

OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the OISE COUNCIL meeting held on **February 26, 2025**, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Prof. Erica N. Walker (Dean), Prof. Mary Reid (Chair), Prof. Carly Manion (Vice-Chair), Prof. Qui Alexander, Prof. Jeffrey Ansloos, Prof. Anne-Claude Bedard, Prof. Kathy Bickmore, Mackenzie Blanchett, Prof. Andrew B. Campbell, Prof. Alexandre Cavalcante, Indrani Chakraborty, Prof. Charles Chen, Prof. Todd Cunningham, Prof. Claudia Diaz Rios, Emily Dobrich, Julia Duncan, Prof. Sameena Eidoo, Barnabas Emenogu, Jasmine El-Hacha, Prof. Laurie Faith, Prof. Beyhan Farhadi, Prof. Joseph Flessa, Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Jesse Genereux, Prof. Abby Goldstein, Dr. Sheldon Grabke, Helen Huang, Merva Hutchinson, Prof. Grace Karram Stephenson, Dr. Jacqueline Karsemeyer, Prof. Ann Lopez, Prof. Michelle Lui, Prof. Kimberley MacKinnon, Prof. Amal Madibbo, Denise Makovac, Meagan Muscat, Victoria Parlatore, Aytaj Pashayeva, Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali, Prof. Angela Pyle, Indira Quintasi Orosco, Prof. Shakina Rajendram, Dr. Mara Reich, Prof. Creso Sá, Latifa Soliman, Joshua Spencer, Ahmet Su, Prof. Miglena Todorova, AV Verhaeghe, Prof. Marcelo Vieta, Prof. Stephanie Waterman, Jenaya Webb, Michaela Young

Guests: Rushain Abbasi, Allison Andres, Prof. Jeff Bale, Tess Barclay, Michael Berg, Ai-ri Brown, Lara Cartmale, Dareen Fatimah, Nadia Hersi, Dr. Hilary Inwood, Annie Mao, Madelaine Panoulis, Leah Scherk, Dr. Jesse Sims, Madeleine Taylor

Regrets: Malak Almuzaini, Prof. Joshua Barker (Dean of SGS), Prof. Jody Chong, Prof. Lisa Dack, Simran Gauba, Prof. Meric Gertler (President), Prof. Jen Gilbert, Prof. Linda Iwenofu, Prof. Jennifer Jenkins, Noah Khan, Irene Kibor, Prof. Alexandra Makos, Prof. Henrjeta Mece, Alanna McKnight, Dr. Soudeh Oladi Ghadikolaei, Prof. Denise Paneduro, Deborah Peart, Fatema Rashsed, Dr. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone, Jeananne Robertson, Joseph Rotich, Brandon Wells, Yuze Yang, Prof. Trevor Young (Provost), Prof. Terezia Zoric

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

Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

The Chair, Professor Mary Reid, welcomed members and guests 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 18, 2024, meeting of OISE Council were approved.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on the Executive Committee meeting held on February 18, 2025, at which the agenda and materials for the Council meeting were approved. The Executive also discussed the format for the Council's final meeting of the year, which will be held on April 30, 2025. It will be an in-person meeting, followed by a reception for members and guests.

4. Dean's Report

Dean Walker commenced her report by congratulating Professor Marcelo Vieta on his appointment as Chair of the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education for a five-year term effective July 1, 2025. Professor Vieta was appointed as Interim Chair on September 1, 2024, and has provided excellent leadership of the department during the transitional period.

An update on the academic planning was provided highlighting that the consultations over the winter, spring and fall of 2024, have resulted in a draft academic plan, which will be made available for community review and feedback by early March 2025. The result of extensive consultations involving many members of the OISE community, the draft plan combines perspectives from various departments, units, and groups, and reflects the shared commitments, themes and initial objectives that will guide the next phase of OISE's development. The Dean invited members to review the draft document and send their feedback and suggestions to oise.planning@utoronto.ca or to dean.oise@utoronto.ca by the end of March. The draft plan will also be reviewed by Provost's Office, and following these reviews, the plan will be finalized and will be presented to OISE Council for approval, in principle, at its final meeting of 2024-2025 on April 30, 2025.

