



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

October 19, 2015

A Message to Our Community from Interim Dean Glen Jones

Dear OISE Faculty, Staff and Students,

I hope that everyone is having a productive fall – the academic term seems to be speeding along. I am writing to bring you up-to-date on several important matters.

Safety and Security

OISE safety and security is important to our community and we want to support and encourage proactive efforts to create an environment where we feel safe to learn and work. A number of safety and security issues have arisen over the last month. The on-line threat at UofT which received considerable attention a few weeks ago raised a number of important questions about our crisis plans and communications protocols. As well, recent news coverage regarding concerns at other post-secondary institutions may heighten awareness of safety and security in a more general manner. The University has crisis plans, and we will be working with the central administration to discuss OISE's role, responsibilities and communications protocols. Several steps have already been taken to improve specific issues and in addition our intention is to also create an OISE committee by the end of November that will review and make recommendations on these issues within the framework of University-wide policies and plans.

The recent fire alarm at 252 Bloor St. W. created some confusion over procedures and there were delays in vacating the building. Several things are being done to improve the situation. Helen Huang, our Chief Administrative Officer, is working closely with the central room management office and other University officials to put appropriate emergency instruction materials in every classroom and elevator lobbies in the building. She has also been working with central offices to have one of our elevators powered by battery for emergencies, a modification that will assist individuals with mobility issues to vacate the building in an emergency situation. When installation is complete, this will be the first elevator of its kind on campus. Finally, we are taking steps to ensure that we have the appropriate number of trained volunteer wardens on each floor.

Please report any health and safety concerns and facilities maintenance deficiencies in the building to oise.facilities@utoronto.ca. We will try to have these problems addressed as soon as possible.

OISE Review

OISE is currently undergoing a review at the request of the Provost, and we have been working hard on the self-study component of this important process. We have been trying to

make the process as open and participatory as possible, while at the same time producing a report that will be ready for our November 11th submission deadline. Information on the review, including the terms of reference and details on the site visit, can be found on the review OISE Review site (http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/oise/About_OISE/Review.html).

The first of two community consultations focusing on components of the review took place on September 24th with approximately seventy people in attendance. Members of the community can stream the archived webcast of the meeting on the OISE Review site. The second community consultation will focus on OISE programs and research and will take place in the Library (ground floor) on Tuesday, October 27th from 2:30 to 4:30. Once again, all members of the community are welcome to participate.

We have also just uploaded a preliminary draft of the report to the OISE Review site. The document is largely descriptive at this point, but it presents important data on our programs, research, and organizational features. We will expand and revise the review as we learn more from the public consultations. Comments or suggestions on the draft document would be welcomed, and should be sent to dean.oise@utoronto.ca.

Recruitment

Quite a number of our programs found it difficult to meet their enrolment targets this year and enlarging our application pools through recruitment activity is an important priority. Doug McDougall, Associate Dean Programs has been chairing a recruitment initiative that includes participants from all central services units and department representation. Our departments have organized [Open House information](#) events for prospective applicants that will take place this week and we would like to acknowledge the efforts of everyone involved. In addition, we are launching a focused advertising campaign at universities within driving distance of Toronto as well as through social media. Recruitment announcements have gone out to our alumni and community partners. Our Registrar's Office will be representing us at a number of important recruitment fairs. In short, this has turned out to be an important community effort, but we continue to need everyone to play a role in encouraging applications from strong candidates, and providing feedback on our current initiatives. In late November we will turn our attention to international student recruitment.

Space and Sustainability

As many of you know, the Registrar's Office and Student Services have been combined in order to provide students with more integrated support and services. The former student services office on the 8th floor will soon be renovated in order to provide a customized home for the new, coordinated office. The new space is designed to provide students with one-stop academic services and staff with a modern, open-concept working space. The project has been approved by the university and it is on track for completion in January or February, 2016.

The university recently installed a kiosk in our lobby that provides information on OISE's sustainability initiatives. This includes HVAC system improvements provided by the University as well as OISE's community-based initiatives. Take a moment to check it out.

Convocation

The OISE convocation will take place at 9:30 a.m. on November 13th and we will be hosting a small social event in the Nexus Lounge following the ceremony (approximately 11:30 a.m.). Further details about the OISE reception including RSVP will be forwarded to the community shortly. We encourage all faculty to participate in the academic procession in recognition of the accomplishments of our graduates. Please review all of the details regarding participating in the procession by following this [link](#) (deadline October 26th).

Finally, I want to thank everyone who stopped by our Autumn Social “pop-up” event in the Dean’s Office on Thursday, October 15th. More than 300 people dropped by and it was quite wonderful to see members of our community from every floor in the building.

All the best,

Glen

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