



OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OISE COUNCIL, held on December 11, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the Dean's Boardroom at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

Present:

Prof. Glen Jones, Dean
Prof. Kathleen Gallagher, Chair

Prof. Abigail Bakan
Prof. Kathy Bickmore
Mr. David Boshra
Prof. Clare Brett
Prof. Kathy Broad
Mr. Aaron Brown
Prof. Elizabeth Buckner
Dr. Andrew Campbell
Ms. Lara Cartmale
Prof. Charles Chen
Prof. Ruth Childs
Prof. Anna Katyn Chmielewski
Mr. Alfredo Chow

Prof. Yiola Cleovoulou
Prof. Diane Farmer
Prof. Roy Gillis
Dr. Sheldon Grabke
Mr. Justin Holloway
Ms. Helen Huang
Dr. Katharine Janzen
Ms. Nadiia Kachynska
Ms. Julia Kraveca
Prof. Normand Labrie
Mr. Hamidreza Moeiniasl
Prof. Sarfaro Niyozov
Prof. Angela Pyle
Ms. Jeananne Robertson
Ms. Nicole Ryan
Ms. Alana Shahfazzollahi
Mr. Said Sidani

Prof. Judy Silver
Ms. Janice Spencer
Prof. Lana Stermac
Ms. Norin Taj
Prof. Njoki Wane
Ms. Heather Watts
Ms. Jenaya Webb
Ms. Hanna Wickstrom
Prof. Earl Woodruff

Ms. Biljana Cuckovic, Secretary of OISE Council

Secretariat:

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

Guests:

Ms. Rushain Abbasi
Ms. Lynne Alexandrova
Prof. Antoinette Gagné
Mr. Sidney Han

Dr. Ahmed Ilmi
Prof. Hilary Inwood
Ms. Phoebe Kang
Ms. Sim Kapoor

Prof. Emmanuelle Le Pichon-Vorstman
Prof. David Montemurro
Prof. Terezia Zoric

Regrets:

Ms. Vesna Bajic
Prof. Nina Bascia
Prof. Joshua Barker
Prof. Cassie Brownell
Prof. Carol Campbell
Prof. Scott Davies
Prof. Joseph Flessa
Prof. Patricia Ganea
Prof. Meric Gertler
Prof. Ann Lopez, Vice-Chair

Mr. Terry Louisy
Dr. Carly Manion
Prof. Rhonda Martinussen
Prof. Lance McCready
Dr. Kenneth McNeilly
Ms. Henrjeta Mece
Prof. Shahrzad Mojab
Prof. Enrica Piccardo
Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali
Ms. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone
Prof. Cheryl Regehr

Dr. Coleen Scully-Stewart
Dr. Cindy Sinclair
Prof. Shelley Stagg Peterson
Prof. Miglena Todorova
Ms. Elena Toukan
Ms. Irene Wandili
Prof. Leesa Wheelahan
Dr. Lesley Wilton

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

In the opening statement, the Chair of Council, Professor Kathleen Gallagher, acknowledged the traditional land on which the University of Toronto operates.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

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

Minutes of the October 30, 2019 meeting of OISE Council were approved.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair reported that, on November 21, 2019 the Academic Board approved the amended Constitution of OISE Council. This approval was confirmed by the Executive Committee of the Governing Council on December 4, 2019. The amended Constitution and By-laws of OISE Council will be effective as of the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Chair advised members that, since she will begin her sabbatical in January 2020, she is completing her term as Chair of OISE Council and that Professor Ann Lopez, the Vice-Chair of Council, will chair the Council meetings in the winter term of 2020. She thanked all members of Council and its Committees for their participation and contributions to the governance process at OISE and acknowledged the important role of the Council Secretariat in organizing and coordinating the work of OISE Council.

5. Dean's Report

The Dean began his report by thanking Professor Gallagher for serving as Chair of OISE Council, and for her contributions to making Council meetings and discussions engaging over the course of her term.

