



Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering
Minutes of the Meeting of April 6, 2021

PRESENT: Chris Yip (Dean), Javad Mostaghimi (Speaker), Ravi Adve, Armin Ale Mohammad, Grant Allen, Danita Allick, Katherine Allison, Cristina Amon, Jason Anderson, Muralidhar Andoorveedu, Susan Andrews, Julie Audet, Gisele Azimi, Aimey Bazylak, Jason Bazylak, Evan Bentz, Laura Berneaga, Raymond Bhushan, Eric Bryce, Markus Bussmann, Warren Chan, Hai-Ling Cheng, Alan Chong, Eldan Cohen, Shai Cohen, Tom Coyle, Chris Damaren, James Davis, Ibrahim Djebel Ameli, Khuong Doan, Ali Dolatabadi, Stark Draper, Feras Elsaid, Natalie Enright Jerger, Greg Evans, Saima Fancy, Jennifer Farmer, Ramin Farnood, Carolyn Farrell, Zahir Firoze, Diane Giang, Alex Gilvesy, Krisztina Harmath, Glenn Hibbard, Eugene Hwang, Charles Jia, Kyle Juliao, Bryan Karney, Elias Khalil, Sarah Khan, Andrew Kidd, Dawn Kilkenny, Inho Kim, Donald Kirk, Dana Kokoska, Christopher Kousinioris, Deepa Kundur, Yu Luo, Don MacMillan, Saf Mahmood, Paul Malozewski, Brenda McCabe, Minnie Menezes, Mirjana Mijalkovic, Emily Moore, Mahyar Mozaffari, Shivani Nathoo, Graeme Norval, Jeffrey Packer, Joseph Paradi, Dan Pettigrew, Nelly Pietropaolo, Daniel Posen, Doug Reeve, Jon Rocheleau, Lisa Romkey, Margaux Ronciere, Costas Sarris, Shamim Sheikh, Brent Sleep, Micah Stickel, Ken Tallman, Steven Thorpe, Mindy Thuna, Hamid Timorabadi, Marianne Touchie, Chris Twigge-Molecey, Chirag Variawa, Branden Wesseling, Elizabeth Whitmell, Lydia Wilkinson, Bernard Wong, Victor Xin, Renee Yan

SECRETARIAT: Caroline Ziegler, Alex Schroen

GUESTS: Archit Bhargava, Nikkie Bonon, Inga Breede, Sharon Brown, Melanie Carrington, Dani Couture, Leanne Dawkins, Sonia De Buglio, David Duong, Pierina Filippone, Leslie Grife, Cathy Grilo, Cori Hanson, Christina Heidorn, Joanna Lau, Anna Limanni, Jess MacInnis, Don Newton, Shannon Osborne, Mark Rittinger, Cindy Rottmann, Annie Simpson, Marisa Sterling, Alex Tichine, Allison Van Beek, Geoff Wichert

1. Speaker's Welcome

Speaker Javad Mostaghimi called the fourth and final Faculty Council meeting of 2020-2021 to order at 12:10 pm. He welcomed members and guests, acknowledged the University's use of traditional land and reviewed protocols for the virtual meeting. There were no questions.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda and reports were distributed on March 24, 2021. On a regular motion duly moved, seconded and carried, the agenda was approved.

3. Introduction of New Faculty

Eldan Cohen and Ali Dolatobadi, two new faculty members in MIE, were introduced by their chair, Markus Bussmann.

4. Adoption of the Minutes of Previous Meetings

No errors or omissions were noted in the minutes of the February 24, 2021 Council meeting and on a regular motion duly moved, seconded and carried, the minutes were approved.

5. Report of the Dean

Dean Chris Yip welcomed all to the Council meeting and provided the following remarks.

(a) Fall Planning

We are making plans across the university to be in person as much as possible this Fall term. Although we do not yet have all the details on what this will look like, safety is paramount as we plan for the return to in-person activities following the guidance of public health agencies and governments. Over the past year, we have developed many innovations in how we teach and learn, support students and conduct research. We have also made changes to our physical spaces, including new signage and barriers, increased cleaning and upgraded ventilation. Thank you to our registrar, staff and faculty for managing these logistics. The vaccine rollout across Canada and around the world is gathering momentum, and the next few months will be vital for our collective recovery. We will keep everyone up to date.

(b) Appointment Updates

We are working on appointments for the roles of Vice-Dean, First Year; Associate Dean, Cross-Disciplinary Programs; and the newly-created academic administrative role of Vice-Dean, Strategic. This latter position will work closely with the Vice-Deans of Research, First Year, Undergraduate, and Graduate Studies and will provide leadership on all aspects of strategic importance to the Faculty, including infrastructure, collaboration and institutional initiatives.

