



OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OISE COUNCIL, held on December 15, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Prof. Normand Labrie, Interim
Dean
Prof. Katharine Janzen, Chair
Prof. Kathy Broad, Vice-Chair

Ms. Rushain Abbasi
Ms. Kerri Bailey
Prof. Abigail Bakan
Ms. Diana Barrero
Ms. Asmita Bhutani Vij
Prof. Clare Brett
Ms. Missy Chareka
Prof. Charles Chen
Ms. Jennifer Cho
Prof. Yiola Cleovoulou
Prof. Daniel Corral
Dr. Valerie Damasco
Ms. Alison D’Cruz
Prof. Diane Farmer
Ms. Monique Flaccavento

Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-
Fernández
Dr. Sheldon Grabke
Mr. Justin Holloway
Ms. Helen Huang
Dr. Hilary Inwood
Ms. Alison Jefferson
Mr. Perry King
Prof. Emmanuelle Le Pichon-
Vorstman
Ms. Christine Lowe
Dr. Carly Manion
Prof. Rhonda Martinussen
Prof. Douglas McDougall
Dr. Kenneth McNeilly
Prof. David Montemurro
Prof. Roy Moodley
Prof. Sarfaroz Niyozov
Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali
Prof. Angela Pyle
Ms. Jeananne Robertson
Prof. Creso Sá

Dr. Gurpreet Sahmbi
Ms. Huda Salha
Mr. Said Sidani
Dr. Jesse Sims
Mr. Henry Ssali
Mr. Matt Stodolak
Mr. Ian Liuqia Tian
Prof. Njoki Wane
Dr. Lesley Wilton
Mr. Desmond Wong
Prof. Earl Woodruff
Ms. Yun Zhan
Ms. Zian Zhang

Ms. Biljana Cuckovic, Secretary
of OISE Council

Secretariat:

Ms. Lisa Smith
Ms. Jennifer Tucker
Mr. Doug Ullrich

Guests:

Ms. Lynne Alexandrova
Ms. Tess Barclay
Ms. Ai-ri Brown
Ms. Lara Cartmale

Dr. Everton Ellis
Ms. Mindy Harris
Ms. Sim Kapoor
Ms. Jessica Lovett
Prof. Ann Lopez

Prof. Amal Madibbo
Ms. Denise Makovac
Ms. Mai Naji
Ms. Leah Scherk

Regrets:

Mr. David Allens
Ms. Sezen Atacan
Ms. Maha Babeker
Ms. Vesna Bajic
Prof. Nina Bascia
Prof. Joshua Barker
Prof. Megan Boler

Prof. Jennifer Brant
Ms. Samantha Burns
Prof. Anne Marie Chudleigh
Ms. Julia Duncan
Prof. Meric Gertler
Prof. Kaja Jasinska
Prof. Kang Lee

Mr. Varun Malik
Dr. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone
Prof. Cheryl Regehr
Prof. Miglena Todorova
Prof. Terezia Zoric

Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

The Chair, Professor Katharine Janzen, commenced the meeting by reading the land acknowledgement.

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the second meeting of OISE Council in 2021-2022, and provided an overview of the participation guidelines for virtual meetings.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

3. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- Revised Minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting of OISE Council were approved.
- Minutes of the October 27, 2021 meeting of OISE Council were approved.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair reported that, at its meeting held on December 5th 2021, the Executive Committee welcomed its newly elected members, and reviewed the Agenda and materials for the December 15, 2021 meeting.

5. Dean's Report

The Interim Dean, Professor Normand Labrie provided an update on ongoing searches for nine faculty positions, as well as for two Chairs (departments of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning; and Leadership, Higher and Adult Education), and for Director of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study. Additionally, the search for a new Director of the Indigenous Education Network will soon be launched. The Dean thanked all faculty and students serving on search committees, and acknowledged staff who administratively support the searches.

The Dean reminded members that two years ago, OISE participated in the Ontario Human Rights Commission's (OHRC) Right to Read Inquiry. The draft report with recommendations was shared with faculties of education, and is expected to be released in February 2022. OISE's formal response to the report was submitted to OHRC in early December 2021, and includes feedback from faculty who participated in the inquiry.

Given the dissolution of the OISE Graduate Students Association (GSA), the Dean and Acting Associate Dean Programs, Professor Sarfaroz Niyozov, had informal meetings with representatives of departmental student associations. These discussions were productive and resulted in the decision to transfer the funds intended for OISE GSA to departments for the accredited departmental student associations.

