



OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OISE COUNCIL, held on April 15, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Prof. Glen Jones, Dean
Prof. Ann Lopez, Vice-Chair

Ms. Vesna Bajic
Prof. Abigail Bakan
Prof. Nina Bascia
Prof. Kathy Bickmore
Mr. David Boshra
Prof. Clare Brett
Prof. Kathy Broad
Mr. Aaron Brown
Ms. Lara Cartmale
Prof. Charles Chen
Prof. Ruth Childs
Prof. Anna Katyn Chmielewski
Mr. Alfredo Chow
Prof. Diane Farmer
Prof. Joseph Flessa
Prof. Roy Gillis
Dr. Sheldon Grabbe
Mr. Justin Holloway

Ms. Helen Huang
Dr. Katharine Janzen
Ms. Julia Kraveca
Prof. Normand Labrie
Mr. Terry Louisy
Dr. Carly Manion
Prof. Rhonda Martinussen
Prof. Lance McCready
Dr. Kenneth McNeilly
Ms. Henrjeta Mece
Mr. Hamidreza Moeiniasl
Prof. Shahrzad Mojab
Prof. Sarfaroz Niyozov
Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali
Prof. Enrica Piccardo
Prof. Angela Pyle
Ms. Jeananne Robertson
Ms. Nicole Ryan
Dr. Coleen Scully-Stewart
Prof. Judy Silver
Dr. Cindy Sinclair

Prof. Lana Stermac
Mr. Said Sidani
Ms. Janice Spencer
Prof. Shelley Stagg Peterson
Ms. Norin Taj
Prof. Miglena Todorova
Ms. Irene Wandili
Prof. Njoki Wane
Ms. Jenaya Webb
Ms. Hanna Wickstrom
Prof. Leesa Wheelahan
Dr. Lesley Wilton
Prof. Earl Woodruff

Ms. Biljana Cuckovic, Secretary
of OISE Council

Secretariat:

Ms. Daniella Spenceley
Ms. Lisa Smith
Mr. Doug Ullrich

Guests:

Ms. Lynne Alexandrova
Ms. Kerri Bailey
Ms. Ai-Ri Brown

Ms. Phoebe Kang
Ms. Sim Kapoor
Ms. Christine Lowe
Ms. Denise Makovac

Mr. Ian MacLeod
Ms. Latifa Soliman
Ms. Suryana Thappa

Regrets:

Prof. Joshua Barker
Prof. Cassie Brownell
Prof. Elizabeth Buckner
Dr. Andrew Campbell
Prof. Carol Campbell

Prof. Yiola Cleovoulou
Prof. Scott Davies
Prof. Kathleen Gallagher
Prof. Patricia Ganea
Prof. Meric Gertler

Ms. Nadiia Kachynska
Ms. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone
Prof. Cheryl Regehr
Ms. Elena Toukan
Ms. Heather Watts

1. Opening Remarks

The Vice-Chair of Council, Professor Ann Lopez, welcomed members and guest to the fourth and final Council meeting in 2019-2020, the first in history taking place online using Zoom videoconferencing platform. She then provided an overview of the Participation Guidelines, which were distributed in advance of the meeting highlighting speaking and voting procedures for the online format.

2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

The land acknowledgement statement was read.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

4. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the February 12, 2019 meeting of OISE Council were approved.

5. The Executive Committee Report

The Vice-Chair provided a brief report on the Executive Committee meeting held on April 6, 2020, which was primarily focused on determining the optimal approach to holding the April 15, 2020 Council meeting during the ongoing pandemic and public health measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19. She acknowledged individuals currently in hospitals fighting for their lives, many of whom are family members, friends and colleagues of OISE students, staff and faculty.

• ***For Approval:***

- Establishment of the Special Committee on Teaching Awards

The Vice Chair invited Dean Glen Jones to present the motion for the Establishment of the Special Committee on Teaching Awards.