(c) Faculty Ranking

U of T Engineering remains Canada's top-ranked engineering school and is now in the global top 20, according to the QS World University Rankings by Subject for 2021. The rankings, released March 4, 2021, placed us 18th globally in the category of Engineering & Technology. This marks an increase from last year's position of 22nd and the fourth consecutive year where the institution improved its ranking.

Our rankings and reputation are a direct result of the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, students, alumni and partners. Thank you for your contributions. From the world-leading impact of our research to the richness of our student experience — including opportunities to develop leadership and global perspectives — we can all be proud of everything we do to shape the next generation of engineering talent.

(d) Engineering Excellence Awards, 2020-2021

Members of our faculty and staff have been honoured for their outstanding contributions to the Faculty with teaching, research and administrative staff awards. These awards recognize exceptional faculty and staff members for their leadership, citizenship, innovation and contributions to the Faculty's teaching, service and research missions.

The 2020 recipient of the Faculty's Teaching Assistant Award is Ka Yee (Shirley) Lam (ChemE) and the 2021 recipient is Kok Long Ng (MSE).

Recipients of the Early Career Teaching Award are Professors Gisele Azimi (ChemE, MSE) and Chirag Variawa (ISTEP); the recipient of the Faculty Teaching Award is Professor Costas Sarris (ECE); and the recipient of the Sustained Excellence in Teaching Award is Professor Steven Thorpe (MSE).

Regarding administrative staff awards, the recipient of the Agnes Kaneko Award is Dan Tomchyshyn, Network Administrator (ChemE). Gayle Lesmond, Undergraduate Program Administrator & Academic Advisor (MIE) received the Emerging Leader Award; Annie Simpson, Associate Director (Troost ILead) received the Sustained Excellence in Leadership Award; Lina McDonald, Undergraduate Program & Payroll Officer (ECE) received the Innovation Award; Leanne Dawkins, Undergraduate Program Manager (ECE) received the Quality of Student Experience Award for Frontline Staff; and the MIE Undergraduate Labs Support Team (Tom Bernreiter, Tony Ruberto and Osmond Sargeant) received the Quality of Student Experience Award for Behind-the-Scenes Staff.

Researchers in the Centre for Research and Applications in Fluidic Technologies (CRAFT) received the Safwat Zaky Research Leader Award: Axel Guenther (MIE); Milica Radisic (BME/ChemE); Aaron Wheeler (ChemE); and Ted Overis, a status-only professor.

(e) Engineering Society Leadership Transition

The 2021-2022 Engineering Society leadership team are President Jacqueline Fleisig; Vice-President, Finance, Valerie Ajayi; Vice-President, Communications, Brohath Amrithraj; Vice-President, Academic, Archit Bhargava; and Vice-President, Student Life, Karman Lochab. Thank you for committing your time, skill set and abilities to the benefit of our Engineering students.

Thanks as well to the members of the Engineering Society's 2020-2021 leadership team, who have done a tremendous job under unprecedented conditions and very difficult circumstances.

6. Graduation with Honours for Part-Time Students

Daniel Posen, chair of the Examinations Committee, presented Report 3684, a proposal to revise the definitions for Honours Standing upon graduation.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the following regular motion was moved and seconded –

THAT the definitions for Honours Standing upon graduation be revised as described in Report 3684, effective April 7, 2021.

There were no questions and the motion carried.

7. Updates to Dean's Honours List and Honours Standing

Daniel Posen, chair of the Examinations Committee, presented Report 3685, a proposal to revise the definitions for the Dean's Honours List and Honours Standing to be consistent with current practice and to extend the definition for both to include part-time students.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the following regular motion was moved and seconded –

THAT the definitions for the Dean's Honour List and Honours Standing be revised as described in Report 3685, effective April 7, 2021.

Members discussed why the threshold for Honours Standing was lowered, and why it is important to codify the implicit practices of the Dean's Honours List.

The motion carried.

8. Procedures for Committees of Council

Doug Reeve, chair of the Working Group to Update Standing Committees of Council, presented Report 3688 Revised, new Procedures for Committees of Council. These are a result of the continued renewal of Faculty Council governance policies and procedures which began with an update of the constitution and bylaws of Council in 2019-2020.

Professor Reeve described the many months of work and consultations that led to the revised Procedures and how they will make it easier for any student, staff and faculty who has not served on a committee to understand how they function and make for more efficient, effective governance.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the following regular motion was moved and seconded –

THAT the Procedures for Committees of Council, as described in Report 3688 Revised, be approved effective, July 1, 2021.

Members questioned the use of "teaching staff" instead of "faculty", and Professor Reeve explained that this is the terminology used in Council's constitution and bylaws.

