

## OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the OISE COUNCIL meeting held on **December 10, 2025**, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Present:** Prof. Erica N. Walker (Dean), Prof. Carly Manion (Chair), Prof. Abigail Bakan, Prof. Anne-Claude Bedard, Mackenzie Blanchett, Gela Bolandpour, Prof. Elizabeth Buckner, Prof. Lydia Cao, Prof. Becky Chen (Assoc. Dean, Research, Partnership, and Innovation), Prof. Charles Chen, Prof. Jody Chong, Prof. Yiola Cleovoulou, Prof. Todd Cunningham, Haley Dinel, Prof. Katherine Entigar (Chair, Equity Committee), Omar Elfarseisy, Prof. Beyhan Farhadi, Prof. Joseph Flessa (Assoc. Dean, Programs), Prof. Julie Garlen, Prof. Jen Gilbert (Chair, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning), Tatjana Grabeljsek, Dr. Sheldon Grabke (Registrar & Sr. Director Stu. Services), Dr. Marie Green, Prof. Abby Goldstein (Chair, Applied Psychology and Human Development), Dr. Pushpa Hamal, Prof. Chloe Hamza, Helen Huang (Chief Administrative Officer), Prof. Linda Iwenofu (Vice-Chair), Prof. Feng Ji, Doreen Kajumba, Prof. Grace Karram, Dr. Jacqueline Karsemeyer (President, OISE Alumni Assoc.), Prof. Arlo Kempf (Chair, Research Committee), Perry King, Prof. Rishi Krishnamoorthy, Prof. Lore/tta LeMaster, Prof. Michelle Lui, Prof. Amal Madibbo, Meagan Muscat, Alireza Parsai, Prof. Angela Pyle, Prof. Creso Sá (Vice-Dean, Academic Operations), Prof. Vidya Shah (Chair, Academic Programs Committee), Latifa Soliman, Dr. Jennifer Sparks, Ahmet Su, (President, OISE Graduate Students Assoc.), Madeleine Taylor, Viel Tolentino, AV Verhaeghe, , Li Wan, Jenaya Webb, (Director of OISE Library), Michaela Young, Esther Yu, Dr. You Zhang

**Guests:** Rushain Abbasi, Tessa Barclay, Lara Cartmale, Sim Kapoor, Denise Makovac, Dr. Jesse Sims, Carolyn Oei, Madelaine Panoulis

**Secretariat:** Biljana Cuckovic (Secretary of OISE Council), Madison Seymour, Doug Ullrich

**Regrets:** Sarah Allen, Malak Almuzaini, Melissa Arasin, Prof. Joshua Barker, (Dean, School of Graduate Studies), Mike Berg, Prof. Megan Boler, Prof. Alexandre Cavalcante, Prof. Sameena Eidoo, Jasmine El-Hacha, Prof. Laurie Faith, Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández (Chair, Social Justice Education), Prof. Tara Goldstein, Prof. Jennifer Jenkins (Director, Dr. Eric Jackman ICS), Irene Kibor, Chaeun Park, Indira Quintasi Orosco, Fatema Rashed, Dr. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone (Exec. Director, Continuing & Professional Learning), Prof. Dirk J Rodricks, Prof. Tracy Solomon, Prof. Angela Vemic, Prof. Marcelo Vieta (Chair, Leadership, Higher and Adult Education), Prof. Njoki Wane, Prof. Melanie A. Woodin (President), Prof. Trevor Young (Vice President and Provost), Peilun Zhang, Prof. Terezia Zorić

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### *Land Acknowledgement*

Chair of Council, Prof. Carly Manion, welcomed members and guests to the Council's second meeting of the year and read the land acknowledgement.

#### **1. Review of Agenda**

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and accepted.

#### **2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the October 29, 2025, meeting of OISE Council were approved.

### 3. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on the Executive Committee meeting held on December 1, 2025, at which the Committee welcomed new members elected at the October 29, 2025 meeting of OISE Council. The Committee also reviewed and approved the Agenda and materials for the December 10, 2025 meeting.

### 4. Dean's Report

#### *For Information: OISE Continuing & Professional Learning: Approved Not-For-Credit Certificates*

As per the Policy on Certificates (For-Credit and Not-For-Credit) and OISE Constitution, the Dean reported on the four Not-for-Credit certificates developed by OISE's Continuing and Professional Learning (CPL) including: (1) Future-Ready Workplace Learning and Development; (2) Driving Innovation in Education; (3) Advancing Guidance and Career Education; and (4) Advancing Inclusive Education. These certificates received decanal approval following a review and recommendation by the CPL Curriculum Review Committee, and the Professional Advisory Committee as per the divisional approval process outlined in the OISE Guideline for Approval of Not-for-Credit Certificates.

