

OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the MEETING of OISE COUNCIL held on **December 13, 2023**, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Prof. Erica N. Walker (Dean), Prof. Mary Reid (Chair), Prof. Carly Manion (Vice-Chair), Niki Anastasakis, Prof. Kathy Bickmore, Prof. Andrew B. Campbell, Prof. Mary Caravias, Lara Cartmale, Indrani Chakraborty, Prof. Charles Chen, Prof. Jody Chong, Prof. Lisa Dack, Emily Dobrich, Julia Duncan, Prof. Sameena Eidoo, Prof. Diane Farmer, Prof. Joseph Flessa, Iman Fouad, Prof. Antoinette Gagné, Prof. Patricia Ganea, Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Jesse Genereux, Prof. Roy Gillis, Dr. Sheldon Grabke, Emily Hector, Helen Huang, Merva Hutchinson, Prof. Linda Iwenofu, Noah Khan, Ana Luisa Lacerda, Prof. Eric Lavigne, Prof. Michelle Lui, Prof. Kimberley MacKinnon, Prof. Amal Madibbo, Prof. Doug McDougall, Dr. Soudeh Oladi Ghadikolaei, Prof. Denise Paneduro, Justin Patrick, Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali, Prof. Shakina Rajendram, Dr. Mara Reich, Jeananne Robertson, Joseph Rotich, Prof. Creso Sá, Ana Tariq, Prof. Tracy Solomon, Ahmet Su, Prof. Angela Vemic, Prof. Njoki Wane, Mei Wang, Jenaya Webb, Brandon Wells, Prof. Earl Woodruff, Andrea Zdzylowski

Secretariat:

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

Guests:

Miralla Alakji, Tess Barclay, Ai-Ri Brown, Mindy Harris, Dr. Hilary Inwood, Josie Lalonde, Leah Scherk, Dr. Jesse Sims

Regrets:

Prof. Joshua Barker (Dean of SGS), Prof. Clare Brett, Kimberly Dsilva, Michel Ferrari, Prof. Whitneé Garrett-Walker, Simran Gauba, Prof., Prof. Meric Gertler (President), Prof. Jennifer Jenkins, Fadi Kayale, Prof. Kang Lee, Prof. Alexandra Makos, Denise Makovac, Alanna McKnight, Prof. Sarfaroz Niyozov, Nikoletta Papadopoulos, Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone, Prof. Cheryl Regehr (Provost), Ghayas Shams, Latifa Soliman, Prof. Miglena Todorova, Yuze Yang, Yang Zhang.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the second meeting of Council in 2023-2024 and read the land acknowledgement statement.

1. Opening Remarks

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

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 October 18, 2023, meeting of OISE Council were approved.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on the Executive Committee meeting held on December 4, 2023, at which the agenda and materials for today's meeting were approved, and the Committee welcomed its newly elected members.

5. Dean's Report

Dean Walker commenced her report by reflecting on her first year at OISE including several successful initiatives and many inspiring conversations with members of the community about the future of OISE and how to support the Institute's mission and advance its priorities. Some of these conversations informed the establishment of two working groups – one on pedagogical excellence, and the second one on doctoral student experience, as well as focus of the academic leadership retreat that took place in the summer of 2023. These conversations are ongoing and continue to inform the Dean's thinking about equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives, how this work intersects across constituencies and spaces, and provides context for innovation and change that OISE continues to advocate for within the University such as advancement goals and pedagogical innovation. In addition to engaging with the OISE community in multiple fora, the Dean highlighted that her involvement in creative problem-solving work addressing University-level structures and policies, such as participation in the University-wide working group on the Professional Doctorate, has been a highlight of her first year at OISE.

The Dean reported on the OISE-wide budget discussion held on November 7, 2023, which was well attended and provided a lively forum about academic priorities for the coming year's budget including faculty renewal, program innovation, diversifying recruitment, enhancing teaching opportunities for doctoral students, and improving student experience. It was highlighted that information about academic priorities and budget will continue to be shared at future meetings and through ongoing discussions.

