

OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the OISE COUNCIL meeting held on **October 30, 2024**, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 12-199

Present: Prof. Erica N. Walker (Dean), Prof. Mary Reid (Chair), Prof. Carly Manion (Vice-Chair), Prof. Qui Alexander, Malak Almuzaini, Prof. Anne-Claude Bedard, Prof. Kathy Bickmore, Prof. Andrew B. Campbell, Prof. Jody Chong, Prof. Todd Cunningham, Prof. Claudia Diaz Rios, Emily Dobrich, Prof. Sameena Eidoo, Barnabas Emenogu, Prof. Beyhan Farhadi, Prof. Laurie Faith, Prof. Joseph Flessa, Prof. Abby Goldstein, Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Jesse Genereux, Prof. Jen Gilbert, Jasmine El-Hacha, Helen Huang, Merva Hutchinson, Prof. Grace Karram Stephenson, Jacqueline Karsemeyer, Prof. Kimberley MacKinnon, Denise Makovac, Prof. Amal Madibbo, Prof. Henrjeta Mece, Victoria Parlatore, Aytaj Pashayeva, Professor Michele Peterson-Badali, Prof. Angela Pyle, Jeananne Robertson, Prof. Dr. Mara Reich, Latifa Soliman, Joshua Spencer, Ahmet Su, AV Verhaeghe, Prof. Marcelo Vieta, Jenaya Webb, Brandon Wells, Prof. Stephanie Waterman, Michaela Young, Prof. Terezia Zoric.

Guests: Prof. Maydianne Andrade, Allison Andres, Ai-Ri Brown, Tess Barclay, Nadia Hersi, Sim Kapoor, Ian MacLeod, Prof. Doug McDougall, Chandra Pabbisetty, Madelaine Panoulis, Leah Scherk, Dr. Jesse Sims.

Regrets: Mackenzie Blanchett, Prof. Joshua Barker (Dean of SGS), Prof. Alexandre Cavalcante, Indrani Chakraborty, Prof. Charles Chen, Prof. Lisa Dack, Julia Duncan, Simran Gauba, Dr. Sheldon Grabke, Prof. Meric Gertler (President), Prof. Linda Iwenofu, Prof. Jennifer Jenkins, Irene Kibor, Noah Khan, Prof. Michelle Lui, Prof. Ann Lopez, Alanna McKnight, Prof. Alexandra Makos, Meagan Muscat, Dr. Soudeh Oladi Ghadikolaei, Indira Quintasi Orosco, Prof. Denise Paneduro, Deborah Peart, Dr. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone, Prof. Shakina Rajendram, Fatema Rashsed, Joseph Rotich, Prof. Creso Sá, Prof. Miglena Todorova, Yuze Yang, Prof. Trevor Young (Provost).

Secretariat: Biljana Cuckovic (Secretary of OISE Council), Madison Seymour, Lisa Smith, Doug Ullrich.

Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

The Chair, Professor Mary Reid, welcomed members and guests and read the land acknowledgement.

1. Review of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and accepted.

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

The minutes of the April 24, 2024, meeting of OISE Council were approved.

3. The Executive Committee

The Chair noted that, each year, new members of the Executive are elected from among Council members at the first meeting of Council. She then proceeded to call for nominations to fill the vacancies on the Executive. On motions duly made, seconded and carried:

- Professor Sameena Eidoo was elected as the representative of teaching staff

- Dr. Barnabas Emengou was elected as the representative of other academic appointees
- Aytaj Pashayeva was elected as the representative of graduate students

4. Dean's Report

Dean Walker commenced her report by welcoming new and returning students, as well as new faculty and staff who joined OISE since the beginning of 2024-2025, highlighting the OISE community's enthusiasm that continues to inspire her. She noted that the Council's first meeting of the year coincided with the fall convocation and congratulated the 291 graduates who graduated on October 30, 2024. She then acknowledged new academic leaders including Professor Abby Goldstein, Chair, Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development (APHD); Professor Jen Gilbert, Chair, Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning (CTL); Professor Marcelo Vieta, Interim Chair, Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education (LHAE); and Professor Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Chair, Department of Social Justice Education (SJE). The Dean also welcomed Professor Maydianne Andrade, Special Advisor on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Professor Ann Lopez, Special Advisor on School and Community Partnerships, as well as new student and alumni leaders Aytaj Pashayeva, President of the Graduate Students Association, and Jacqueline Karsemeyer, President of the Alumni Association. The Dean also extended gratitude to Vice Dean, Professor Sá, Associate Deans, Professors Flessa and Peterson-Badali, to CAO, Helen Huang, and to all Dean's Office staff and volunteers for their support of multiple community events and initiatives.