Dean Jones noted that the establishment of the Committee was in accordance with the By-Laws of OISE Council (Section II.2), which stipulate that, from time to time, Council may establish special committees to consider particular issues, which do not fall readily under the mandate of any of the standing committees of Council. The Special Committee on Teaching Awards will conduct a review of OISE's Teaching Awards, for which nominations are welcome from the OISE community each year, focusing on the award categories, names, nomination and eligibility criteria with a view to refining and updating these for the 2020-2021 Call for Nominations. The Committee will also consider the possibility of establishing a new award category, including nomination and eligibility criteria, that will recognize the contributions of faculty members engaged in diverse forms of teaching activity that may not be captured by the existing awards.

Following the establishment, a call will be sent to the community inviting expressions of interest from faculty and students to serve on the Committee. The Executive Committee will review the nominations and approve the membership of the Special Committee. The Committee will meet over the summer and will bring the proposed changes to the OISE Teaching Awards Terms to OISE Council for consideration/approval in the fall term of 2020.

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

THAT the establishment of the Special Committee on Teaching Awards be APPROVED effective immediately.

6. Dean's Report

The Dean thanked Professor Lopez for chairing the first virtual meeting of Council, and began his report by acknowledging the challenging and unprecedented situation caused by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic due to which the schools were closed, the University ceased all in-person classes, and moved its critical operations online. He commended OISE faculty and staff on their flexibility and quick transition to online classes and to working remotely in support of student needs. A number of divisional support units have stepped up to develop a plethora of resources for teaching, learning and working online. For example, the Education Commons launched a series of training sessions on teaching and running meetings using Zoom—video conferencing platform. They also launched a new ticket system to assist community members with technical issues. The Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning developed and published a new website Teaching and Learning Online with resources including one-on-one support and mentorship for online teaching. The Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development developed a suite of resources on managing stress and anxiety during crisis. Many others, including students, swiftly found new ways to engage and connect with others in the community using technology. Several other online initiatives were highlighted including OISE Wellness online programs, and the new OISE Stay at Home Club developed by the Office of Alumni and External Relations.

The Dean highlighted that, at the time of uncertainty, effective and frequent communication is critical to ensure community members continue to be informed and that they feel included and engaged. The University leadership including Principals and Deans are meeting biweekly, as are OISE Deans and Chairs. The Deans' Office has stepped up communications with the weekly update message from the Dean and the weekly Newsletter entitled: "Inside OISE @Home Edition".

Turning to Awards and Honours, the Dean highlighted that OISE Professor Carol Rolheiser won the Vivek Goel Faculty Citizenship Award for outstanding service at the University of Toronto. The recipients of OISE's Teaching Excellence Award were also announced including Professor Ann Lopez, Vice-Chair of Council, who won the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching; Instructor Sameena Eido, the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Initial Teacher Education; Robin Persad, course facilitator, the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Continuing and Professional Learning; and Professor Tara Goldstein, the winner of the David E. Hunt Award for Excellence in Graduate Education. Professor Goldstein was recently appointed as Vice-Principal at New College and will begin her five-year term on July 1, 2020. OISE's administrative staff who have been recognized as the recipients of the 2019-2020 Staff Excellence Awards were also acknowledged including Neil Tinker, Andrew Chiang, Michele Pon, Anna Mozharova and Natalie Neuman Butler.

The Dean concluded his report by thanking members of the community for their resilience, patience, flexibility and continued hard work during the time of health crisis. He noted that the University will continue to follow guidance and advice from public health authorities regarding physical distancing and other measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, which may continue to impact the University operations over the course of the summer and, possibly into the fall term.

7. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. Academic Programs** – Professor Joseph Flessa, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, reported on the Committee's proposals approved at the meeting held on March 6, 2020, which included six new courses.

