



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

November 8, 2017

A Message to Our Community from Dean Glen Jones

Dear OISE Community,

I hope that your fall is going well; it is hard to believe that we are only weeks away from completing the academic term. I am writing to provide an update on some recent events and new initiatives.

Academic Plan

On October 25th, 2017, OISE Faculty Council approved in principle the [*OISE Academic Plan: Leading and Learning from Within*](#). I want to congratulate everyone in our community who contributed to the process and the development of our plan. When we started the consultation phase back in September 2016, our hope was to ensure an informed, transparent and engaged process that would in itself stimulate and create a new and better future for OISE. Your extensive participation and the remarkable amount of input you have provided are absolutely central to the plan's quality. I am pleased that we have taken another step toward realizing many of our aspirations and I look forward to working with you to continue building our community in the years to come. The OISE Academic Plan will now move through University of Toronto governance in January and after that we will definitely find an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the hard work of so many in the OISE community.

Teaching Guidelines

I am pleased to announce that OISE's new Divisional Teaching Guidelines were approved by OISE Council on October 25th and shortly thereafter by the Committee on Academic Policy & Programs of Governing Council on November 2nd. The revised guidelines were developed after receiving community input and continue to recognize the excellence and breadth of teaching and teaching-related activities at OISE. The Guidelines have been updated to reflect recent changes to academic policies at U of T, including changes to tenure and interim review procedures, the introduction of new teaching stream ranks, and the introduction of policy and procedures allowing promotion to the rank of Professor, Teaching Stream. OISE's new Teaching Guidelines can be found on the [governance website](#).

MT Visioning Advisory Committee

The work of the MT Visioning Advisory Committee will continue throughout this year with several activities planned including a curriculum mapping and review exercise that will take the better part of the next several months. On December 1st the committee is planning to host a community meeting that will present the provincial educational context and invitations to this meeting will be sent to the community shortly. In the meantime, to stay informed of the work of the MT Visioning Advisory Committee please visit [MT Visioning](#) and/or feel free to write to mt.visioning@utoronto.ca.

Wellness Committee

As part of the Academic Plan, we have identified the need to establish a representative advisory committee to consider issues of Mental Health and Wellbeing. The academic plan suggests the following:

- (i) Establish a wellness committee representative of faculty, staff and students to make recommendations and lead the development and implementation of the institutional wellbeing and mental health initiatives.
- (ii) Explore ways to improve quality of work-life balance for staff, faculty and students, and support healthy lifestyles through, for example, yoga and mindfulness mediation opportunities.

At this time, we are calling for expressions of interest from faculty, staff and students for membership on the committee, and we anticipate to hold the first meeting in January 2018. Please send us your expressions of interests including a short one paragraph statement on: (1) your expertise in this area, and (2) how you hope to contribute to the work of the committee. The deadline for submitting expressions of interest to dean.oise@utoronto.ca is Monday November 20th.

Convocation Ceremony

OISE fall Convocation Ceremony is on Thursday, November 9th and the community will come together to celebrate the graduation of well over 200 OISE students. Please take a moment to congratulate and celebrate by joining us in the Nexus Lounge immediately following the ceremony.

Office 365 Migration

All OISE faculty and staff will be receiving communications regarding the scheduled migration dates and pre-migration information for Office365. The migration is expected to take place at the end of November. I want to thank everyone helping to coordinate this effort especially the Education Commons and while we hope for a smooth transition, we know that some patience will be necessary.

Thanks

I appreciate how busy everyone has been these last several weeks and I recognize that November is a very active time as folks support students, peers, and colleagues in achieving their academic and scholarly goals. All of our hard work is definitely helping to make OISE a better place to study, work and engage with the broader education community. Thanks for all of your efforts and please feel free at any time to contact me at dean.oise@utoronto.ca whether to suggest something or just to share an anecdote about the wonderful things that are happening.

Take care,



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