The motion carried.

9. Proposed Session Dates for the 2021-2022 Academic Year

Evan Bentz, chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, presented Report 3678 Revised, proposed session dates for Fall and Winter 2021-2022 and for the 2021 Summer Session.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the following regular motion was moved and seconded –

THAT the session dates for the 2021-2022 academic year be approved as described in Report 3678 Revised.

During discussions, a member suggested that the shortened exams period in the Winter session could lead to heightened stress levels for students and asked if the Faculty could look into this. Professor Bentz stated that this is a fair, not perfect, solution and that it is better on balance to follow the practice in the Faculty of Arts & Science. Another member noted that the 14-day Winter exams period in 2019-2020 is not far off from the 12 days proposed for 2021-2022.

The motion carried.

10. Reports for Information

The following standing committee reports were approved by the Executive Committee of Council at its March 11, 2021 meeting and are for Council's information.

(a) Engineering Graduate Education Committee: Update

Julie Audet, Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies and chair of the Engineering Graduate Education Committee, presented Report 3689, new courses approved in CIV and MIE; and minor modifications to APS1018; CHE's PhD and MASc programs; and the MEng emphasis in Advanced Water Technologies.

There were no questions and the report was received for information.

(b) Examinations Committee: Undergraduate Leave of Absence Policy for International Students

Daniel Posen, chair of the Examinations Committee, presented Report 3687, which describes a new policy that allows international undergraduate students to take a voluntary temporary leave of absence.

It was confirmed that a leave would be only for students wanting to take off a term or longer because of obligations such as government required military service. If a student would like to take off part of a semester they would have to work it out with their department chair or director.

The report was received for information.

(c) Examinations Committee: Interpretation of Grades

Daniel Posen, chair of the Examinations Committee, presented Report 3686, the creation of a statement describing how to interpret grades assigned within the Faculty. The *Final Course Marks – Interpretation of Grades* provides descriptors of grade categories, as well as typical grade distributions within a course based on recent historical data within the Faculty.

There were no questions and the report was received for information.

(d) Report of the Engineering Alumni Network

Brenda McCabe, co-chair of the Engineering Alumni Network Awards Committee, presented Report 3690, which lists alumni inducted into the 2021 Engineering Alumni Hall of Distinction, and recipients of the Engineering Alumni Medal, 2T5 Mid-Career Award, 7T6 Early Career Award, Malcolm McGrath Alumni Achievement Award, and Honourary Member of the EAN Award.

The Speaker congratulated the award winners and the report was received for information.

11. Other Business

The Engineering Society's Student Choice Awards acknowledge instructors in the Faculty who demonstrate excellence through a set of student-defined criteria, including teaching methods and skill excellence, community involvement, equity, diversity and inclusion, and more.

Christopher Kousinioris, Engineering Society president, listed the 2020-2021 winners as Best First Year Instructor: Fabian Parsch (Math); Best Upper Year Instructors: Emily Moore (ILead) and Edgar Joel Acosta (ChemE); Best Online Learning Experience: Hamid Shokrollah-Timorabadi (ECE) and Vardan Papyan (Math); Supporting International Students: Shai Cohen (ISTEP); Supporting Student Mental Wellness: Daniel Posen (CivMin); and Promoting Equity, Diversity and Inclusion: Brenda McCabe (CivMin).

The Speaker congratulated the awards winners and thanked Mr. Kousinioris for his presentation.

There were no other items of business.

12. Service Presentations

(a) Retiring Faculty

The Speaker thanked the professors retiring this academic year, including Graeme Norval and Doug Reeve (ChemE); Michael Collins, Doug Hooton, Brenda McCabe, Kim Pressnail and Frank Vecchio (CivMin); Raymond Kwong (ECE); Peter Weiss (ISTEP); Viliam Makis, Paul Milgram and James Wallace (MIE); Uwe Erb (MSE); and Jan Spelt (MIE), who retired but was not acknowledged in 2019-2020.

There was insufficient time for chairs and directors to acknowledge their professors; however, they will create testimonials to be posted on the Faculty Council webpage.

(b) Academic Administrators

Dean Yip acknowledged and thanked several outgoing and past academic administrators, including Grant Allen, outgoing ChemE chair; Bryan Karney, outgoing Associate Dean, Cross-Disciplinary Programs; and Doug Reeve, past Speaker of Faculty Council.

Retiring professors and outgoing academic administrators will be sent a physical token of our appreciation for their service to the Faculty.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The governance meeting calendar for the next academic year is under development and will be circulated to Council when finalized.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm. The Speaker noted a member's comment that there was still time remaining in the meeting.

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