- **For Information:**

Minor Modifications Proposals: New Courses:
LHA1811H Organizational Change in Higher Education
SJE1932H Decolonization, Settler Colonialism, and Antiracism
SJE1933H Participatory Action Research and Community Based Research
SJE2030H Disability Studies and Human Imaginary
SJE3917H Indigenous Land Education and Black Geographies
SJE3934H Advanced Indigenous Feminist Research

Professor Flessa informed members that at its March 6, 2020 meeting, the Academic Programs Committee also discussed the course outline template with a view to updating it and ensuring consistency. Professor Normand Labrie, Associate Dean, Programs, added that plans to finalize the course outline template by the fall term have changed as a result of the ongoing health crisis and the rapid switch to online classes. The pilot version of the course outline template is ready for the summer term and will continue to be updated based on the feedback of instructors teaching online in the summer session.

B. Equity – Professor Ann Lopez, Chair of the Equity Committee reported on the Committee’s discussions at the meeting held on March 31, 2020.

Professor Lopez began her report by informing members that the workshops on equity in workplace and teaching for staff and faculty that were planned to take place in April and June 2020 were canceled.

The Equity Committee issued a statement: *Focusing on Equity at the Time of Crisis*, which included ideas and tips for faculty and staff on creating safe and equitable teaching, learning and working environments.

On a final note, Professor Lopez noted that the Equity Committee was encouraged to receive a great number of community responses from the survey that was sent out earlier this year. She acknowledged those who took time to share their feedback and ideas to help shape future Equity Committee work. Some of the ideas shared by those who completed the survey included issues of intersectionality, equity in hiring practices, faith-based experiences, decolonization, race, age and gender, staff and faculty recognition and equitable workload. The Equity Committee is working with the OISE Library to compile the online teaching and equity related resources.

Ms. Helen Huang, Chief Administrative Officer, thanked Professor Lopez for her leadership of the Committee for the past two very productive years. Professor Lopez expressed hope that new members will join the Equity Committee in the fall to continue this important work. She added that the impact of COVID-19 has been felt by Black and Latino communities, as well as amongst elderly, which heightens the importance of continuing to focus on equity at these challenging times.

Ms. Lynne Alexandrova, Social Justice Education student brought up equity issues facing students during the pandemic including the fact that some students cannot afford internet connection at home or even a computer. Dean Jones acknowledged technology challenges due to lack of resources and noted that several students who have technology needs continue to come to the OISE building to access computers and internet. Even though the libraries are currently closed, it is expected that the University will provide spaces for students who need access to computers and internet for their classes while observing physical distancing and other public health measures.

There was a brief discussion regarding the bursary programs and other financial supports available to students at the time of crisis. It was noted that OISE has increased emergency bursary funds for students in financial distress due to loss of jobs caused by the pandemic.

C. Research – Professor Lance McCready, Chair of the Research Standing Committee presented the Committee’s motions from the meeting held on April 1, 2020.

- **For Approval:**

- **Establishment of the Indigenous Educational Research Centre—IERC (EDU: C)**

With the national spotlight on ‘reconciliation’ and with education seen as a critical site for reconciliatory efforts, the IERC (EDU:C) is a multi-disciplinary unit designed to foster Indigenous resurgence and strengthen an Indigenous presence in research within Indigenous educational research contexts. The Centre will be a nexus for fostering Indigenous educational research both across OISE, in the wider non-academic community, and in international scholarly contexts. It will provide key space for Indigenous specific research across OISE where Indigenous faculty and students can meet, work on research projects, and engage in critical conversations about their work in a culturally aligned safe space designed to foster Indigenous ethics of relationality. The creation of the centre is in direct alignment with OISE’s commitment to Indigenous education—one of the focusing themes in the OISE Academic Plan. Following extensive internal and external consultations, the proposal for the establishment of the Centre was review by the Provostial Advisory Group at the meeting held on March 11, 2020. The proposal was also approved by the Research Standing Committee at the meeting held on April 1, 2020.

