



**OISE COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OISE COUNCIL, held on October 30, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the Dean's Boardroom at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

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**Present:**

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

Ms. Vesna Bajic  
Prof. Abigail Bakan  
Prof. Nina Bascia  
Prof. Kathy Bickmore  
Prof. Clare Brett  
Prof. Kathy Broad  
Mr. Aaron Brown  
Prof. Cassie Brownell  
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. Joseph Flessa  
Prof. Roy Gillis  
Mr. Justin Holloway  
Ms. Helen Huang  
Dr. Katharine Janzen  
Ms. Nadiia Kachynska  
Ms. Julia Kraveca  
Mr. Terry Louisy  
Dr. Carly Manion  
Prof. Rhonda Martinussen  
Prof. Lance McCready  
Dr. Kenneth McNeilly  
Ms. Henrjeta Mece  
Prof. Shahrzad Mojab  
Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali  
Ms. Jeananne Robertson  
Ms. Alana Shahfazzollahi  
Mr. Said Sidani  
Prof. Judy Silver  
Dr. Cindy Sinclair

Ms. Janice Spencer  
Prof. Lana Stermac  
Ms. Norin Taj  
Prof. Miglena Todorova  
Ms. Irene Wandili  
Prof. Njoki Wane  
Ms. Heather Watts  
Ms. Jenaya Webb  
Prof. Leesa Wheelahan  
Ms. Hanna Wickstrom  
Dr. Lesley Wilton  
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  
Ms. Ai-Ri Brown  
Mr. Richard DeLisle  
Dr. Ahmed Ilmi

Ms. Phoebe Kang  
Ms. Sim Kapoor  
Ms. Marianne Lau  
Ms. Christine Lowe  
Mr. Ian MacLeod

Ms. Natalie Neumann Butler  
Ms. Ruth Rogers  
Dr. Jesse Sims  
Ms. Suryana Thappa  
Prof. Terezia Zoric

**Regrets:**

Prof. Joshua Barker  
Mr. David Boshra  
Prof. Carol Campbell  
Prof. Scott Davies  
Prof. Patricia Ganea  
Prof. Meric Gertler

Dr. Sheldon Grabke  
Prof. Normand Labrie  
Mr. Hamidreza Moeiniasl  
Prof. Sarfarozi Niyozov  
Prof. Enrica Piccardo  
Prof. Angela Pyle

Ms. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone  
Prof. Cheryl Regehr  
Ms. Nicole Ryan  
Dr. Coleen Scully-Stewart  
Prof. Shelley Stagg Peterson

## **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 April 24, 2019 meeting of OISE Council were approved.

## **4. Chair's Report**

The Chair welcomed new and returning Council members and guests. She then called for nominations from the floor for the position of Vice-Chair of Council. On a motion duly made, seconded and carried:

- Professor Ann Lopez was elected as Vice-Chair of Council for a two-year term.

She then called for nominations from the floor to fill the vacant positions on the Executive Committee. On motions duly made, seconded and carried:

- Professor Kathy Broad was elected as member of the Executive Committee representing faculty;
- Dr. Lesley Wilton was elected as member of the Executive Committee representing instructors;
- Mr. Said Sidani was elected as member of the Executive Committee representing graduate students;

## **5. Dean's Report**

The Dean began his report by providing an update on the lobby renovation project and thanking members of the community for their patience while this important work is being carried out. He noted that the project is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2020.

The University established a task force on student mental health, which will build upon the progress on the priorities identified in the Student Mental Health Framework. Conversations regarding mental health issues are also taking place at OISE including some of the wellness related and other training and development initiatives aimed to strengthen the University's systems of support for student mental health. This includes the *Identify, Assist and Refer* and the *Safe Talk* training modules. A postdoc position is being established at OISE to develop mental health programming with a particular emphasis on Indigenous and black students.

The Dean welcomed the recently appointed academic and administrative leaders: Professor Normand Labrie, who was appointed as Associate Dean, Programs effective July 1, 2019, and Ms. Julia Kraveca, who joined OISE as Director of Education Commons effective September 18, 2019. New faculty members who recently joined OISE were also acknowledged: Yiola Cleovoulou, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream and Mark Wade, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development; Arlo Kempf, Assistant Professor, Fikile Nxumalo, Assistant Professor, and Mary Reid, Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning.

