

OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the OISE COUNCIL meeting held on **March 4, 2026**, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Prof. Creso Sá (Acting Dean and Vice-Dean, Academic Operations), Prof. Carly Manion (Chair), Prof. Linda Iwenofu (Vice-Chair), Sarah Allen, Prof. Abigail Bakan, Prof. Anne-Claude Bedard, Mackenzie Blanchett, Prof. Elizabeth Buckner, Gela Bolandpour, Prof. Lydia Cao, Prof. Becky Chen (Assoc. Dean, Research, Partnership, and Innovation), Prof. Charles Chen, Prof. Jody Chong, Prof. Todd Cunningham, Prof. Sameena Eidoo, Omar Elfarseisy, Jasmine El-Hacha, Prof. Katherine Entigar (Chair, Equity Committee), Prof. Laurie Faith, Prof. Beyhan Farhadi, Prof. Joseph Flessa (Assoc. Dean, Programs), Prof. Julie Garlen, Tatjana Gabeljsek, Dr. Sheldon Grabke (Registrar & Sr. Director Stu. Services), Dr. Marie Green, Prof. Tara Goldstein, Prof. Chloe Hamza, Helen Huang (Chief Administrative Officer), Prof. Feng Ji, Prof. Grace Karram, Dr. Jacqueline Karsemeyer (President, OISE Alumni Assoc.), Prof. Arlo Kempf (Chair, Research Committee), Perry King, Prof. Rishi Krishnamoorthy, Prof. Loretta LeMaster, Prof. Michelle Lui, Prof. Amal Madibbo, Prof. Angela Pyle, Prof. Vidya Shah (Chair, Academic Programs Committee), Dr. Jennifer Sparks, Ahmet Su (President, OISE Graduate Students Assoc.), Madeleine Taylor, Viel Tolentino, Prof. Angela Vemic, AV Verhaeghe, Prof. Marcelo Vieta (Chair, Leadership, Higher and Adult Education), Prof. Njoki Wane, Michaela Young, Peilun Zhang, Dr. You Zhang

Guests: Rushain Abbasi, Tessa Barclay, David Hayes, Sim Kapoor, Madelaine Panoulais, Leah Scherk, Dr. Jesse Sims, Zoriana Wankiewicz

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

Regrets: Malak Almuzaini, Melissa Arasin, Prof. Joshua Barker (Dean, School of Graduate Studies), Mike Berg, Prof. Megan Boler, Prof. Alexandre Cavalcante, Prof. Yiola Cleovoulou, Haley Dinel, Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández (Chair, Social Justice Education), Prof. Jen Gilbert (Chair, Curriculum, Teaching and Learning), Prof. Abby Goldstein (Chair, Applied Psychology and Human Development), Dr. Pushpa Hamal, Prof. Jennifer Jenkins (Director, Dr. Eric Jackman ICS), Doreen Kajumba, Irene Kibor, Meagan Muscat, Chaeun Park, Alireza Parsai, Indira Quintasi Orosco, Fatema Rashed, Dr. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone (Exec. Director, Continuing & Professional Learning), Prof. Dirk J Rodricks, Latifa Soliman, Prof. Tracy Solomon, Li Wan, Jenaya Webb (Director of OISE Library), Prof. Melanie A. Woodin (President), Prof. Trevor Young (Vice President and Provost), Esther Yu, Prof. Terezia Zorić

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 December 10, 2025 meeting of OISE Council were approved.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on the February 23, 2026 Executive meeting at which the Committee reviewed and approved the agenda and materials for the March 4, 2026 Council meeting and welcomed Professor Creso Sá who joined the Executive as Acting Dean.

4. Dean's Report

Dean Sá commenced his report by providing an update on searches for new tenure stream faculty 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. All three searches were on schedule with shortlisted candidates' visits underway. The Dean met with several candidates and encouraged members who had the opportunity to meet them to share their impressions with the Search Committees, highlighting the importance of community feedback to the success of the searches. He then acknowledged the department Chairs and advisory committee members for their contributions to these processes.

Related to faculty searches, the Dean noted that OISE is participating in the federal government's Canada Impact+ Research Chairs competition, which launched last fall to recruit approximately 100 world-leading researchers from abroad to address critical national and global challenges. OISE has a selection committee in place, and efforts are underway to put forward a candidate for the University competition whose research agenda will advance priorities in both the Impact+ Chairs program and OISE's Academic Plan. If successful, the application will go to the national competition in June with outcomes expected in September 2026. The Dean thanked the selection committee members and highlighted that this work is proceeding on a highly compressed timeline to meet the established deadlines.

