



Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering Minutes of the Meeting of February 24, 2025

MEMBERS: Jun Nogami (Speaker), Evan Bentz (Acting Dean), Dionne Aleman, Grant Allen, Cristina Amon, Julie Audet, Carla Baptista, Jason Bazylak, David Boroto, Anthony Bowman, Helen Bright, Markus Bussman, Arthur Chan, Ron Chiong, Shai Cohen, Liyang Dai-Hattrick, Christopher Damaren, Michelle Deeton, Stark Draper, Natalie Enright Jerger, Evelyn Fallah, Jennifer Farmer, Diane Giang, Marianne Hatzopoulou, Angela Henshilwood, Inga Hipsz, Tulgar Ilhan, Katherine Jia, Dawn Kilkenny, Donald Kirk, Deepa Kundur, Antonio Liscidini, Heather MacLean, Ethan Mao, Katherine Mezei, Mohammad Mofrad, Isabelle Rao, Mark Rittinger, Jonathan Rocheleau, Lisa Romkey, Stephen Rouatt, Kimberly Seaman, Philipp Seiler, Tess Seip, Theo Soong, David Steinman, Marisa Sterling, Micah Stickel, Hamid Timorabadi, Olivier Trescases, Patrick Tyrrell, Saskia van Beers, Chirag Variawa, Lesley Warren, Elizabeth Whitmell, Edmond Young

SECRETARIAT: Silvia Delgado (Governance Administrative Assistant), Alex Schroen (Moderator)

GUESTS: Mohaddeseh Abdolhosseini, Rouhollah Ayazian, Inga Breede, Leanne Dawkins, Ines Fernandez, Roger Francis, Teresa Fung, Ariel Gaitan, Leslie Grife, Joanne Lieu, Anna Limanni, Denis Mascarin, Jenny Mo, Don Newton, Asma Pathan, Rocky Petinakis, Dan Pettigrew, Adham Ragab, Emma Scully, Alex Tichine, Geoff Wichert, Yun Wu, Minghan Xu, Keanna Yu, Nefeteria Wickham

1. Speaker's Welcome and Approval of Agenda

Speaker Jun Nogami called the third Faculty Council meeting of 2024-2025 to order at 12:10 pm, welcoming new Council members in GB202 and online.

The Speaker acknowledged the land on which the University of Toronto operates and reviewed protocols for the hybrid meeting.

The agenda and reports were distributed on February 11 and the revised Report 3781 was distributed February 19.

2. Introduction of New Faculty Members

New faculty members Isabelle Rao of the Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering; Minghan Xu of the Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering, were introduced by their respective chairs and directors.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of Previous Meetings

Members discussed the minutes of the December 18, 2024 Council meeting, in particular a statement pertaining to Report 3774: Admissions Cycle 2024 “the Faculty still has 92 percent international applicants”, which requires clarification. Council agreed to table approval of the minutes until its next meeting on April 29, 2025, at which time it can consider the revision.

4. Memorial Tributes

a) Gerald N. Steuart

Marianne Hatzopoulou, chair of the Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering, read the following memorial tribute in honour of Professor Emeritus Gerald N. Steuart.

Be it resolved –

THAT the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering record with deep regret the death on November 18, 2024 of Professor Emeritus Gerald N. Steuart.

Professor Steuart was an accomplished scholar, holding a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan and an M.S and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

Professor Steuart joined the Department in 1970 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to full professor in 1986. Since 1997 he has been Professor Emeritus. He taught transportation-related courses and has supervised numerous undergraduate, masters and doctoral students. In 1990, the University of Toronto – York University Joint Program in Transportation was established and became a Centre within the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering. Professor Steuart was invited to serve as the first Director of the Center and he held this position until 1996. The Joint Program in Transportation emerged as one of the leading transport research centres in North America. Professor Steuart’s intellectual contribution to its research program and his administration of the program was widely recognized.

