



OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OISE COUNCIL, held on February 17, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in the Dean's Boardroom at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Present:

Prof. Eunice Jang, Chair
Prof. Scott Davies, Vice-Chair
Prof. Glen Jones, Interim Dean

Ms. Vesna Bajic
Prof. Abigail Bakan
Mr. Kurt Binnie
Ms. Caitlin Campisi
Ms. Lara Cartmale
Prof. Charles Chen
Prof. Ruth Childs
Ms. Monique Flaccavento

Ms. Annette Ford
Prof. Kathleen Gallagher
Dr. Sheldon Grabke
Prof. Jim Hewitt
Ms. Helen Huang
Ms. Sim Kapoor
Prof. Rhonda Martinussen
Prof. Doug McDougall
Ms. Christina Mitas
Prof. Roy Moodley
Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali
Prof. Angela Pyle

Prof. Sherene Razack
Ms. Jeanne Sinclair
Prof. Suzanne Stewart
Prof. Sandra Styres
Mr. Rouben Tchakmakhtchian
Prof. Marcelo Vieta
Mr. Nicholas Westrate
Prof. Leesa Wheelahan
Prof. Earl Woodruff
Ms. Maggie Xu

Ms. Biljana Cuckovic, Secretary

Guests:

Ms. Lynne Alexandrova
Ms. Ai-Ri Brown

Mr. Pierre Lee
Ms. Denise Makovac
Ms. Stephanie Michelle

Ms. Madeleine Taylor
Mr. Doug Ullrich

Regrets:

Prof. Jeff Bale
Prof. Nina Bascia
Ms. Rachel Birney
Ms. Nathasha Dias
Prof. Ruben Gaztambide-Fernandez
Prof. Meric Gertler
Prof. Esther Geva
Prof. Tara Goldstein

Ms. Lu Huang
Ms. Jessica Hierons
Ms. Sona Kazemi
Prof. Clare Kosnik
Mr. Stephen Krencil
Ms. Jessica Leung
Prof. David Montemurro
Dr. Jeff Myers
Ms. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone

Prof. Cheryl Regehr
Prof. Locke Rowe
Mr. Morgan Selvanathan
Ms. Rebecca Singer
Prof. Miglena Todorova
Ms. Anna Liza Villanueva
Prof. Njoki Wane
Ms. Lise Watson
Ms. Zian Zhang
Justice Marvin Zuker

1. Review and Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

2. Review and Approval of DRAFT Council minutes of December 2, 2015

Minutes of the OISE Council meeting held on December 2, 2015 were approved.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair welcomed members to the third meeting of the Council in 2015-2016, and advised that the next—and final—meeting will be postponed from the originally scheduled April 20, 2016 to April 27, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 12-199 due to many members being away at international conferences. The Chair asked members to adjust their calendars accordingly and noted that the Secretariat will send a formal notice to members regarding the date change for the final meeting of the Council.

4. Dean's Report

The Interim Dean, Prof. Glen Jones began his report by providing an update regarding the External Review of OISE commissioned by the Provost. The process began in the fall of 2015 with the development of a major self-study and community consultation, which included two major public conversations and discussions at OISE Council, Deans and Chairs, and other meetings. A draft of the self-study report was posted on the review website in November 2015, and detailed feedback was received from some members of the community. The final self-study report was submitted to the Provost in December 2015, and has been available on the review website since then. The University appointed three external reviewers who visited OISE from January 20-22, 2016. The review committee met with senior University officials, OISE Deans and Chairs, program coordinators, senior management staff, student representatives, and hosted open meetings with faculty and staff. It is expected that the report of the external review committee will be released within the next month. The next step in the process will include a formal response to the external reviewers' report by the OISE administration. Once completed, both the external reviewers' report and the decanal response to the review will be publicly available and will move through the University's governance process. It is anticipated that the external review will identify some key issues that will need to be considered in the search for a new dean and in the Institute's academic plan.

The final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was released in December 2015. The Dean highlighted the importance for the OISE community to understand both the "truth" of residential schools and OISE's role, as Canada's leading centre for research and graduate studies in education, in supporting reconciliation. Professor Suzanne Stewart, Special Advisor to the Dean on Aboriginal Education, took the initiative of organizing a panel discussion that will take place on February 18, 2016 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in Room 5-210/220. Professor Stewart has also taken a leadership role in establishing a Task Force that will investigate the implementation of the TRC report, and how many of its key elements could be applied at OISE. The University of Toronto will soon announce the establishment of a central TRC response committee.

The Dean provided an update regarding the budget process and reiterated the importance of meeting enrolment targets in all programs. OISE had a substantial deficit last year given that most programs did not meet enrolment targets, and due to initial costs associated with non-academic staff restructuring. The Institute's upcoming budget will be developed to address the deficit and it is essential for all academic departments to continue to intensify efforts to meet their enrolment targets. As per the discussions at Deans and Chairs meetings, efforts are underway to develop a clear departmental budget model that decentralizes authority and responsibility to the departments over their budgets.

