

Faculty of Engineering

Faculty Council

Meeting 2021.02

2:00 p.m. Mar 29, 2021 online on Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Officers of the Faculty

J. Beauvais, K. Hinzer, L. Peyton, M. Labrosse, T. Lethbridge, C. D'Amours, N. Baddour, B. Kruczek, C. Rennie, A. Felty, H. Anis.

Professors

A. Macchi, A. Weck, B. Lessard, B. Martin-Perez, C. Lan, A. Sowinski, D. Inkpen, E. Dragomirescu, E. Petriu, G-V. Jourdan, H. Al Osman, H. Schriemer, J. Infante Sedano, J. Zhao, JL De Carufel, JP St-Pierre, M. Noël, N. Zaguia, R. St-Gelais, T. Uchida, J. Yao, M. Hasan, M. Majeed.

Students

A. Al-Zaidi, H. Raissadat, H. Eglá, K. Nizam, P. Patel, R. Zeid, S. Aman, S. Knysh, V. Gabriel, Z. Al-Faesly

Others including guests and non-members

S. Gandolfini, F. Bouchard, H. Howes, K. Bournes, M. Kimberley, A. Bezerra, F. Jaheen, H. Yue Wang, K. Bondy, N. Castro, P. Kennedy, R. Ferdousi, R. Ebrahim, S. Li.

REGRETS

Officers of the Faculty

D. Taylor

Professors

B. Dhillon, H. Aoude, J. Catelas

ABSENT

Professors

M. Bouchard

Students

A. Almero, C. Choueifaty, I. Brine, S. Singh

21.02.01 Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

21.02.02 Approval of the Minutes of the January Meeting

The minutes had been approved by email.

21.02.03 Matter arising from the minutes

The Vice Dean Academic indicated that a working group is developing a three-year undergraduate program.

An E-Vote had been held between meetings whereby motion 2020-UGRD-GENIE-GNG-01 was approved. This makes GNG1103/1503 or SEG2900 or ELG2911 pre-requisites for GNG2101/2501

21.02.04 Bylaw changes

On a motion duly moved and seconded, and following Notice of Motion, Faculty Council approved changes to the Bylaws. The changes do the following: 1) They adjust the membership formulas for Faculty Council and committee to account for the formation of the new School of Engineering Design and Teaching Innovation. 2) They change the status of LTA professors, so they are counted among regular teaching staff for the purposes of membership on Faculty Council and committees (the two seats for part time professors would now be elected from among those part time professors who are not LTAs); this is because LTAs participate in curriculum development and other work in a manner similar to tenured and tenure-track professors. 3) They adjust membership of the Faculty Executive (2.1.1.6) so that the specific titles of managers and directors are no longer embedded in the Bylaws, allowing more flexibility, and enabling attendance of specific managers or directors to be decided on an annual basis; 4) They adjust the mandate of the Committee on academic standing (3.2.1) to eliminate a clause that has never been acted on, to better reflect reality.

21.02.05 Report of the Dean

Health and Safety

There were two accidents resulting in light injuries. A student suffered a cut to their thumb working with a glass pipette which broke. Another student working with pliers and metal strapping suffered a cut that required stitches. The Dean pointed out that although it is understood that some accidents will be a reality, we need to continuously work to minimize the number of accidents. The Dean reminded everybody that quick follow-up needs to occur after even minor accidents.

Cybersecurity

Phishing attacks are continuing. Many staff have taken the mandatory training for cybersecurity, but very few of the professors have done so. The Dean pointed out that this is a liability issue; if one has not undertaken the training it would be harder to defend oneself if an incident happened.

Other

Hanan Anis is the interim director of the School of Engineering Design and Teaching Innovation.

Two positions are open for the new School. This Wednesday there will be a presentation to faculty members about the new School.

There will be a gradual return to campus in the coming months. We are asked to aim to have an in-person experience for every student starting in September. There are still a lot of unknowns. We are developing a plan for gradual return to campus for staff.

The Dean has met with over 35 alumni over the last few months. We are going to be assembling task forces to involve the alumni. These will involve activities such as determining what hiring managers are seeking among students, and judging competitions.

We have partnered with the Professional Development Institute for certain initiatives; one example is with the Centre for Excellence in Next-Generation Networks. The Dean said that professional

development demand is outstripping offerings. It was pointed out that PEO is going to be requiring professional development.

21.02.06 Report of the Vice-Dean Research

The Vice-Dean circulated a report.