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

THAT the establishment of the Indigenous Educational Research Centre (EDU: C) be APPROVED effective April 15, 2020.

- **Disestablishment of the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development (EDU: C)**

The FMIHD is an EDU: C with OISE, the Faculty of Medicine, the University of Toronto Mississauga listed as active collaborating divisions. The FMIHD establishment was approved by all three divisional councils in 2011-2012. The Dean’s Offices of all three active collaborating units have collaborated in the process of the development of the FMIHD closure proposal and are in favor of the closure. The Dean’s Offices of the associate collaborating units (the Faculty of Arts and Science, and the University of Toronto Scarborough) have been informed regarding the closure. The Division of University Advancement has advised the main donor of the closure. The closure proposal was approved by the Research Standing Committee at the meeting held on April 1, 2020. The effective date of the FMIHD closure is January 1, 2021, when it is anticipated all three active collaborating units will have finalized governance processes for closure.

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

THAT the disestablishment of the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development (EDU: C) be APPROVED effective January 1, 2021.

8. Questions and Answers related to the Dean’s Report

Professor Michele Peterson-Badali, Associate Dean Research, International and Innovation commented that it was important for the Council to meet, and thanked Dean Jones on his leadership and hard work on keeping the community informed and engaged during this time. Related to research, she added that several initiatives were underway including OISE faculty who are applying to participate in COVID-19 related research. She also informed members that the Centre for Educational Research on Language and Literacies made the decision to host their annual conference on language education to be held online on May 8 and 9, 2020.

A question was raised regarding plans for the fall term and commitments to international students who have been admitted to OISE programs and may be impacted by ongoing pandemic-related travel

restrictions. It was explained that the University is continuing to plan very carefully taking into account advice from public health officials and that one of the possibilities certainly is that classes may continue to be delivered online during the fall term, which will allow all, including international students to begin their studies as anticipated.

Mr. Justin Holloway, staff representative, asked why are managers and staff at OISE being permitted to access the OISE building to do nonessential work while the public health officials are asking the public to stay at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19. He added that there are staff who are paying out of pocket to buy supplies to enable them to work from home, and asked why the senior administration does not offer financial support and reimbursements to all staff for the reasonable cost they incurred during the rapid transition to working remotely.

Dean Jones responded that, according to the University's procedures, no one is required to go to the OISE building, which is closed. Those who wish to access the building can still do so voluntarily and some do in order to access files, including students who need to access computers and internet. While the building is closed to the general public, faculty, staff and students who need to access it for different reasons cannot be denied access. In terms of the staff incurring cost to purchase supplies to work from home, it was clarified that expense reimbursements continue to be processed online in accordance with the University policy on reimbursable expenses.

A question was raised regarding how faculty can access the building to retrieve any files and resources they may need for their summer classes online. It was explained that, individuals requesting to access the building, need to call the security who will let them in asking for appropriate identification and to sign-in upon entry into the building. It was also noted that individuals are not encouraged to come to the building rather to stay home and observe the measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Dean invited members of the community including students to contact him directly if they have any concerns or would like to discuss any issues while the public health measures are in place.

Ms. Sim Kapoor, Director of Advancement and External Relations, shared initiatives recently launched by her office including OISE Pep Talk inviting members of the community to send a motivational quote, an image or a video that can help to inspire and encourage OISE students, staff and faculty during the difficult time. She thanked Professor Angela Pyle for working with OISE News on an article on how to stimulate and support children in social isolation in order to foster their learning and development. Ms. Kapoor also noted that the OISE Alumni Association was preparing to organize an election on June 30, 2020 to elect a new President. She thanked Cindy Sinclair who is completing her term as President of the OISE Alumni Association on her leadership and contributions to OISE over the course of her term.

9. Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, Professor Lopez noted that the OISE Council and Committee meeting dates for 2020-2021 will be posted on the OISE governance website by the end of June.

She thanked members and guests for their contributions at the meeting, and wished them a relaxing summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.