Related to faculty renewal, the Dean noted that six faculty searches were underway including two positions in the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development; two positions in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning; one position in the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education; and one position within the Department of Social Justice Education.

In addition, the Dean highlighted a number of academic leadership positions for which the searches were initiated including two department Chairs (the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development; and the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education); and the Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation.

The Dean reported on the Mathematics Proficiency Test that was announced by the Ministry of Education in late August, 2019. Specifically, Ontario applicants for registration with the Ontario College of Teachers who complete their program of professional education on or after March 31, 2020, will be required to pass the test as a condition of certification. The test will be developed by the Education Quality and Accountability Office and will be administered by Ontario's faculties of education. The Dean noted that, while the faculties of education received some preliminary information from the Ministry, there are still a lot of details regarding the test to be worked out in the coming months.

Turning to the external reviews of programs taking place in 2019-2020 under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process, the Dean highlighted that, over the summer months, four review panels—one for each department—were established, and the site visits were confirmed for February and March 2020. The departments are now finalizing their self-study documents. The Dean thanked departmental leadership, faculty, staff and students for their hard work and commitment to this important process.

The Dean concluded his report by reporting on the community initiatives and events including the recent completion of the new recruitment website, the OISE Alumni Association's Mentorship Program launch, and the successful fall Open House event. He acknowledged various colleagues across the institute for their hard work and commitment to the success of these important initiatives.

Following the Dean's report, Professor Roy Gillis, spoke briefly regarding the importance of the Mental Health and Wellbeing initiative, which is supported by several employee groups within the University including the University of Toronto Faculty Association, USW, CUPE unions whose members are engaged in a discussion forum on the impact of funding cuts to public education in Ontario.

Mr. Justin Holloway, administrative staff representative, commented on the recent delegation of OISE staff and senior leaders to China, and raised a question regarding the apparent deepening of business partnerships with institutions and officials from that country, given the concerns regarding China's human rights record. He also asked the Dean to comment on the measures OISE is taking regarding Government-imposed funding cuts to education in Ontario.

In responding to the first question, the Dean noted that OISE has a long history of relations with China, most of which are at the level of individual faculty members' research and teaching collaborations. OISE's delegation was invited by a regional body to attend the International Education Forum in Chongqing and promote OISE's academic programs to prospective students in China. He added that, while we are unable to influence government policy in China, as a one of the leading faculties of Education in the world, we should seize the opportunity to influence people through our programs, research and expertise; especially future educators who impact children and youth in education systems around the world. Regarding the second question, the Dean noted that, in addition OISE faculty members' important role in public debate in critiquing public education funding policy, as an officer of the University of Toronto, the Dean has to ensure that OISE's relationship with the government is reasonably sound regardless of which political party constitutes the government and their policies.

Professor Miglena Todorova raised a question regarding handling sexual and gender-based violence and student to student bullying cases within the institution. She expressed concern regarding the adequacy of the online training provided by the University, and highlighted the importance of prevention. Professor Lana Stermac, who was a member of the Expert Panel on Education & Prevention of Sexual Violence commented that she raised this issue with the Provost. She also added that she will be participating in a

newly established Task Force and that will ensure that specialized training is enhanced and easily accessible to members of the University community. The Dean commented that training programs that deal with classroom interventions, dealing with students in difficult situations, and preventing all forms of violence are important. In addition to disseminating information on such programming, we will investigate the possibility of organizing the specialized training at OISE for faculty and staff.

Ms. Lynne Alexandrova, student in the Department of Social Justice Education, raised a question regarding the availability of unconscious bias training for members of departmental student associations. The Dean responded that such training was offered to academic leaders, administrative staff and members of search committees. He added that the leadership team is exploring the possibility of offering unconscious bias training more broadly.

## **6. Reports from the Special Committee on Constitutional Revisions**

- ***For Approval:***

- Proposed Changes to the Constitution & By-Laws of OISE Council

The Chair of Council, Professor Gallagher, who served as Chair of the Special Committee on Constitutional Revisions, informed members that the Committee, established in the Fall of 2018, worked over the 2018-2019 academic year to review the Constitution and By-Laws of OISE Council and propose changes that: (1) reflect OISE's transition to an all-graduate institute; (2) align the documents with the best governance practices within the University; and (3) ensure a more inclusive governance process.

She added that the committee engaged in the consultation process described on page 11 of the Council's agenda package, and invited Dean to present the summary of specific changes.

