

OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of OISE COUNCIL held on **October 18, 2023** at 3:00 p.m. Room 12-130

Present:

Prof. Erica N. Walker (Dean), Prof. Mary Reid (Chair), Prof. Carly Manion (Vice-Chair), Niki Anastasakis, Prof. Kathy Bickmore, Prof. Clare Brett, Prof. Mary Caravias, Indrani Chakraborty, Prof. Jody Chong, Emily Dobrich, Kimberly Dsilva, Julia Duncan, Prof. Joseph Flessa, Iman Fouad, Jesse Genereux, Dr. Sheldon Grabke, Emily Hector, Helen Huang, Merva Hutchinson, Prof. Linda Iwenofu, Prof. Jennifer Jenkins, Ana Luisa Lacerda, Prof. Eric Lavigne, Prof. Kang Lee, Prof. Michelle Lui, Prof. Kimberley MacKinnon, Denise Makovac, Prof. Doug McDougall, Prof. Denise Paneduro, Justin Patrick, Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali, Dr. Mara Reich, Jeananne Robertson, Joseph Rotich, Prof. Creso Sá, Latifa Soliman, Ahmet Su, Prof. Miglena Todorova, Prof. Angela Vemic, Prof. Njoki Wane, Mei Wang, Jenaya Webb, Brandon Wells, Prof. Earl Woodruff

Secretariat:

Biljana Cuckovic (Secretary of OISE Council), Lisa Smith, Jennifer Tucker, Doug Ullrich

Guests:

Rushain Abbasi, Ai-Ri Brown, Mindy Harris, David Hayes, Sim Kapoor, Chandra Pabbisetty, Madelaine Panoulis, Leah Scherk, Neil Tinker, Brian Whelan, Dr. Jesse Sims

Regrets:

Prof. Joshua Barker (Dean of SGS), Prof. Andrew B. Campbell, Lara Cartmale, Prof. Charles Chen, Prof. Lisa Dack, Prof. Sameena Eidoo, Prof. Diane Farmer, Prof. Michel Ferrari, Prof. Antoinette Gagné, Prof. Patricia Ganea, Prof. Whitneé Garrett-Walker, Simran Gauba, Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Prof. Meric Gertler (President), Prof. Roy Gillis, Fadi Kayale, Noah Khan, Prof. Amal Madibbo, Alanna McKnight, Prof. Sarfaroz Niyozov, Dr. Soudeh Oladi Ghadikolaie, Nikoletta Papadopoulos, Prof. Shakina Rajendram, Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone, Prof. Cheryl Regehr (Provost), Ghayas Shams, Prof. Tracy Solomon, Ana Tariq, Yuze Yang, Andrea Zdzykowski, Yang Zhang.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

Professor Caroline Manion, Vice-Chair of Council, welcomed members and guests to the first meeting of OISE Council in 2023-2024, and read the land acknowledgement statement.

1. Opening Remarks

An overview of the Participation Guidelines for meetings of OISE Council was provided.

There was a moment of silence for victims of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

2. Review of Agenda

The Agenda for the meeting was reviewed and accepted.

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

Minutes of the April 26, 2023 meeting of OISE Council were approved.

4. Executive Committee – Call for Nominations from the Floor

Prof. Manion noted that, each year, new members of the Executive Committee are elected by and from among Council members at the first meeting. She then called for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair of Council. On a motion duly made, seconded and carried:

- Professor Mary Reid was elected as Chair of Council.

Prof. Manion congratulated Professor Reid, and invited her to chair the remainder of the meeting. Professor Reid thanked members of Council for the vote of confidence, and stated that she is looking forward to serving the community in this capacity. She then proceeded to call for nominations to fill the remaining positions on the Executive Committee. On motions duly made, seconded and carried:

- Professor Linda Iwenofu was elected as the representative of teaching staff
- Dr. Mara Reich was elected as the representative of other academic appointees
- Justin Patrick was elected as the representative of graduate students
- Brandon Wells was elected as the representative of administrative staff

5. Dean's Report

Dean Walker thanked Prof. Manion for commencing chairing the Council's first meeting; to Prof. Reid for taking on the role of the new Chair of Council, and to Prof. Lee, outgoing Chair, for exemplary service and contributions over the course of his term.

Dean Walker commenced her report by acknowledging the shock, sadness and horror related to the recent Israel-Gaza conflict, and thanked members of the community for messages of support and expressions of concern for the safety of the community and those affected by the tragic events. She noted that the University's and OISE's statements regarding these events, and related resources for community support, are available on the OISE homepage. The Dean extended her support and sympathy for all those affected during this difficult time; however, in the spirit of hope, she noted that she feels hopeful every time she comes to OISE and meets with members of the community who work and study here.

Reflecting on her first autumn in Canada, the Dean shared that she is inspired by the energy and enthusiasm of the Institute's newest members, especially new faculty and students, many of whom she met at the orientation in September. She also met prospective students at a recent open house event for U of T professionals, and at the virtual open house for interested students from Canada and abroad. She acknowledged the Registrar's Office and Student Experience team for their great work on these events.

Regarding faculty and administrative appointments, Dean Walker noted that she was delighted to welcome new faculty who recently joined OISE and that she is looking forward to following their research and teaching achievements. She especially welcomed Professor Jen Gilbert who joined OISE as the incoming Chair of the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning (CTL), and thanked Professor Doug McDougall for his outstanding service as Interim Chair.

