



Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering
Minutes of the Meeting of December 2, 2020

PRESENT: Javad Mostaghimi (Speaker), Christopher Yip (Dean), Ravi Adve, Grant Allen, Danita Allick, Katherine Allison, Cristina Amon, Muralidhar Andoorveedu, Philip Asare, Julie Audet, Gisele Azimi, Tim Bender, Evan Bentz, Vaughn Betz, Chris Bouwmeester, Eric Bryce, Markus Bussmann, Ariel Chan, Arthur Chan, Warren Chan, Andrew Chen, Alan Chong, William Cluett, Sinisa Colic, Tom Coyle, Chris Damaren, Jim Davis, Ibrahim Djebel Ameli, Khuong Doan, Vanessa Elefteriadis, Feras Elsaid, Greg Evans, Saima Fancy, Jennifer Farmer, Ramin Farnood, Isabella Ferrara, Zahir Firoze, Daniela Galatro, Diane Giang, Piyush Gupta, Bezawit Haile, Krisztina Harmath, John Harrison, Muktar Homam, Natalie Enright Jerger, Kisvah Kamal, Elias Khalil, Omar Khan, Sarah Khan, Andrew Kidd, Dawn Kilkenny, Inho Kim, Donald Kirk, Dana Kokoska, Mark Kortschot, Christopher Kousinioris, Deepa Kundur, Anson Lau, Tianyi Lyu, Don MacMillan, Radhakrishnan Mahadevan, Saf Mahmood, Alison McGuigan, Minnie Menezes, Mirjana Mijalkovic, Armin Ale Mohammad, Shashank Motepalli, Seyedeh Maryam Sadegh Mousavi, Mahyar Mozaffari, Shivani Nathoo, Jun Nogami, Jeffrey Packer, Vlad Papangelakis, Joseph Paradi, Doug Perovic, Nelly Pietropaolo, Daniel Posen, Doug Reeve, Jon Rocheleau, Lisa Romkey, Margaux Roncière, Daniel Rozhko, Mubashir Shaikh, Daniel Shi, Brent Sleep, Ken Tallman, Mindy Thuna, Chris Twigge-Molecey, Memma Uponi, Tony Vanvari, Chirag Variawa, Cathy Wang, Jane Wang, Ruoheng Wang, Branden Wesseling, Bernard Wong, Renee Yan, Maryam Younis, Michael Zachepylenko, Shurui Zhou

GUESTS: Vanessa Andres, Nikkie Bonon, Helen Bright, Chris Brown, Sharon Brown, Dani Couture, Leanne Dawkins, David Duong, Jennifer Fabro, Pierina Filippone, Roger Francis, Darlene Gorzo, Leslie Grife, Cathy Grilo, Cori Hanson, Christina Heidorn, Nelson Lee, Angie Li, Jess MacInnis, Marit Mitchell, JD Muir, Don Newton, Shannon Osborne, Santino Pannozzo, Daniel Pepler, Dan Pettigrew, Zeeshan Rayees, Marlyn de los Reyes, Saif Rjaibi, Cindy Rottmann, Kevin Soobrian, Marisa Sterling, Purushoth Thavendran, Aaron Wang, Geoff Wichert

SECRETARIAT: Anna Limanni, Alexander Schroen, Allison Van Beek, Caroline Ziegler (Secretary of Council)

1. Speaker's Welcome

Faculty Council Speaker Javad Mostaghimi called the second meeting of 2020-2021 to order at 12:10 pm. He welcomed members and guests, acknowledged the University's use of traditional land and reviewed protocols for the virtual meeting. There were no questions.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda and most reports were distributed on November 27, 2020.

There were three amendments to the agenda: regarding agenda item 04, the minutes of October 23, 2020 meeting were deferred to the Council meeting of February 24, 2021; regarding agenda item 06, the title of Report 3672 Revised was changed to reflect the correct academic year of 2021-2022; and regarding agenda item 07, the report number was corrected to "3676 Revised".

A Council member pointed out that the agenda and documents were not distributed 14 days prior to the meeting as our bylaws require, and that this has repercussions for students. The Speaker undertook to have these items distributed in a timely manner in the future.

On a regular motion duly moved, seconded and carried, the agenda was approved as amended.