The Dean noted that the fall term of 2019, has been particularly busy with activities related to the UTQAP reviews of programs in all four OISE departments taking place this year. The departmental self-studies and related documents are being finalized and the work is underway on completing the schedules for the site visits, which will take place in February (CTL & SJE) and in March 2020 (APHD & LHAE). The Dean thanked academic leadership, faculty, staff and students in the departments for their commitment and contributions to this important process.

Turning to faculty renewal, the Dean reported that six searches were underway and noted that shortlisted candidates will be visiting OISE in January and February 2020. He invited members of the community to take the opportunity to meet the candidates during their visits and expressed hope that the searches will be successful and that, in 2020, OISE will welcome six outstanding new scholars.

The Dean provided an update on the lobby renovation project and thanked students, faculty, staff and visitors for their patience during this important work. He advised that the project is on schedule and is expected to be completed in March 2020. He added that a feasibility study was underway regarding the reconstruction of the fifth floor rooftop terrace and adjacent indoor spaces. The community consultation regarding this new project will commence as soon as the preliminary design concept has been finalized.

The Dean informed members that the government passed a regulation entitled "Proficiency in Mathematics" under the College of Teachers Act, according to which new applicants to the Ontario College of Teachers will be required to successfully pass a mathematics proficiency test if their application for registration is completed on or after March 31, 2020. The regulation was recently updated

to exclude from the mandatory testing individuals whose teaching certification relates to First Nations language teaching, which is an important step towards preserving the First Nations language programs. Another important update is that the government will hire a third party to administer the mandatory testing rather than faculties of education as initially announced.

In concluding his report, the Dean congratulated students, faculty and staff on a successful; however, busy academic term and wished them a wonderful holiday season and a relaxing break. He invited attendees to join the festivities at the OISE Winter Wonderland community skate event, which was taking place at the Varsity Arena immediately following the Council meeting on December 11, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Following the Dean's report, Professor Terezia Zoric spoke briefly on the recent email communication regarding asbestos material found on the ground floor. She noted that, while this email was helpful, it was concerning that asbestos was discovered in the course of the ground floor renovation, and highlighted the importance of having processes in place that discover these materials well in advance of any building renovations. Related to the ongoing job action of Ontario's secondary school teachers, Professor Zoric commented regarding the mandatory eLearning courses that the Government is advocating for and invited OISE faculty and scholars to contribute to the public debate and criticize the mandatory eLearning that lacks equity and pedagogical defensibility. There was a brief discussion regarding the teachers' strike and the implication for students in practice teaching placements in schools should the strike continue in the winter term of 2020. It was noted that there are various strategies in place to ensure that teacher candidates are supported and do not lose a term, and that the hope is that labour negotiations will lead to a positive outcome.

Professor Roy Gillis spoke about the importance of mental health and wellbeing initiatives not only for students but also for faculty, librarians and staff and suggested that a working group be formed to investigate the possibilities for OISE to establish its own mental health and wellbeing programs. The Dean responded that the University has been engaged in an extensive review of mental health and wellbeing services; however, the situation is different concerning the need and demand for these important services by faculty and staff compared to students where the University had seen a growing need. He added members of OISE's academic leadership will discuss this possibility of a working group.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

A. Academic Programs – On behalf of Professor Joe Flessa, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee who was absent from the meeting, Professor Normand Labrie, Associate Dean, Programs, reported on the Committee's proposals approved at the meeting held on November 22, 2019, which included three minor modifications to existing programs, and five new courses.

- ***For Information:***

- Minor Modifications Proposals: Changes to Existing Programs:
 - Curriculum and Pedagogy, Emphases Requirements – MEd
 - Curriculum and Pedagogy, Emphasis in Indigenous Education and Decolonization – MEd
 - Master of Teaching – MT

- ***For Information:***

- Minor Modifications Proposals: New Courses:
 - APD1231H Mindful Self-Compassion for Educators
 - LHA1814H Lifelong Learning and Professional and Vocational Education
 - LHA1816H Sociology of Higher Education
 - LHA1818H Politics of Higher Education
 - LHA1860H Capstone Project for Higher Education Leadership Cohort Option

- B. Equity** – On behalf of Professor Ann Lopez, Chair of the Equity Committee who was absent from the meeting, Professor Emmanuelle Le Pichon-Vorstman reported on the Committee’s discussions at the meeting held on November 27, 2019.