The Dean acknowledged many OISE staff, including colleagues from the Education Commons, OISE Communications, the Registrar's Office and Dean's Office, for their hard work and efforts in making the OISE Fall Graduation Celebration a meaningful occasion for graduates.

Regarding the winter term of 2022, while the initial plan was to increase the number of in-person courses, this plan had to be altered due to the changing public health context. It is expected that all courses will be held online at least until the end of January 2022, and faculty and staff will continue to work from home.

On December 13, 2021, Defy Gravity – the new University of Toronto fundraising and alumni engagement campaign was launched. OISE is part of this campaign with an objective to raise 25 million dollars in endowments for research and scholarships over the next decade.

Teaching is at the heart of OISE’s mission and members were reminded the call for nominations for OISE’s Teaching Excellence Awards is open until January 28, 2022.

OISE’s wellness programming continued during the pandemic with a suite of online initiatives. The Wellness working group was established to start preparing for recovery and gradual return to in-person activities as public health conditions improve. Over the coming months, the working group will develop detailed action plans focused on recovery.

OISE Budget – An Overview

An overview of the OISE budget was provided commencing with institutional priorities focused on faculty hiring, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives, student experience, learning technology, program development, and increasing staff capacity. Several years ago, OISE experienced a decline in faculty complement and was facing a structural deficit. Starting in 2016, a balanced budget was achieved and the decline was halted. OISE is now holding steady with plans not only to continue to replace retiring faculty but also to grow its faculty complement in the coming years. In order to maintain the balanced budget, especially given an annual increase in costs, the mix of programs and degrees is an important strategy to increase revenues. This includes maintaining the same enrolment for the funded programs (MA and PhD), while growing enrolment in the professional degrees (MEd and EdD).

An overview of OISE’s revenues and expenses was also provided. It was highlighted that last year (2020-2021), the overall operating budget was 97 million dollars. The majority of revenues comes from the Ontario government in the form operating grants (52%), and tuition fees (45%), while 3% represents other income including endowments. The majority of expenses (74%) represents salaries and benefits, while 18% is dedicated for student funding, and 8% are other expenses. It was highlighted that, in 2016-2017, the operating grant represented 58% of the OISE revenues, which is down to 52% in 2020-2021. Given the government-imposed tuition freeze, the portion of revenue from domestic tuition fees is also expected to be on decline in the coming years. On the other hand, the revenues from the international tuition fees have been increasing from 6% in 2016-2017 to 15% in 2020-2021.

With 18% of the operating budget dedicated for student financial support, OISE is well above the University of Toronto average, which is 9%. While 78% of these funds are intended for student funding (Graduate Assistantships, Teaching Assistantships, excellence awards, and the OISE portion of OGS), 22% of these funds is for student aid including bursaries and professional master’s financial assistance. During 2020-2021, additional funds were provided to support students impacted by the pandemic including, for example, the COVID-19 program completion and research pivot awards, which amounted to over half a million dollars in additional funds. Additional support for students from research grants amounted to 625,000, while support from endowment funds was 555,000. OISE is committed to increasing student financial support and strategies include increasing overall revenues (operating budget), increasing research funding and endowments, increasing external scholarships, and Teaching Assistantships beyond OISE. Related to the latter, OISE has a pilot project with the Department of Language Studies at UTM to hire OISE TAs. Most recently, Victoria College in the Faculty of Arts and Science expressed interest to hire OISE TAs in their Education and Society minor program. In addition, the Associate Dean, Programs Office established the Student Teaching Experience Working Group with the mandate to explore opportunities and identify ways to enhance teaching experiences for OISE’s doctoral students.

Following the presentation, questions were raised regarding the Scholarship Recognition Award, as well as the Excellence Award, and when was this award last given. The Dean explained that the Excellence Award is part of the graduate funding, and that the Scholarships Recognition Award is provided when an MA student completes their program within a year and starts a PhD. This Award was created to prevent students from being charged a second-year tuition fee for their master's degree, which they have completed within one year. Eligible MA students are identified in the system, and are offered the Scholarship Recognition Award. Related to the Excellence Award, a follow up question was raised by a student member, an OGS award winner, who received \$2,000 less in funding this academic year in their second year of PhD program compared to last year. The Dean responded that he does not have the details of the award, and noted that the Student Funding Office and the new Director of Academic Programs and Operations, Ms. Mindy Harris, could provide additional details on the award and how it is administered.