3. Introduction of New Faculty

New faculty members were introduced by their respective Chairs: Sinisia Colic (Mechanical & Industrial Engineering), Daniela Galatro (Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry) and Shurui Zhou (Electrical & Computer Engineering).

The Speaker welcomed these new members to Council.

4. Report of the Dean

Dean Christopher Yip welcomed all to the Council meeting and provided the following remarks.

(a) Pandemic Planning

Toronto and Peel Region moved into lockdown on November 23. This will affect the University and our Faculty in several ways. Library service will continue with pick-up services and access to IT services for those who need it; residences will continue to operate with safety precautions in place; and university buildings will be accessible only to members of the university community and essential visitors.

Our remote access guarantee remains in place for all undergraduate and graduate students and courses will continue to be held through remote delivery. Only essential on-campus work required to deliver virtual instruction and programming will continue.

Researchers may continue with approved on-campus lab research plans as long as they adhere to the public health measures and university processes already in place. If researchers can work remotely, they should continue to do so and only come to the campus when necessary. Masks remain mandatory in all common-use areas and anyone coming to campus must complete a self-assessment using the online UCheck tool or paper-based equivalent.

(b) Winter Break and Winter Session

President Gertler has announced that the University is extending its winter break this year to give everyone a bit more of a rest before classes resume. The University will close on December 23 and reopen on January 4. Residences, essential services and supports will be available as of January 4, and research labs will be running. Most classes will begin a week later than originally planned, on January 11.

Engineering undergraduate classes will begin on January 11. Reading week will be February 15-19, inclusive. April 16 will be the last day of classes and the winter term study day will be April 19. The final summative assessment period will be April 20-30, including weekends as needed. The registration period for PEY Co-op and ESIP will be from January 6-20. Other key administrative deadlines and sessional dates will be extended by five days in accordance with the shift and the academic calendar will be updated to reflect these changes.

Engineering graduate classes will also begin on January 11, although graduate research labs will be running as of January 4. Key sessional dates for the School of Graduate Studies will remain unchanged.

We have made these adjustments without reducing any instructional days, so students will still be able to move through the course material as originally planned. Please take care to return to the winter term feeling balanced and energized.

(c) Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence

The Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence (ORF-RE), which provides research institutions with funding to support the operational costs of major projects of strategic value to the province, has returned. The fund provides up to one-third of the total value of a project, with the remaining two-thirds coming from a combination of private sector and institutional contributions. Although details are embargoed, it has been announced that Engineering has received full funding for five such projects.

(d) Engineering Alumni Network Awards

Eleven outstanding members of our community were recognized on November 5 at the 2020 Engineering Alumni Network (EAN) Awards ceremony. This virtual event celebrated alumni for their accomplishments and contributions to the Skule™ community, proving that at all stages of their careers, our alumni use their creativity, technical knowledge and leadership skills to make life better for people around the world. The depth and breadth of their impact is outstanding and truly inspiring.

(e) Administrative Staff Awards Program

We are currently accepting nominations for the Faculty's Administrative Staff Awards. Nomination packages should be submitted to the Director of Awards and Honours by January 29. Previously unsuccessful nomination packages may be resubmitted, but all materials must be current. Additional material may be added at the discretion of the nominator. Self-nominations

are accepted for all awards, and academic units are encouraged to submit nominations for richly deserving staff.

(f) Dean's Virtual World Tour

During the fall break, Dean Yip was joined by academic advisors, learning strategists, the Faculty's Registrar and its Mental Health Programs Officer to host a virtual series of open discussions for undergraduate students studying remotely in dozens of locations around the world due to COVID-19 public health restrictions. More than 100 students registered for the three sessions, along with more than a dozen alumni who shared their experiences on how students can make the most of their time at Skule™, network, and prepare for future career opportunities. They also offered to connect with those students in their regions of the world.

This event was the first of its kind and it will likely continue as Engineering has extended its remote access guarantee for the winter term.

A virtual Dean's town hall for graduate students will be held later this week.

(g) National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

It has been 31 years since the lives of 14 female students were taken at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal. Council was invited to attend a tri-campus National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women event, which will be held virtually (and live captioned) on December 4 from 10:00-11:30 am.

There were no questions for Dean Yip.