The Dean noted that the changes ranged from: updating the definitions of constituent groups, removing provisions related to petitions and appeals of undergraduate students including the disestablishment of the Appeals Committee of OISE Council, updating the list of non-voting ex-officio members of Council; to expanding the number of graduate student positions on the Council and its committees, and the use of gender-inclusive language in both Constitution and By-laws. He highlighted that, in addition to feedback by OISE community members, the proposed changes were also reviewed by the Office of Vice-Provost, Academic Programs and the Provostial Advisory Group at the meeting held on September 11, 2019.

Ms. Lynne Alexandrova, student in the Department of Social Justice Education, raised a question regarding the timeline of approval and effective date especially if the approval of the Governing Council is required. The Dean explained that, following the OISE Council's approval, the amended Constitution requires approval of the Academic Board and the Executive Committee of the University of Toronto Governing Council, and that, once approved, amendments will be effective as of the coming academic year.

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

THAT amendments to Constitution of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education Council, be APPROVED, effective 2020-2021 academic year.

Of 47 members present and voting, 46 were in favor, 1 opposed. None abstained.

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

THAT amendments to By-Laws of OISE Council, be APPROVED, effective 2020-2021 academic year.

Of 47 members present and voting, 46 were in favor, 1 opposed. None abstained.

## **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 October 11, 2019, which included a Master of Education degree regulation change, two minor modifications to existing programs, and seven new courses.

- **For Information:**

- SGS Degree Regulation 13.1.4 Master of Education (MEd).  
Professor Flessa noted that this proposal was also approved by the School of Graduate Studies Graduate Education Council on October 22, 2019.

- **For Information:**

- Minor Modifications Proposals: Changes to Existing Programs:  
Counselling Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy Field (EdD)  
Curriculum & Pedagogy, Emphasis in Wellbeing (MA, MEd, PhD)

- **For Information:**

- Minor Modifications Proposals: New Courses:  
APD1206H Mind, Brain, & Instruction  
APD1213H Psychology & Education of Students with ADHD  
APD1267H Emotion-focused Therapy  
APD3301H Issues in Child Study and Education: Research, Policy, & Problems of Practice (RM)  
APD3302H Advanced Study of Critical Issues in Special Education, Mental Health, and Child Security  
APD3304H Research Proposal Development (RM)  
CTL1331H Land-centred Approaches to Research and Community Engagement

**B. Equity** – Professor Ann Lopez, Chair of the Equity Committee reported on the Committee’s discussions at the meeting held on October 16, 2019.

Professor Lopez commenced her report by acknowledging members of the Equity Committee, faculty: Andrew Campbell, Roy Gillis, Emmanuelle Le Pichon-Vorstman, and Njoki Wane; Students: Norin Taj and Heather Watts; Staff: Terry Louisy and Nicole Ryan; and *Ex-officio* members: Helen Huang and Daniella D’Souza.

For the 2019-2020 academic year, the Committee will pursue three goals. First, the Committee will organize series of workshops for students, faculty and staff on equity issues such as developing critical dispositions, dealing with macroaggressions, and unconscious bias. In order to develop these workshops, the Committee will engage in data collection supported by Phoebe Kang, Graduate Assistant who is working to support the Committee’s initiatives. Second, the Committee will work on developing a resource on equity for teacher candidates and other students that will be called Education as a Vehicle for Healing and Liberation. Third, the Committee will invite faculty members to show the documentary film “Three Women, on Slavery and Freedom” by Surinamese and Caribbean filmmaker, Ida Does, to their students in classes. The screening of this film, followed by a successful panel discussion on equity issues, was organized by the Equity Committee and held on March 26, 2019.

**C. Research** – Professor Lance McCreedy, Chair of the Research Committee, reported on the Committee’s discussions at the meeting held on October 9, 2019.

- **For Information:**

Renaming of the Centre for Media and Culture in Education

Professor McCready reported that, in May, 2019 (via email ballot) the Research Committee voted in support of renaming the Centre for Media and Culture in Education to the Centre for Media, Culture and Education effective immediately. Professor McCready highlighted that the name change allows the Centre to extend and enrich its agenda and pursuits further within the area that is located at the intersections of mass media, popular culture and education.

Professor McCready informed members that, during the 2019-2020 academic year, Centre de recherches en éducation franco-ontarienne (CREFO), and the Centre for Leadership and Diversity (CLD) are scheduled for a review in accordance with the University of Toronto Guidelines on Extra Departmental Units. The outcome of the review will be reported to OISE Council in January 2020.