Another question was raised regarding the apparent decrease in funding for PhD students compared to other degrees. It was also noted that, based on experiences of some other universities in Ontario, relying on enrolment of international students is not a sustainable model. It was explained that the number of students in funded programs is not decreasing; however, the relative percentage of students enrolled in these programs diminishes as OISE grows enrolment in professional (non-funded) degrees as one of its strategies to increase revenues and offset diminishing government funding and increasing costs.

Related to the meeting held with representatives of departmental student associations, a question was raised why the elected student representatives on OISE Council were not consulted on what student needs are, and plans for addressing them. It was explained that these meetings were informal and that, prior to the meetings, the departmental student representatives were expected to consult with their constituents. It was also noted that the Dean's Office does not plan to bring together all departmental student associations but students could certainly initiate this through their own democratic processes.

A student member thanked the Dean for the presentation and recommended that the budget overview be presented to Council at its first meeting to allow for a more meaningful participation. It was also noted that, in addition to what is budgeted, it would be helpful to know what is actually spent on various categories; for example, 150K is allocated for Research and Development Graduate Assistantships (R&DGA) but it is not clear how much is actually spent. It was agreed that it is a good practice to present an overview of the budget to OISE Council annually for information. However, as per the University policy, the authority over the budget and other financial matters is in the purview of the Dean and not of OISE Council. Regarding the timing, it was explained that the data from the University is received late in the fall term, and the amount of time to prepare and submit the budget to the University for approval is very short; hence, it is not possible to prepare this presentation for the Council's first meeting. Regarding the R&DGA funds, it was explained that these funds are always expended even if some of the funds are carried forward into the next fiscal year, which may happen if a planned position remains unfilled. Another question was raised whether a message could be sent from the Dean's Office to faculty to ensure that students are not being asked to volunteer to perform duties of TAs, such as lesson preparation and grading, without being properly compensated and without a proper contract. The Dean noted that he was not aware of this issue and thanked the student for raising it.

A student guest in attendance noted that rethinking nomination guidelines might enable greater participation of students in governance. It was further noted that contact with elected representatives is essential, and that publishing email addresses and bios of student members of OISE Council would be helpful. It was explained the OISE Council secretariat lists Council and Committee members by names and constituency they represent, which is a common practice for governance boards and committees at the University. In terms of creating webpages with photos and bios of members like those available for members of the University of Toronto Governing Council, it was explained the OISE Council secretariat currently does not have sufficient resources to undertake this work on an annual basis; however, the

secretariat is always pleased to assist in connecting OISE students with their elected representatives. Students email addresses are considered personal information and cannot be shared without consent.

Another question was raised about the criteria for the transfer of the GSA funds to departmental student associations. It was explained that, in addition to the funding from the U of T Graduate Students Union, OISE Dean's Office provided funds to the GSA; however, when the GSA was discontinued, these contributions ceased. Temporarily, until there is a new GSA, the Dean's Office divided the amount and transferred the funds to the departments to support activities of the departmental student associations. As each department has a different context and some have more than one departmental student association, it is left to the departments to make decisions on how to redistribute these funds.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. Academic Programs** – Professor David Montemurro, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, reported on the Committee's proposals approved at the meeting held on November 26, 2021.

For Approval: Major Modifications: New Interventional Dual Degree Program

This proposal introduces a new dual degree program involving the Counselling Psychology Master of Education (MEd), field in Global Mental Health (GMH), offered by the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development (APHD) at OISE, and the Master of Science (MSc) in Applied Psychology, offered by the Department of Psychiatry at China Medical University (CMU). Professor Montemurro invited Professor Earl Woodruff to speak to the proposal. It was noted that this was the second dual degree between OISE & CMU; the first one was approved last Fall (2020) involving the same OISE program/field, and the CMU's Master of Medicine in Psychiatry and Mental Health (MMed). APHD's ongoing collaborations with CMU allows both institutions to leverage their strengths and offer a dual degree to train graduates who will apply their expertise in mental health to respond to the needs of local communities, as well to contribute to dialogue and mental health service development initiatives.

