

## OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the OISE COUNCIL meeting held on **December 18, 2024**, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

**Present:** Prof. Erica N. Walker (Dean), Prof. Mary Reid (Chair), Prof. Carly Manion (Vice-Chair), Prof. Qui Alexander, Prof. Jeffrey Ansloos, Prof. Anne-Claude Bedard, Mackenzie Blanchett, Prof. Andrew B. Campbell, Prof. Charles Chen, Prof. Jody Chong, Prof. Todd Cunningham, Prof. Lisa Dack, Prof. Claudia Diaz Rios, Emily Dobrich, Julia Duncan, Prof. Sameena Eido, Barnabas Emenogu, Jasmine El-Hacha, Prof. Laurie Faith, Prof. Beyhan Farhadi, Prof. Joseph Flessa, Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Jesse Genereux, Prof. Jen Gilbert, Prof. Abby Goldstein, Dr. Sheldon Grabke, Merva Hutchinson, Prof. Linda Iwenofu, Prof. Grace Karram Stephenson, Dr. Jacqueline Karsemeyer, Prof. Michelle Lui, Prof. Amal Madibbo, Denise Makovac, Prof. Hentjeta Mece, Victoria Parlatore, Aytaj Pashayeva, Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali, Prof. Angela Pyle, Prof. Creso Sá, Latifa Soliman, Joshua Spencer, AV Verhaeghe, Prof. Stephanie Waterman, Jenaya Webb, Michaela Young

**Guests:** Rushain Abbasi, Allison Andres, Tess Barclay, Michael Berg, Lara Cartmale, Omar Elfarseisi, Nadia Hersi, Josie Lalonde, Prof. Francine Meanashy, Leah Scherk, Dr. Jesse Sims, Kanza Tariq, Alexander Vesuna

**Regrets:** Malak Almuzaini, Prof. Joshua Barker (Dean of SGS), Prof. Kathy Bickmore, Prof. Alexandre Cavalcante, Indrani Chakraborty, Simran Gauba, Prof. Meric Gertler (President), Helen Huang, Prof. Jennifer Jenkins, Noah Khan, Irene Kibor, Prof. Ann Lopez, Prof. Kimberley MacKinnon, Prof. Alexandra Makos, Alanna McKnight, Meagan Muscat, Dr. Soudeh Oladi Ghadikolaei, Prof. Denise Paneduro, Deborah Peart, Indira Quintasi Orosco, Prof. Shakina Rajendram, Fatema Rashed, Dr. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone, Dr. Mara Reich, Jeananne Robertson, Joseph Rotich, Ahmet Su, Prof. Miglena Todorova, Prof. Marcelo Vieta, Brandon Wells, Yuze Yang, Prof. Trevor Young (Provost), Prof. Terezia Zoric

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

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### *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 October 30, 2024, meeting of OISE Council were approved with the addition of a new sentence in the second paragraph under the “OISE Council Orientation and Discussion” item. The added sentence reads: “A member commented that they would be willing to help move this change forward in the next cycle of review of OISE Constitution.”

#### **3. Chair’s Report**

The Chair reported on the Executive Committee meeting held on December 9, 2024, at which the agenda and materials for the Council meeting were approved, and the Committee welcomed its newly elected members.

#### 4. Dean's Report

Dean Walker reported on recent international trips including the Global Network of Deans of Education Symposium in Austria in September 2024, and the OISE delegation visit to Hong Kong, Singapore, and China in late November 2024. The purpose of the Asia trip was to connect with alumni, potential donors, partners, and friends in this part of the world. OISE hosted three well attended alumni receptions in Hong Kong, Singapore and Beijing. A range of interests for potential collaboration were highlighted from dual degree programs, renewal of Memoranda of Understanding with partner institutions, enhancing research networking, professional development, as well as expanding existing department and program specific connections. The Dean thanked OISE delegation members, Professor Abby Goldstein, Chair of the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development (APHD); Professor Joseph Flessa, Associate Dean, Programs; Helen Huang, Chief Administrative Officer; and Sim Kapoor, Director of Advancement and External Relations for their contributions to the success of the trip. Professor Earl Woodruff, former Chair of the Department of APHD, and Professor Creso Sá, Vice Dean, were also acknowledged for earlier visits to Asia that helped to enhance existing and develop new connections.