In 2015-2016, OISE marks the 50th anniversary since the establishment of the Institute. Sim Kapoor, Associate Director, Alumni and External Relations has played a key role in leading the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee comprised of faculty, staff, alumni and student representatives. Plans are underway to mark the occasion through a series of events and initiatives under the theme 50 Years of Impact - celebrating the Institute's impact in education in Canada and around the world; honouring the past, celebrating the present, and shaping the future.

The Dean provided a brief update regarding faculty searchers as follows; two positions in Applied Psychology and Human Development were in the process of being finalized. The search in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning was not successful and will continue.

The Dean raised a question for discussion regarding the Master of Teaching (MT) program. Given the recent changes to teacher education in Ontario, and OISE's focus on teacher education at the graduate level, enrolment in the MT program has expanded significantly. The program has also undergone significant curricular changes to align with the requirements for Ontario's Enhanced Teacher Education Program. The MT is currently located in one department; however, historically it originated in the Dean's Office and was shared between two departments in its initial years of operation. Given that teacher education is central to OISE's mission, it is important to consider how to facilitate a shared ownership of the MT program across the departments, and ensure greater participation of all academic departments in the Institute's flagship teacher education program. This question has been raised in a number of forums including CTL, Deans and Chairs, and during the review process. The Dean asked members to think about and share their thoughts and ideas regarding how to ensure greater participation and cross-departmental interests in this critical initiative for the Institute.

A member commented that a few years ago the Task Force on Teacher Education looked at different structural and organizational models for the realignment of teacher education and graduate education, and asked whether those models have been considered. The Dean responded that one of the structural models suggested by the Task Force was to have a separate department of teacher education, while another model suggested that the teacher education program would not be a single department entity but would be shared between four departments. The resolution was that the program would be housed within CTL at least for the immediate future with the opportunity for cross-departmental expansion. OISE has gone through a few structural changes in the last couple of years, and the concern is whether the Institute has energy to undergo yet another structural change. The possibility of viewing the MT as a collaborative program where every department would play an assigned role with an agreement in place was presented as an idea. A question was raised whether there are other similar programs in Canada and internationally. The Dean responded that while OISE is the only faculty of education in Canada that has moved in the all-graduate direction, the Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne, Australia would be an example of an institution that offers teacher education at the graduate level successfully. It was agreed that exploring similar examples at other institutions would be beneficial.

Another member commented that it might be challenging for colleagues in other departments to imagine how they can play a meaningful role in the MT without understanding how the program currently operates, and raised a question regarding a kind of forum that could facilitate discussions regarding the current program structure. It was agreed that having a greater understanding within OISE about the MT would be helpful as a stepping stone for the conversation regarding moving forward towards a greater participation and shared ownership of the program across the departments. At the time of inception, the MT was designed to be a research infused degree with a greater participation of continuing tenure and teaching stream faculty than it currently is, due in part to its expansion in the recent years. Now appears to be the right moment to rethink it and consider ways of spreading the ownership of the program more broadly across the Institute, and to strengthen the program by reflecting the unique research strengths of the departments.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. **Academic Programs** – Prof. Rhonda Martinussen, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee (APC) reported on behalf of the Committee that met on January 29, 2016.

For Approval: Major Modification Proposals:

- Establishment of the Combined Degree Programs between OISE/Master of Teaching (MT) and the Faculty of Arts and Science/Victoria College
- Establishment of the Combined Degree Programs between OISE/Master of Teaching (MT) and the University of Toronto, Scarborough

As the two proposals were similar in scope it was agreed that they should be presented and discussed together. Prof. Douglas McDougall, Associate Dean, Programs, provided an overview regarding the development of the Combined Degree Programs, and Prof. Jim Hewitt, Interim Chair, Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning was there to answer any questions members might have regarding the two proposals. OISE has explored possibilities to continue, and build on, the fruitful collaboration in teacher education that it has maintained with its undergraduate CTEP partners including Victoria College and the University of Toronto Scarborough. The proposed Combined Degree Programs build on that collaboration, and are intended to allow students interested in the teaching profession to apply to the MT program in Year 3 of undergraduate study. Following conditional admission to the MT, the combined program students will be eligible to take two graduate half courses that will count towards both their undergraduate and graduate degree. A Combined Degree Program is a program category that allows a student to be registered in two approved degree programs at the same time and complete the requirements of both in a manner that provides a benefit to the student beyond what would result from completing the two degree programs separately. Students accepted to the MT via the Combined Degree Programs will get an excellent foundation in a range of educational issues and teaching strategies combined with a deep knowledge of the curriculum; and with several research opportunities available, they will develop as teacher-researchers ready to both engage in classrooms, and/or continue their academic career through their doctoral studies.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, IT WAS RESOLVED,

THAT Major Modification for the establishment of the Combined Degree Programs in Honours Bachelor of Science (HBSc)/Honours Bachelor of Arts (HBA) at the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS)/Victoria College and Master of Teaching (MT) at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) be APPROVED effective September 2016.