The International Experience Scholarship is virtual this year; we just distributed nine of them. The Vice-Dean also discussed other awards.

We are still in phase 2.5 of the return to research plan. Contact Pierre LaFlamme to bring visitors onto campus.

The CFI Innovation fund awarded our Faculty around \$20 million. The Dean thanked everybody who contributed to these awards.

21.02.07 Report of the Vice-Dean Undergraduate Studies

The Vice-Dean circulated a report.

For Winter, S/NS grading will be available.

The Vice-Dean discussed admissions. Numbers are similar to last year.

There was brief discussion about delays in visas.

Changes to Undergraduate programs

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2020-UGRD-GENIE-MCG-01. Change of course description and course title for six courses MCG2108, MCG2508, MCG3141, MCG3541, MCG3143, MCG3543 and course title for two courses, namely MCG2101, MCG2501. Changes are introduced to reflect the courses content as they are currently taught. The proposed changes will apply to programs listed and related options at the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science. And a change of course profile (replacing LAB component with TUT component) for two courses, namely MCG3110 and MCG3510, to reflect the current practice.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2020-UGRD-GENIE-MCG-02. This involves recognition of experiential learning: Creation of the 4th year course MCG4160 Internship in Mechanical Engineering or Biomedical Mechanical Engineering (3 units) to provide more scheduling flexibility for 4th year complementary elective content. This capstone experience will allow students to make links with the knowledge acquired during their undergraduate studies and the realities of a real work environment, channelling it into coursework that will be vetted and evaluated by departmental instructors.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2021-UGRD-GENIE-CHG-01. This is a change the description of the course CHG4307 Process Risk Management.

21.02.08 Report of the Vice-Dean Graduate Studies

The Vice-Dean circulated a report

The Vice-Dean discussed the issue of students having to quarantine in a hotel while being tested, and the expense of this.

The online Masters in Engineering Management will be starting in May as a cost-recovery program. 50 students will start May 1.

112 students in Cairo will be taking our Masters of ECE program.

The University is investing a lot of money in PhD students.

We are looking OK for admissions for the next academic year. Masters numbers look very similar to last year. But there is some 'admission hesitancy' at the PhD level.

The Dean praised the teams that have established the new Engineering Management and Cairo programs.

There was a question about scholarship reform. The Vice Dean indicated that if any professor needs to compete with another university to admit a promising student, they should raise the issue with the Vice Dean and the respective program co-ordinator.

There was a question of attracting Canadian students. The Vice Dean says we are going after the best, whether they be Canadian or International.

Changes to Graduate programs

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2021-Grad-Genie-MEM-03. Remove course MEM 5118 Technology Project Management Practices (3 units) from the Engineering Management program, and create and add a new course MEM 6XXX Complex Project Management (3 units).

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2021-Grad-Genie-SYS-04. Add Laboratory and Tutorial components to SYS5100 Systems Engineering.

Graduate Funding Guidelines

The Vice Dean discussed the new Guidelines for Graduate Student Recruiting & Funding that he circulated. This will take effect in Fall 2021. This guarantees \$9000 funding for 4 years to PhD students admitted with a GPA over 8.0 and \$7500 to Masters students with a GPA over 9.0 (for 3 semesters). Existing students will qualify retroactively. There is a merit fund providing flexible funds; this can be used for students below 9 or masters students. These changes are university wide.

There was discussion about the fact that the changes reduce support to Masters students.

On a motion moved and seconded Faculty Council affirmed that that the Guidelines shared by the Graduate office describe a reasonable approach to the situation created by the University-mandated scholarship reform of 2021, and that Faculty Council supports the Guidelines.

The Vice-Dean indicated that the circulated document was amended after consultation with academic units. Specifically: 4c and 4d were replaced with a single reworded 4c: 'Two approaches supported by default by Graduate office, but programs/departments can define others: \$7500 tuition bursary in first year of 5-year CDN / PR Option to PhD OR "Matching" support to achieve \$9000 funding support in first year (e.g. 50/50 matching gives \$4500 each from supervisor and Merit Fund).'

The Dean indicated that professors should call the Vice Dean if the new rules seem to be obstacles to making offers.

21.02.09 Report of the Vice Dean QATI

The Vice Dean was not able to attend, but the Dean indicated that he was given a Leadership award for transition to online learning.

21.02.10 Other Business

The Vice-Dean Governance and the Dean thanked those whose terms end with this meeting.

The meeting ended at 15:50

Timothy C. Lethbridge

Vice-Dean (Governance)