



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

March 23, 2020

Dear Members of the OISE Community,

In these unprecedented times, we have been asked to do a range of things to respond effectively and responsibly to what has been deemed a global health pandemic and emergency. This includes social distancing, staying home, avoiding all non-essential travel (and self-isolating if you have travelled) and modifying our activities to support a global effort to alleviate pressure on the health system.

I understand that the current situation is likely generating a range of concerns as we are faced with a variety of challenges individually, as a community and indeed in the world at large. I want to thank all of our faculty, staff, students, alumni, partners and friends for continuing to support OISE as we go through these challenges. Over the last few days, I have been hearing of wonderful examples of concern and support being conveyed from within our OISE community. I am so heartened by the compassion and care being expressed and I encourage everyone to continue to reach out to one another. That everyone has moved so quickly to redirect all their energies to sustaining relationships at a distance and supporting individuals who are struggling (and possibly isolated) is amazing. Let's continue these efforts.

The continuation of this kindness, compassion and consideration for all, and most especially for those most vulnerable, will be of the utmost importance as we confront additional challenges in the coming days, weeks and possibly months. I will continue to stay on top of the rapidly evolving situation and its implications for OISE and will do my best to keep you informed through [Office of the Dean updates](#), on the OISE website and also through our various social media channels. As well, I remind you to continue to monitor the [UofT COVID-19 message updates](#) as this is the most up-to-date information on the status of UofT campus.

In the meantime, I do want to provide a few specific updates.

Remainder of this Term

As communicated in my update of March 13th, we have had to move very quickly away from in-person to on-line classes and other modes of delivery for remainder of this term. Instructors have been offered a range of resources to allow a flexible and balanced approach to facilitating student success for these final two weeks of classes. Departments have been working on contingency and continuity planning in relation to their particular programmatic circumstances and it appears that plans are now being put into practice. All of this is to help ensure that students who want to continue to complete their program and course work are able to do so.

Office of the Registrar and Student Services

The Office of the Registrar and Student Services (ORSS) has moved very quickly to adjust their operations to provide students with remote access and support. To see the most up-to-date information please be sure to routinely visit the [ORSS COVID-19 website](#).

Education Commons Support

The OISE Education Commons (EC) team has been working diligently behind the scenes to ensure the continuation of OISE operations as our faculty, staff and students transition to a remote environment. They have launched a new resource page: [Digital Contingency Preparedness: Getting Ready to Continue Teaching and Working in Alternate Ways](#) to see how the EC team is supporting our digital efforts during this time of transition.

OISE Wellness

We have transitioned some of our Wellness programming including Mindful Moments to on-line format. If you wish to participate in these activities remotely, have a look at the [OISE Wellness website](#) for up-to-date information.

UTQAP Program Reviews

This academic term, we have successfully completed three site visits related to the external reviews of programs that are taking place this year under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) in all four of our departments. Specifically, site visits occurred in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning on February 6 -7; in the Department of Social Justice Education on February 13-14; and in the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development on March 2-4, 2020. The reviewers' reports for these three department reviews have started to come in. However, given the current context, we have decided to postpone the site visit for the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education (LHAE). Originally scheduled to take place on March 26-27, we anticipate that the rescheduled site visit will take place in the Fall term of 2020. Upon identifying and agreeing on new dates with the external reviewers and the department leadership, we will inform the community of the rescheduled site visit. I would like to take this opportunity to thank academic leadership, faculty, staff and students in the departments for their hard work and commitment that has been, and continues to be, essential to the successful outcomes of the review process.

I realize that we are all facing a variety of challenges during this uncertain time and that we will need to continue to respond rapidly and flexibly as the situation develops. Our OISE Leadership Team is working tirelessly to support our community and will continue to provide updates as necessary via email and on the OISE website. Please take care of yourselves, your family, your loved ones and friends, and indeed our whole community as we all work together to minimize the impact of COVID-19. I hope to see many of you on-line in the very near future and in person just as soon as is possible.

Take care and be well,



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