



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

March 1, 2016

A Message to Our Community from Interim Dean Glen Jones

Dear OISE Faculty, Staff and Students,

The term is quickly moving along and spring will soon be upon us (though it does not look like spring outside today). I am writing to provide you with an update on a few important matters.

OISE Review

The Provost commissioned a review of OISE in preparation for the search for a new dean, and the process began in the fall of 2015. The senior administrative team undertook a major self-study and community consultation, including two major public conversations and extended discussions in OISE Council and in our Chairs and Deans meetings. A draft of the self-study report was posted on the review website in November and we received quite detailed feedback from some members of our community. The final self-study report was submitted to the Provost in December.

The University appointed three external reviewers who visited OISE from January 20-22, 2016. The external reviewers are: Blye Frank, Dean of the Faculty of Education of the University of British Columbia; Mary Kalantzis, Dean of the College of Education of the University of Illinois; and Field Rickards, Dean of the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne. The review committee met with senior University officials, OISE Deans and Chairs, program coordinators, professional managers, student representatives, and hosted open meetings with faculty and staff. We expect that the report of the external review committee will be released in the next week or two.

The next step in the review process will be a formal response to the report of the external reviewers by the OISE administration. The external review will be widely circulated, and we will ask for community input, including input from the OISE Council, before responding to the report.

We anticipate that the external review will identify some key issues that will need to be considered in the search for a new dean and in the Institute's next academic plan. Additional information on the review can be found on the OISE Review webpage:

http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/oise/About_OISE/Review.html

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission

The final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was released in December. The travesty of the residential school system was conducted in the name of

“education” and Justice Sinclair and his co-authors note the central role that education must play in moving forward. It is extremely important for the OISE community to understand both the “truth” of residential schools and our role, as Canada’s leading centre for research and graduate studies in education, in supporting reconciliation.

As an important initial step in this process, Professor Suzanne Stewart took the initiative of organizing a panel discussion of the TRC that took place on February 18, 2016. The session was extremely well-attended, with a standing-room-only audience in room 5-120, fifty people watching on a monitor in the Board Room, and an additional fifty people watching the webcast. Professor Stewart, Special Advisor to the Dean on Aboriginal Education, will be organizing additional community conversations and leading a small task force that will provide recommendations for moving forward to address the TRC’s calls to action.

International Women’s Day

I also wish to acknowledge that International Women’s Day is this coming Tuesday, March 8th and provides another opportunity to “audit” the progress of women’s rights everywhere, including our own university backyard. This year’s theme is **pledge for parity** in social, economic and political contexts. OISE is fortunate to have such excellent leadership regarding women’s equality. There will be more to honour this excellence next week and to spark ideas and actions about closing the “parity gaps” where ever they exist.

Reserve March 31st in Your Calendar

A community-wide event to celebrate important faculty and staff awards will take place in the ground floor of the OISE library on March 31, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. The event will provide us with an opportunity to recognize the 2015-16 OISE Teaching Award winners, the Staff Excellence Award winners, and faculty that were awarded tenure or promotion during the last year. We hope that many members of our community will come together to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of our faculty and staff colleagues, and to celebrate OISE.

Office of the Registrar and Student Services Move

The Office of the Registrar and Student Services has now moved into the new office complex on the 8th floor. This new, custom-designed space makes good use of light and provides staff and students with a much more open, welcoming and comfortable working environment. Both students and faculty will enjoy the new doctoral oral examination room; it has a window and a large-screen monitor. We owe a great deal of thanks to Helen Huang for her leadership in coordinating the design and construction phases of the project. Sheldon Grabke and his wonderful team in the Office of the Registrar and Student Services ensured that the design met their needs and they had the hard task of moving one of the most complex offices in the building. Elizabeth Broccoli coordinated the move and Kurt Binnie and his Education Commons colleagues dealt with shifting all the technology. The success of this initiative depended on the hard work of a great many people. I would encourage members of the community to drop in to the new office complex and see the amazing changes that have taken place with this space.

OISE Graduate Student Research Conference – April 1st and 2nd

The Graduate Student Research Conference is organized by students, for students, and we strongly encourage all of our graduate students to participate. It is a wonderful opportunity for students to make their first conference presentation and share research findings in a friendly, supportive space. It provides an important forum for connecting students who may be interested in similar questions, and for learning about the tremendous diversity of research taking place within the Institute. The Dean's Office is pleased to support this very important annual event and we encourage our community to show support by attending as many sessions as possible. For details visit <http://ocs.sfu.ca/gsrc/index.php/gsrc/gsrc2016>.

Take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glen A. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "A".

Glen A. Jones, Ph.D.
Professor and Interim Dean