An update on the academic planning was provided. The process commenced with a broad consultation phase that took place in the winter and spring term of 2024 and led to the creation of the academic planning framework. In addition to the refreshed vision for OISE, the framework includes the core themes, the initial intentions and possible objectives for each of the core themes, as well as the guiding principles that permeate all work at OISE. Since the beginning of November 2024, the academic planning framework has been circulating within OISE departments, units and affinity groups, where colleagues are engaging in discussions regarding the framework and how will they contribute to realizing shared goals and objectives. The Dean noted that feedback emerging from these conversations will inform the finalization of the academic plan. She noted that feedback is welcome by the end of the term and that it can be submitted via the OISE Planning generic email account. The Dean thanked all members of the OISE community for their continued participation and contributions to the planning process.

Turning to awards, the Dean highlighted that the call for nominations for OISE's Teaching Excellence Awards is open until January 31, 2025, and invited members to consider nominating OISE faculty members undertaking innovative activities in teaching. She then reported on two recent awards, including Professor Njoki Wane of the Department of Social Justice Education who received the Renaissance Award from Afro Global Television for contributions to improving the lives of people of African descent; and Louis Busch, doctoral candidate in the Adult Education and Community Development program, who won the 2024 Talent Award from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

The Dean reported that five searches were underway for new tenure stream faculty members including for three assistant professors in the areas of Indigenous studies in education, digital technologies in education, and school and clinical child psychology, as well as for two associate professors in the areas of K-12 educational leadership, and queer studies and social justice education. The advertisements for these opportunities can be found on the "Working at OISE" and the University of Toronto careers web pages. The searches close between January 13 to 23, 2025, and members were invited to promote these opportunities within their networks. The Dean thanked everyone supporting the searches, whether as a search committee member, support staff, or helping to promote them.

The Dean reminded members that Professor Michele Peterson-Badali's second term as Associate Dean, Research, International and Innovation ends on June 30, 2025, and that an advisory committee was established to advise her on the appointment of a new associate dean. The committee welcomes nominations, expressions of interest, and comments on potential candidates from the community, which should be submitted by January 10, 2025. The Dean thanked Professor Peterson-Badali for her exemplary service and contributions over the course of her term.

In closing, the Dean welcomed new staff members in the Indigenous Education Network, Michael Berg and Lisa Maracle, acknowledged students, faculty and staff for their commitment and continued contributions to OISE's success, and wished everyone a joyful holiday season.

A student member thanked the Dean for her report and raised a question regarding the possibility of creating awards to celebrate student achievements in addition to the existing University of Toronto student leadership award, and the OISE Graduate Students Association Muriel Fung Student Appreciation Award. A few additional existing student awards were mentioned by members including OISE's annual Leithwood Award for outstanding thesis, and the School of Graduate Studies awards such as those that aid students in the final stages of their program<sup>1</sup>.

## 5. Reports from Standing Committees

- A. Academic Programs** – On behalf of Prof. Carly Manion, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee who could not attend the November 28, 2024, meeting, Professor Henrjeta Mece, Vice-Chair of the Committee, reported on the proposals approved at that meeting including two minor program changes and one new course.

*For information: minor changes to existing programs*

- Higher Education Leadership Field offered within the Higher Education Master of Education (MEd) program was renamed to “Higher Education Leadership and Administration” to better reflect the field's academic focus.

*For information: new courses*

- CTL1123H Educational Research and Knowledge Production in Comparative, International and Development Contexts

- B. Equity** – Professor Andrew B. Campbell, Chair of the Equity Committee, reported on the Committee's discussions at the meeting held on November 26, 2024.