Professor Le Pichon-Vorstman reported that the Equity Committee formed three subcommittees: one for the development of a resource book, one for planning equity workshops, and one for the critical movie initiative. She noted that data collection for the development of the resource book has begun and faculty in all departments have been invited to participate in this initiative. Professor Jamie Magnusson from the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education met with the subcommittee and shared her insights and willingness to be engaged in the resource book project. Professors Rosalind Hampton and George Dei from the Department of Social Justice Education will be meeting with the resource book subcommittee in January 2020 to share their perspectives. The critical movie DVD will be available to faculty members for in-class screenings. The workshop planning subcommittee will meet with the Black faculty caucus to gain their insights regarding a workshop to be held during Black history month.

- C. Research** – No report.

7. OISE Climate Action Summit

Professors Hilary Inwood and David Montemurro presented on the plans for the OISE Climate Action Summit, which will be held on January 31, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the OISE Library.

The presentation commenced by highlighting the 2018 Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), global climate strikes and the state of climate emergency declared federally and municipally. They spoke about foundations for OISE’s steps to climate action and the mandate for this action that was highlighted in the Institute’s Academic Plan: 2017-2022. The work of the Environmental and Sustainability Education (ESE) initiative since 2008; the collaboration with the Toronto District School Board’s Eco Schools Program since 2017; as well as some of the building sustainability projects implemented by the OISE Facilities and Services were highlighted.

It was highlighted that the purpose of the OISE Climate Summit is the generation of ideas for a range of concrete actionable items including a set of recommendations for the Dean to inform an OISE climate action plan. The proposed agenda for the summit was presented and will include the Dean’s welcome, Indigenous opening, Youth intro, and a brief keynote address, followed by round table discussions. All students, faculty and staff at OISE will be invited to participate in this important event.

Professor Terezia Zoric acknowledged the importance of the ESE initiative, and noted that, in addition to focusing primarily on lifestyle solutions and measuring the individual and institutional carbon footprint, the climate emergency is rather political and economic and calls for a new political and economic order that acknowledges the role of neoliberal capitalism is the destruction of the planet. Professor Inwood noted that she is developing a background document that will be made available to the Summit participants, which will include the definitions regarding the eco justice and critical sustainability that highlight the important issues Professor Zoric raised.

Professor Judy Silver, suggested that the event should be recorded or broadcasted for the community members who are unable to attend in person. It was noted that, while the introductory remarks and plenary sessions could be broadcasted, it may be challenging to do so for the round table discussions; however, the event organizers will consider the possibilities. Mr. Justin Holloway, noted that staff are usually unable to attend events that are organized during regular business hours, and suggested that there should be concrete allowances for staff to attend this important event. He echoed Professor Zoric’s comments regarding the larger forces responsible for the climate crisis, including the University itself as one of the institutions with a large carbon footprint.

Ms. Heather Watts, student representative, added that there is a real opportunity to ensure that Indigenous voices are included in these important discussions because Indigenous peoples have always been defenders and protectors of land and the natural world. She added that in addition to action planning, the summit can represent an opportunity for teaching because many Indigenous elders have different views on the meaning of sustainability and would be happy to share their insights. Professor Inwood responded that she and Professor Montemurro have been consulting with Ms. Julie Blair, OISE's Indigenous Education Liaison, and that she will extend a special invitation to attend the event to members of the Dean's Advisory Council on Indigenous Education and members of the Indigenous Education Network.

In closing, Professor Inwood informed members that, from October 21-24, 2020, OISE will be hosting the national conference on environmental education entitled: Exploring the Nature of Cities: Urban Environmental Education, and invited members of the OISE community to participate in this event.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.