

OISE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OISE COUNCIL, held on February 24, 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
Prof. Nina Bascia
Ms. Asmita Bhutani Vij
Prof. Clare Brett
Prof. Elizabeth Buckner
Prof. Carol Campbell
Ms. Lara Cartmale
Prof. Charles Chen
Mr. Alfredo Chow
Prof. Anne Marie Chudleigh
Dr. Valerie Damasco
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
Mr. Varun Malik
Dr. Carly Mackinnon
Prof. Rhonda Martinussen
Ms. Henrjeta Mece
Prof. David Montemurro
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1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

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

2. Opening Remarks

Prior to proceeding with the agenda, the Chair welcomed members and guests to the third meeting of OISE Council in 2020-2021, and

Related to awards and honours, the Dean reported that a number of strong nominations were received for OISE's Teaching Awards. The Teaching Awards Selection Committee is reviewing the nominations and is expected to select and announce the winners in early March of 2020. The nominations submission deadline for OISE's Staff Excellence Awards is March 5, 2021. The new Cultivating Community Award recognizes the achievements of staff, student and faculty members who have undertaken positive actions to influence and improve a sense of belonging, inclusivity and community. The virtual awards celebration is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 beginning at 2:00 p.m. Given that last year's celebration was cancelled due to the pandemic, both this year's and last year's winners and honourees will be acknowledged at the upcoming virtual celebration.

Following the Dean's report and related to the temporary teaching certificate, Professor Normand Labrie, Associate Dean, Programs, noted that the Master of Teaching (MT) and the Master of Arts in Child Study and Education (MA-CSE) program faculty and the Office of the Registrar and Student Services have done tremendous work to comply with the expectations from the Ontario College of Teachers. He added that more than 200 MT and MA-CSE teacher candidates have applied for the certificate and will be able to get paid as teachers during their practice teaching.

A question was raised regarding the status of the Muriel Fung Award that has been awarded each year during the Graduate Students Research Conference. The award has been administered by the OISE Graduate Students Association (GSA). The Dean responded that, given that OISE GSA was inactive, he will look into the status of that award.

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 January 22, 2021, which included six minor modifications to existing programs, and thirteen new courses.

For Information: Minor Modifications Proposals: Changes to Existing Programs

- Counselling & Clinical Psychology, Clinical & Counselling Psychology Field – MA
- Curriculum & Pedagogy, Field in Online Teaching – MEd
- Developmental Psychology and Education, Program Evaluation Emphasis – MEd
- Educational Leadership and Policy – MA
- Educational Leadership and Policy (MRP) – MEd
- Educational Leadership and Policy – MEd

For Information: Minor Modifications Proposals: New Courses

- APD1212H Basics to Program Evaluation in Social Sciences
- CTL1225H Mathematics Education: Linking Research and Practice
- CTL1615H Introduction to AI in Education
- CTL1616H Blended Learning: Issues and Applications
- CTL1617H Social Media & Education
- CTL1620H Foundations of Online Teaching and Learning
- CTL1621H Design and Development of Online Content, Media, and Artifacts
- CTL1622H Data Gathering and Assessment in Online Courses
- CTL1623H Immersive Technology in Education
- CTL1624H Instructional Design: Beyond the Lecture
- CTL1625H Digital Media and Practices for a Knowledge Society
- CTL3038H Play, Language and Literacy in Primary Classrooms
- CTL3039H Academic English Research & Acquisition

- B. Equity** – Professor Emmanuelle Le Pichon-Vorstman, Chair of the Equity Committee reported on the Committee’s discussions at the meeting held on February 9, 2021.

Professor Le Pichon-Vorstman reported that the Committee met on February 9, 2021 and discussed events including the Black Faculty in Conversation held on February 10, 2021, and the Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office seminar that will take place on March 9, 2021. It was further noted that planning for the brown bag session on creating equitable classrooms in collaboration with the Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation was underway. The Black Faculty in Conversation event was a huge success with well over 200 participants. The recording of the event was made available to the community.

- C. Research** – There was no report from the Research Committee.