5. Major Curriculum Changes for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Evan Bentz, Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, presented Report 3672 Revised, which features changes to undergraduate programs in all departments and divisions, minors offered through the Cross-Disciplinary Programs office, and courses offered by Biomedical Engineering and the First Year Office. He highlighted several short-term changes proposed for the First Year Office, Engineering Science and Chemical Engineering that will maintain the academic quality of their courses and/or labs during COVID-19. These changes will not be reflected in our calendar and they have been noted by the committee for review at the end of the pandemic when it will be decided whether to make the changes permanent or reinstate the pre-pandemic offerings.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the following regular motion was moved and seconded –

THAT the proposed curriculum changes for the 2021-2022 academic year, as described in Report 3672 Revised, be approved.

It was noted during discussions that there are many changes proposed that will improve courses in both the short- and long-term.

A member put forward the following motion to amend –

THAT Report 3672 Revised, Section 2.6 “Move CHE430: Chemical Plant Design (2/0/6/1.0) to Winter 2022 from Fall 2021” be amended as follows: “Move CHE430: Chemical Plant Design (2/0/6/1.0) to Winter 2022 from Fall 2021 *but continue to offer a Fall 2021 slot of CHE430 for certain student circumstances and continue consultations with the Chemical Engineering student body*”.

Members discussed whether the amendment is appropriate because of its resource implications, and because it will not significantly change what Chemical Engineering is trying to achieve. Furthermore, the amendment is more about the consultation process than the course itself. The department cannot commit to offering CHE430 in the fall as it has not yet adjusted for returning PEY students, nor does the report discuss students currently on PEY. The department undertook to consult further with chemical engineering students on this matter.

The motion to amend carried, and the main motion, duly moved and seconded, was put –

THAT the proposed curriculum changes for the 2021-2022 academic year, as described in Report 3672 Revised, be approved as amended.

The main motion carried.

6. Extension of Late Withdrawal Policy for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021

Daniel Posen, Chair of the Examinations Committee, presented Report 3676 Revised, a proposal to extend the deadline for late withdrawals and to relax certain limits on the existing Late Withdrawal (LWD) policy.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the following regular motion was moved and seconded –

THAT the extension of the Late Withdrawal Policy for Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 as described in Report 3676 Revised be approved.

Professor Posen confirmed that the proposed changes are in effect during the fall and winter terms of this academic year, after which the original policy will come back into effect.

Changes to the CR/NCR option were not included in this report because they would have faced significant opposition from within the Examinations Committee, which was aware of challenges in the winter term resulting from some students taking a credit while others took a grade. However, because an undergraduate student survey conducted in October regarding Report 3676’s proposed changes indicated that most respondents (approximately 2,600 students or half the student body) preferred CR/NCR, undergraduate students will advocate for changes to CR/NCR in the future. Professor Posen encouraged further discussions with the students and the Examinations Committee.

If approved, the proposal will be communicated to students by the Registrar's Office or Vice-Dean, Undergraduate, allowing students to take advantage of the changes before the extended January 15 deadline. Students will be encouraged to consult their academic advisor if they are considering withdrawing from a course, because this may change their status to part-time, affecting scholarships and visas, among other things.

The motion carried.

7. Annual Report of the Academic Appeals Board

Don Kirk, Chair of the Academic Appeals Board (AAB), presented Report 3677, a summary of appeals and their disposition during 2019-2020. He also reported on updates to the appeals process, remote work trends due to COVID-19, onboarding student members to the AAB, membership turnover, and planned revisions to the AAB manual.

There were no questions, and the report was received for information.

8. Reports and Recommendations of Standing Committees

The following reports were approved by the Executive Committee of Council at its November 5 meeting and are presented for Council's information.

(a) Admissions Committee: Admissions Cycle 2020

Vaughn Betz, Chair of the Admissions Committee, presented Report 3675 Revised, an update on applications for admissions, offers of admission, registration figures, and characteristics of the first-year class 2020.

There were no questions and the report was received for information.

9. Other Business

Grant Allen, Chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry, informed Council that Professor Emeritus David Goring had recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Professor Emeritus Goring's contributions to the Pulp & Paper Centre helped make it an outstanding research centre at U of T, and with graduate students. He celebrated his birthday at an online event last week, which was attended by many, including chemical engineering students. This is a milestone for our colleague, and for our Engineering community.

A member commented that at multiple times throughout the meeting, the Speaker cut people off during discussions. The Speaker thanked the member for raising this concern.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Faculty Council is on February 24, 2021.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

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