

## OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the OISE COUNCIL meeting held on **April 30, 2025**, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 12-199

**Present:** Prof. Erica N. Walker (Dean), Prof. Mary Reid (Chair), Prof. Carly Manion (Vice-Chair), Prof. Qui Alexander, Prof. Anne-Claude Bedard, Prof. Kathy Bickmore, Mackenzie Blanchett, Prof. Andrew B. Campbell, Indrani Chakraborty, Prof. Jody Chong, Prof. Claudia Diaz Rios, Julia Duncan, Prof. Sameena Eidoo, Jasmine El-Hacha, Dr. Barnabas Emenogu, Prof. Joseph Flessa, Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Prof. Jen Gilbert, Dr. Sheldon Grabke, Helen Huang, Dr. Jacqueline Karsemeyer, Irene Kibor, Prof. Kimberley MacKinnon, Prof. Amal Madibbo, Denise Makovac, Prof. Henrjeta Mece, Meagan Muscat, Aytaj Pashayeva, Deborah Peart, Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali, Prof. Angela Pyle, Jeananne Robertson, Latifa Soliman, Ahmet Su, AV Verhaeghe, Prof. Stephanie Waterman, Jenaya Webb, Brandon Wells, Michaela Young

**Guests:** Lynne Alexandrova, Allison Andres, Tess Barclay, Ai-Ri Brown, Omar Elfarseisy, Sugirthan Ganeswararajan, Nadia Hersi, Sim Kapoor, Azeem Khan, Josie Lalonde, Sahra Mohamud, Chandra Pabbisetty, Madelaine Panoulis, Leah Scherk, Mohamed Rage

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

**Regrets:** Malak Almuzaini, Prof. Jeffrey Ansloos, Prof. Joshua Barker (Dean of SGS), Prof. Alexandre Cavalcante, Prof. Charles Chen, Prof. Todd Cunningham, Prof. Lisa Dack, Emily Dobrich, Prof. Laurie Faith, Prof. Beyhan Farhadi, Simran Gauba, Jesse Genereux, Prof. Meric Gertler (President), Prof. Abby Goldstein, Merva Hutchinson, Prof. Linda Iwenofu, Prof. Jennifer Jenkins, Prof. Grace Karram Stephenson, Noah Khan, Prof. Ann Lopez, Prof. Michelle Lui, Prof. Alexandra Makos, Alanna McKnight, Dr. Soudeh Oladi Ghadikolaei, Prof. Denise Paneduro, Victoria Parlatore, Indira Quintasi Orosco, Prof. Shakina Rajendram, Fatema Rashsed, Dr. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone, Dr. Mara Reich, Joseph Rotich, Prof. Creso Sá, Joshua Spencer, Miglena Todorova, Prof. Marcelo Vieta, Yuze Yang, Prof. Trevor Young (Provost), Prof. Terezia Zoric

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### *Acknowledgement of Traditional Land*

The Chair, Professor Mary Reid, welcomed members and guests to the Council's final meeting of 2024-2025, 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 February 26, 2025, meeting of OISE Council were approved.

#### **3. Chair's Report**

Reflecting on the challenging times, the Chair commenced her report by reiterating the importance of OISE's mission to advance education, social justice and meaningful change that uplifts everyone; especially, historically marginalized communities including Black and Indigenous peoples. She then

reported on the Executive Committee meeting held on April 21, 2025. Members were informed that the schedule of governance meetings for 2025-2026 will be finalized and publicized on the governance website no later than July 1, 2025. Announcing the completion of her two-year term, the Chair thanked Council members for their contributions to the governance process during 2024-2025 and noted that it was a privilege serving the community in this capacity. She then thanked Dean Walker for encouragement to take on the role, and acknowledged Secretary of Council, Biljana Cuckovic, for support and guidance.

#### **4. Dean's Report**

- ***Dean's Updates (for Information)***

Dean Walker thanked Professor Reid for her leadership and commenced her report by reflecting on the world events including the tragic loss of lives at a Filipino community festival in Vancouver in April 2025, expressing sadness and solidarity with the community.

The Dean reported on the five faculty searches. Two appointments in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning were finalized, and the rest will be finalized in the coming weeks. The announcement regarding new faculty joining OISE effective July 1, 2025 will be made soon. The Dean expressed excitement that five new scholars will join OISE and thanked the Chairs, members of the search committees and departmental staff for their work on the searches.

The Dean informed members of the events to celebrate the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study (JICS) 100 years of excellence including the JICS Centennial Gala on May 13, and the Writers' Roost: Centennial Edition on May 27, 2025. These events will support the JICS Lab School Endowment Fund improving access and economic diversity. The Dean acknowledged Sim Kapoor, Director of Advancement and External Relations, and her team for their work that has helped OISE achieve 86 percent of its goal towards the University's Defy Gravity campaign. These funds will support faculty research, student scholarships, and student experience programs.

