

Faculty of Engineering
Faculty Council
Meeting 2020.05
09:00 p.m. Nov 04, 2020 online on Microsoft Teams

PRESENT

Officers of the Faculty

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

Professors

A. Sowinski, B. Lessard, H. Aoude, J. Infante Sedano, E. Dragomirescu, H. Schriemer, D. Inkpen, JL De Carufel, E. Petriu, GV Jourdan, J. Zhao, T. Uchida, I. Catelas, A. Macchi, JP St-Pierre, B. Martin-Perez, M. Noël, M. Hasan, C. Lan, J. Yao, N. Zaguia

Students

Z. Al-Faesly, V. Gabriel, P. Patel, A. Al-Zaidi, V. Jidkov, I. Brine, C. Choueifaty, H. Eglal, S. Singh,

Others including guests and non-members

F. Bouchard, H. Howes, M. Kimberley, S. Gandolfini, X. Cao, A. Steeves

REGRETS

Professors

A. Weck, B. Dhillon, H. Al Osman, R. St-Gelais,

Students

S. Knysh,

ABSENT

Professors

M. Bouchard, M. Majeed,

Students

H. Raissadat, S. Aman, K. Nizam, R. Zeid, A. Almero,

20.05.01 Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

The Dean introduced Marcelle Kimberley who is the new Manager of Marketing and Communications.

20.05.02 Approval of the Minutes of the October Meeting

The minutes had been approved by email.

20.05.03 Matter arising from the minutes

The Dean will be presenting the proposal for the new School to the Executive Committee of the Senate next Tuesday. If successful there, it will then go to the Senate.

Graduate curriculum changes from the last meeting have passed graduate council.

20.05.04 Report of the Dean

Health and Safety

No health and safety incident reports have been brought to the attention of the Dean in recent weeks.

The Dean reminded everybody to follow the proper protocols in the return to campus plan for Covid-19. He pointed out that people can find the relevant web page on most university pages. He suggested in particular referring to page 10, which indicates that if anyone is aware of a case of Covid-19 on campus, or of someone who should be isolating being on campus, then the incident should be handled following the detailed procedures in the return to campus plan.

Cybersecurity

The attacks on higher institutions continue. La Cité Collégiale was attacked last week.

The Dean reminded everybody to be sceptical of emails we receive.

The interruption of the systems yesterday was not related to a cyberattack.

Other

The Faculty undertook a survey of graduate students regarding mental health. The Dean emphasized that survey results are used to guide action. There will be more discussion of this in the report of the Vice Dean Research.

The virtual open house will be coming up.

20.05.05 Report of the Vice-Dean Graduate Studies

The Vice-Dean circulated a report

He emphasized that borders are open for entering graduate students. Templates of letters of support for students are available.

He pointed out that it is scholarship season.

Final admission statistics and admission scholarship rules are in the written Vice Dean's report

There was discussion of student funding. The Vice-Dean said that we should have a culture whereby every PhD student has funding from the supervisor of at least \$9000.

Changes to Graduate programs

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2020-GRAD-BMG-20.

The is a major modification, creating a Specialization in Bioinformatics (BNF) for the PhD in Biomedical Engineering. There already exists a Specialization in Bioinformatics for the MSc. in Biomedical Engineering. A new PhD Specialization in Bioinformatics (2019-GRAD-MED-

03) was passed by Senate previously and this is what is being added to the PhD in Biomedical Engineering.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved as batch 2020-Grad-Genie-CVG-21, 2020-Grad-Genie-CHG-19 and 2020-Grad-Genie-EVG-22. These create research methodology courses for three thesis programs.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved as a batch 2020-Grad-Genie-MCG-03, 2020-Grad-Genie-MCG-06, 2020-Grad-Genie-AMM-07, 2020-Grad-Genie-MCG-08, 2020-Grad-Genie-AMM-09. These create course codes for courses that have been offered regularly as ‘special topics’ courses over the past few years. They also abolish courses that have never been offered or not been offered in a long time. These also create an AMM set of course codes to better promote the Advanced Materials and Manufacturing program. Some existing courses are converted into equivalent AMM-coded courses.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2020-Grad-Genie-CSI-16. This transforms eight topic courses into regular ones.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2020-Grad-Genie-COOP-17. This creates of a course code for an optional 3rd coop work term for all our graduate co-op programs.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved 2020-Grad-Genie-EMP-18. This amends the list of optional courses in EMP to include EMP5121. GNG5131 would also allow GNG5100 as a perquisite (or GNG 5120, GNG5130, EMP5100, which is currently the case).

The Vice-Dean explained the approval processes for the above motions.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, Faculty Council approved *in principle* a draft of the Microprogram in Security and the two new courses that would be part of this: SEC5100 and SEG5101. This collection of courses (Two new courses and an elective) will appear as a microprogram on a student’s transcript if they complete the courses. It is now up to program committees to allow this microprogram to be part of their program. The microprogram could be taken by undergraduates who would then have the included courses count towards a graduate degree. There is likely to be an electronic vote on the final program before the next full Faculty Council meeting.

There was discussion of microprograms in general. The Vice-Dean pointed out that the university’s objective is that a student should be able to do a bachelors plus masters in 5 years. It was suggested that we consistently use the term ‘fast tracking’ when students take certain courses that count both at the Undergraduate and Graduate level.

20.05.06 Report of the Vice-Dean Research

The Vice-Dean discussed the survey sent to graduate students this past week with the help of the Vice-Dean Governance and the Vice Dean Graduate Studies. 48% of graduate students say their stress is much higher than normal, and another 38% say that stress is somewhat higher. 60% of research students reported that lab disruption was a key problem, and 35% reported *complete* disruption of labs. For masters without thesis, most of the expected delays are short, but students doing theses expect considerable delay.

There were questions about what we can do about these stress levels and expected delays.

There was a question about the extent to which students can access the buildings. It was pointed out that common areas were closed (chairs removed) due to students not following the rules. A student

member pointed out that she does not have dedicated space, yet dedicated spaces are safer than unassigned study areas.

Faculty Executive will address the above issues at their upcoming meeting.

Phase 3 of return to campus is anticipated over the next month.

The Dean indicated that there is a push to enable CBY to be set up for key card access to facilitate safer evening use of the buildings.

The Vice-Dean discussed draft changes to conflict-of-interest guidelines. There are some challenges related to entrepreneurship, since students and others may have conflicts of interest between their research and one or more companies with which they are involved. Conflicts of interest are not necessarily ‘bad’, they just need to be declared.

The Vice Dean indicated that 7 RTIs had been submitted. We were the lead for one Create grant and participated in two more.

There is a Research Forum in Teams.

The Vice-Dean also submitted a written report.

20.05.07 Report of the Vice-Dean Undergraduate Studies

The Vice-Dean indicated that he received many complaints regarding midterm scheduling.

The new app enabling students to book a meeting with staff should be online soon.

20.05.08 Other Business

The meeting ended at 10:39.

Timothy C. Lethbridge

Vice-Dean (Governance)