7. OISE Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

The Dean reminded members that the climate action initiative, including plans for OISE’s first Climate Action Summit, were discussed at an OISE Council meeting well over a year ago. Following the Climate Action Summit held in January 2020, there was a number of planning, research and development activities including the establishment of the Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC). The CAAC developed a vision statement on sustainability and climate action for OISE, as well as the Institute’s first Sustainability and Climate Action Plan.

Dr. Hilary Inwood highlighted that the Plan will be launched at a community event on February 25, 2021 and that it is available for download. Well over a hundred community members registered to attend the event. Dr. Inwood noted that the CAAC and OISE leadership see the plan as a way to engage the whole OISE community in this work. She highlighted OISE CAO Helen Huang’s work on greening the OISE spaces as part of the lobby renovation project, specifically the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt covenant, and the living wall feature that have strong links to land-based education and sustainability.

8. OISE Student Collective Survey on Covid-19 Supports Offered During the Fall

Student representatives on OISE Council Diana Barrero, Asmita Bhutani Vij, and Ian Liujia Tian presented findings from the student-led survey on Covid-19 supports offered at OISE during the fall term of 2020. The goal of the survey was to gauge the impact of the pandemic on OISE students, identify service gaps and convey student views and needs to the administration. Participation in the survey was voluntary and anonymous, and the findings were based on 82 responses. The survey findings were supplemented by the former OISE GSA’s Survey on Accessibility, the Toronto Science Policy Network’s Survey on the Early Impact of Covid-19 on Graduate Students across Canada, and by the OISE Review 2020-2021 Self-study Draft. The survey revealed the need for accessible supports in the form of bursaries, extensions and increased academic employment. Given the current situation, both students and faculty are trying their best to meet the needs and respond to the issues; however, the scarcity of available resources creates additional difficulties.

Regarding financial supports (e.g., tuition waivers, emergency grants, OISE bursary program), while the majority of students did not apply for it, those who did were dissatisfied with both the process and support that they received. Students also noted the lack of information on how to access financial support such as emergency bursaries, and that the eligibility criteria at OISE appeared to be more stringent than at other faculties. Additionally, students who were eligible for Graduate Assistantships reported that the income they were receiving from these opportunities was not sufficient to cover living expenses. For PhD students, research and academic employment opportunities are important both in terms of financial support and professional experience. As per the OISE Review 2020-21 draft Self-study, Graduate Assistantships and Teaching Assistantships have been decreasing over the past five years. The degree

progress and time to completion, is hindered for students with caregiver responsibilities, and clear and accessible information regarding degree/program extensions is lacking. Additionally, some students experienced delays in getting responses from staff, which increased stress and anxiety. Regarding

Students noted that they have been engaged in these discussions since the beginning of the pandemic. They noted that they will continue to advocate for improvements including, for example, the review of the process and criteria for tuition fee waivers that appear to be more stringent at OISE and are excluding many students. The Dean explained that this program has been administered in different ways across the University in part because the requirements are discipline-specific, and students in some programs have not been able to benefit from it in the initial four-month phase of the pandemic. Additionally, the program is not funded by the School of Graduate Studies, and the divisions have been asked to fund it and develop their own policies. Each term OISE makes additional students eligible for this arrangement, and while the program is not perfect, it will continue to be reviewed and improved.

A recommendation was made by a student in attendance to follow the example of the 2016 OISE GSA Student Experience Survey, results of which presented at two community wide meetings. The development and rollout of this survey was supported by the Office of Associate Dean, Programs.

A question was raised regarding how the administration will respond to the issues raised by the students. The Dean explained that, in addition to the Student Collective survey, the data from other surveys such as the SGS Pulse survey are indicating similar issues. The academic leadership is listening and will continue to engage in resolving these issues through, for example, OISE's Professional Master's Financial Aid fund that is addressing unmet student needs uncovered during the OSAP applications process. This needs-based funding was increased over the last year. The Dean thanked the students for engaging in this important initiative and acknowledged that student feedback is always helpful; however, some of the initiatives to support OISE students are ongoing and will take time to resolve.

9. Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, Professor Janzen thanked members and guests for their attendance and contributions at the meeting, and reminded them that the next meeting of Council is scheduled for April 28, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.