Chair’s Biannual Status Report: January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the summer! It’s been a busy and productive year; I hope everyone will find some time over the next few months to relax, recharge, and enjoy the sunshine.

In early January, you received a report that described some of our accomplishments between July 1, 2015 and December 31st, 2015. Another six months have gone by and so it is time for another update.

This will be my final report as Interim Chair. It’s been a pleasure to see the many new initiatives and improvements in CTL, both small and large. We’ve been making good progress on many different fronts. Given the large size of our department, I know that many people may not be aware of all the new developments taking place. So I thought it might be helpful to provide you with a summary of some our recent departmental initiatives and accomplishments:

**Department-Wide:**

**New staff member, Natalie DeSouza:** In May, Natalie joined CTL department as our first Application Support Specialist. Natalie has extensive experience in curriculum development, web based application support and technical expertise. She will provide front-line end user support to the faculty, instructors, staff and students in CTL. Many thanks to Doug for conceiving of this position and Bessie for patiently reviewing hundreds of CV’s and helping us interview the top applicants.

**#makeOISEyourchoice videos:** Danny Cavanaugh has produced a large
collection of promotional videos for CTL and OISE, which he posts on CTL’s twitter page with the hastag #makeOISEyourchoice. The “Make OISE Your Choice” hastag (which Danny invented) has become a remarkably popular advertising campaign. Check out our Twitter feed!  [https://twitter.com/ctloise](https://twitter.com/ctloise)

**Increasing Student Diversity in CTL Programs:** David Montemurro has been working closely with Sheldon Grabke and the Diverse Recruitment & Admissions Working Group to develop a small, voluntary survey that will request diversity information from applicants to our three programs. This data is not intended to be used for admission selection decisions, but it will help us better assess the level of diversity in our programs and whether we are in alignment with OISE’s Equity Statement. We plan to incorporate the survey tool in the 2016-17 admissions cycle across all three programs.

**Greater Transparency for PhD Funding and Time-to-Completion:** Our admissions web sites for our two Ph.D programs now provide statistics for CTL applicants regarding average time-to-completion (5.7 years) and average funding levels for domestic and international students:
- CSTD: [http://cmsnew.oise.utoronto.ca/cstdphd/About_Our_Program.html](http://cmsnew.oise.utoronto.ca/cstdphd/About_Our_Program.html)
- LLE: [http://cmsnew.oise.utoronto.ca/llephd/About_Our_Program.html](http://cmsnew.oise.utoronto.ca/llephd/About_Our_Program.html)

**Update to Departmental GA Policy:** Indigo Esmonde and Michelle Pon have updated the GA departmental policy to clarify which faculty members may apply for GA’s, how many they may request, the procedures that are followed, and how requests are prioritized.

**CREFO as a Collaborative Program:** Thanks to the initiative of Diane Gerin Lajoie, it is our hope that CREFO will soon be a collaborative program (with LLE and CSTD as partners).
New Office Furniture! We now have new office furniture in the main CTL Office, a display screen, a couch, and new painted walls. Many thanks to Bessie for her long hours of planning and to Doug who set this initiative in motion.

Greater Course Selection for CTL Students: Using the additional demand generated by MT students, we were able to justify offering more CSTD courses in the fall and winter terms than we would have otherwise been able to offer. These provide our graduate students with more course options. The additional courses include:
- CTL1104H Play, Drama and Arts Education (extra section)
- CTL1119H Gaining Confidence in Mathematics: Reconstructing Mathematics Knowledge and Overcoming Anxiety (K-8)
- CTL1202H Mathematics in the School Curriculum: Elementary
- CTL1313H Gender Equity in the Classroom (two additional sections)
- CTL1799H Social Media and Education
- CTL1799H Creativity in the Classroom
- CTL1818H Arts in Education: Concepts, Contexts, and Frameworks
- CTL1819H Multicultural Literature in the Schools: Critical Perspectives and Practices
- CTL1822H Urban School Research: Youth, Pedagogy, and the Arts

New Faculty Mentorship Document: Based on her work these past few years, Indigo has drafted a new document that makes recommendations regarding recommended mentorship practices that the department should provide for new faculty.

