



OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OISE COUNCIL, held on October 27, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Prof. Normand Labrie, Interim
Dean
Prof. Katharine Janzen, Chair
Prof. Kathy Broad, Vice-Chair

Ms. Rushain Abbasi
Mr. David Allens
Ms. Sezen Atacan
Ms. Kerri Bailey
Ms. Vesna Bajic
Prof. Abigail Bakan
Ms. Diana Barrero
Prof. Nina Bascia
Ms. Asmita Bhutani Vij
Prof. Clare Brett
Ms. Missy Chareka
Prof. Charles Chen
Prof. Anne Marie Chudleigh
Prof. Yiola Cleovoulou
Prof. Daniel Corral
Dr. Valerie Damasco
Ms. Alison D’Cruz

Ms. Julia Duncan
Prof. Diane Farmer
Ms. Monique Flaccavento
Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-
Fernández
Dr. Sheldon Grabke
Mr. Justin Holloway
Ms. Helen Huang
Prof. Kaja Jasinska
Ms. Alison Jefferson
Mr. Perry King
Prof. Emmanuelle Le Pichon-
Vorstman
Ms. Christine Lowe
Dr. Carly Manion
Prof. Rhonda Martinussen
Prof. Douglas McDougall
Dr. Kenneth McNeilly
Prof. David Montemurro
Prof. Roy Moodley
Prof. Sarfaro Niyozov
Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali

Prof. Angela Pyle
Ms. Jeananne Robertson
Prof. Creso Sá
Dr. Gurpreet Sahmbi
Ms. Huda Salha
Mr. Said Sidani
Dr. Jesse Sims
Mr. Henry Ssali
Mr. Ian Liuji Tian
Prof. Njoki Wane
Dr. Lesley Wilton
Mr. Desmond Wong
Prof. Earl Woodruff
Ms. Yun Zhan
Ms. Zian Zhang

Ms. Biljana Cuckovic, Secretary
of OISE Council

Secretariat:

Ms. Lisa Smith
Ms. Jennifer Tucker
Mr. Doug Ullrich

Guests:

Ms. Lynne Alexandrova
Ms. Lara Cartmale
Prof. Whitnee Garrett-Walker
Prof. Katherine Entigar
Mr. Brian Kalakula

Ms. Sim Kapoor
Ms. Alysse Kennedy
Mr. Ryan Lahti
Ms. Jessica Lovett
Prof. Amal Madibbo

Ms. Denise Makovac
Ms. Alanna McKnight
Ms. Mai Naji
Prof. Charles Pascal
Ms. Shamelle Sutton

Regrets:

Ms. Maha Babeker
Prof. Joshua Barker
Prof. Megan Boler
Prof. Jennifer Brant
Ms. Samantha Burns

Ms. Jennifer Cho
Prof. Meric Gertler
Dr. Hilary Inwood
Prof. Kang Lee
Mr. Varun Malik

Ms. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone
Prof. Cheryl Regehr
Mr. Matt Stodolak
Prof. Miglena Todorova
Prof. Terezia Zoric

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

In the opening statement, the Chair, Professor Katharine Janzen, acknowledged the traditional land on which the University of Toronto operates.

2. Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the first meeting of OISE Council in 2021-2022, and provided an overview of the participation guidelines for virtual meetings.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

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

A student member commented that the discussion regarding student funding and the decreasing number of Graduate Assistantships was not accurately portrayed in the minutes of the April 28, 2021 meeting of OISE Council, and requested that the minutes be revised to provide additional context for the conversation. This suggestion was corroborated by another student member, and it was decided that the review and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting of OISE Council be tabled until the next meeting.