Gerry founded the transportation section in our Department. He set in motion its directions, established its vibrant spirit, built its richness, reputation and standing. He was also the founding Director of the Data Management Group, which for 36 years and counting has been a world leader in travel data collection and of immeasurable benefit to transportation planning in the Greater Toronto Area and beyond. But just listing his academic achievements would be to miss his essence. Intellectual integrity? Unwavering honesty? Thoroughness? Caring? A Mensch ... Words fail. When his name comes up in conversation with ex-students, mentorship is usually mentioned. Gerry was someone they looked up to, someone who influenced what and how they think, a role model who shaped what they became.

In June of 2012, a former student of Gerry's provided a large endowment to establish the Professor Gerald Steuart Graduate Scholarship in Transportation Engineering which is awarded annually to a graduate student enrolled in civil engineering who is undertaking advanced research in transportation engineering and who demonstrates a strong commitment to pursuing innovative solutions to pressing transportation problems facing urban centres or airports in any region of the world.

Be it further resolved –

THAT this tribute to Professor Emeritus Gerald N. Steuart be inscribed in the minutes of this Council meeting, and that copies be sent to his family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of this Council.

b) William Howard (Bill) Burgess

Ramin Farnood, chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry, read the following memorial tribute in honour of Professor Emeritus William Howard (Bill) Burgess.

Be it resolved –

THAT the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering record with deep regret the death on January 5, 2025, of Professor Emeritus William Howard (Bill) Burgess.

Bill Burgess's journey at U of T began in 1954 when he joined the Department of Chemical Engineering & Applied Chemistry as an Assistant Professor. Born on March 13, 1924, in Chelsea, Massachusetts, Bill's academic path first began at Cornell University in 1942. His studies were interrupted in 1944 when he was drafted into the United States Army, serving in the Signal Corps until his discharge in 1946.

Upon returning to Cornell, Bill earned his Bachelor of Chemical Engineering in 1949, his Master of Food Science in 1950, and his Ph.D. in Dairy Chemistry in 1954, with minors in physical chemistry and bacteriology. During his time at Cornell, he held research and teaching assistantships, laying the foundation for a lifelong commitment to education.

Bill's career at U of T Engineering spanned five decades, during which he became a pillar of the Chemical Engineering department. Promoted to Associate Professor in 1959 and full Professor in 1968, he mentored countless students, inspiring them with his dedication, humor, and unwavering belief in their potential. His teaching style was both engaging and memorable, leaving a lasting impression on generations of engineering students.

Throughout his career, he received numerous teaching excellence awards, and his legacy is honored through the Bill Burgess Teaching Award, which continues to recognize outstanding contributions to education in our department. Upon his retirement in 1989, he was granted the

status of Professor Emeritus. He remained an active and cherished member of the U of T community, continuing to teach until 2004.

Beyond U of T, Bill was a member of the American Chemical Society, Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Xi. He joined the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario in 1963, proudly receiving his iron ring.

Bill's teaching philosophy was rooted in the joy of understanding. He once remarked, "There's nothing so wonderful as when the light bulb goes on...The wonderful feeling when you finally understand something, and you want to share your insight with others to help them understand too."

His colleagues and students alike remember him as a remarkable mentor and collaborator, recalling his extraordinary ability to inspire and support others. Many shared how his guidance left a lasting impact

on their careers and teaching practices, embodying the very essence of dedication and excellence in education.

Bill's warmth, wisdom, and dedication to education have left an indelible mark on our university. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of engineers and educators.

Be it further resolved –

THAT this tribute to Professor Emeritus William Howard (Bill) Burgess be inscribed in the minutes of this Council meeting, and that copies be sent to his family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of this Council.

The Speaker assumed concurrence with these resolutions and Council observed one minute of silence in honour of Professors Emeriti Steuart and Burgess.