Relatedly, the selection process for a new Director of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study (JICS) for a term commencing July 1, 2026, is on track, and a new Director appointment announcement will be made soon. The Dean thanked the Advisory Committee members for their commitment to the success of the search, and acknowledged the outgoing Director, Professor Jenny Jenkins, for her contributions to JICS over the course of her term.

On the implementation of the Academic Plan, the Dean reminded members of the recent establishment of 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", chaired by Professor Joseph Flessa, Associate Dean, Programs. Both groups have commenced their work and are consulting with researchers and subject matter experts within the community to inform their work. For more information, members can reach out to oise.research@utoronto.ca – for the Strategy Group on AI, and to oise.programs@utoronto.ca – for the Strategy Group on Professional Programs – M.Ed. In addition to OISE-wide initiatives, the Plan includes a space for departments, units, groups, and individuals to develop their unique contributions that will further the Plan's implementation. Members were invited to share projects they are involved in that are aligned with the Plan using the *news and notes* form available on the planning website.

Turning to awards and events, the Dean congratulated the newly announced winners of the teaching and staff excellence awards and invited members to OISE's annual Excellence Awards Ceremony taking place on March 31, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in the Library. He then congratulated four OISE faculty members recently named recipients of the 2025 Connaught New Researcher Award and highlighted two community events taking place in March 2026 including the annual Graduate Students Research Conference (March 5-7, 2026), and the OISE and JICS Centennial Family Skate (March 23, 2026). The Dean invited members to attend the events and acknowledged event organizers for their work and contributions.

In closing, the Dean reflected on the recent Ontario government announcement regarding a suite of measures related to funding for the postsecondary sector and student financial assistance. Several OISE higher education faculty members have recently commented on this news in print and news media. The Dean highlighted that OISE leadership is reviewing what has been shared to date and remains closely engaged with university colleagues as additional information becomes available and implementation details are confirmed. He then noted that he will keep the community informed as the leadership continues to assess the implications for OISE over the coming months.

A member thanked the Dean for an informative report and acknowledged members of the community affected by the war in the Middle East, which was echoed by other members including standing committee Chairs. A question was raised whether OISE could have an equity and Anti-racism policy, especially with respect to OISE's expertise related to the University's ongoing efforts on decolonization and Indigenization. The Dean explained that the University has a comprehensive Anti-racism framework, including a number of policies and guidelines guided by the Ontario Human Rights Code that aim to eliminate discrimination and foster an inclusive and respectful environment. Importantly, OISE has Guiding Principles on Equity and Diversity, which date back to 2005, and have been adopted by OISE Council. These principles have been reviewed and updated by the Equity Committee in 2018 and apply to OISE administration, research, academic and continuing education programs and community outreach activities. The Dean further noted that while these existing tools are important, OISE's leadership is open to conversations regarding the application of the existing principles and guidelines on specific cases, and to hearing ideas from the community regarding the development of additional equity and Anti-racism documents and guidelines.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Research – Prof. Arlo Kempf, Chair of the Research Committee, reported on the Committee's meeting held on February 4, 2026.

The Committee received updates from the Associate Dean, RPI, Professor Becky Chen, on the Research Excellence, and the Black and Indigenous Postdoctoral Fellowships including funding structures and adjudication processes. The Committee also received updates regarding the supports and resources for postdocs. Members suggested a number of additional supports that would be beneficial such as a workshop for faculty on supervising postdocs. Furthermore, the Committee was advised that OISE faculty submitted over 12 Million in grant applications – a significant increase compared to previous years. This was driven by the Research Office efforts to increase the number of tri-agency applications, expanding the non-tri-agency funding sources, strengthening the quality of applications, and working closely with departmental staff supporting faculty research. The Committee also received an update on the Strategy Group on AI for Education, including an upcoming survey on the use of AI in Research, and continued its discussion about the OISE community demographics data collection and how it can inform various priorities arising from the Academic Plan. In closing, Prof. Kempf reported that a subcommittee was established to facilitate the review of one of OISE's research centres and that more information regarding this will be shared with Council at the next meeting.