Related to the ongoing discussion regarding student funding and the need for fundamental understanding of various mechanisms of funding, Professor Michele Peterson-Badali, Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation, suggested that creating a forum for conversations and information sharing regarding student funding would be helpful to improve communication and understanding of student funding issues. The Interim Dean, Professor Normand Labrie, said that he would be willing to facilitate a dedicated discussion on student financial support at one of the upcoming meetings of OISE Council. Ms. Helen Huang, CAO, added that, in addition to conversations at OISE Council, it would be helpful to create a working group or a committee to support these discussions. It was agreed that creating a committee would be helpful; however, that this committee should be driven by students. A student member, Mr. Justin Holloway, agreed to work with other students towards establishing this committee.

5. Executive Committee

The Chair noted that, each year, new members of the Executive Committee are elected by and from among Council members at the first meeting of OISE Council. 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 Angela Pyle was elected as the representative of teaching staff
- Dr. Gurpreet Sahmbi was elected as the representative of other academic appointees
- Ms. Sezen Atacan was elected as the representative administrative staff
- Mr. Justin Holloway was elected as the representative of graduate students

6. Dean's Report

Before commencing his report, the Interim Dean, Professor Normand Labrie, welcomed new and returning members of OISE Council. He then acknowledged new faculty on continuing and contract appointments, new administrative staff who joined OISE, and thanked faculty and staff who recently

retired for their contributions over the course of their careers. He especially welcomed 1232 domestic, and 273 international students who joined OISE this year, and congratulated 770 graduates. A minute of silence was dedicated to those who recently passed away.

The Interim Dean provided an overview of his priorities for the 2021-2022 academic year beginning with faculty renewal and nine faculty searches that were underway. In terms of academic administrative positions, the searches were underway for two department Chairs, and for the Director of the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study. Related to external reviews, Professor Labrie informed members that the review reports and administrative responses for the deferred 2019-2020 review of the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education, as well as for the 2020-2021 Provostial Review of OISE were considered, and were well received, by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) of the Governing Council at its October 26, 2021 meeting. In addition to implementing the recommendations from the recent external reviews, implementing the remaining priorities from OISE's Academic Plan will continue in 2021-2022—the last year of the Plan. Among the remaining priorities from the Plan is the post-pandemic recovery as part of the Mental Health and Wellbeing focusing theme, and the creation of the Centre for Black Studies in Education as part of the Equity, Diversity and Accessibility focusing theme. The proposal to establish this centre is awaiting review by the Provostial Advisory Group and will soon proceed to the Research Committee for review and approval before coming to OISE Council for final approval at the next meeting. Related to Indigenous education initiatives, the hiring of the administrative assistant for the Indigenous Education Network was completed, and the search will soon commence for the position of Indigenous Education Liaison. Turning to advancement, Professor Labrie highlighted that the University of Toronto will soon launch its third fundraising campaign. As part of this campaign, OISE set an ambitious objective to raise 25M in donations primarily focused on providing scholarships for students from underrepresented groups including Indigenous and Black students. Since the summer of 2021, OISE created three new scholarships including most recently the Diversity in Education Award for students in the Master of Teaching and the Master of Arts in Child Study and Education programs. The Interim Dean acknowledged former Dean, Professor Glen Jones, for leaving OISE in a healthy financial situation and noted that he will continue to monitor the budget ensuring that it continues to be balanced.

Related to academic continuity, while OISE is offering its courses online for the fall term of 2021, almost a thousand OISE students are completing placements in schools, community organizations, hospitals and clinical settings. In order to reduce risks and ensure health and wellbeing, the priority for in-person engagement is given to these types of activities. For the winter term of 2022, OISE is planning to increase the offering of in-person courses to about 60 percent; however, the public health situation will continue to be monitored and plans for return to in-person activities may need to be scaled down. It was highlighted that two aspects are impacting the planning for in-person activities in the winter term including the need to maintain social distancing in all spaces outside classrooms including hallways, washrooms, elevators and staircases; and the fact that 700 students are competing placements in elementary schools where children are not yet vaccinated. The communication regarding plans for the winter term will be available in the coming weeks. In closing, the Interim Dean informed members regarding planning and governance approval for the post-pandemic delivery of courses emphasising that OISE departments and programs have been working hard to institute multiple modes for delivery of courses, including online, for the 2022-2023 academic year and beyond.