A question was raised regarding how will OISE ensure that students receive knowledge and skills needed to address issues of racism, sexism, homophobia, political persecution and other types of discrimination. It was explained that the program is a dual degree, not a joint degree, and that OISE has full authority over its MEd degree in Counselling Psychology that includes these important issues, and is delivered in Toronto. On the other hand, CMU is responsible for courses and topics included in their MSc degree.

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

THAT the establishment of the Dual Degree Program – Counselling Psychology (MEd), Field in Global Mental Health/APHD, OISE, and the Master of Science (MSc) in Applied Psychology, Department of Psychiatry/China Medical University (CMU), be APPROVED effective September 2023.

Of 46 members present and voting, 42 were in favour, none opposed, 4 abstained

Professor Montemurro also reported on five minor changes to existing programs, and three new courses.

For Information: Minor Modifications: Changes to Existing Programs

- Collaborative Specialization in Comparative, International and Development Education (MA, MEd, EdD, PhD) – change to program Requirements
- Counselling Psychology, Field in Counselling and Psychotherapy (EdD) – change to program requirements
- Counselling Psychology, Field School Psychology (EdD) – change to program requirements

- Curriculum & Pedagogy Emphases (MA, MEd, PhD) – removing a program emphasis
- Educational Leadership and Policy (MEd) – change to admissions requirements

For Information: Minor Modifications: New Courses

- APD3116H Proseminar II: Practice-Based Research in School and Counselling Psychology
- CTL3203H Les approches pédagogiques plurilingues et pluriculturelles en éducation
- SJE3935 African Classics: Decolonial Thought in Education

The Committee also reviewed a number of minor course changes that were approved at the departmental level, including several omnibus minor modifications for changes to the delivery mode for multiple courses within several programs including: Child Study and Education; Counselling and Clinical Psychology; Counselling Psychology; Developmental Psychology and Education; Educational Leadership and Policy; Higher Education; Master of Teaching; School and Clinical Child Psychology; and Social Justice Education.

B. Research – Professor Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Chair of the Research Committee, reported on the Committee’s proposals and discussions at the meeting held on November 10, 2021.

Prior to commencing the report, Professor Gaztambide-Fernández took the opportunity to pay homage to the passing of one of the most influential thinkers and authors, Gloria Jean Watkins, widely known by her pen name, bell hooks.

For Approval: Establishment of an EDU-C: Centre for Black Studies in Education (CBSE)

Professor Gaztambide-Fernández reported that the Research Committee unanimously and enthusiastically approved the motion to establish of the Centre for Black Studies in Education. He then invited Professor Ann Lopez to speak to the proposal.

On behalf of the Black faculty caucus, Professor Lopez acknowledged Professor Njoki Wane, and Dr. Everton Ellis who supported the development of the proposal to establish the centre. Professor Lopez highlighted that this initiative was about the knowledge for and by the Black people, and those who identify as people of African descent. The centre will be a site to engage in research, support students, and harness the knowledge and scholarship of Black scholars. It will also be a tool to respond to antiblackness, anti-Black racism, and the structural inequities that face Black people in all aspects of Canadian life, particularly in education. The multidisciplinary centre will focus on production and advancement of Black scholarship, as well as on providing academic mentorship for emergent Black scholars, facilitating capacity building, and mitigating barriers encountered not only by Black faculty and staff, but also students. The centre will theorize practices and embed within curricula African-Indigenous knowledges, as well as Afro-Caribbean, and Black-Indigenous worldviews, and ways of knowing. Professor Lopez highlighted that the centre proponents have consulted broadly within and beyond OISE and the University of Toronto regarding the development of the proposal. She thanked former Dean Glen Jones for his support, and for committing seed funding for the first two years of the centre. She also thanked Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation, Professor Michele Peterson-Badali, and her team, for providing guidance and support for the proposal development and approval process.

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

THAT the establishment of the Centre for Black Studies in Education (CBSE) as an EDU-C be APPROVED effective January 1, 2022.

All members present and voting were in favour.

In closing, Professor Gaztambide-Fernández informed members that the Committee will continue with the review process of one of OISE's EDU-C centres, and will report back to Council on the outcome of that process at the next meeting.

- C. Equity** – Professor Emmanuelle Le Pichon-Vorstman, Chair of the Equity Committee, reported on the Committee's discussions at the meeting held on November 30, 2021.