Professor Campbell reported on two upcoming events that the Committee will bring to the OISE community. These included the Brave Conversations speaker series, which will be held on January 13 and 14, 2025 featuring six faculty members who focus on equity in their scholarship; and the third annual Equity Symposium, which will be held on April 9, 2025. In closing, Professor Campbell acknowledged all Equity Committee members for their contributions to the work of the Committee during the fall term.

Given the importance of the Equity Committee's work for many in the broader education community, a question was raised whether the two events will be open to individuals beyond OISE such as alumni. Professor Campbell responded that this suggestion will be brought back to the Committee to be considered as part of the Committee's overall communications and outreach strategy.

- C. Research** – Prof. Jeffrey Ansloos, Chair of the Research Committee reported on the Committee's discussions at the meeting held on November 20, 2024.

Professor Ansloos commenced his report by thanking Professor Peterson-Badali for providing the Research Committee report at the previous Council meeting on his behalf as he was absent due to travel. At the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Committee reviewed and discussed the draft academic planning framework with an emphasis on the research theme. Professor Ansloos shared a few points of feedback stating that the full report will be sent to the Dean's office by the end of the term. While the Committee members valued the plan's focus on transformative work, they also highlighted some areas for further

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/awards-category/completion-awards/>

refinement to ensure the plan reflects OISE's distinctive research culture and contributions. Specifically, the Committee encouraged a clearer articulation of the distinction between research and teaching acknowledging the context of research that is occurring both at OISE and in broader communities ensuring that critical community-based research practices continue to be supported. They also noted the importance of the national and international research funding contexts, and OISE's role as a leading public institute of education research. In closing, Professor Ansloos noted that at the next meeting, the Committee will review OISE's Statement on Open Access, discuss resources to support faculty research, and explore creating subcommittees to focus on areas that build on OISE's research capacity.

A question was raised whether the Committee will consider internationalization in the context of its work as it is closely linked to research. Professor Ansloos responded that at the previous meeting, the Committee was oriented to the Research, International and Innovation portfolio and discussed its role in this context. Members agreed that the conception of international research partnerships needs to be more equitable and reciprocal including more equitable grant structures and funding opportunities. Given that the Committee is open to exploring opportunities beyond its governance mandate, a working group may be established to delve more deeply into this matter including how both internationalization and equity considerations are applied in research development. This and other initiatives will be considered in light of ongoing priorities that the Research Office supports.

## **6. Other Items**

A student guest in attendance, who also attended the previous Equity Committee meeting, requested a wider consultation—beyond the Committee membership, regarding the conversion of the washroom on the tenth floor into an all-gender washroom. It was noted that all users of the space should be included in this consultation especially given the three well publicized sexual assault incidents against women in washrooms on the St. George campus. Professor Campbell, Chair of the Equity Committee, clarified that at the previous meeting, Helen Huang, Chief Administrative Officer, informed members that the community wide consultation regarding the washroom project will be forthcoming in 2025. Therefore, this plan was reported to the Committee for information, and did not constitute the consultation, which will occur in the winter term. Another member thanked Professor Campbell for a heads up regarding the upcoming community consultation and noted that it would be important to ensure that trans and nonbinary members of the OISE community are also included in the consultation; many of whom do not have a choice concerning washrooms to use, which is a work safety issue. It was further noted that the remark regarding sexual violence was unfair as it is suggested that all-gender washrooms invoke this violence, which is not true since the issue of men perpetuating violence against women is unrelated to the gender designation of washrooms. Another member commented that, pending consultation, it would be helpful to post information about the available gender-neutral washrooms in the building for community members to use. The Dean thanked Professor Campbell for the clarification and Council members who participated in this discussion for their thoughtful feedback and perspectives, which will be considered as part of the consultation process.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.