On a motion duly made, seconded and carried, IT WAS RESOLVED,

THAT Major Modification for the establishment of the Combined Degree Programs in Honours Bachelor of Science (HBSc)/Honours Bachelor of Arts (HBA) at the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) and Master of Teaching (MT) at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) be APPROVED effective September 2017.

For Information: Minor Modification Proposals:

Prof. Martinussen reported on the following minor modification proposals which were approved by the Academic Programs Committee on January 29, 2016.

Minor Changes to Existing Programs (changes to program requirements):

- Social Justice Education (MA, MEd, PhD & EdD)

New Course Proposals:

- APD1227Y Professional Practice Project
- CTL7019H Supporting English Language Learners
- CTL7025Y Curriculum and Teaching in Science: Physics—Intermediate/Senior
- CTL7027Y Curriculum and Teaching in Social Science: General—Intermediate/Senior
- CTL7054H Intermediate History
- CTL7070H Issues in Secondary Education 2
- LHA1849H Faculty in Colleges and Universities
- LHA3048H Introduction to Multiple Regression Analysis in Educational Research
- SJE1993H Militarism and Sustainability: Concepts of Nature, State and Society

B. **Appeals** – No Report.

C. **Equity** – Prof. Ruth Childs, Chair of the Equity Committee reported on behalf of the Committee that met on January 21, 2016. Shawna Carol, Vice-President, Academic, Graduate Student Association (GSA) and Pat Serafini, Coordinator, Off-Campus Services, OISE Library, were special guests at the meeting. The Equity Committee is supporting the GSA in developing a survey on equity and accessibility issues broadly construed affecting students. Pat Serafini shared experiences regarding supporting students with accessible electronic resources. The Committee members are looking forward to working more closely with the Library on how to support faculty and students. One of the challenges identified in discussions with the Library was the delay in obtaining course syllabi which are essential for the Library in their creations of electronic versions of required readings for students. The Equity Committee is looking at the Policy on Equity and Diversity, and will be reaching out to colleagues in the departments to discuss whether there may be a need to update this policy which has been in place at OISE for more than a decade. In addition, the Committee will be inviting various colleagues and members of the community to join the conversations on how to promote accessibility and equity in all areas within the Institute.

D. **Research** – No Report.

6. **The New Education Commons**

Kurt Binnie, Director of Information Technology, delivered a presentation regarding the recent changes to the Education Commons' staffing structure and service areas, and shared examples of current projects. In addition to this presentation, the Education Commons held three community open house events in the Fall of 2015, and made presentations at various departmental meetings.

As part of the presentation, Mr. Binnie introduced new staff members in the Education Commons and noted their areas of expertise. The Education Commons services are now organized under the following four pillars: (1) Everyday Computing Needs including, for example, help desk, computer labs, internet & wireless; (2) Solutions Development and Research Support including, for example, solutions design, web and mobile application development, consulting and support services for research, teaching and learning; (3) Online/Digital Teaching & Research Collaboration including, for example, instructional design and technology, online courses, MOOCs, module development and support; and (4) Infrastructure including, for example, Homepage, research project storage, virtual services, network, security. In addition to the new organization of staff and services aimed at increasing efficiency of operations and better utilisation of resources, one of the goals was to enable user self-service, hence the Education Commons will soon release an app space where users can download drivers or software they require. Another important goal

for the unit is community engagement; hence the new role of the Help Desk to build strong relationships with the community. The unit also now develops training plans and custom workshops and invites suggestions from the community regarding the types of workshops that they find useful.

Some of the current projects that Mr. Binnie highlighted include the Ontario Education Resource Bank project for the Ministry of Education, the First Nations Schools Principals course sponsored by the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, the recently developed template for a research centre website, and the OISE Drive—a new web interface for accessing Homespace service, which will be launched soon.

Following the presentation, the brief discussion that followed raised ideas such as student assistantships with the Education Commons, for example, to support online/digital learning and similar projects. It was agreed that having graduate students participate in projects such as MOOCs is an excellent idea that should be part of a greater discussion in terms of how to formalize it institutionally. There was a discussion regarding support for faculty research. It was said that the Office of Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation is involved in determining priorities and types of research projects to be supported by the Education Commons, and that faculty should contact that office for advice. A member applauded the great work the Education Commons is doing, and stated that it has been great pleasure to work with the unit on a number of initiatives.

- 7. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.