



OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OISE COUNCIL, held on April 28, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Prof. Glen Jones, Dean
Prof. Katharine Janzen, Chair
Prof. Kathy Broad, Vice-Chair

Ms. Rushain Abbasi
Ms. Vesna Bajic
Prof. Abigail Bakan
Ms. Diana Barrero
Ms. Asmita Bhutani Vij
Prof. Clare Brett
Prof. Cassie Brownell
Dr. Andrew Campbell
Prof. Carol Campbell
Ms. Lara Cartmale
Prof. Charles Chen
Prof. Anne Marie Chudleigh
Dr. Valerie Damasco
Ms. Julia Duncan
Prof. Diane Farmer
Ms. Monique Flaccavento

Ms. Hoda Gharib
Dr. Sheldon Grabke
Ms. Emily Hector
Mr. Justin Holloway
Ms. Helen Huang
Dr. Hilary Inwood
Ms. Nadiia Kachynska
Prof. Normand Labrie
Prof. Emmanuelle Le Pichon-Vorstman
Prof. Ann Lopez
Mr. Varun Malik
Dr. Carly Manion
Prof. Rhonda Martinussen
Dr. Kenneth McNeilly
Ms. Henrjeta Mece
Prof. Shahrzad Mojab
Prof. David Montemurro
Prof. Roy Moodley
Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali
Prof. Angela Pyle

Ms. Jeananne Robertson
Mr. Ryan Shoot
Mr. Said Sidani
Dr. Jesse Sims
Prof. Lana Stermac
Mr. Matt Stodolak
Prof. Vannina Sztainbok
Ms. Norin Taj
Ms. Athena Tassis
Prof. Njoki Wane
Ms. Heather Watts
Ms. Hanna Wickstrom
Dr. Lesley Wilton

Ms. Biljana Cuckovic, Secretary
of OISE Council

Secretariat:

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

Guests:

Ms. Lynne Alexandrova
Prof. Kathy Bickmore
Ms. Iman Fouad
Ms. Phoebe Kang

Ms. Sim Kapoor
Ms. Aimy Lieu
Ms. Christine Lowe
Ms. Denise Makovac

Mr. Korede Olubowale
Prof. Charles Pascal
Ms. Trish (Mazzotta) Shaheen
Mr. Paul Steacy

Regrets:

Ms. Maha Babeker
Prof. Joshua Barker
Prof. Nina Bascia
Prof. Megan Boler
Prof. Jennifer Brant
Prof. Elizabeth Buckner
Ms. Samantha Burns
Prof. Anna Katyn Chmielewski

Prof. Yiola Cleovoulou
Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández
Prof. Meric Gertler
Prof. Kang Lee
Mr. Leping Mou
Ms. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone
Prof. Cheryl Regehr

Prof. Creso Sá
Prof. Shelley Stagg Peterson
Mr. Ian Liujia Tian
Prof. Miglena Todorova
Earl Woodruff, Chair, APHD
Prof. Terezia Zoric

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

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

2. Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the fourth and final meeting of OISE Council in 2020-2021, 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

Minutes of the February 24, 2021 meeting were approved with Ms. Lynne Alexandrova's request to add to the discussion regarding the OISE Student Collective Survey on Covid-19 Supports, her comment regarding the 2016 OISE GSA Survey on Accessibility and how the results of this survey were disseminated.

5. Dean's Report

The Dean began his report by acknowledging the appointment of Professor Normand Labrie as Interim Dean of OISE for a one-year term beginning July 1, 2021. Professor Labrie, who served as Associate Dean, Programs for the past two years, has extensive academic administrative experience and expertise for the role. The Dean invited members to join him congratulating Professor Labrie on his appointment as Interim Dean.

The Dean reported that three faculty members: Carol Campbell, Patricia Ganea, and Ann Lopez were promoted to the rank of full professor, and congratulated them on this accomplishment. Out of eight faculty searches in 2020-2021, one was not successful and will resume in the fall term along with additional nine new searches approved for 2021-2022.

The review visit for the 2020-2021 Provostial Review of OISE was completed virtually from March 22-26, 2021 including meetings with academic leadership, faculty, students, staff and alumni. The Dean noted the reviewers were impressed with OISE, and added that their report is expected to be received by the end of the term. He thanked all members of the community for their contributions to the review.