#### *Dean's Updates*

The Dean acknowledged Professor Creso Sá, Vice Dean, Academic Operations, for taking on the role of Acting Dean for a year effective January 1, 2026, during her leave, and thanked senior leadership including Associate Deans Professors Joseph Flessa and Becky Chen, CAO Helen Huang, and Department Chairs Professors Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Abby Goldstein, Jen Gilbert, and Marcelo Vieta for their support with ensuring a smooth transition. She then announced the extension of the current terms of Professor Sá as Vice-Dean, Academic Operations, and Professor Flessa as Associate Dean, Programs until December 31, 2028.

Related to the Academic Plan, the Dean reported that the plan's implementation includes OISE-wide initiatives to enact priorities arising from the plan including the establishment of the two Strategy Groups: one on "AI for Education" chaired by Professor Becky Chen, Associate Dean, Research, Partnership and Innovation (RPI); and the second one on "Professional Programs – Master of Education (MEd)", chaired by Professor Joseph Flessa, Associate Dean, Programs. Building on the work of the University's Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, the Strategy Group on AI for Education will develop a framework for a meaningful human-centered integration of AI in teaching, learning, and research in education, which will include the development of a discussion paper, guidelines, and/or a report with recommendations for OISE and the field on the use of generative AI across education. This Group is already formed and held its first meeting on December 2, 2025. The second Strategy Group on Professional Programs – MEd is in the process of establishment and will commence in the new year. Once established, it will review need and demand and identify opportunities for innovation and growth of OISE's MEd programs including the development of a report with recommendations to help enhance the MEd's distinctiveness as a graduate degree serving a broad range of professionals in education and related fields. It was highlighted that in addition to these Institute-wide initiatives, the plan includes a space for OISE departments, units and groups to develop their unique contributions through various initiatives related to the Plan. The Dean invited members to visit the Academic Planning website for updates related to these goals.

Turning to faculty searches, in 2025-2026, OISE has three searches underway for new tenure stream faculty members including: (1) Associate Professor in Clinical and Counselling Psychology; (2) Associate Professor in Critical Adult Education and Community Development; and (3) Assistant Professor in Indigenous Studies and Social Justice Education. Members were invited to review the job postings available on the "Working at OISE" and the "U of T Careers" webpages and to share them broadly within their networks. The application deadline for these positions is between January 8 and 15,

2026, and the search committees have been established and announced. The Dean thanked all colleagues supporting the searches whether as committee members, support staff, or helping to promote them. Relatedly, an advisory committee was being formed for the appointment of a new Director of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute for Child Study (JICS) for a term beginning July 1, 2026. The Dean thanked the current director, Professor Jennifer Jenkins, for her service and contributions to JICS over the course of her term.

Turning to honours and awards, the Dean informed members of the call for nominations for OISE's administrative staff excellence awards with the deadline of February 15, 2026. Members were invited to consider nominating an exemplary administrative staff colleague for one of the four awards, including a new Collaboration Catalyst Award – established to inform the implementation of the Academic Plan. Members were also reminded that the call for nominations for OISE's Teaching Excellence Awards was open until January 30, 2026, and were invited to consider nominating an inspiring OISE educator for one of the four Teaching Excellence Awards.

In closing, the Dean acknowledged students, faculty and staff for their commitment and continued contributions to OISE and wished everyone a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year.

A member thanked the Dean for the report and raised a question regarding the Advancing Inclusive Education Not-for-Credit certificate and whether it will include a focus on adult education in addition to the K-12. In response, the Dean provided the contact information for OISE CPL noting that they would provide additional information and answer any questions regarding the certificates. A student member asked whether it was possible to join the Strategy Group on AI for Education. Professor Becky Chen, Associate Dean, RPI responded that the Group already had their first meeting; however, they will be hosting consultations and opportunities for community members to engage and contribute to their work. Another question was raised whether the Strategy Group on Professional Programs – MEd will include current MEd students or alumni. The Dean explained that this Strategy Group is being structured to commence its work in the new year and that contributions of MEd students and alumni will inform the Group's work. A faculty member raised a question whether there would be a launch event for OISE's Academic Plan. The Dean thanked the faculty member for the suggestion and said that she will take it under advisement. She added that a community event to celebrate the achievements related to the plan could be organized at a milestone point after the initial years following the plan's approval.