At the AERA annual conference (April 23-27, 2025, Denver, Colorado), OISE had an influential presence with research presentations by faculty and students, the successful alumni reception, and the research café event for international colleagues. Professor Cassie Brownell gave a lecture as the recipient of the Jan Hawkins Award, and Nadia Qureshi received the Graduate Student Research Award. Reflecting on the current challenging times; especially for education, the Dean highlighted that AERA represented an opportunity for reflection and building fortitude. While access to knowledge and science are negatively impacted by policies including cancellation of research grants particularly in the US, the Dean expressed gratitude to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for providing funding that continues to support vital research. She also acknowledged AERA for challenging the governmental policies in the US that adversely impact education and knowledge creation. Related to international initiatives, an update was provided on collaborations with the International Network of Education Institutes (INEI) member institutions. In closing, the Dean noted that education is at a pivotal moment requiring institutions of higher learning to both anticipate and respond to challenges through ongoing teaching and research work and collaborations with partner institutions.

- ***OISE Academic Plan 2025-2030 – Leading for the Future: a Vision for Transformative Education and Human Development (for Approval In Principle)***

Dean Walker reminded members that OISE was at the final stage of a long, productive, and engaging academic planning process that lasted about a year and a half resulting in the Institute's new Academic Plan. The Dean provided an overview of the planning context, the process, as well as core values and commitments that permeate all work at OISE, and outlined a renewed purpose for the Institute focused on: (i) groundbreaking research that impacts education policy and practice; (ii) developing and growing

equitable and reciprocal local and global partnerships; (iii) advancing pedagogical excellence and innovation; and (iv) supporting the next generation of education professionals, teachers, clinicians, practitioners, researchers and innovators that comprise the OISE community. The Dean then spoke to the three core themes that emerged from the planning and highlighted three priorities for the initial years – one drawn from each of the three core themes: (1) Cultivating Inclusive, Collaborative and Creative Community; (2) Broadening Impactful Research and Knowledge Mobilization; and (3) Advancing World-leading Education for Sustainable Social Change.

OISE's Academic Plan 2025-2030 combines perspectives from various departments, units, working groups, as well as individual members of the community, and reflects the themes, priorities and many constructive suggestions that emerged during extensive consultations over the past year and a half. Following approval of the Plan by OISE Council, the Plan will move through University-level governance including the Planning and Budget Committee (May 14, 2025) and the Academic Board (May 29, 2025). The Dean thanked all members of the community for their participation and contributions to the academic planning process and invited questions and comments regarding the Academic Plan.

A member thanked the Dean for the presentation and commended the team who worked on the document highlighting that the graphic included in the presentation slides made the connection between the three core themes clearer than the graphic used in the penultimate draft of the Plan. It was then suggested to consider replacing the word “celebrate” with “embrace” diversity and belonging as a stronger phrasing of OISE's commitment to these values. The Dean thanked the member for the suggestions, which will be integrated in the final version of the Plan.

The outgoing President of OISE's Graduate Students Association (GSA), Aytaj Pashayeva, thanked Dean for incorporating the GSA student leaders' feedback in the penultimate draft. Regarding the Plan's implementation, Pashayeva suggested to prioritize student teaching experiences including enhancing Teaching Assistantships. She informed members that the GSA is in the process of establishing a working group to work on this issue. She then introduced the incoming GSA President, Ahmet Su, who will be leading these efforts with the newly elected GSA Executive team. The Dean thanked Pashayeva for highlighting this priority and noted that she looks forward to continuing to work with the GSA on improving student experience.

A question was raised regarding the international students enrolment, international and comparative faculty research and collaborations in relation to the Plan. The Dean explained that, under the Impactful Research and Knowledge Creation theme, the Plan calls for supporting and enhancing scholarship and research partnerships focused on international education issues and comparative studies that explore global trends, helping OISE inform education policy and practice, and create strategies and solutions for the world's complex issues. Another question was raised regarding how the Plan's implementation will unfold, what will it look like within the departments and OISE-wide. The Dean noted that this will be discussed at an upcoming retreat involving the department Chairs; she added that, aligned with OISE's collaborative culture, the majority of the planning goals and priorities will be accomplished by working across departments, units and functions and involving faculty, staff and students. The Dean noted that she will provide regular updates on the Plan's implementation.

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

THAT the OISE's Academic Plan 2025-2030 entitled: *Leading for the Future: a Vision for Transformative Education and Human Development*, be APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE.

Of 35 members present and voting, all were in favour, no abstentions, none opposed.

Following the vote, the Chair congratulated the Dean and the community on the new Academic Plan.

## 5. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. Academic Programs** – Prof. Carly Manion, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, reported on the proposals approved at the committee meeting held on March 20, 2025, including seven minor program changes, and thirteen new courses.