An update on the Academic Planning process was provided. The engagement phase took place during the winter and spring of 2024 and was characterized by a broad survey along with eight focus groups across various constituencies including students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. Special sessions were held for the Dean's advisory groups including the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education, the Black Faculty Caucus, the Sustainability and Climate Action Network (SCAN), as well as for early career faculty. There was also an all-community session on the previous academic plan. The focus groups were well-attended with close to 200 participants across eight sessions. The Survey generated many insights with 456 responses (incl. 48% students, 23% faculty, 15% staff, 11% alumni, 4% partners/other). Additionally, the Academic Planning Engagement Team (APET) members consulted with about 350 additional connections contributing ideas to the engagement phase. OISE Deans and Chairs (DAC) and APET also contributed ideas to this phase, all of which resulted in more than a thousand touchpoints, a wealth of insights, and plethora of data about OISE's values, strengths and opportunities, as well as forces and environmental factors that impact our work. Over the summer months, these rich data were analyzed by DAC and shaped into possible strategic directions and initial intentions for OISE based on emergent themes. This later became the preliminary academic planning framework, which was further refined by APET. The next phase of the planning includes sharing the draft framework with heads of OISE departments, units, and special groups to engage in making shared sense of the intentions and identifying contributions to the realization of shared goals and objectives contained in the framework.

The emerging themes in the planning framework are underpinned by the core principles that permeate all work at the Institute and include equity, inclusion, diversity, accessibility, well-being, and sustainability, as well as deepening commitments to educational opportunity for those underserved in the education system including Black and Indigenous children, youth, and adults. Building on the notion of OISE as a hub for ongoing learning and exchange, the academic plan will center broader community connections both within and beyond OISE, creating flexibility and diversifying learning opportunities beyond traditional programs, and cultivating interdisciplinarity and collaboration for excellence in research and teaching across programs and departments. The Dean noted that the academic plan will come to OISE Council for approval in the winter term, and thanked faculty, staff, students, and alumni for contributing their ideas to the planning process. She then acknowledged APET members for their leadership and for inspiring community engagement Institute-wide.

Turning to advancement, the Dean reported that OISE is close to reaching 85% of its fundraising goal towards the University's Defy Gravity Campaign. She thanked Sim Kapoor, Director of Advancement, Communications, and External Relations, and her team for their work on this front. This success also rests on compelling stories about OISE research, innovation, and commitment to teaching and learning that inspire alumni, friends and partners to generously give to the Institute in support of our mission and priorities.

Regarding recent awards and honours, the Dean acknowledged faculty who received promotion and/or tenure effective July 1, 2024. Faculty who achieved tenure and promotion to Associate Professor include Professors Jennifer Brant and Cassie Brownell of the Department of CTL; Professor Rosalind Hampton of the Department of SJE, and Professor Jennifer Wemigwans of the Department of LHAE. Professor Amal Madibbo of the Department of SJE was awarded tenure. Professors Jeff Bale and Jim Hewitt of the Department of CTL received promotion to full Professor, and Professor Kathy Broad of the same department was promoted to rank of full Professor, Teaching Stream.

The recipients of the Connaught New Researcher Awards for 2024 include Assistant Professors Linda Iwenofu, Feng Ji, Eric Lavigne, Michelle Lui, and Qui Alexander. The winners of the OISE Leaders & Legends Awards include Dr. Isha DeCoito, Dr. Ardavan Eizadirad, Dr. Janice Gobert, Dr. Jean Augustine, Dr. Ann Lopez, and Dr. Carlos Ruano. The annual call for nominations for OISE's Teaching Excellence Awards will be launched in November 2024, and members were invited to consider nominating an OISE teacher who is undertaking innovative activities in teaching.

