

Faculty of Engineering

Faculty Council

Meeting 2020.01

09:00 Feb 10, 2020, in room CBY 707

PRESENT

Officers of the Faculty

J. Beauvais, M. Dube, L. Peyton, M. Labrosse, J. Zhang, T. Lethbridge, C. D'Amours, N. Baddour, C. Adams.

Professors

A. Sowinski, E. Baranova, B. Lessard, H. Aoude, B. Martin-Perez, M. Noël, H. Schriemer, D. Inkpen, E. Petriu, K. Dolgaleva, B. Dhillon, I. Catelas, T. Uchida, JP St-Pierre, E. Dragomirescu, R. St-Gelais,

Staff

S. Gandolfini, V. Samson, F. Bouchard.

Students

I. Alainachi, F. Amini, F. Lavergne, T. El-Helwani, Y. Liu, S. Knysh, C. Choueifaty, V. Jidkov.

Part Time Professors

S. Abdul Majid, M. Majeed.

EXCUSED

Officers of the Faculty

D. Taylor, B. Kruczek, C. Rennie.

Professors

K. Hinzer, J. L. De Carufel, J. Yao.

Students

A. Gowling, G. Granata, V. Patil.

ABSENT

Professors

X. Cao, A. Weck,, J. Infante Sedano, H. Al Osman, G.-V. Jourdan.

Students

A. Steeves, N. Bagaria, E. Raji, O. Benning.

20.01.01 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

20.01.02 Minutes of the last meeting (November 20, 2019)

The minutes had been approved electronically.

20.01.03 Matters arising from the minutes

The Vice Dean Graduate Studies reported that the CVG MASc Concentration in Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure, the ELG Applied AI, the ELG M.Eng Co-op program, and the ELG required professional development course have all been approved. The E-business program rebranding as Digital Transformation and Innovation has also been approved, along with its Concentrations in User Experience Design and in Applied Data Science. Senate asked that we explore a way to offer courses in French in this program; the Vice Dean Graduate Studies is looking into this. Several other minor changes were also approved at Senate Executive. The Dean pointed out that we have stepped up to address the Provost's request to revitalize programs.

20.01.04 Report of the Dean

Health and Safety

There was one accident in a machine shop when somebody tried to lift an object that was excessively large.

Cybersecurity

The Dean is encouraging IT to create a dashboard regarding cybersecurity. The Dean reiterated that we are under constant threat. He continues to encourage everybody to take the online Digital Self-Defence course at <https://it.uottawa.ca/security/digital-self-defence-training>

Accreditation

We are in the midst of the accreditation process for five undergraduate programs. There was a preparation meeting this past weekend. Aneta Traikova has been hired to help the overall process. Counting the minimum AUs (based on hours in class) in various categories is still central to engineering accreditation, even though graduate attributes are also part of the process.

There was discussion of programs that are not closely tied to a specific department.

20.01.05 Report of the Vice-Dean (Research)

The Vice-Dean provided a written report.

We have a new senior research advisor, Mark Pearson, who joins Margaret McKenna. The Dean suggested that professors talk to him in order to obtain help in arranging partnerships.

The Faculty is also working on many issues related to Kanata North, TEC Monterey, and Cybersecurity.

There is an upcoming mission to Japan.

20.01.06 Report of the Vice-Dean (Undergraduate Studies)

The Vice-Dean provided a written report.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2019-UGRD-GENIE-SDS - 01. This arranges for students taking the integrated double-degree program of "Honours BSc in Mathematics / Honours BSc in Computer Science (Data Science)" to be offered the option of pursuing their degree in a Co-operative education. The implementation date will actually be May 2021 and the proposal will have to be considered a major change. There has been considerable demand for this program, even though it is 5 years.

There was a discussion of admission statistics, particularly about trends towards increased interest in high technology (CSI, SEG) and a decline in interest in traditional branches of engineering. However, it was also pointed out that in Africa there is great interest in Civil and Mechanical engineering as they have a large amount of infrastructure to create.

There was discussion of outreach to high schools.

20.01.07 Report of the Vice Dean (Graduate Studies)

The Vice-Dean provided a written report.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2020-GRAD-GENIE-EMP-01. This drops EMP 6997 Major Consulting Project (6 units) as a compulsory requirement from the EMP program, not to be offered after Spring/Summer 2020. Currently it is a compulsory component of the program, but it has not achieved key desired outcomes, and the very high degree of the required administrative and faculty supervisory support is unsustainable. EMP 6997 is replaced with 6 additional units to be selected from the list of optional courses. This also adds GNG5902 Projet de stage en entreprise / Industry Internship Project to the list of optional courses. And also adds GNG5301 Professional Development Workshops which is a pre-requisite for GNG5902 and adds GNG5901 Stage en entreprise / Industry Internship which is a 0 credit continuing activity in the Faculty of Engineering used to recognize students who gain work experience related to their degree. A couple of typos were noted, which will be fixed.

The Professional Development Workshops course is going well. There is now a Professional Development Club, created by students that meets regularly.

There are now more admission scholarships allocated to our Faculty for international students.

There was discussion of GPA conversions from certain international universities.

There are certain challenges with students taking too long to complete their programs. Rules regarding unsatisfactory progress will be adjusted to ensure students are formally informed earlier in their program that their progress is not satisfactory if they do not meet milestones after certain numbers of semesters. Although this will be automatic, a supervisor can request exceptions.

The volume of applicants is up close to 10% this year, with approximately 5000 applications, whereas in previous years the year-over-year increase was much larger.

20.01.08 Report of the Vice Dean (International)

The Vice-Dean provided a written report.

The Vice-Dean highlighted several items in his report, including providing services to Iranians affected by the airline tragedy, and those affected by the Covid-19 epidemic.

There was an International Experience Scholarship session recently. The Vice-Dean emphasized that students are only allowed to receive one such scholarship.

20.01.09 Report of the Vice Dean (Quality Assurance and Teaching Innovation)

The Vice-Dean provided a written report.

20.01.10 Other business

The student representative for Chemical Engineering asked that additional information be posted on the web regarding approval processes, appeal processes and organization charts. It was pointed out that one of the challenges is that any diagram posted to the web must also exist as text so that it is accessible to the visually impaired. It was suggested that this request be raised to the level of the Senate.

The Vice-Dean Governance indicated that he will be holding a seminar on Uniweb on Wednesday at 10 a.m.

The Vice-Dean Governance encouraged Faculty Council members to participate in brainstorming on IdeaScale at <https://uottawa.ideascale.com>

The meeting concluded at 10:21.

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Timothy C. Lethbridge

Vice-Dean (Governance)