## **8. Sharing our Progress: Implementing the OISE Academic Plan**

The Dean provided a brief overview of the progress made in implementing goals and priorities outlined in the OISE Academic Plan 2017-2022.

To honour the Institute's commitment to Indigenous Education—one of the key focusing themes in the Academic Plan, in addition to the newly established Indigenous Education Liaison staff position, three new Indigenous faculty members were hired since the approval of the Academic Plan. Additionally, new space on the fifth floor and increased funding was allocated for the Indigenous Education Network and its initiatives. The Dean also highlighted a range of new Indigenous Education initiatives within the departments from new courses, graduate emphases, retreats, practicum placements and public events.

In response to objectives and priorities related to the Wellbeing and Mental Health focusing theme, the Dean reported on the establishment of a Wellness Committee for the Institute. The Committee engaged in developing workshops and 'lunch and learn' series on wellness and mindfulness including the development of a co-curricular credit opportunity for OISE students entitled: "Cultivating Personal Health and Wellness through Mindfulness". As mentioned earlier, the establishment of a post-doc position to support programming on special needs of black and Indigenous students is in progress and will soon be advertised. It is expected that a new advancement campaign focused on mental health and education will enhance the accomplishment of priorities related to the Wellbeing and Mental Health focusing theme.

Enhancing Equity, Diversity and Accessibility continues to be an important priority for OISE. Steps have been taken to increase the diversity of OISE faculty. Through the recent and current building renovations, OISE is improving building accessibility. Examples include the newly installed subway access ramp, accessible washrooms and the lobby renovation project. In order to increase accessibility of OISE's programs, research and faculty expertise, the Dean highlighted an increase in online courses and program offerings. He added that the renewed mandate of the Equity Committee and increased funding for the Committee's initiatives will further contribute to knowledge building within the OISE community regarding these important issues.

Under the Transformative and Innovative Pedagogy theme, the Dean reported on a range of redefined and new Education Doctorates with the 'dissertation in practice' as their culminating component. He also reported on the outcomes of the Master of Teaching visioning process, innovative changes to some of the Master of Education programs including new online courses and blended delivery mode program initiatives, a range of new Continuing and Professional Learning offerings, as well as a new Canada Foundation for Innovation research and teaching infrastructure project.

The Dean also reported on the initiatives to enhance Scholarship, Collaboration and Internationalization including strengthening support for research funding, increased emphasis on communicating and celebrating faculty research successes, numerous events focused on building strong and sustainable research culture, some of which are sponsored by the Office of Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation, and some by the departments. The work of the International Advisory Committee was also highlighted, as well as the establishment of a new staff position dedicated to international student recruitment, opportunities for outbound student mobility, and initiatives supported by the Office of Continuing and Professional Learning.

Last but not least, the Dean noted that Community Building through a range of community events and celebrations remains an important priority for the next phase of the implementation of the Academic Plan. These include initiatives such as the website redesign project, Inside OISE newsletter, OISE Mentorship Program, Academic Social Club, Wellness programming, new faculty development programming, renewed community spaces within the building (lobby renovation project, feasibility study for the 5<sup>th</sup> floor rooftop garden), and the recently established staff position of the Institutional Research Analyst to support student experience initiatives and evidence-based decision making.

Related to budgets, the Dean reported on the departmental budget model, the implementation of which has contributed to the achievement of a balanced budget over the last three years. In terms of moving forward, the Dean highlighted that the outcomes of the 2019-2020 external reviews of programs will provide helpful advice and recommendations for further development of programs. He also noted that, we should be mindful of the increasingly challenging fiscal environment including decrease in OSAP, tuition regulation, new performance-based funding mechanisms and shifts in the University budget model.

In conclusion, the Dean thanked all members of the OISE community for their contributions in realising the academic goals and priorities outlined in the OISE Academic Plan 2017-2022, and expressed his confidence that the community will continue to move forward with implementing priorities for the remainder of the academic plan.

A question was raised concerning the impact of the government-imposed Student Choice Initiative, which changed the regulations regarding student associations' fees in Ontario. It was explained that this initiative created a list of permissible compulsory fees that student associations are able to charge, as well as an additional category which became optional such as fees for student newspaper, radio and television. The universities are monitoring the opt out rate for optional fees and will soon determine its impact.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.