The Dean further reflected on numerous community events and the many formal meetings and informal conversations she has had with members of the OISE Community, as well as on her own research in mathematics education and its emphasis on storytelling and how stories can motivate learning and engagement in mathematics especially of racialized and underrepresented learners. Related to the beginning of a new year, the Dean added that she believes that faculties of education, and OISE in particular, have a responsibility to share fuller, more expansive views of the role of education, its importance and centrality for lives and wellbeing of individuals and communities. She reiterated her broad vision for OISE that she shared at her first Council meeting in February 2023 emphasizing the Institute's commitment to conducting dynamic and innovative research, improving teaching and educational practice, and connecting in creative ways to communities, all in service to more equitable and just education. The Dean further noted that she looks forward to the beginning of a new academic planning cycle in the winter term of 2024 that will bring the community together in answering questions about OISE's vision, academic priorities, and paths forward so that the Institute's work resonates in powerful and action-oriented ways in education. She added that OISE must continue to be a model for how unique multidisciplinary perspectives and methodologies can shape educational discourse, policy, and practice, and lead the world through a challenging time for education and educators. To inspire thinking on the coming academic planning, the Dean invited members to reflect on some questions about OISE's legacy and how to advance education and learning in ways that are transformative and aimed for the betterment of society. She highlighted a recent example of Professor Mary Reid's work on anti-Asian racism in the York Region District School Board.

Turning to academic administrative appointments, the Dean welcomed Professor Creso Sà as OISE's first Vice-Dean commencing his term in January 2024, and thanked Professor Ruth Childs for taking on the role of Interim Chair of the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education. She extended best wishes to Professor Michele Peterson-Badali as she takes an administrative leave, and thanked Professor

Michal Perlman for agreeing to serve as Acting Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation in the winter term of 2024. She also acknowledged Professor Doug McDougall, outgoing Chair, and welcomed Professor Jen Gilbert commencing her term as Chair of the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning in January 2024. In closing, the Dean expressed gratitude to staff, students, faculty, librarians, alumni, and friends, and to OISE's academic leadership, for their support and contributions over the course of her first year as Dean and extended wishes for an end to violence and war in the world, and for comfort and peace for all.

Following the Dean's report a question was raised regarding what the academic planning process will entail. The Dean responded that the planning would commence in February 2024, and that there were some preliminary discussions with OISE's academic leadership about the process. To ensure that the process is effective and engaging, it was decided to enlist the support of an external consultant with experience and expertise in facilitating academic and strategic planning initiatives in educational institutions, including several faculties at the University of Toronto. It was highlighted that OISE's academic planning consultations will provide multiple, accessible, and engaging opportunities for faculty, staff, students, alumni, and key partners to participate in discussions about what matters most to our community, and, in particular, about our academic priorities and paths to achieve them.

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 November 24, 2023.

Prof. Manion reported that, at its second meeting of the year, the Committee approved two minor modification proposals—changes to existing programs, and two new courses.

Minor Program Modifications:

- Collaborative Specialization (CS) in Education, Francophonies and Diversity – adding M.A. in French Language and Literature offered by the Department of French Language and Literature at the Faculty of Arts & Science as a new participating program within the CS; and
- Higher Education, Master of Education (MEd), Student Development & Student Services field – changing program requirements by making the LHA1845 Indigenous Student Perspectives in Higher Education a required course within the field, which entailed reducing the elective space in the field by 0.5 FCE (i.e., from 3.0 FCE to 2.5 FCE in total).

New Courses:

- APD1258H Spatial Thinking and STEAM Education; and
- APD3209H Applied Machine Learning (RM)

The Committee also reviewed one minor course change approved at the departmental level, and received updates on upcoming academic change proposals and initiatives in the Associate Dean, Programs portfolio.

B. Equity – Professor Andrew B. Campbell, Chair of the Equity Committee, reported on the Committee's discussions at the meeting held on November 21, 2023.

Professor Campbell reported that the Committee members' discussion centered on planning for the second symposium on equity, diversity, and inclusion, which will be held on March 20, 2024, with more details about the event to follow soon. The symposium will create a space for a meaningful conversation among faculty, staff and students about achievements, ongoing projects, opportunities, and challenges related to EDI initiatives. The symposium will also explore the concept of 'freedom dreaming' encouraging participants to envision a more inclusive university. Parallel to the symposium, the

Committee is contacting the Anti-racism and Cultural Diversity Office to host a series of workshops for OISE faculty, students, and staff, which will take place in the winter term of 2024.