Related to programs, it was noted that 2024-2025 represents a midpoint between the 2019-2020 and the 2027-2028 external reviews of OISE departments and their programs. These reviews are conducted every eighth year under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP), which requires that, in 2024-2025, OISE departments revisit recommendations from the 2019-2020 reviews, and report on the progress of implementing them. The Dean thanked the department Chairs for engaging their colleagues in this conversation and for developing the interim monitoring reports. She added that the Office of Associate Dean, Programs is available to support the departments regarding this.

Dean Walker then turned to brief announcements about upcoming events: the Dean's STEM Salon, co-hosted with Professor Angela Pyle of the Department of APHD, will comprise multimedia research and learning exhibits designed by OISE faculty and students and a brief talk by the Dean and her research collaborators. The STEM Salon will be held on November 12, 2024, in the OISE Library. The OISE and the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study (JICS) Winter Wonderland and Community Skate will take place on December 10, 2024, in the Varsity Arena. In addition to the centennial celebration in 2025, the JICS recently celebrated a new playground named after Mrs. Sara Jackman thanks to Dr. Eric Jackman's gift that launched the centennial campaign. The Dean invited members and guests to join both events.

In closing her report, the Dean extended gratitude to the OISE community for showing remarkable compassion, strength and resilience during these challenging times, and thanked them for their perseverance and ongoing work to support OISE's mission and academic goals.

Following the Dean's report, a question was raised regarding the UTQAP interim reporting and Biljana Cuckovic, Director of Governance, Policy and Planning, was invited to respond. It was noted that this reporting is required by the policy and represents an accountability mechanism for department Chairs and faculty to reflect on the implementation of previous recommendations due midway between the year of the last and next external review. Regarding OISE's Doctor of Education (EdD) programs, the Dean was asked to provide an update on conversations with the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) concerning supervision and final oral exam requirements. The Dean responded that she served on a university-wide working group, which, in addition to OISE, included deans of other faculties offering professional doctorates (i.e., Public Health, Music and Nursing). The working group reviewed the policies that govern

professional doctorates and explored possibilities to streamline procedures and strengthen supervisory capacity for these programs. Following a recent communication by the Dean of SGS regarding this initiative, OISE's DAC group will meet to discuss what may be possible to enhance the sustainability of EdD programs. The Dean will keep the community informed as more information becomes available.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. Academic Programs** – On behalf of Prof. Carly Manion, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee who was not able to attend the Committee's first meeting on October 10, 2024, Professor Henrjeta Mece, Vice-Chair of the Committee, reported on the proposals approved at that meeting.

FOR INFORMATION: Minor Program Modifications

- All Combined Degree Programs linked with the Master of Teaching (MT) – change to the admission requirements including: (a) aligning the current GPA requirement of B+ or better with SGS requirement for the MT of mid-B or better; and (b) removing the requirement to have and to check for prerequisite courses in two teaching subjects irrespective of the teaching division applicants are applying to (i.e. Primary/Junior, Junior/Intermediate or Intermediate/Senior). It was noted that this change was also undergoing approval at various undergraduate partner faculties and campuses including the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, the Faculty of Music, the Faculty of Arts and Science, the U of T Mississauga, and the U of T Scarborough.
- Emphasis in Program Evaluation, Master of Education in Developmental Psychology (MEd) – change to the program requirements to guide course selection for students.

The Committee also reviewed minor changes to several courses approved at the departmental level and received updates on initiatives in the Programs portfolio. In closing, Prof. Mece thanked staff members in the Office of Associate Dean, Programs for supporting the work of the Committee.

- B. Equity** – Professor Andrew B. Campbell, Chair of the Equity Committee, reported on the Committee's discussions at the meeting held on October 7, 2024.

Professor Campbell reported on the Equity Committee's board representation from all groups including faculty, students and staff who self-nominated to serve on the Committee. At its first meeting, the Committee reviewed its mandate, reflected on the last year's initiatives, and discussed new workshops and speaker series that could bring the community together in conversations about equity, such as the annual Equity Symposium that will take place in the winter term of 2025. In closing, Professor Campbell noted that the Committee is looking forward to working with the Dean's Special Advisor on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Professor Maydianne Andrade, to advance its mandate in 2024-2025.