Turning to faculty searches, the Dean informed members that all five searches continue to progress, the shortlisted candidates' visits to OISE have commenced, and members were encouraged to take part in any department processes to which they are invited to, as community feedback is essential for selecting the strongest scholars to join OISE. The Dean thanked the department Chairs and all advisory committee members for their contributions to the success of the searches.

Related to community events, the OISE Graduate Student Research Conference themed "United by Diversity: Strategies and Solutions for Equitable Education", taking place on March 21-22, 2025, was highlighted as a platform to showcase innovative student research from diverse fields within education. The Dean acknowledged members of the organizing committee and the Graduate Students Association for their work on this year's conference. The Dean then invited members to join OISE's Excellence Awards Celebration taking place on April 3, 2025 at 2:00pm, in the OISE Library, to celebrate the accomplishments of OISE's award-winning faculty and staff. The annual R.W.B. Jackson Lecture taking place on April 16, 2025, was also highlighted. The distinguished speaker Lin A. Goodwin, the Thomas More Brennan Endowed Professor of Education at the Lynch School of Education and Human Development, Boston College, will deliver a keynote lecture entitled: "From teaching, to teaching teachers, to teaching teacher educators: a journey toward quality education for all". In conjunction with the 2025 annual meeting and conference of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), OISE will host a special event for colleagues, alumni and friends on April 25, 2025.

In closing her report, the Dean reflected on the current challenging times for education and educators marked by sudden shifts in government policies; especially in the US, and their adverse impact on education research including diminishing funding and restricted access to resources and knowledge. Many deans of education in North America are concerned; however, the Dean expressed hope that, in the times where education research and access to knowledge itself are challenged, educators and researchers will continue their important work and convey the message that education is central to human activity and progress. She thanked members of the OISE Community for their ongoing support and contributions.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. Academic Programs** – Prof. Carly Manion, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, reported on the proposals approved at the February 6, 2025 meeting including one major program modification, and two minor program changes.

FOR APPROVAL: Field in Language Teaching, Master of Education (MEd) in Language and Literacies Education (LLE) program

Prof. Manion described the proposal and invited Prof. Jeff Bale to present its details. Professor Bale highlighted that the proposed changes to the admission and program requirements to the field in Language Teaching will create an optional pathway for students to qualify and apply for certification as Ontario Certified English Language Teachers with the Teaching English as a Second Language Association of Ontario (TESL Ontario). The modifications include: (1) changing admission requirements to align English-language proficiency requirements with TESL Ontario requirements; and (2) increasing the number of required courses to meet the instructional hours and curricular expectations as set by TESL Ontario. Following approval of this change, the LLE program will be seeking accreditation of the LTF with TESL Ontario. Professor Bale highlighted that these changes will: (i) satisfy current student demand; (ii) create a better balance between local and international applicants by the program's reputation for high-impact research with the rigorous TESL teacher qualification in Canada – one that is required for almost all positions in adult English-language teaching in Ontario and recognized across Canada; and (iii) continue the field's positive trajectory to ensure sustainability of the MEd in LLE.

A member commended the proponents on the innovative proposal and commented that aligning OISE's professional master's programs with professional certifications where possible will strengthen these programs and make them more competitive. There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility of inclusion of French as a minority language in the context of the proposal, and the ebb and flow in French teacher supply and demand in schools. It was explained that there currently is no pathway to become a certified French teacher for the adult level in Ontario. It was further noted that there is a pathway for certifying French teachers at the K-12 level within the Ontario College of Teachers' accredited programs of professional education, such as OISE's two graduate teacher education programs; however, that is beyond the scope of the Language Teaching filed major modification proposal. In closing, professor Bale highlighted that the field would continue to offer practicum placements in educational settings teaching other languages (e.g., Mandarin), and that the program courses will continue to offer broader, more critical perspectives on multilingualism and plurilingual education.

