

Faculty of Engineering

Faculty Council

Meeting 2026.02

March 26, 2026 in person in CBY 707 and on Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Officers of the Faculty

C. Cao, H. Anis, N. Baddour, X. Cao, G. Doudak, M. Fall, A. Sowinski, K. Hinzer, H. Viktor.

Professors

L. Moura, H. J. Cho, H. Schriemer, J. Haelssig, A. Karthikeyan, J. Foster, O. Seidou, J. Zhang, T. Lethbridge, C-H. Kim, I. Nistor, T. Cesari, H. Tezel, I. Catelas, P. Mehrani, J. Moran, F. Newland, S. Vanapalli.

Part-time professors

Muslim Majeed.

Students

Eslin Ustun Karatop, Jad Mghabghab, Felix Addo, Bahar Ronnasi, Nahara Raihanatou Mohamadou, Thomas Harvey.

Others including guests and non-members

Marcelle Kimberley, J. Olivier, Mélissa Laurin.

EXCUSED

A. Karmouch, P. Branco, E. Petriu, M. Bolic, Claude D'Amours.

ABSENT

Professors

C. Kinsley, N. Samaan, T. Jin, M. Kavgic, N. Zaguia, A. Weck.

Students

Ayoub Aouzal, Shruthi Perumalsamy Gurunathan, Hamza El Mendri, Trisha Bhatia, Kevin Ghneim, Nadine Jamkil, Rory McCulloch, Nicholas Kuzyshyn, Hiba Chikhaoui, Bilal Shaikh, Iliana Loupessis, Onadinma Grace Ntadom.

Part-time professors

Hal Hilfi.

Others including guests and non-members

26.02.01 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

26.02.02 Approval of the Minutes of Meeting 2026-1

The minutes had been approved by email.

26.02.03 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

26.02.04 Report of the Dean

- Dean Cao discussed the recent drop in university rankings, highlighting the need to improve visibility, student experience, and publication output to enhance reputation and opportunities.
 - The Dean reported that the university dropped from 189 to 219 in the QS world rankings. uOttawa ranked 8th in Canada and 21st in Engineering in the THE. The group discussed how Chinese universities are advancing due to increased funding, faster publication mechanisms, and a focus on AI research, emphasizing the importance of visibility and strategic communication to improve uOttawa's standing.
 - Student satisfaction, modern labs, and publication output were identified as key components in ranking evaluations, with a call to analyze how peer institutions like Carlton have surpassed Ottawa in certain areas.
- The Dean outlined the various scholarship funds available, including entrance scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students, Dean scholarships, donor-funded awards, and student fee-derived funding, noting the need for strategic allocation.
 - X. Cao described the chemical engineering department's guaranteed funding package, which includes a minimum supervisor commitment and TA support, and compared it to other Canadian universities, highlighting differences in university-level contributions.
 - The group discussed the importance of competitive funding packages for attracting high-quality students, referencing market analyses and the impact of science fairs and robotics competitions on recruitment, and the need to match or exceed peer institutions' offers.
 - Participants raised concerns about the adequacy of graduate funding, the impact of living expenses, and the need for minimum guaranteed stipends, with suggestions to share departmental presentations and review funding policies regularly.
- The Dean announced the launch of a university-wide strategic planning exercise and rebranding campaign, mandated by the Board of Governors, with input from various stakeholders and alignment with faculty goals.
 - It was noted that the faculty has not yet conducted its own strategic planning, but will leverage the university's process to ensure faculty goals are supported and integrated.
 - There are plans to form working groups and consulting students, staff, faculty, and external stakeholders to inform both university and faculty strategies, with a focus on workforce connections and evolving industry needs.

- Participants raised concerns about students affected by the ongoing war in Western Asia, emphasizing the need for supervisors to proactively offer support and accommodations, and for faculty to communicate awareness and care. The Dean agreed to consult university protocols, stressing the importance of humanitarian support and open communication for affected students and staff.

26.02.05 Report of the Vice-Dean Research

The Vice-Dean provided a written report and reported at the meeting on new resources for NSERC Discovery applications, CFI funding cycles, and the launch of I-CURE for undergraduate research experience, including course credit and pilot program details.