Regarding plans for a safe return to campus, and the fact that a number of the Faculty of Arts and Science in-person courses—some of which are large classes, are taking place in the OISE building, a question was raised why the OISE building was not made safe for OISE students rather than for the Management and Commerce program students, and whether that decision had anything to do with preferencing students in higher tuition fee programs. It was explained that OISE does not own the classrooms in the building and that these are managed by the Learning Space Management (LSM) office that runs the shared, both

classrooms and community (non-classroom) areas at the University. Given OISE's decision to continue to offer its courses online during the Fall term of 2021, the classrooms in the OISE building were booked by other divisions via the LSM. OISE does not receive any revenue from use of classrooms in its building by other divisions and programs regardless of tuition fees related to these programs.

Another question was raised regarding OISE budget and why it is not presented to nor approved by OISE Council. It was noted that one of the student funding issues discussed at the previous meeting is related to the transparency regarding how the faculty resources are allocated, and how decisions regarding the budget are made including those concerning staff and faculty resources, and scholarships. It was explained that, as per the University policy, approval of the budget is not in the jurisdiction of OISE Council, and that divisional budgets are approved by the Provost. However, the Interim Dean agreed that presenting an overview of the budget to OISE Council is a good suggestion and that he would be pleased to do so at one of the upcoming meetings. He also added that former Dean, Professor Glen Jones, presented budget updates and overviews to Council as part of various reports including a dedicated community consultation on OISE budget and resources several years ago.

A student guest in attendance expressed appreciation for wellness programming offered at OISE, and noted that extra-curricular activities, such as participating in the governance process, are as important as curricular education. Therefore, rethinking nomination and elections timelines might help enable greater participation of students, especially those with financial difficulties and delayed scholarships, who were not able to register in courses in time to participate in the nominations and elections for OISE Council and its Committees. Further, a question was raised whether faculty hires in history, philosophy and humanities in general would be considered by any and all departments at OISE. The Interim Dean explained that academic decisions including those related faculty renewal are made at the departmental level.

7. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. Academic Programs** – Professor David Montemurro, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, reported on the Committee's proposals approved at the meeting held on October 15, 2021, which included two minor modifications to existing programs, and one new course.

For Information: Minor Modifications: Changes to Existing Programs

- Adult Education and Community Development – PhD
- School and Clinical Child Psychology – MA & PhD

For Information: Minor Modifications: New Courses

- APD1250H Program Evaluation Practicum

Additionally, the Committee reviewed a number of minor course changes approved at the departmental level, including the omnibus proposal for changes to the delivery mode (from in-person to online) of multiple courses within the Curriculum & Pedagogy program. Professor Montemurro concluded his report by informing Council that the Committee also reviewed its mandate from By-laws of OISE Council, received an update on the upcoming academic governance proposals, as well as on the recent Student Survey on Courses conducted by the Office of Associate Dean, Programs.

- B. Equity** – Professor Emmanuelle Le Pichon-Vorstman, Chair of the Equity Committee, reported on the Committee's discussions at the meeting held on October 12, 2021.

Professor Le Pichon-Vorstman reported that, at its first meeting of 2021-2022, the Committee reviewed the last year's activities and discussed goals and priorities for the current academic year. Among the last year's activities were the three successful events organized by the Committee including the second installation of the "Black Faculty in Conversation" seminar, and two workshops: "Understanding your Responsibility for Preventing Racial Discrimination and Harassment in the Work Environment" and "Creating Equitable Classrooms" all of which were well received and attended by the community. The Committee also reviewed last year's recommendations including potential events and topics for discussions and information sharing across departments and centres. In finalizing its action plan for the year, the Committee will consider conducting an environmental scan of equity related programs and initiatives across OISE, and creating a space for sharing of information, resources and best practices on equity. In closing, Professor Le Pichon-Vorstman noted that the Committee is expected to finalize its plan for the current academic year at the next meeting, and that Committee members are looking forward to another active and engaging year with the OISE community.

