maximum credits*

Vote: Carried unanimously

- i) Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2021-22 Academic Year
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering: COEN 691 (ECFC 2021-01-09)

Motion2021-01-11 Upon motion duly moved and seconded (E. Shihab/Y. Shayan), it was passed that document ECFC 2021-01-09, be ratified as submitted.

Vote: Carried unanimously

7. ECE Competitions during COVID Presentation by Kayla Charky and Erman Akman

There are four upcoming competitions:

- 1) MEng Olympics. Concordia is sending 3 teams. If possible, kindly provide deferrals to students who have exams that conflict with events.
- 2) Annual Troitsky Bridge Building Competitions (March 5-8). There are 21 teams across Canada who will be in attendance and this event is hosted at Concordia. Anyone interested to judge or be a panelist are welcome. AutoCAD and Solidworks will be used this year instead of popsicle sticks.
- 3) Canadian Engineering Competition (February 25-28).
- 4) Gina Cody Appreciation Week (March 10-18).

8. PhD Outcomes Presentation by Brad Nelson and Gina Bertrand

Council welcomed Dr. Brad Nelson and Dr. Gina Bertrand, who made a presentation on PhD Outcomes. They explained that research has been done to track the career outcomes of those who graduated with a PhD between 2009 and 2019. The intent of this research is to provide better professional development and course paths to help PhD students with successful career outcomes. Half of the graduates were from Engineering and Computer Science. Some of the notable conclusions was that engineering students often get post-doctoral fellow positions and then find permanent employment in the private sector. Also, Concordia's PhD graduates are working in 55 different countries, and that the top 10 common employers include Concordia University, self-employment, post-secondary institutions and Ericsson.

9. Udemy Presentation by Jasia Stuart

Ms. Jasia Stuart, the Coordinator, Digital Services from the Library joined council to speak about Udemy. Concordia has a subscription for Udemy for Business. These courses are not graded and are free for faculty, staff and students to use. Faculty were asked to encourage their students to take advantage of this service. Although Udemy courses cannot replace core teaching, some of the options available will allow students additional opportunities to practice. The link to the main site is Concordia.udemy.com, and can also be accessed through the Concordia portal.

10. Other Business

None

11. Adjournment at 4:25p.m.

Zineb Bencheikh
Secretary of Faculty Council
Gina Cody School of Engineering & Computer Science