- A new dashboard provides section-by-section guidance and links for professors applying to NSERC Discovery, with information sessions and peer review resources available on SharePoint.
- The Canada Foundation for Innovation's John Evans Leaders Fund is nearing the end of its three-year cycle, with the next call in February 2027; faculty members interested in applying should contact Mark Pearson or Amy Huras.
- The Individually Created Undergraduate Research Experience (ICURE) allows undergraduates to gain research experience and course credit during the summer, with pilot programs and course codes established for Science and Engineering.
- ICURE courses are three credits, with plans to formalize course codes and adapt based on feedback from the pilot cohort, ensuring integration into academic programs and ease of registration.

26.02.07 Report of the Vice-Dean Programs

The Vice-Dean led discussions on curriculum updates, including course code changes, removal of outdated courses, and program requirement adjustments, with input from faculty and approval processes.

- Mechanical engineering programs updated anatomy course codes due to changes in offerings by the Faculty of Medicine, ensuring new students take appropriate courses starting in 2026.
- The Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies identified and proposed removal of courses not offered in over five years, streamlining the catalog and preventing confusion for students.
- Optional courses in the online master's of interdisciplinary AI were removed due to lack of development and relevance, improving program clarity and student outcomes.
- ELG 6305 was updated to match Carlton's course description, ensuring consistency and clarity for students and faculty.
- CEAB extended the accreditation of the CVG program for another 5 years, putting it in line with MCG, MGB, and CVG. SEG, CEG, and ELG are still planned for a visit in the fall of 2027. The new BMDEng has passed the senate and will start the process of working on becoming accredited.

There was one (1) undergraduate and three (3) graduate senate requests presented to the Faculty Council for approval. The complete document, including the resolutions of the motion, is presented in the following table.

Undergraduate

Motion	Unit	Request number	Description	Academic Unit Approval	Effective Date	Approved
Minor	-	2025-UGRD-GENIE-MGB-02	The Faculty of Medicine will phase out ANP1106/ANP1506 starting in September 2026. ANP1111/ANP1511 fully covers the same topics and learning outcomes and is considered equivalent. Once ANP1106/ANP1506 is discontinued, ANP1111/ANP1511 will replace it as the recommended course for MGB students.	2026-02-17	Sept. 2026	Yes

Graduate

Motion	Unit	Request number	Description	Academic Unit Approval	Effective Date	Approved
Minor	MCG	2025-UGRD-GENIE-MGB-02	The Faculty of Medicine will phase out ANP1106/ANP1506 starting in September 2026. ANP1111/ANP1511 fully covers the same topics and learning outcomes and is considered equivalent. Once ANP1106/ANP1506 is discontinued, ANP1111/ANP1511 will replace it as the recommended course for MGB students.	-	May 2026	Yes
Minor	SEDTI	2026-GRAD-GENIE-MIA-01	Deletion of unused optional courses (DTO 5100, DTO 5101, DTO 5120, DTO 5140) and update to course prerequisites.	2026-03-02	Sep 2026	Yes
Minor	-	2026-GRAD-GENIE-01	Abolition of 11 courses that have not been offered for more than five years.	2026-03-02	May 2026	Yes

Motion	Unit	Request number	Description	Academic Unit Approval	Effective Date	Approved

26.02.08 Report of the Vice-Dean Student affairs

26.02.08 Report of the Vice-Dean EDI and Governance

The Vice-Dean reported on the EDI Advisory Committee, new survey launches, data policy development, and support for students affected by external events, including new hires and focus priority initiatives.

- The EDI Advisory Committee is launching focus priority initiatives, aligning with faculty development plans, and reviewing EDI components in the three-year plan, with new members joining.
- Efforts are underway to develop a data policy plan for collecting and disseminating aggregated EDI data, with education and training included in the collective agreement but data sharing still under discussion.
- A full-time admin assistant to the Vice Dean EDI and governance has been hired, starting April 7th, to support committee activities and initiatives.
- The results of recent Faculty Council elections, welcoming 19 new members, including part-time professors and students, and thanked outgoing members for their contributions.

26.02.9 Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 10:30.

Ghasan Doudak

Vice-Dean (EDI and Governance)