

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION  
COUNCIL OF THE GINA CODY SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Friday, November 27, 2020  
ZOOM

PRESENT:

Chair: Debbabi, M.

Voting members: Agarwal, A.; Akgunduz, A.; Anbuhi, S.; Athienitis, A.; Bagchi, A.; Ben Hamza, A.; Campbell, S.; Contreras, I.; De Visscher, A.; El Ayoubi, C.; Fayyaz, F.; Goodarzi, B.; Gopakumar, G.; Hashtrudi Zad, S.; Kuzgunkaya, O.; Lucia, W.; Morgan, A.; Narayanan, L.; Nazemi, A.; Ng, H.; Ormandjieva, O.; Paquet, J.; Popa, T.; 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.; Youssef, A.

Non-Voting members: Bencheikh, Z.; Kraulis, I.; Pawelek, P.; Udvud, E.; Ward, M.

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

REGRETS:

Voting members: Arabian, M.; Carr, G.; Hammad, A.; Khalid, Z.; Whitelaw, A.; Witte, R.; Zeng, Y.

Non-Voting members: Edwards, J.-M.

Observers: Allaire, V.; 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 2020-09-01                      Upon motion duly moved and seconded ( M. Pugh / A. Soliman ), it was passed that the Agenda be adopted as submitted.*

*Vote: Carried unanimously*

3. Approval of the Minutes of Open Session ECFC 2020-08 – November 6, 2020

*Motion 2020-09-02                      Upon motion duly moved and seconded ( T. Stathopoulos / M. Pugh ), it was passed that the Minutes be approved as submitted.*

*Vote: Carried unanimously*

#### 4. Chair's Remarks

- The launch of Concordia's Next-Generation Cities Institute took place on November 26, 2020. Together with involvement of 14 research centers and more than 200 researchers across the university, Next-Generation Cities Institute became a major initiative for Concordia.
- The launch of Applied AI Institute is expected in the near future. Key colleagues behind the Institute are negotiating potential partnerships around the application of artificial intelligence in various domains.
- The new Health and Wellness Hub recently opened. It groups all of Concordia's services and resources related to health and wellness under one umbrella.
- Concordia launched the Equity Office and Black Perspectives Office (BPO), which will play leading roles in ensuring a fair and safe environment for all members of Concordia's community.
- On December 3, 2020, Gina Cody, Peter Mansbridge, Mark Bulgutch and Jamie Orchard invite everyone to a virtual conversation on a book entitled "Extraordinary Canadians: Stories from the Heart of Our Nation". This book features personal stories of exceptional people from across the country, including Gina Cody, who are making Canada a better place and inspiring others to do the same.
- November 23-27 was Women in Tech Week. This initiative is organized by students' groups and societies: Katalis, MASSA, Women in Engineering, Women in STEM at Concordia, Gina Cody Entrepreneurship Society, and Space Concordia. Each day of the week covered different topics from Video Game Development, to Entrepreneurship, and more.
- On November 19, 2020 more than 1, 800 students celebrated their graduation online; 628 graduated from the Gina Cody School.
- On November 24, 2020 the GCS virtual career fair was held.
- On November 25, 2020 CIADI hosted a virtual webinar panel discussion: "Transformation of the Aerospace and Mobility Sectors in Quebec: Covid19 and Beyond". Distinguished keynote speaker, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity, Jean Boulet, and Member of Parliament, Soraya Martinez Ferrada, both gave speeches which were followed by a panel discussion from industry and academic experts.
- The Law Meets Engineering lecture series had also moved online. Yesterday, there was a lecture on "Achieving your Potential Through Intellectual Property" with guest speakers Me Nancy Cleman responsible for the Intellectual Property group at Lapointe Rosenstein Marchand Melançon and Me Nicholas Bertram who is an intellectual property lawyer, patent agent and trademark agent.
- On November 9, under the Gina Cody School Distinguished Alumni Speaker Series, Dr. Shibab led a panel discussion entitled "Compliance, Collaboration and Community: A discussion about Open Source". Two panelists Ibrahim Haddad (Vice President of Strategic Programs, Linux Foundation) and Makan Pourzandi (Research leader, Ericsson Canada), had a very stimulating discussion about compliance, R&D, and shared innovation.
- GCS researchers Chadi Assi, Glenn Cowan, Ali Dolatabadi, Rolf Wuthrich, Masoumeh Kazemi Zanjani, Hassan Rivaz have won five different grants by CFI. Altogether, with the funding from the provincial government, the total amount is about \$3M.
- In 2020, the Quebec government launched a new research and innovation strategy called Innovation Zones to increase the commercialization of innovation, exports, local and foreign investment and business productivity. GCS is working on number of dossiers in the areas of aerospace, AI and health, cybersecurity and smart cities.
- With regards to enrolment, GCS is at 99% of weighted FTEs compared to last year. The increase in PhD and undergraduate enrolments is compensating for the drop in MEng enrolment.

