October 18, 2018

A Message to Our Community from Dean Glen Jones

Dear OISE Community,

OISE is in the midst of another exciting and intensive academic term with many classes, research activities, conferences, and much more happening. I am writing to provide a quick update on just a few general announcements and activities. For additional news and information, please be sure to subscribe to [Inside OISE](.).

President's Chair in Education and Knowledge Technologies

I am extremely pleased to announce that **Professor James Slotta** has been appointed to the **President's Chair in Education and Knowledge Technologies** for a five-year term from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2024. This prestigious appointment has been made on the advice of an OISE-wide selection committee and with the approval of the Provost.

The President's Chair in Education and Knowledge Technologies was established in 2000 with a mandate to "contribute significantly to the body of scholarship on education and knowledge technologies." Designated for an OISE scholar, the President's Chair embodies the commitment of three former University of Toronto Presidents to foster research and innovation in education and knowledge technologies as a means to improve learning and teaching at all levels of the education system.

Professor Slotta joined OISE in 2005, following an extensive research background in cognitive science and web technologies, and held the Canada Research Chair in Education and Technology from 2006 to 2015. For more than a decade, Professor Slotta has developed and advanced a new pedagogical model called Knowledge Community and Inquiry (KCI), in response to emerging media and on a foundation of knowledge building and learning communities. His research lab has produced important local, national, and international collaborations with partners ranging from schoolteachers to researchers in science, mathematics, engineering, and health sciences. Professor Slotta has presented a bold and exciting vision for expanding this community of scholars, practitioners, and technology developers to advance his groundbreaking work on KCI and the mandate of the President's Chair.

Please join me in congratulating Professor Slotta on his distinguished appointment!

Space Planning Committee

Last month we sent a call for membership on the OISE Space Planning Committee to all faculty, staff and students. I want to thank everyone who took time to express their interest to serve on this committee and also thank Helen Huang, OISE Chief Administrative Officer, who will be chairing the committee. We received a significant level of interest and attempted to balance the committee across all constituent groups from a range of departments/units and various representative interests. Thanks to the following individuals for agreeing to serve as members on the Space Planning Committee:

David Montemurro (CTL Faculty and MT)
Peter Sawchuk (LHAE Faculty)
Tanya Titchkosky (SJE Faculty)
Jeffrey Ansloos (APHD Faculty)
Rim Fathallah (PhD student, CTL)
George Chiran (PhD student LHAE)
Mani Azimzadeh (MED student SJE)
Stephanie Buono (PhD student APHD)
Bessie Giannikos (Manager, Finance & Administration)
Evelyn Wilson (Associate Director, Learning Solutions (Pre K-12), CPL)
Neil Tinker (Information & Communication Technology Analyst, EC)
Helen Huang (CAO)
Elizabeth Broccoli (Manager, OISE Facilities)

One of the first steps of the committee will be to consult with the OISE community. To stay informed of space planning activities as they unfold, please be sure to visit the OISE Space Planning website.

Faculty Council

The first meeting of OISE Council in this academic year was held on October 17, 2018 and was a success thanks to our new and returning members and guests who attended. We are delighted that Professor Kathleen Gallagher was elected as Chair of Council for a two-year term, and Monique Flaccavento will continue to serve as Vice-Chair this year. All student and administrative staff positions on the Council have been filled. There is still a small number of vacancies for faculty and instructors. Interested faculty and instructors can email oise.council@utoronto.ca for more information. OISE Council is our highest governing body regarding academic matters. It meets in open session and all members of our community are welcome. For this year's meeting schedule, visit the governance website.

UTQAP

Next year, 2019-2020, all of our academic programs in all departments are scheduled for external reviews under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP). The programs were last reviewed in 2011-2012, so the upcoming reviews will provide an excellent opportunity for analysis and reflection to ensure our programs are of high

quality, meet the needs of students and are at the forefront in their fields. Some activities related to the reviews will start in winter term of 2019. We will be sure to share further details with departments and programs as these become available.

Convocation Ceremony

OISE fall Convocation Ceremony is on Thursday, November 8th 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.

Sincerely,

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