New Course Planning Technology: We've developed a new computer program called the Course Planner that is designed to help solve many of CTL's program planning and scheduling problems. The new Course Planner streamlines the planning and scheduling process by providing CTL leadership and staff with a single database containing all the courses offered in the CTL and the ability to view calendars by program,
cohort, or examine the calendars of individual instructors. The new system:
• Reduces the amount of time required to construct schedules;
• Warns users of scheduling conflicts;
• Saves costs by eliminating unnecessary room bookings;
• Reduces scheduling errors and omissions
• Provides faculty with an easy way to easily inspect their teaching schedule for next year;
• Allows program coordinators to easily review course histories (who taught a course, when was it last offered, how many students were enrolled), thus allowing them to intelligently plan future course offerings;
• Automates the production of reports that feed directly into our financial systems and room booking systems.

Language and Literacies Education:

LLE Program Review and Planning: Normand Labrie and the LLE Program committee have begun a LLE program review and restructuring process. This will involve an open review of the program with input from many stakeholders.

Curriculum Studies and Teacher Development:

New CSTD M.Ed Advertising Campaign: Terry and Danny, working in close collaboration with the Marianne and Lindsey in the OISE Communications Office, developed an advertising campaign for the CSTD M.Ed program. Our campaign ran from June 1st to June 30th, 2016. It involved the design and development of an attractive new ad, regular posts on the CTL and OISE Twitter sites, regular posts on the OISE Facebook page, an email blast to Principals in schools all over
Toronto. We also worked with Sim Kapoor in the Alumni Office, who kindly arranged to email our B.Ed alumni. This was an excellent learning experience for all of us that will pave the way for similar marketing campaigns next year.

- First 1917 sends: 18% open rate, which is 348 out of 1,917 e-mails sent, and 52 clicks.

**New CSTD Policy for M.Ed to M.A Transfers:** Indigo and Rubén led an initiative in CSTD to develop policy guidelines for students wishing to transfer from an M.Ed program to an M.A program.

**Master of Teaching:**

**Record New Admissions!:** In September 2016, we’ll see 420 new MT students start their program (up from 331 last year). Demand for the program was unprecedented. Many thanks to Mary Lovatsis, Nick Scarfo and Michelle Pon for deftly managing a huge admissions task.

**Internationally Educated Teachers:** Anne Marie Chudleigh and David Montemurro have found a way to generate additional funds for the department by taking contracts to find practicum placements for Internationally Educated Teachers. IET’s are teachers who have been trained in other jurisdictions and must pass a practicum requirement in Ontario to be certified as Ontario teachers. The income we receive for this service is used to fund Partnership events involving our school board partners.

**New MT Information Management Efficiencies:** Over the past six months, new efficiencies in data management have been realized through the development of new software that performs the following tasks:

1. Import UT Admission data directly into the MT student database
(and identify changes in student records between successive imports);
2. Development of software that generates spreadsheet reports of student placement preferences for Central Boards;
3. New software that produces class lists and class sizes for JI and IS teachable subjects, thus allowing us to more intelligently plan future courses;
4. Software that tracks email sent to each teacher candidate to ensure that students who join the program at different dates receive all the necessary information (and no one receives the same email twice);
5. New software that automatically generates spreadsheets that document which Year 2 students are eligible for graduation.
6. Integration IET students (who are a source of revenue for the department) into our Practicum Placement tracking software.

Many of these improvements are due to Anne Marie Chudleigh, Lynette Lobo, Marilyn Fraser, Phillippa Pothement, and Mary Lovatsis who have been identifying ways that new software can help us perform tasks quicker and more accurately.

**New Elementary Off-Site Cohort:** David Montemurro and Hilary Inwood have arranged with the Toronto District School Board to house an elementary teacher education cohort at Ryerson Community School in downtown Toronto. Ryerson is a Gold Eco-School. It runs a daily nutrition program, and houses the Seamless Mandarin International Language Elementary (SMILE) program. Ryerson will be a wonderful school that our teacher candidates can study, close up, as they take their OISE classes. This is the second school to house an off-site cohort for the MT program. The first school is the University of Toronto Schools (UTS) high school. David led the effort to create the UTS cohort last year and it has been a great success.

**Provincial Practicum Conference:** On May 24th, Anne Marie Chudleigh (with support from Phillippa Pothemont and others) hosted a gathering of Practicum Coordinators from faculties of education across the
province, with the objective of sharing best practices for the delivery of pre-service practice teaching. Anne Marie developed a summary of recommendations from the Conference members that she forwarded to our Dean for presentation at the next meeting of OADE.