- C. Research** – Professor Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Chair of the Research Committee provided an update on behalf of the Committee.

Professor Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández reported that, while the Committee meeting scheduled for November 15, 2023, was cancelled, the Committee members are engaged in the process of periodic review of OISE’s research centers – Extra-departmental Units EDU-Cs. The Committee established a subcommittee with faculty and student representation from all four departments to conduct the review of self-study reports that all fourteen centres submitted during the fall term of 2023. It was noted that this process will continue into the next academic term and that information about the review outcomes will be reported to Council at one of its upcoming meetings. In closing, Professor Gaztambide-Fernández added that the Committee members are looking forward to working with Professor Michal Perlman who will commence serving as Acting Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation in the winter term of 2024, while Professor Peterson-Badali is on leave.

7. OISE GSA Student Experience Survey: Preliminary Data

Justin Patrick, President of OISE’s Graduate Students Association (GSA) highlighted that OISE GSA has recently been reactivated after a few years of inactivity. Early in the fall term, the GSA Executive launched a student experience survey to gather feedback from OISE students. It was noted that a similar survey was conducted in 2016, and that the current survey builds on it. While the current survey data analysis was ongoing, and the final survey report was being developed, the GSA presented to Council the preliminary data on student views regarding teaching opportunities and academic publishing. It was noted that 286 students participated in the survey, which is approximately 8% of OISE student population. The survey data indicates that most students (more than half of those surveyed), are looking for more teaching opportunities, which have diminished with OISE’s transition to an all-graduate faculty. In terms of academic publishing, 23% of surveyed students think that those opportunities are ample, while 40% disagree, and 37% are neutral. Based on the qualitative data, there is ambiguity amongst students, especially the EdD students, regarding academic publishing, which highlights this as an area of need. Both sets of data were provided by department, degree type, year of study, and study option (i.e. full-time, part-time). In terms of next steps, the GSA will focus on the graduate student funding as an area of need, as well as on graduate supervision, equity, diversity, and inclusion, access to office space, and any ideas that students have for the future of OISE. The full survey report will be available in the winter term of 2024.

A member commended the GSA on conducting the survey and sharing the preliminary data. It was suggested that it would be helpful to hear more about some of the constraints and possibilities for hiring doctoral students as course instructors with respect to union rules and contract negotiations that impact on student teaching opportunities. It was explained that, once the full report has been developed, it will include recommendations for all stakeholder groups that influence related rules and policies, such as the union administrators. In closing, GSA President invited Council members to contact GSA with any additional comments and suggestions regarding the survey data.

8. Sustainability and Climate Action Network (SCAN) Update

Dr. Hilary Inwood shared an update regarding OISE’s Sustainability and Climate Action plan and the work of SCAN. Dr. Inwood commenced by sharing that the University of Toronto was named the most sustainable university in the world by QS World University Rankings. OISE has contributed to this outcome by being a leader in sustainability work, especially regarding its advocacy and impact on educational policy development including, for example, the Association of Canadian Deans of Education – ACDE’s Acord on Education for a Sustainable Future, and the Ontario Association of Deans of

Education – OADE’s Environmental Sustainability Roundtable. The Ontario College of Teachers’ updated Accreditation Resource Guide includes new requirements on environmental learning, eco justice, and climate action for accredited teacher education programs and OISE’s programs have been focusing on these issues for a long time. Dr. Inwood further noted that the University’s Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability has become a standing committee chaired by the President. During the fall term of 2023, the SCAN offered five webinars on Environmental and Sustainability Education, renewed its six-year collaboration with the Toronto District School Board for three more years, until 2026, and reopened its sustainability fund. The SCAN photobook and video are available on the SCAN website, and the work on amplifying sustainability research at OISE continues. The SCAN community hub updates were also shared including the installation of a mural featuring a photograph of plants from the OISE native plant garden, which will be installed in the fifth-floor student lounge. Dr. Inwood thanked OISE CAO, Helen Huang, and the facilities team for assistance with the mural installation. In closing, Dr. Inwood highlighted that OISE’s current Climate Action and Sustainability Plan (2021-2024) has been completed, and that the SCAN community will engage in a new planning cycle in conjunction with the academic planning process at OISE to commencing in the winter term of 2024.

9. Adjournment

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