Turning to academic programs, the Dean reported that, in August 2023, the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) granted general accreditation without conditions to OISE's Master of Teaching (MT) and Master of Arts in Child Study and Education (MA-CSE) for a period of seven years—until August 2030. The process began with the development of the application for accreditation renewal, which was submitted to OCT in February followed by a virtual accreditation site visit on May 16 and 17, 2023 including interviews with the MT and MA-CSE leadership, faculty, practicum coordinators, teacher candidates, associate teachers and alumni. For the first time, accreditation for a special French as a Second Language pathway for Primary/Junior candidates in both programs was also received. The Dean acknowledged the

department Chairs, program leadership, faculty and staff for their contributions to the process. She also thanked Biljana Cuckovic, Director of Governance, Policy & Planning for contributions to the successful outcome, and to Professor Normand Labrie, the former Associate Dean Programs, for his leadership in support of this important initiative.

Turning to the fall term activities, the Dean reported on a number of recent international delegations with more of such partnerships and opportunities to emerge in 2023-2024. She shared excitement for the reconstituted OISE Graduate Students Association, and thanked the Executive members for meeting with her and Professor Joe Flessa, Associate Dean Programs, to share their plans for OISE student engagement. The Dean reported that the two working groups – one on pedagogical excellence chaired by Professor Clare Brett, and the second one on doctoral student experience chaired by Professor Flessa, have been constituted and have commenced their work. The Dean added that she is participating in several university-wide leadership groups including a working group on the professional doctorate and another on advancement.

The Dean informed members that an OISE-wide budget consultation will be held in early November, and a number of other events were taking place during the fall term such as the recent Centre for Leadership and Diversity conference. While she is not able to attend each event, the Dean expressed her admiration for the generative thinking and ideas that emerge from these cross- and multi-disciplinary spaces.

On efforts to improve the community and student spaces, the Dean reported on the progress of space renovations including the fifth-floor outdoor garden and community space, and the twelfth-floor renovation of the Department of Social Justice Education, which will serve as a model for enhanced study, research, and teaching and learning spaces.

The Dean also reported on the plans a new academic planning cycle set to commence in the winter term of 2024, which will enable the exploration of new ideas and possibilities for OISE while building on the excellent work completed under the previous academic plan. In closing her report, the Dean reflected on a statement shared by Professor Earl Woodruff at a recent leadership retreat regarding the importance of education as a foundation to individuals and communities. The Dean expressed her belief that, in the times where curriculum and access to knowledge itself are challenged, educators, researchers, and professionals must continue to convey the message that education is central to human activity and progress. She expressed hope that members of the community are proud to take OISE with them wherever they go, and that she is tremendously proud to be part of the Institute.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. Academic Programs** – Professor Carly Manion, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, reported on the Committee’s proposals approved at the meeting held on October 6, 2023.

Prof. Manion reported that, at its first meeting of the year, the Committee approved two new courses, which were presented to Council for information including: CTL1226H AI Ethics in Education; and CTL1334H Indigenous Maternal Pedagogies: Teaching for Reconciliation. Prof. Manion noted that the Committee also received updates on the upcoming academic change proposals and initiatives in the Associate Dean, Programs portfolio.

- B. Equity** – On behalf of Professor Andrew B. Campbell, Chair of the Equity Committee, who was absent from the meeting, Helen Huang, Chief Administrative Officer and the Dean’s designate on the Committee, reported on the Committee’s discussions at the meeting held on October 10, 2023.

Helen Huang informed members that the membership of the Equity Committee includes a board representation from all groups including faculty, students and staff, and that the Committee selected Professor Campbell, who has been an active member for three years, as its Chair for 2023-2024. At its first meeting, the Committee reviewed its mandate and reflected on the previous equity-focused initiatives

sponsored by the Committee. The goals and priorities for the current year were also discussed, and it was decided to continue with the roundtable on equity, diversity and inclusion principles, and how these are upheld by OISE departments and units and their respective initiatives, programs and services. The Committee also discussed potential new equity-focused workshops that they could bring to the community in 2023-2024.

- C. Research** – On behalf of Professor Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Chair of the Research Committee, who was absent from the meeting, Professor Michele Peterson-Badali, Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation and the Dean’s designate on the Committee, reported on the Committee’s discussions at the meeting held on October 4, 2023.

Professor Peterson-Badali reported that, at its first meeting, the Committee elected Professor Gaztambide-Fernández as Chair for 2023-2024. An orientation was provided regarding the Committee’s governance mandate but also related to its function as a forum for information sharing and discussion on research-related policies, initiatives and issues of interest. The Committee also discussed the upcoming review of OISE’s extradepartmental units—EDU:Cs, which include fourteen research centres scheduled for review in 2023-2024. To facilitate this process, a sub-committee of the Research Committee will be established and tasked with reviewing the research centres’ self-studies due for submission in the fall term. The sub-committee will then make recommendations to the Research Committee regarding renewal and/or status changes for research centres, which will be presented to OISE Council for information in the winter term.

7. OISE Council & Committees: Orientation & Discussion

Biljana Cuckovic, Secretary of OISE Council, and Professor Doug McDougall, Chair of CTL, provided an orientation session regarding the work of OISE Council and its standing committees.

A brief overview of the Council’s mandate, composition, organization/standing committees, nominations and elections, and duties of members was provided. The meeting process including agendas, motions, discussions, and voting was described with a brief reflection on the distinction between the administration and governance, and how they work together to support the governance process and the ongoing development of the Institute.

Professor McDougall spoke about the connections between the divisional (OISE) and the institutional (U of T) governance, and reflected on his extensive experience as a longstanding member of the University of Toronto Governing Council and Chair of several of its boards and committees including the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P), the Academic Board, and the Agenda Committee of the Governing Council.

Following the presentation, a member thanked Professor McDougall and Biljana Cuckovic for the session highlighting that it was particularly helpful regarding duties and expectations of members of the Council, and the meeting process including how motions are brought forward to Council.

8. Adjournment

The formal part of the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m. and transitioned into a reception for members and guests of Council.