**MT Accreditation:** In March, we successfully completed the first phase of MT Accreditation. The first set of reviewers appear to be satisfied that the MT program meets the criteria as described by the Ontario College of Teachers. The next step involves a visit to OISE in October. Many thanks to David Montemurro, Arlo Kempf, Morgan Selvanathan, Terry Louisy, and dozens of MT instructors who have contributed to this effort.

**Combined Programs Governance Passed:**CTL Council and Faculty Council have granted final approval to the introduction of combined programs between the MT and the following UT programs:
- UT Scarborough (math, sciences, French, etc. — around 20 programs in total)
- Kinesiology and Physical Education
- Faculty of Music
- Victoria College
We will be accepting the first applicants to these combined program in the fall 2016 admissions cycle.

**New MT Combined Programs:** With help from Kathleen Gallagher and her contacts at UT Scarborough, we’ve taken some promising steps toward the introduction of new MT Combined Programs with UTSC’s Drama and Theatre Studies, and UTSC’s Visual Arts programs. There is still much work to be done, but if both sides can get the governance passed, we're hoping we'll be in a position to start accepting applications to a Combined Program in Drama, and another one in Visual Arts, in the fall of 2017.
New MT Social Media: Natalie DeSouza has created a new official MT Twitter account and a new official MT Facebook account:
https://twitter.com/MT_OISE
https://www.facebook.com/MasterOfTeaching

New MT Logo: Terry and Natalie have developed a new logo for the MT Program.

Renovations at UTS: Thanks to Bessie’s initiative, and her collaboration with Helen (OISE’s Chief Administrative Officer) and Elizabeth (OISE Facilities and Services) some of our classrooms at UTS have been repainted, outfitted with new blinds, and safety hazards have been removed.

MT Electives: We designed a new system this year that will allow MT students to sign up for two electives from a list of selected courses offered in CSTD, LLE, SJE, LHAE, and APHD. Morgan designed a survey to help determine the demand for various courses. We designed a system to provide opportunities for MT students to enroll in graduate courses, but with limits, so that large numbers of MT students wouldn’t overwhelm individual M.Ed courses. David, Arlo and I are grateful to the Registrar’s Office who helped make this possible.

MT Elementary Math Test Results: Our tests of elementary teacher candidate competencies in mathematics (developed by Mary Reid, Cathy Marks Krpan and me) have revealed that many of our elementary Teacher Candidates are still struggling with math and have not significantly improved between years 1 and 2. We’re currently in the process of putting together a Co-Curricular Record citation to foster greater math proficiency.

MT Awards: This past year, the RO collaborated with the MA-CSE and MT programs to oversee the transfer of B.Ed awards to our graduate
teacher education programs. Mary Lovatsis and Michelle Pon managed to secure over 20 new awards (combination of Entrance Scholarships, Faculty Nominated and Student Nominated Awards) for MT Candidates. Many thanks to Cathy Marks Krpan and her MT Awards Committee for their work in making these awards’ decisions. And thanks also to Clare Brett, Kim MacKinnon, Rebecca Hughes, and Lesley Wilton for organizing another successful Biggar-Hedges award competition this year!

In Progress / Under Development:

- Re-working of Comprehensives for CSTD
- New distance education version(s) of our M.Ed programs
- New Ed. D program
- Cohort Coordinators for the Master of Teaching Program
- New Drama and Visual Arts Combined Programs
- New website for MT Practicum
- New online journal for MT research
- New robotics / coding module in MT Technology program
- Programming and activation of CTL Main Office monitor

I apologize for other new initiatives that I may have missed here. By providing this list, I don’t want to diminish the tremendous work performed by our faculty and staff on scheduling, admissions, awards, finance, student support, grant support and the many other tasks that we need to perform daily as part of our ongoing operations. The intent of this list is simply to highlight the changes and innovations that are taking place.

As we look ahead, some of the biggest challenges appear to be:

1. How can we further improve the MT program’s reputation as a
truly unique, research-centered initial teacher education program?

2. How can we respond to significant declines in applications to our M.Ed programs? Do we need to re-package or restructure these programs to make them more attractive?

3. How can we continue to reduce faculty workload and streamline our operations?

We have many exciting things going on in CTL. On behalf of Indigo, David and myself, we’d like to thank everyone for their ideas, initiative and for all their hard work. We'd also like to warmly welcome Clare and Antoinette and thank you for bringing us new leadership in your positions as Chair and Associate Chair!

Jim