MEMORANDUM

TO: OISE Community
FROM: Jane Gaskell, Dean
Date: September 23, 2009

RE: The Office of Teaching Support at OISE

It is my great pleasure to announce the opening of the Office of Teaching Support at OISE (OTSO). The creation of this new unit was a key recommendation of the Teaching Task Force (2007-2008). OTSO was created on July 1, 2009 with the appointment of Professor Njoki Wane as its founding Director; in August, Dr. Sheryl Nestel accepted the position of OTSO Coordinator. These two respected individuals, with the support of several senior graduate students, will be developing a wide range of new initiatives and programs.

The Office’s mandate is to serve the needs of students and faculty by enhancing, recognizing and supporting excellence in teaching, while acknowledging diversity and ensuring equitable treatment as the basis of sound pedagogy. OTSO will support faculty in the Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and Graduate programs in many aspects of teaching including student assessment, graduate supervision, and course design. In collaboration with the Education Commons, the Office will assist faculty in using new instructional technologies. OTSO will be an important resource for pre-tenure faculty, assisting them with the preparation of teaching dossiers and providing workshops and other services that can help smooth the transition into academic life at OISE. OTSO will also assist graduate students in acquiring pedagogical expertise and supporting their work as teaching assistants. Finally, OTSO will offer assistance in the preparation of both internal and external teaching award nominations in order to recognize and reward teaching excellence. OTSO is looking forward to working with and serving the OISE community.

For more information please visit OTSO's temporary office on the 12th floor (in the Dean's Office, first door after the receptionist's desk) or contact them by telephone (416 978-1311) re-mail (otso@oise.utoronto.ca).

In the next few weeks OTSO will be announcing a range of specific events and activities, as well as their permanent office location.

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