



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

April 6, 2020

Dear Members of the OISE Community,

The past few weeks have been anything but usual for so many around the world and certainly the current crisis is top of mind. I do believe this current situation presents an opportunity to consider our values and purpose and to reflect on so many of the assumptions we make when things are business as usual. How do we sustain ourselves, our families and friends, and our colleagues and OISE community during this time of crisis? How can we as OISE continue to contribute meaningfully to the field of Education during what is primarily a health crisis but with profound consequences in so many facets of society? I think we can be proud to be part of the University of Toronto where so many researchers are working collaboratively with other higher education institutions around the world to find answers to this COVID-19 disease. Let us all do our part to continue to ask deep questions, share ideas, and stay connected in the midst of this challenging time. I will continue to do my utmost as the Dean of OISE to support this special community that at this moment has become *my home within my home*. I hope we will all be together very soon sharing a space and place that is not merely remote and virtual.

This week I want to share a few updates regarding (i) OISE Council (ii) Spring Convocation, and (iii) APHD Department Chair.

OISE Council

The OISE Council Executive is meeting later this afternoon to consider the next meeting which is scheduled for April 15, 2020. Please note that we will advise of the plans for that meeting both through direct email to members later this week, as well as on the [governance website](#).

UofT Spring Convocation

The University of Toronto [announced](#) on Friday, April 3rd that despite the current COVID-19 situation, that Spring Convocation will proceed with both a virtual and in-person event (please carefully review the announcement and [letter from President Meric Gertler](#) to the UofT Community). OISE will work in consultation with the UofT Convocation Office to find a suitable time and place for an in-person experience that honours the hard work and effort of our graduating students. We recognize how important it is to celebrate our graduate student achievements. When we are through this difficult time, we will find an appropriate opportunity to recognize this significant milestone of achievement. Until then, we will all take a moment to enjoy the virtual ceremony conducted by the University of Toronto while in our own way honouring each one of the OISE members of the spring graduating class.

APHD Department Chair

Professor Earl Woodruff, Department Chair of APHD, has announced to the department that he has decided to postpone his administrative leave. This decision was based on the realization that the COVID-19 situation could continue to be a major factor and that the timing of a leave was not ideal. Earl's thoughtful decision will ensure some stability for APHD during this uncertain time. I wish to express my tremendous gratitude to both Earl and also to Professor Lana Stermac who had agreed to assume the role of Acting Chair.

Take care,

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

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