Professor Le Pichon-Vorstman reported that the Committee is planning to conduct an environmental scan of equity related programs and initiatives across OISE. This will provide an opportunity for sharing best practices, and enhancing communication between different programs, academic departments, and units. Additionally, the Committee will support the organization of two events including the annual Black Faculty in Conversation, which will be held in February 2022. Professors George Dei, Njoki Wane, Rosalind Hampton, Lance McCready, Withneé Garrett-Walker, Linda Ivenofu, and Andrew Campbell have confirmed their participation in the event. The Committee will collaborate with OISE's Communication team, and the Education Commons on advertising and broadcasting the event. The second event will be the workshop on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Mental Health with focus on Black students, student workers, and international students, which is planned for early March 2022. More information regarding both events will be available early in the winter term of 2022. In closing, Professor Le Pichon-Vorstman noted that the Committee will be working with the OISE Library on updating the equity focused digital pedagogy and learning research guide to add resources on mental health.

A student guest in attendance raised a question whether the Equity Committee membership includes representatives from the CUPE 3907 union. It was confirmed that, in accordance with the Collective Agreement between the University and this union, in addition to the elected and *ex-officio* members, the Equity Committee includes two representatives appointed by this union.

7. OISE Council Student Members Update

Mr. Justin Holloway, student representee on the Executive Committee reported that student members of OISE Council are organizing, and working on establishing a student funding and financial support committee. They held their first meeting on December 1, 2021, and agreed that the student financial precariousness, and the way OISE is addressing it, cannot continue. According to the 2020-2021 OISE Self-study, the average student funding level has decreased over the past five years. The number of GA positions also decreased from 315 in 2015-2016 to 259 in 2019-2020. In order to improve the situation, the student members of OISE Council requested the creation of a generic email account for the group, as well as access to OISE listservs. They also requested that all supports lost due to the dissolution of OISE GSA should be restored in full, and asked for transparency regarding who makes the financial decisions affecting OISE students, including regular updates and consultations regarding the processes and their operationalization. The student members of OISE Council will be focused on creating a substantial change on how student precarity is handled at OISE, and starting in 2022, will meet regularly prior to each Council meeting to discuss these issues.

A student member commented that having a generic email account for student members of OISE Council will help improve communication between the elected student representatives and their constituents. Another student member commented that all student services are connected to equity, and that financial equity is particularly important to students.

A question was raised whether OISE Council is the best forum for these conversations given that financial matters are not in the Council's purview. The Dean explained that OISE Council is the governing body for academic matters that makes decisions about academic policies, and priorities for teaching, learning and research. While providing an overview of the budget and student financial support to OISE Council is

a good practice, more granular discussions regarding these matters should take place at a separate committee or working group in collaboration with the Student Funding Office.

A student member commented that the Dean's budget presentation was helpful, and that presenting reports like this to OISE Council contributes to the notion of collegial governance and transparency.

A question was realised whether the intention of the student members of OISE Council is to replace the former GSA. Mr. Holloway responded that this was not an item of discussion; however, there was a conversation regarding the former GSA, and that all its previously provided supports should be restored. The goal of the student members of OISE Council is to stimulate participation, and create change with a view to improving student experience, and addressing student financial precarity.

8. Sustainability and Climate Action Network (SCAN)

Dr. Hilary Inwood provided an update on the Sustainability and Climate Action Network (SCAN) activities during the fall term of 2021 including eight well attended webinars, and a student-led podcast series. There were over 400 registrants for the Climate Courage conference held in November, and a number of OISE faculty and students presented at the North American Association for Environmental Education conference in October 2021. The University's main Committee for Climate Change and Sustainability released its annual report highlighting OISE as the lead case study giving a prominent place to OISE's SCAN initiatives. In the winter term of 2022, the SCAN will collaborate with the Indigenous Education Network, and the Dean's Advisory Council on Indigenous Education to conduct a scan of Land-based learning initiatives within and beyond the University. The launch of the new Sustainability Fund for the OISE community will take place in February 2022, and a sustainability guide for staff and faculty will be released. They are also working on supporting a new Community of Practice, and continue to consult with the OISE community regarding the climate action related priorities and initiatives.

9. Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, the Chair and Interim Dean thanked members and guests for their participation and contributions at the meeting, and wished everyone happy holidays and a relaxing break.

The next meeting of OISE Council will be held on February 23, 2022 at 3:00 p.m., via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.