5. Report of the Dean

Speaker Jun Nogami welcomed Professor Evan Bentz, Acting Dean, to read the Dean's report. Professor Bentz welcomed all to the third Faculty Council meeting of the academic year. He expressed hope that all had a productive and fulfilling reading week, and wishing everyone continued good health and a successful meeting ahead.

Professor Bentz opened with a photo from Survey Camp, showing a view from the professor's cottage across Gull Lake, a unique and special part of the University of Toronto Campus. This photo highlights the dark skies at Survey Camp at night, showing the Milky Way.

a) External Reviews

This is a highlight on recent and upcoming external reviews. UTIAS completed its external review earlier in the month, thanks to Professors William Crossley from Purdue, Professor Ellen Longmire from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, and Professor Siva Nadarajah from

McGill. Additionally, an external review for ECE is scheduled for April 8th and 9th of this year, to be conducted by Professors Ryan Li from University of Alberta, Professor Derek Oliver from University of Manitoba, and Professor Arijit Raychowdhury from University of Georgia Tech. We look forward to their visit and wish good success in all ongoing external reviews.

b) Strategic Academic Planning

The process of developing a strategic academic plan has begun, distinct from the overall strategic plan. The community will have an opportunity to provide input and feedback at a later stage, with more details to follow as the process progresses.

c) Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board

This is a snapshot year, during which we are carefully tracking all teaching activities and requirements to gather information over the summer for proper documentation. In the fall, a visiting team will inspect us, but this is not an examination – it's more of an audit to confirm that we are doing our job well. This process gives us the opportunity to assess and improve our practices. Special thanks go to Helen Bright at the registrar's office and Zeeshan Reyees, who developed a new system to streamline data entry into the CAEB online system, making it more efficient. Things are under control and looking good, and the visit will take place this fall.

Professor Bentz concluded with a photo from Survey Camp, showing students, professors, and TAs at the end of camp in August 2024. The key focus is the sign in the photo, marked "2T6." This sign, originally created in 1924 for the class of 2T6, was repainted and reused by the current students, symbolizing the second class to carry that designation. It serves as a reminder that the University of Toronto is part of a long tradition, with 151 years of history.

6. Summer Session Dates, 2025-2026

Edmond Young, chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, presented Report 3779. Council has historically approved session dates for Fall and Winter terms but has recently adopted the standard session dates set by Simcoe Hall. It is, however, still required to approve our summer session dates.

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

THAT the summer session dates for the 2025-2026 summer session be approved as described in Report 3779.

There was no discussion and the motion was carried

7. Creation of MEng Extended Full Time Plus Co-op Option

Julie Audet, vice-dean graduate, presented Report 3781 Revised, which describes a new Extended Full-time Plus Co-op Option is proposed within the MEng programs. This includes UTIAS, ChemEng, CivMin, ECE, MSE, and MIE. This option will provide a formal, for-credit pathway for MEng students to gain career strategy, workplace skills, industry connections, and

significant professional experience prior to graduation, through an extended program length that includes a work term.

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

THAT the creation of an Extended Full-time Plus Co-op Option be approved as described in Report 3781 Revised, effective September 2025.

There was no discussion and the motion was carried

8. Information Reports

The following items were approved by the Executive Committee of Faculty Council at its February 3 meeting and are recommended to Council to receive for information.

a) Engineering Graduate Education Committee Update

Lisa Romkey, chair of the Engineering Graduate Education Committee, presented Report 3780 Revised, which describes the alignment of the PhD and MEng programs in Civil and Mineral Engineering with current practices. When admitting students with prior master's degrees into these programs, no distinction is made between thesis-based and course-based master's degrees. Once admitted to the standard or flex-time PhD programs, students are required to complete 2.0 FCEs of coursework. Additionally, MEng students must now complete six technical courses, and a comprehensive minor in courses is required.

There was no discussion and the report was received for information.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next Faculty Council meeting is on April 29, 2025.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53 pm.