*For information: Minor Changes to Existing Programs*

- Collaborative Specializations in: (a) Comparative, International and Development Education; and (b) Éducation, francophonies et diversité – MEd – withdrawal of the Language Teaching Field from participating in the two Collaborative Specializations
- Counselling Psychology (MEd), Fields in: (a) Counselling and Psychotherapy; and (b) Guidance and Counselling) – change to program requirements
- Developmental Psychology and Education – MEd, MA, PhD – change to program requirements
- Developmental Psychology and Education – MEd – creation of the Emphasis in AI and Data Science
- Developmental Psychology and Education – PhD – closure of the Emphasis in Early Learning
- Educational Leadership and Policy – EdD – (incl. Field in International Education Leadership and Policy) — clarifying the description of program requirements
- Educational Leadership and Policy – MEd, MA, PhD, EdD – (incl. MEd only Field in School Leadership in Diverse Contexts ) – clarifying the course selection guidelines

*For information: New Courses*

- APD1264H Neuroscience of Reading and Reading Disorders
- APD1310H AI in Psychological and Educational Research and Practices
- APD1311H Exploring AI and its Implementation in Education
- APD2271H Multiliteracies: Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century
- CTL1050H Critical Literacy: Curriculum & Pedagogy
- CTL3043H Professional Practice in Language Teaching
- LHA1032H Economics of Education Policy
- LHA1036H Enacting Policy in Schools
- LHA1037H Critical Approaches to Education Technology
- LHA3009H Professional Development Seminar for the EdD
- LHA3015H School Leadership in Post Colonial Contexts
- LHA3021H Organizational Studies in Education
- LHA3046H Qualitative Methods for Community-Based Research [RM]

A question was raised regarding the reasons for withdrawal of the Language Teaching field from the two Collaborative Specializations especially the Éducation, francophonies et diversité specialization. It was explained that the field changed its curriculum including an increase in the number of required courses and a reduction of elective space to align with the TESL Ontario accreditation. For this reason, the field is no longer able to accommodate the requirements of the two Collaborative Specializations. In closing, Prof. Manion reported that the Committee reviewed several minor course changes approved at the departmental level. She thanked the Committee members for their contributions during 2024-2025.

- B. Equity** – Professor Andrew B. Campbell, Chair of the Equity Committee, commenced the Committee's report of the meeting held on April 8, 2025, and invited Nadia Hersi, Graduate Assistant who supports the work of the Committee to give the report. Hersi provided a recap of the third annual Equity Symposium entitled Mobilizing our Knowledge to Defend Justice Outside the Walls of University held on April 9, 2025 with over 130 participants. Led by expert panelists and keynote speakers, the symposium included thought-provoking discussions and equipped students, faculty and staff with tangible tools to transform knowledge into meaningful action to drive change and enhance equity and justice. The Symposium's

keynote speaker was Professor Maydianne Andrade, Special Advisor to the Dean on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. On behalf of the Equity Committee members, Hersi extended gratitude to the OISE community for their participation and contributions to the success of the symposium.

A member who could not attend the symposium asked whether any symposium materials will be made available. Professor Campbell responded that the Committee would inquire with the keynote speaker regarding the possibility of making the keynote address slides available on request. Another member thanked the Committee for their work especially during these challenging times marked by division and conflict in many war-torn regions, and noted that OISE's vision for an equitable, just, peaceful and sustainable world expressed in the Academic Plan has never been more important. In response, Professor Campbell noted that the Committee creates spaces for these critical topics to be discussed and invited faculty, students, and staff to consider joining the Committee in the coming year. He then thanked all Committee members for their engagement and contributions over the past year.

- C. Research** – On behalf of Prof. Jeffrey Ansloos, Chair of the Research Committee, who was absent from the meeting, Professor Michele Peterson-Badali, Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation reported on the Committee's meeting held on March 26, 2025, at which the Committee hosted Professor Elizabeth Dhuey from the University of Toronto Scarborough. In her role as Director of Statistics Canada Research Data Centre housed at Robarts Library, Professor Dhuey spoke to the Committee regarding educational data available through Statistics Canada and how faculty and student researchers can access this data. There was also a follow up discussion with the Director of OISE Library, Jenaya Webb, on open access, and the Library's work mitigate the implication of decreasing access to data as a result of the governmental policies in the US. In closing, Professor Peterson Badali thanked members of the Research Committee for their contributions of the past year.

A question was raised regarding internationalization and research, which was raised at one of the previous meetings. Professor Peterson-Badali responded that she does not have a specific update; however, the Research Office continues to work with faculty engaged in international research collaborations and supports OISE's international work and partnership with the INEI member institutions.

## **6. OISE Library Update**

Director of OISE Library, Jenaya Webb, provided an update regarding the Education Resources Information Centre (ERIC) database, which is run by the Department of Education (DOE) in the US. It was announced that the number of journals indexed in ERIC would be reduced by 45% effective May 2025. While previous issues of those journals will remain in ERIC, newer issues will not be indexed or searchable in ERIC going forward. The Library continues to work on preserving public data from various government websites keeping track of which journals are being deindexed in order to point users to alternative sources. The Library will continue to monitor changes and provide updates on alternative options to support research, teaching, and learning. Updates about the status of the ERIC database are posted on the Library's website<sup>1</sup>.

## **7. Adjournment**

Prior to adjourning the meeting, the Dean acknowledged Professor Michele Peterson-Badali who was completing her second term as Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation for her outstanding leadership, service, and sustained contributions to the Institute over the past decade.

She then acknowledged the outgoing Chair of Council, Professor Mary Reid, for her leadership, engagement, and thoughtful chairing of Council meetings over the past two years.

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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://oise.library.utoronto.ca/oise-library-blog/education-resources-information-center-eric>