On a motion duly moved, seconded and carried, IT WAS RESOLVED,

THAT changes to the admission and program requirements for the field in Language Teaching offered within the Master of Education (MEd) in Language and Literacies Education BE APPROVED effective September 1, 2026.

Of 48 members present and voting, all were in favour, none abstained, none opposed.

Prof. Manion also reported that, at the February 6, 2025 meeting, the Committee approved two minor program changes and reviewed several minor course changes approved at the departmental level. The two minor program changes included:

For information: minor changes to existing programs

- Collaborative Specialization in Comparative, International and Development Education – change to the list of core courses used to meet the Specialization requirements.
- International Education Leadership and Policy Field (within the Education Leadership and Policy EdD program) – change to the program requirements.

B. Equity – Professor Andrew B. Campbell, Chair of the Equity Committee, reported on the Committee's discussions at the meeting held on February 4, 2025.

At that meeting, the Committee discussed the annual Equity Symposium, which will be held on April 9, 2025, under the theme: Mobilizing our Knowledge to Defend Justice Outside the Walls of University. The symposium will gather scholars, activists, and community leaders and will foster discussions on equity and justice led by expert panelists and keynote speakers. Professor Campbell thanked members of the Committee for their work and contributions to the Symposium planning.

A member commented that, at the previous meeting, there was a suggestion that the Committee would consider promoting its events to interested individuals beyond OISE and raised a question whether the Committee had the opportunity to discuss this. Professor Campbell explained that, as its theme suggests, the Symposium will be open to the public and that, in collaboration with OISE's Communications Office, it will be broadly promoted beyond OISE. He also added that, at the previous meeting, the Committee did not have the chance to discuss general principles and strategies regarding Committee events promotion and outreach; however, this will occur at one of the future meetings.

- C. Research** – Prof. Jeffrey Ansloos, Chair of the Research Committee, reported on the Committee's discussions at the meeting held on January 15, 2024, at which the Committee discussed the OISE statement on open access including a presentation from the Director of OISE Library, Jenaya Webb. The Committee agreed to strike sub-committee within the coming year to work on developing an updated statement on open access in collaboration with the library and considering the legislative and policy implications, as well as the funding context related to open access.

6. Sustainability and Climate Action Network (SCAN) Update

Dr. Hilary Inwood commenced with the recently announced ranking of the University of Toronto as the most sustainable university in the world by QS World University Rankings on Sustainability (2024). The University's Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability has become permanent, which speaks to the President's Office efforts to institutionalize the sustainability and climate action work. OISE has been well positioned to lead amongst other divisions in this important work due to its Climate Action Plan (2021-2024), which is often referenced as exemplary. Some of the departments and units, such as the OISE Library, are developing their first sustainability plans.

Dr. Inwood then shared several updates about SCAN's work, including that the SCAN renewed its collaboration with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Sustainability Office offering professional learning to TDSB teachers. A number of webinars on climate action, as well as advisory committees and consultations were held related to the academic planning process. Information about a number of SCAN-sponsored events in March and April, 2025, as well as links to sustainability related information and resources was also shared. In closing, Dr. Inwood invited members' feedback on whether the SCAN should engage the community in another planning cycle to develop a new climate action plan, which she noted would be helpful to consider in conjunction with OISE's new academic plan once it is released to the community.

A question was raised regarding the scope of the sustainability work and its relationship with the growing environmental justice scholarship and related academic programming on the one hand, and issues related to the university's infrastructure and environmental practices on the other hand. Dr. Inwood responded that, even though some aspects of this work including the focus on EDI, embedding Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing in programs and environmental scholarship, and implementing sustainable practices may appear to work in siloes, she added that the SCAN works to focus on regenerative sustainability and eco justice as a way of identifying intersecting goals that will advance the sustainability work within the University.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.