The Dean acknowledged the work of OISE's Climate Action Advisory Group and commended the institute's first Sustainability and Climate Action Plan officially launched on Thursday, February 25, 2021. He added that, over the coming years, the Climate Action Advisory Group will monitor the implementation of the Plan. As a first step towards the implementation of the Plan, on the occasion of Earth Day 2021 (April 22, 2021), OISE joined other academic institutions and governments around the world in declaring a climate emergency. The Dean invited Council members to review OISE's declaration of climate emergency on the website and to consider signing the document.

In closing, the Dean thanked all members of the community for their hard work and contributions over the very challenging period of the ongoing pandemic. Particularly, he acknowledged challenges faced by OISE's graduate students including financial challenges. He corrected his statement from the last meeting

that OISE added almost five hundred thousand dollars in new money for student financial support indicating that the correct amount is well over six hundred thousand dollars. While OISE has done the very best it can in shifting the resources from one direction to another, more work is still needed to enhance student financial support. The Dean explained that the number of Graduate Assistantships (GA) has decreased over the past few years in part because of the increase in scholarships. On the other hand, the number of Research Fellowships GAs has increased. These opportunities allow students to work one term as a GA and another term as a Research Fellow supporting a SSHRC funded research project. The Dean further noted that the Research funding councils have augmented amount of funding for various research projects in support of students and student research. He added that increasing the Doctoral Completion Award is another important mechanism to help students in need who are nearing the completion of their programs, and that continuing to support OISE's professional master's student through the Professional Master's Financial Aid (PMFA) fund will continue to respond to unmet financial needs. The Dean acknowledged that OISE has several mechanisms for student funding, which adds to the complexity, and thanked students for continuing to raise these important issues.

Following the report, Professor Charles Pascal took the opportunity to commend the Dean on his excellent leadership over the course of his term and especially during the challenging time of the ongoing pandemic.

Related to the Dean's comment regarding the decreasing number of GA's and increasing scholarships, a student member, Ms. Diana Barrero, commented that the OISE Review document indicates that, for domestic students in the funded cohort including PhD and MA students, the funding for the last five years has not changed, and the increase in student scholarships does not appear to be significant. She added that the financial support for non-funded students also appears to be decreasing according to the OISE Review. The Dean reiterated that student funding at OISE is a complex issue, and that the data presented in the OISE review needs to be deconstructed. He invited Ms. Aimy Lieu, Director of Academic Operations, to provide additional information. Ms. Lieu acknowledged that the number of GA has decreased over the last five years; however, this has been due to process issues including a significant time gap between job postings and the actual start of the positions. She added that, since 2016-2017, OISE changed the way in which GA positions are provided to students, which contributed to the resolution of some of the structural issues including having to carry forward unassigned GA positions. Ms. Lieu highlighted that the issue of unassigned GA positions was created because of the eight-month gap between the time students apply for available positions and the actual start of the positions, and that this was alleviated by the new process introduced in 2016-2017. Ms. Lieu added that she would be happy to provide additional information and address specific questions after the meeting.

A question was raised regarding how students can participate in informing decisions on student funding, and how funding transparency can be increased. A townhall meeting was suggested as a way for the OISE leadership to communicate with students regularly especially during the pandemic. It was also noted that framing of student funding as support was problematic as students spend hours of their labour towards this funding. The Dean acknowledged that a townhall meeting was a good suggestion and, noted that there are a number of committees at OISE that focus on student experience including the Student Experience Committee as one of the forums for conversations regarding student funding. Established after the approval of OISE's current Academic Plan, the work of this Committee has been ongoing and is supported by the Office of Associate Dean, Programs. The Dean's Office has made it a priority to provide accurate information on student funding and the GA/TA processes to assist students so that they can be better equipped to understand the policies and procedures for student employment and funding.

The Dean was asked to share his personal views regarding the recent CAUT Council's censure of the University of Toronto due to concerns regarding the hiring process for an administrative manager

position, and how this censure might impact the OISE community. The Dean responded that he has no additional information regarding the matter than what was publicly available including the CAUT document and the independent review report by the former supreme court justice.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. Academic Programs** – Professor Carol Campbell, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, reported on the Committee’s proposals approved at the meeting held on March 5, 2021, which included three minor modifications to existing programs, and six new courses.

For Information: Minor Modifications Proposals: Changes to Existing Programs

- Collaborative Specialization in Comparative, International and Development Education (CIDE) – MA, MEd, EdD, PhD
- Counselling Psychology, Field in School Psychology – EdD
- Curriculum and Pedagogy – Program Emphases – MA, MEd, PhD

For Information: Minor Modifications Proposals: New Courses

- APD1232H Mindfulness Interventions in Counselling and Psychotherapy
- APD1235H Technology, Play, and Social Media in Adolescence
- CTL1100H Arts in Urban Schools
- CTL1333H Settler Colonialism & Pedagogies of Oppression
- LHA1822H Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
- LHA1823H Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in the Professions

- B. Equity** – Professor Emmanuelle Le Pichon-Vorstman, Chair of the Equity Committee reported on the Committee’s discussions at the meeting held on April 6, 2021.