- Discussions are ongoing between the Provost's Office and the Deans regarding the compassionate measures for students, faculty and staff. The university is considering a late start of winter term. The DNE date is moved from January 19 to January 26 and the DISC date is moved from March 22 to March 29. There will be a message coming from the Provost's office early next week.
- Faculty, staff and administrators are encouraged to be flexible and show compassion towards students; to strengthen the engagement with the students by holding office hours; to keep the channels of communication open; to be supportive and to respond, as quickly as possible to inquiries.
- Additional support for winter teaching will be provided in two forms. One of them is called a departmental level TA program. TAs will be trained through the Centre for Teaching and Learning and these trained "super" TAs will then be able to train others. In addition, there will be a budget allocated to extra TAs for the different courses.

#### 5. Associate Dean Remarks

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

- Undergraduate winter 2021 enrolment is 6% higher than last year at the same period. For the fall and winter semesters altogether, the numbers are 15% higher compared to last year.
- WIE Inspire: WIE Empower annual conference is scheduled for March 6, 2021. Suggestions of possible candidates who are interested to contribute at this initiative are welcome.
- As the Fall term is approaching its exam stage, it's very important to submit grade approval for potential graduates in a timely manner.
- The new online students' request form is a success.

Ali Akgunduz, Associate Dean, Academic Programs

- Even with the changes of the past year, faculty are asked to always keep the accreditation and graduate attributes in mind. Also, vigilance during the exams is necessary. As far as potential cases of academic misconduct, kindly make sure to report them promptly.
- GCS is currently working on the summer activities, including different training for companies. Any ideas, expertise that can be brought to the industry's attention in the form of a certificate or professional training, are welcome for further discussion.

Hoi Dick (Eddie) Ng, Associate Dean Academic Affairs

- Reminder for those who are applying for tenure, the deadline to submit the full dossier is extended to January 11, 2021.
- Concordia Centraide campaign exceeded the target of \$170, 000 raising over \$201, 000. Those who still want to participate in the campaign have until the end of December, and can use the links provided to them by Centraide.

Emad Shihab, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies

- The last day to submit requests for lab access will be December 9, 2020. The process will resume on January 13, 2021.

- Graduate admission numbers are high.
- Discussions are ongoing between SGS and GCS on academic accommodations at the graduate level.
- As a result of yesterday's enrolment discussion, the Quebec Government is still working on a solution for foreign students abroad studying online remotely.

Additional discussion:

Lata Narayanan, Chair CSSE

- Quarantine plan and additional students' expenses related to self-isolation were discussed.

## 6. Curriculum changes

- a) Undergraduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2022-23 Academic Year, Department of Mechanical, Industrial & Aerospace Engineering: INDU 412, AERO 455 (ECFC 2020-09-01)

*Motion 2020-09-03* Upon motion duly moved and seconded ( A. Akgunduz / M. Pugh ), it was passed that document ECFC 2020-09-01, be ratified as submitted.

*Vote: Carried unanimously*

- b) Undergraduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2020-21 Academic Year, Department of Computer Science & Software Engineering: COMP 498, COMP 499 (ECFC 2020-09-04)

*Motion 2020-09-04* Upon motion duly moved and seconded ( A. Akgunduz / L. Narayanan ), it was passed that document ECFC 2020-09-04, be ratified as submitted.

*Vote: Carried unanimously*

- c) Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2020-21 Academic Year, Department of Mechanical, Industrial & Aerospace Engineering: INDU 6231, INDU 6321, MECH 6751 (ECFC 2020-09-02)

*Motion 2020-09-05* Upon motion duly moved and seconded ( E. Shihab / M. Pugh ), it was passed that document ECFC 2020-09-02, be ratified with a minor correction of the memo: page 36, text "INDU 6161 Applied Optimization" to be changed to "INDU 6121 Applied Optimization".

*Vote: Carried unanimously*

- d) Graduate Curriculum Proposal for the 2020-21 Academic Year, Department of Computer Science & Software Engineering: COMP 691 (ECFC 2020-09-03)

*Motion 2020-09-06* Upon motion duly moved and seconded ( E. Shihab / L. Narayanan ), it was passed that document ECFC 2020-09-03, be ratified as submitted.

*Vote: Carried unanimously*

7. Other Business

January Faculty Council is cancelled.

Additional support for the students will be announced.

8. Adjournment at 2:54 p.m.

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