A member commented that the minutes of the April 24, 2024, meeting regarding the Equity Committee, note that the Committee will also focus on possibilities for diverse student recruitment. Another member thanked the Committee for its important work and stressed that more work is needed in preventing and addressing anti-Black racism, and other forms of oppression, in all areas at OISE. Relatedly, a question regarding the University's work on civil discourse was raised. The Dean responded that Professor Randy Boyagoda was appointed the inaugural Provostial Advisor on Civil Discourse to support the University in fostering an environment in which robust dialogue, academic curiosity, and civil engagement on difficult questions can thrive, that there are multiple opportunities through which community members from across the University can engage with this initiative, and that OISE will be closely following this work.

- C. Research** – On behalf of Prof. Jeffrey Ansloos, Chair of the Research Committee, who was absent from the meeting, Professor Michele Peterson-Badali, Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation provided the committee report.

Prof. Peterson-Badali reported that, at its first meeting held on October 9, 2024, the Committee elected Professor Ansloos as Chair for 2024-2025. In addition to reviewing its mandate, the Committee discussed ways to enhance its work including mapping onto OISE's emerging academic plan. This may include supporting collaboration between research centres, building capacity for integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations within research projects; facilitating conversations on conducting ethical research above and beyond the institutional requirements (e.g. considering alternative processes for Indigenous research ethics); building capacity for engaging in equitable research partnerships with organizations in the global south; enhancing departmental support for postgraduate awards administration; supporting transitions from graduate studies into research experiences such as providing support to doctoral students on applying for postdocs; working with other Committees of Councils (e.g. Equity) on research and equity. Best practices for centering communities in strategic research planning, and continuing conversations regarding open access were also discussed. Relatedly, it was noted that Jenaya Webb, Director of OISE Library, will talk about OISE's Open Access Guidelines at an upcoming meeting.

A question was raised regarding the possible collaboration with universities in the global south and what that might entail. It was explained that this was a suggestion by a committee member aimed at establishing guidance on how to approach those relationships in an equitable and reciprocal manner.

6. OISE Council: Orientation and Discussion

Biljana Cuckovic, Secretary of OISE Council, and Professor Doug McDougall, provided an orientation regarding the work of OISE Council. An overview of the Council's mandate, composition, organization, nominations and elections, and duties of members was provided. The meeting process including motions, discussions, and voting was described with a brief reflection on the distinction between the administration and governance, and how they support the governance process at the Institute. Professor McDougall spoke about OISE and the university governance and reflected on his extensive experience as a 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 and the Academic Board.

Following the presentation, a member thanked Professor McDougall and Biljana Cuckovic for an informative session. Another member commented that information provided was valuable from the perspective of a new associate Chair in the department. A question was raised regarding the rationale for the *ex-officio*, non-voting status of the Graduate Students Association (GSA) President within the membership of Council; especially, considering that this was highlighted as an issue by most students who participated in the GSA student experience survey as recorded in the minutes of the previous meeting. It was explained that this arrangement has been longstanding and is aligned with the proposed structure and norms set by the University of Toronto for divisional councils. It was further noted that proposing a change to this would entail initiating the process of reviewing the Constitution and By-laws, which is something that the Institute engages in on a cyclical basis and requires the establishment of a special committee on constitutional revisions with representatives of all constituencies. OISE Constitution was last reviewed and amended in 2018-2019, at which time no concerns were realised regarding this. A member commented that they would be willing to help move this change forward in the next cycle of review of OISE Constitution. Another member noted that graduate students' voices are represented on the Executive – the agenda setting committee of Council, and that this kind of change is initiated via the Executive. Related to this, it was highlighted that for the past two years, the GSA President serves as a student representative on the Executive. Another question was raised regarding Bourinot's Rules of Order and the possibility of departing from these traditional rules. It was explained that the reference to these rules is also included in the Constitution; however, that these rules are used in cases in which they are applicable to our institutional context and when they are not inconsistent with any special rules adopted by the Council, which were highlighted as part of the orientation session.

7. Adjournment

The formal part of the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. and transitioned into a reception for members and guests of Council.