Professor Le Pichon-Vorstman reported that, at the final meeting of 2020-2021, the Committee reflected on three events they organized including the workshop on Creating Equitable Classrooms for International Students. Held on April 20, 2021, the workshop was organized in collaboration with the Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation and was well attended. The Committee accomplished its goals for the 2020-2021 academic year and reached more members of the community through their surveys and programming. The Committee found that the common theme emerging from the 2020-2021 conversations on equity is related to the need to create a space within OISE for sharing best practices and for generating interdepartmental dialogues related to equity in research and teaching. In closing, Professor Le Pichon-Vorstman thanked all members of the Committee who have contributed to the Committee’s work this year, and acknowledged OISE staff who provided support for the Equity Committee events including staff from the Education Commons, OISE Communications and the Dean’s Office.

- C. Research** – On behalf of Professor Rubén Gaztambide-Fernandez, Chair of the Research Committee who was absent from the meeting, Ms. Henrijeta Mece, Vice-Chair, reported on the Committee’s discussions at the meeting held on March 31, 2021.

Ms. Mece reported that, at their last meeting of the academic year, the Committee discussed restarting of the in-person and on-campus research activities. The process for approval or research that involves face-to-face and human participant data collection is detailed on the OISE Research Office Share Point site. The Office will send a broad communication about this process once the provincial stay at home order has been lifted. The Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation is participating in the University’s Research Restart Committee that meets by-weekly to share processes and best practices for

researchers and research administrators. On the other hand, the research that does not involve face-to-face activities and data collection has continued throughout the pandemic. It was noted that, the Tri-Agency has a new data management policy and is implementing new requirements for research data including the development of data management plans and grant proposals. Accordingly, the University has been working on a new data management strategy.

7. OISE Academic Plan 2017-2022: Progress Report

The Dean began his presentation by stating that giving the Council a progress report on the implementation of the Academic Plan was a good way to conclude the academic year, as well as his term as Dean. OISE's Academic Plan 2017-2022 is an ambitious and comprehensive plan, and there are still goals and priorities to be accomplished over the coming academic year; however, the community has collectively accomplished a lot and it was time to celebrate these accomplishments.

An overview of the six key focusing themes in the Academic Plan was provided, as well as the examples of specific accomplishments that were realized to date under each of the themes. These ranged from shifting the tone and tenure of decision-making, decentralized budget model, principled and strategic faculty renewal, major space renovations, and Climate Action planning; to innovative curricular changes, the Student Experience Committee, new student scholarships, Indigenous education and wellness initiatives, the strengthened role of the Equity Committee, and new community awards.

A student member commented that CUPE3902 recently negotiated with the University that departmental funding practices should be made public and raised a question whether this will also be a practice at OISE. It was highlighted that information regarding how external scholarships affect the funding packages could be made clearer. The Dean responded that the funding processes for guaranteed funding arrangements are public with detailed information available on the OISE website; however, he acknowledged that communication can always be improved. In addition to what is provided on the website and in funding letters, Ms. Aimy Lieu, Director of Academic Operations, offered to address the specific questions regarding funding packages after the meeting.

A member commented that the Student Experience Committee has continued to meet during the pandemic. This Committee established a subcommittee to explore the possibility of enhancing teaching experiences for OISE's doctoral students through teaching assistantships.

Following the presentation and discussion, the Chair thanked the Dean for the informative and excellent report and, on behalf of Council, thanked him for his inspiring leadership and outstanding contributions to OISE over the past six years. Several members, guests, students, and senior academic leaders in attendance also joined the Chair in expressing their gratitude to Dean Jones for his open, inclusive and collaborative leadership during his term as Dean, and for his sense of fairness, social justice and collegiality that OISE is known for.

Professor also Michele Peterson-Badali thanked the Chair, Professor Katharine Janzen, for her inclusive, calm and efficient chairing of Council meetings, and to the OISE Council secretariat for their support of the governance process during the 2020-2021 academic year.

8. Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, Professor Janzen thanked members and guests for their participation and contributions to the work of OISE Council over the course of this academic year. She informed members that the schedule of governance meetings for the 2021-2022 academic year will be published on the OISE governance website by July 1, 2021.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.