C. Research – Professor Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Chair of the Research Committee, reported on the Committee's discussions at the meeting held on October 6, 2021.

Professor Gaztambide-Fernández reported that the first meeting of the Research Committee in 2021-2022 was mostly an information sharing meeting. The Chair and Vice-Chair were confirmed, and the mandate of the Committee was reviewed. The Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation provided and overview of the Research Office services and strategic priorities for this academic year. The Committee also discussed the possibility of focusing on covid-themed research, resources for community-engaged research, and the framework for assessing the beyond-scholarly impacts of research. In closing, Professor Gaztambide-Fernández informed Council members that the Committee anticipates the review of the proposal for the establishment of the Centre for Black Studies in Education at the next meeting.

8. OISE Review 2020-2021

The Interim Dean presented on the findings and recommendations from the 2020-2021 Provostial review of OISE. An overview of the review process was provided including community consultations, and the preparation of the Self-study in the fall term of 2020, followed by the virtual review visit and the receipt of the review report in the winter term of 2021. In consultation with OISE's academic leadership, the administrative response to the review was developed over the summer, and was submitted to the Provost's Office in mid-September 2021. It was noted that the AP&P committee requested a follow-up report in a year. Key review recommendations include faculty renewal; leveraging OISE's expertise in Social Justice topics; continuing to support a decentralized budget model while enabling inter-departmental teaching; developing an advancement strategy and infrastructure; and strengthening support for research. The main findings and recommendations in several key areas were also provided, which included mission, partnerships and impact; academic programs; research; resources; and advancement. In terms of the academic priorities for the current academic year, the Interim Dean reiterated continuing to implement the remaining priorities from the Academic Plan, which was in its last year, as well as implementing the recommendations from the recent external reviews of the departments and of OISE. These include faculty renewal, EDI initiatives, Black studies in Education, Indigenous Education, student financial support, mental health and wellbeing, climate action, advancement, and budgets.

Following the presentation, a question was raised regarding one of the recommendations related to OISE's teacher education programs; specifically, that graduates from these programs should gain a different set of skills and experiences than graduates from other education schools. It was explained that OISE is the only faculty of education offering a master's degree leading to the teaching certification rather than a Bachelor of Education degree, which is offered by all other faculties of education in Ontario. Since OISE is one of Canada's most research-intensive faculties of education, our graduate teacher

education programs are infused with high quality innovative research and scholarship, providing graduates with a distinct skillset with a strong foundation in research and inquiry.

9. Sustainability and Climate Action Network (SCAN)

Ms. Alysse Kennedy—a doctoral student in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, who works closely with the Environmental and Sustainability Education team, provided an update on the Sustainability and Climate Action Network.

Ms. Kennedy advised that, after extensive consultations with faculty, staff and students, OISE’s Climate Action initiative changed its name to the Sustainability and Climate Action Network (SCAN). Along with the new name, the work was underway to develop a community hub, as well as a new website for the initiative. It is expected that this work will soon be completed, and an update on these initiatives will be provided at the next Council meeting. A new community event is planned for January 2022, and the invitation will be extended to OISE Council members. In terms of supports for OISE students, it was noted that the Student Sustainability Guide was made available, the Student Sustainability Leadership team was in place with the Environmental Learning Circle meetings underway. The Co-curricular record designation in Sustainability was developed, which allows students engaged in this important work to receive a formal recognition for it. Regarding programming for the fall term, Ms. Kennedy highlighted eight webinars some of which are offered in collaboration with the OISE Wellness, OISE podcast “Teaching in a Climate Crisis”, and the annual Eco Schools online conference with the Toronto District School Board, which will be held on November 6, 2021.

A member thanked Ms. Kennedy and Dr. Inwood for the excellent work on this important initiative.

10. Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, Professor Janzen thanked members and guests for their participation and contributions and advised that the next meeting of OISE Council will be held on December 15, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.