A question was raised regarding the cycle of OISE centre reviews. It was explained that most centers are reviewed the same year; however, there are some exceptions to this, such as for example, leadership transition or other circumstances that impact the work of the centre.

B. Equity – Prof. Katherine Entigar, Chair of the Equity Committee, reported on the Equity Committee meeting held on February 9, 2026.

At that meeting, Committee members reflected on the past and upcoming events for this academic term. The Student pizza social held on January 20, 2026, was a successful opportunity for OISE students to learn about applying for grants and scholarships. In addition to learning about strategies from fellow

students within small group discussions, the event was also an opportunity to build community amongst OISE students. The workshop for faculty on Graduate Supervision held on February 24, 2026, was also well attended. In addition to conversations about strategies for supporting emerging scholars, it created a space for collaboration and sharing of innovations and practices for faculty across OISE. In closing, Prof. Entigar informed the Council that the annual Equity Symposium themed “Equity in (Re)connection and Action,” will take place on April 17, 2026. This year’s event celebrates community members, research centers, student groups, and spaces across OISE whose work represents equity in action. The organizers are following up with leaders and members of research centers and student groups regarding their participation in the event, which will be broadly promoted within OISE. The registration link was shared with members during the meeting, and the symposium program will be shared as soon as it is finalized.

A member thanked Prof. Entigar for the report and commented that the Equity Committee could serve as a forum for consultations regarding equity and Anti-racism related policies. Prof. Entigar welcomed the suggestion and noted that the Committee would be pleased to lend its expertise to that conversation to support cross-institutional relationship building in this regard.

- C. Academic Programs** – Prof. Vidya Shah, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, provided the Committee report. The Committee’s third meeting of 2025-2026 was held on February 5, 2026, at which the Committee approved two minor modifications and five new courses.

For Information: Minor Modifications – Changes to Existing Programs

- Counselling Psychology program, Master of Education (MEd), Field in Global Mental Health and Counselling Psychology – changes to required courses; and
- Adult Education and Community Development program, Master of Education (MEd) and Master of Arts (MA) – changes to admission requirements.

For Information: New Course Proposals

- CTL1124H Life Writing Research (RM)
- CTL1227H Global Contexts of STEM Education
- CTL1626H Holistic Approaches to Information Technology
- CTL3804H Indigenous Language Revitalization: Contexts, Conversations, and Strategies
- LHA1112H Coaching and Mentoring in the Workplace: Theory and Practice

Additionally, the Committee reviewed minor course changes approved at the departmental level, and received updates from the Associate Dean, Programs on key initiatives in the Programs portfolio including an update on the Strategy Group on Professional Programs – Master of Education, and how the committee might contribute to this initiative.

6. Other Items

Dr. Jacqueline Karsemeyer, President of the OISE Alumni Association (OISEAA), shared the Association’s updates. She invited alumni members of Council to become involved in the work of the Association including attending the upcoming OISEAA meeting and participating in the upcoming elections for the OISEAA Executives. She noted that she was completing her term as President and that, while she is enthusiastic about the possibility of being re-elected, she would be pleased if an Indigenous or Black member of the Association would step forward to serve as President of the upcoming term. In closing, Dr. Karsemeyer highlighted the OISEAA Doctoral Fellowship Award, which aims to support OISE doctoral students who are in the final stage of their studies with a 10K award towards the completion of their program. The awards criteria include being an OISE doctoral student who has completed all components of the program excepting the thesis and being a volunteer with the OISEAA. It was further noted that the upcoming OISEAA meeting represents an opportunity to learn about opportunities to volunteer with the Association.

A member commended the Association's efforts to engage and provide leadership opportunities for Indigenous and racialized students and highlighted the annual Decolonizing conference taking place March 12-14, 2026 hosted by the Centre for Integrative anti-Racism Studies and the Department of Social Justice Education. Ahmet Su, President of OISE Graduate Students Association (OISE GSA) thanked the Alumni Association for their work and informed Council of the upcoming OISE GSA Annual Gala 2026 on Monday, April 27, 2026, at Hart House, University of Toronto.

7. Adjournment

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the Chair advised members that the next meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. This final meeting of Council in 2025-2026 will be held in Room 12-199, and the notice of meeting including the agenda and materials will be sent to members one week in advance. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.