

Faculty of Engineering

Faculty Council

Meeting 2022.01

1:00 p.m. Jan 31, 2022 online on Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Officers of the Faculty

J. Beauvais, G. Doudak, L. Peyton, M. Labrosse, T. Lethbridge, C. D'Amours, N. Baddour, M. Fall, C. Adams, H. Anis., X. Cao

Professors

K. Meek, A. Macchi, A. Weck, B. Lessard, B. Martin-Perez, C. Lan, E. Petriu, M. Bouchard, H. Schriemer, J. Infante Sedano, J. Zhao, T. Uchida, M. Majeed, W. El Ahmar, G-V. Jourdan, R. St-Gelais, E. Dragomirescu

Students

A. Bezerra, F. Jaheen, A. Fella Jahromi, S. Kateel, R. Ebrahim, K. Bondy, P. Kennedy, H. Yue Wang, N. Castro, R. Ferdousi, S. Knysh, S. Li, V. Jidkov

Others including guests and non-members

J. Yao, S. Gandolfini, H. Howes, M. Kimberley

REGRETS

Officers of the Faculty

D. Taylor

Professors

B. Dhillon, I Catelas, H. Aoude, A. Sowinski, M. Noël

ABSENT

Professors

N. Zaguia

Students

H. Wang, E. Leblanc, M. Lynds

22.01.01 Approval of the Agenda

This was approved.

22.01.02 Approval of the Minutes of the November 11 Meeting

The minutes had been approved by email.

22.01.03 Matter arising from the minutes

There was none.

22.01.04 Report of the Dean

Health and safety

There were no specific incidents.

Regarding the gradual return to campus: The upper administration decided to proceed as planned with a return to indoor instructional use today, with no capacity limits, but with masks required at all times. Instructors may remove their masks when physical distancing or when there are barriers. For indoor non-instructional space, we are asked to maintain physical distance and to use face masks when physical distancing cannot be maintained. There might be inspections by the Ministry of Labour and other officials, who are empowered to issue fines.

The Tim Hortons is scheduled to open Feb 14th.

Chairs in the STE building have not been removed during the Omicron phase of the pandemic.

Following a question, it was confirmed that the rules are the same in all classrooms on campus and that students who want to or need to participate online will be able to do so, except in certain labs.

There was a question about what students can do regarding co-op interviews when students are on campus for their classes. It was agreed that the Dean and Vice-Deans would follow up with the co-op office.

Cybersecurity

There was a phishing test last Fall, where emails were sent to uOttawa email addresses to see whether people would click on simulated links that look like those in phishing attempts. It turned out to be tricky. Overall, 26% of academic personnel campus-wide clicked on a simulated link; 22% did so in the Faculty of Engineering.

3-Year Plan

We have objectives in the areas of Research, Recruitment and, EDI.

The Dean highlighted collaborations with Telus and the University of Luxembourg. He also pointed out the work of Prof. Robert Delatolla who is a leader in the detection of Covid-19 in wastewater.

The University has improved its ranking among Canadian research-intensive universities to number 8 in terms of research funding. We are even higher in some other ranking categories related to research.

Regarding strategic partnerships, the Dean pointed out our Tec Monterrey, and with Malaysian universities. He also pointed out interactions with embassies and others.

Regarding recruitment, a key objective is to become more attractive. In terms of first-choice university, our Faculty are up 16% this year. We are the top Faculty in terms of increased applications (including particularly from Ontario and from international Francophones). On Wednesday we are holding a VIP event.

We are planning to put in place concrete activities to identify specific actions for EDI.

We have the following focuses: partnership, inclusivity, access to higher education, and reputation.

The Dean updated everybody about the Craft Lab in Chemical Engineering. This has been student led from the start.

We are in the middle of website migration from Drupal 7 to 9; this includes re-creating pages and building new content. We are 99% complete. The launch will be in April.

22.01.05 Report of the Acting Vice-Dean Research

The Vice-Dean presented a written report.

He highlighted some aspects of it: We have many proposals for RTI and Discovery, with results coming in April. Prof. Burak Kantarci has been awarded the Minister's Award of Excellence in the category of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

22.01.06 Report of the Vice-Dean Undergraduate Studies

The Vice-Dean presented a written report.

He indicated that that the registration period in January went well. Response to students seems to be high.

It is hoped the new 3-year program will be able to start in Sept 2023. The visit of the external visitors has now taken place.

Applications are “on fire”. We will not be increasing the numbers of admissions, however.

22.01.07 Report of the Vice-Dean Graduate Studies

The Vice-Dean presented a written report.

The graduate office is processing OGS, NSERC, and QE2 scholarships. We have also scholarships available to help Black and Indigenous students undertake graduate studies.

We are seeing some drop in applications to PhD thesis programs. However, we have more applications than positions, so this is not yet a problem.

The Vice-Dean encouraged professors to make note of the Merit Fund.

In terms of graduate-level scholarships, there was a question about whether there is a difference between new PhD students entering from elsewhere, and PhD students who have completed their Masters here. The Vice-Dean indicated that there should not be a difference.

22.01.08 Other Business

The work-from-home plan for staff will continue for another day due to the protests. There will be a continued increased Protection presence on campus.

The next meeting is March 24th.

The meeting ended at 14:00

Timothy C. Lethbridge

Vice-Dean (Governance)