



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION

August 8, 2016

Dear OISE Community:

I hope that everyone is enjoying the summer and that you are finding time to rest and relax with family and friends. These days OISE is a bit quieter as many faculty, staff and students are taking time to relax and revitalize, but there is still a lot happening and I want to share with you just a few updates.

OISE Academic Planning

Over this past year with the guidance and support of a terrific academic leadership team, we have learned a great deal about the needs and aspirations of the OISE community. We are now ramping up for what I hope will be an engaging year of academic planning that will foster creative and meaningful ways for your participation in this process as we work together to build an exciting and sustainable future direction for OISE and action plans to get there from “here”.

In preparation for this process, we have used this summer period to start to gather some information that gives us a better sense of our current context. Beginning in the fall term, I look forward to sharing this information along with other ideas about how we hope to proceed to foster multiple opportunities for you to contribute to our academic planning process. In the meantime, I encourage you to continue to share your ideas with one another and to also forward to me (dean.oise@utoronto.ca or in person) your suggestions about the process.

Dean's Office

There are a few changes that I want to let you know about with regard to the Dean's Office. One year ago I asked Charles Pascal to be Special Advisor to the Dean on External Relations with the objective of moving OISE towards a more integrated approach to communications, advancement, and alumni relations. As a result, we have a new, integrated team and have developed an organizational structure for moving forward. Sim Kapoor continues to lead our exciting initiatives in alumni relations and will take responsibility for our Annual Giving campaign. Lindsey Craig is responsible for strategic communications and media relations, and Marianne Lau is responsible for marketing and digital communications. We have restructured two other positions in order to create a new coordinator position that will provide administrative support to the integrated office, and a new Director of Advancement and External Relations who will replace the interim role that Charles has been playing. The coordinator position has been posted, and I have just established an advisory committee that will assist us in recruiting and selecting an

excellent candidate for the new Director who will bring renewed energy and leadership to this important portfolio.

We have already taken important steps forward over this past year under Charles' leadership, and I am extremely pleased with the new integrated structure that he has developed. While the final integrated configuration involves a modest reduction in overall staffing, we have developed an extremely strong, talented team and the new office will have considerable strength once the final two appointments are completed.

The Associate Deans and I have also been considering staffing needs within our new combined office area on the 12th floor. We have reorganized some work assignments, eliminated one position, and created a new office assistant position that will provide support across our portfolios.

International Welcome Package

Earlier this year I hosted a series of meetings with selected faculty and staff to obtain advice on short-term strategies for strengthening our international activities. One wonderful suggestion that emerged from those conversations was that we should provide the members of our community with resources that could be used to describe and promote OISE when they are travelling abroad.

My thanks to Continuing and Professional Learning for taking the lead in developing the ***OISE International Welcome Package***. In the weeks and months ahead, should you find yourself leading a presentation at a conference or hosting a community event here or abroad, the materials below have been developed, and are being made readily available, to support our community efforts in presenting a warm welcome and introduction to OISE. Here is some information about the OISE International Welcome Package and how best to access the materials available:

OISE International Welcome - Video @ https://play.library.utoronto.ca/VngWS0LE_rQh

If you wish to access and present the video, there are two options:

- a. OISE Welcome can be played directly from the weblink above
- b. OISE Welcome can also be downloaded from the same weblink above by clicking on the "Download Link" under Details when you access the weblink. (Note: you may wish to consider downloading the video if you believe you may not have reliable internet or a WiFi connection to play the video)

OISE International Welcome – Infographic and PPT Template

The Infographic is a printed (hard copy) post-card sized document which opens up like an accordion to provide interesting facts about OISE as well as Canada, Toronto and the University of Toronto. The PPT Template aligns to the Video and Infographic document 'look and feel'.

Please drop by the 5th floor Continuing and Professional Learning or contact janice.spencer@utoronto.ca to obtain copies of the Infographic and PPT Template.

Welcome Back and Thanks!

I would like to welcome back Cathie Thompson who has recently returned from leave to resume her role as Executive Assistant to the Dean. I am extremely grateful to Denise Makovac who did an outstanding job in the role during this past year, and as we look to our future academic planning activities, to her continued support in this next important phase.

Finally, I want to extend a warm welcome back to Abigail Bakan who has returned to her role as Chair of Social Justice Education after a time away from the office. Thanks as well to Sherene Razack, Njoki Wane and John Portelli for taking on roles as Acting Chair during this period.

Take care,

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

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