## **5. Reports from Standing Committees**

### **A. Research** – Prof. Arlo Kempf, Chair of the Research Committee, reported on the Committee's meeting held on November 19, 2025.

In addition to receiving updates on the Strategic Plan from Prof. Becky Chen, Associate Dean, RPI, the Committee reviewed priorities and activities for the year and discussed supports for postdoctoral fellows, OISE's approach to and guidance on generative AI in research, OISE's Statement on Open Access, and the impact of the new student funding model on faculty research. They also discussed possible connections between the Equity Committee, and the Research Committee mandates, and institutional resources for data collection on diversity of students, faculty, staff and others working at OISE.

A question was raised regarding the relevance of data collection on diversity and the Research Committee mandate, and how will these data be used. It was explained that this topic emerged from a discussion regarding an institutional researcher position that, in previous years, was responsible for collecting institutional research data (including on diversity) with the goal of informing the work and decision-making for administrators and leaders within the Institute. It was further noted that this discussion was at an early stage and will take shape and be informed by diversity related goals in the academic plan. A member commented that at a recent departmental meeting, faculty raised concerns regarding the new Graduate Assistants (GA) funding model and its impact on productivity, particularly for faculty who do not have external research funding. It was further noted that faculty also discussed the impact of these

changes on the sustainability of research centers, and a question was raised whether reporting on this issue falls within the mandate of the Research Committee. It was explained that decision-making regarding GA positions allocated to departments to support such cases is the purview of the departments. Dean Walker added that, in crafting, implementing, and reviewing the new GA funding model, OISE Deans and Chairs gather feedback with a view to adjusting and updating the model as necessary to both anticipate and respond to existing and developing constraints. Another question was raised regarding student feedback regarding the impact of the new GA funding model and whether it will be considered. The Dean responded that she and Associate Dean, Programs, recently met with members of the Executive of the OISE Graduate Students Association (GSA) and that their feedback was informative, welcomed and will be considered.

**B. Equity** – Prof. Katherine Entigar, Chair of the Equity Committee, provided the report from the Equity Committee meeting held on November 18, 2025.

Prof. Entigar highlighted that 2025-2026 is an important year regarding the Equity Committee’s work in response to different needs, strengths and visions for equity that members of the community have, especially with respect to the changing nature of equity, the ongoing and emerging challenges including those related to AI, as well as structural issues within the institution. The Committee includes an eager group of students, faculty and staff willing to share perspectives on EDI and discuss possibilities for building relationships and enhancing capacity to respond to equity challenges while working collaboratively, proactively, and responsibly. Supported by Helen Huang, CAO, Madison Seymour, the Committee Secretary, and Chloe Westgarth-Jones, GA, the Committee developed a plan of events and initiatives for the year including a pizza social with a facilitated workshop on applying for funding and fellowships for students focused on mentorship and peer leadership, which will take place on January 20, 2026. Utilizing the peer leadership and mentorship approach, the Committee is also planning an equity focused workshop for faculty on graduate supervision, which will be held in the winter term (date to be determined). The annual Equity Symposium will take place in April 2026 involving co-learning, peer mentorship, community partnerships. The Symposium theme is still being considered and will be announced in the new year.

**C. Academic Programs** – Prof. Vidya Shah, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, provided the Committee report. The Committee’s second meeting of 2025-2026 was held on November 27, 2025, at which the Committee approved two minor modifications and one new course.

*For Information: Minor Modifications – Changes to Existing Programs*

- Collaborative Specialization in Comparative, International & Development Education (MA, MEd, EdD, PhD) – adding core courses to course list; and
- Counselling Psychology program, Field in Counselling and Psychotherapy (MEd) – removing an elective course from course list.

*For Information: New Course Proposal*

- APD3210H Advanced Multivariate Statistical Modeling in Education and Psychology

Additionally, the Committee reviewed minor course changes approved at the departmental level, and received updates from the Associate Dean, Programs, regarding the upcoming program change proposals. There was also a brief discussion about the business process and function of the Committee.

**6. Other Items**

Chief Administrative Officer Helen Huang shared an update on the progress of the fifth floor roof top community garden construction, which was nearing its completion in January 2026. She thanked members of the community for their patience and collaboration during the construction. She also

informed members that the process of replacement of the six elevators in the lobby already started, which will improve the experiences of the OISE and university community.

## **7. Adjournment**

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the Chair advised members that the next meeting of Council will be on March 4, 2026, and wished everyone a relaxing break and happy holidays. The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.