

**OISE COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OISE COUNCIL, held on April 15, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

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**Present:**

Prof. Glen Jones, Dean

Prof. Ann Lopez

**1. Opening Remarks**

The Vice-Chair of Council, Professor Ann Lopez, welcomed members and guest to the fourth and final Council meeting in 2019-2020, the first in history taking place online using Zoom videoconferencing platform. She then provided an overview of the Participation Guidelines, which were distributed in advance of the meeting highlighting speaking and voting procedures for the online format.

**2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Land**

The land acknowledgement statement was read.

**3. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

**4. Review and Approval of the**

THAT the establishment of the Special Committee on Teaching Awards be APPROVED effective immediately.

**6.**

The Dean thanked Professor Lopez for chairing the first virtual meeting of Council, and began his report by acknowledging the challenging and unprecedented situation caused by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic due to which the schools were closed, the University ceased all in-person classes, and moved its critical operations online. He commended OISE faculty and staff on their flexibility and quick transition to online classes and to working remotely in support of student needs. A number of divisional support units have stepped up to develop a plethora of resources for teaching, learning and working online. For example, the Education Commons launched a series of training sessions on teaching and running meetings using Zoom—video conferencing platform. They also launched a new ticket system to assist community members with technical issues. The Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning developed and published a new website Teaching and Learning Online with resources including one-on-one support and mentorship for online teaching. The Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development developed a suite of resources on managing stress and anxiety during crisis. Many others, including students, swiftly found new ways to engage and connect with others in the community using technology. Several other online initiatives were highlighted including OISE Wellness online programs, and the new OISE Stay at Home Club developed by the Office of Alumni and External Relations.

The Dean highlighted that, at the time of uncertainty, effective and frequent communication is critical to ensure community members continue to be informed and that they feel included and engaged. The University leadership including Principals and Deans are meeting biweekly, as are OISE Deans and Chairs. The Deans' Office has stepped up communications with the weekly update message from the Dean and the weekly Newsletter entitled: "Inside OISE @Home Edition".

Turning to Awards and Honours, the Dean highlighted that OISE Professor Carol Rolheiser won the Vivek Goel Faculty Citizenship Award for outstanding service at the University of Toronto. The recipients of OISE's Teaching Excellence Award were also announced including Professor Ann Lopez, Vice-Chair of Council, who won the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Teaching; Instructor Sameena Eidoo, the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Initial Teacher Education; Robin Persad, course facilitator, the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Continuing and Professional Learning; and Professor Tara Goldstein, the winner of the David E. Hunt Award for Excellence in Graduate Education. Professor Goldstein was recently appointed as Vice-Principal at New College and will begin her five-year term on July 1, 2020. OISE's administrative staff who have been recognized as the recipients of the 2019-2020 Staff Excellence Awards were also acknowledged including Neil Tinker, Andrew Chiang, Michele Pon, Anna Mozharova and Natalie Neuman Butler.

The Dean concluded his report by thanking members of the community for their resilience, patience, flexibility and continued hard work during the time of health crisis. He noted that the University will continue to follow guidance and advice from public health authorities regarding physical distancing and other measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, which may continue to impact the University operations over the course of the summer and, possibly into the fall term.

**7. Reports from Standing Committees**

- A. Academic Programs** – Professor Joseph Flessa, Chair of the Academic Programs Committee, reported on the Committee's proposals approved at the meeting held on March 6, 2020, which included six new courses.



**C. Research** – Professor Lance McCreedy, Chair of the Research Standing Committee presented the Committee’s motions from the meeting held on April 1, 2020.

◁ **For Approval:**

- **Establishment of the Indigenous Educational Research Centre IERC (EDU: C)**

With the national spotlight on ‘reconciliation’ and with education seen as a critical site for reconciliatory efforts, the IERC (EDU:C) is a multi-disciplinary unit designed to foster Indigenous resurgence and strengthen an Indigenous presence in research within Indigenous educational research contexts. The Centre will be a nexus for fostering Indigenous educational research both across OISE, in the wider non-academic community, and in international scholarly contexts. It will provide key space for Indigenous specific research across OISE where Indigenous faculty and students can meet, work on research projects, and engage in critical conversations about their work in a culturally aligned safe space designed to foster Indigenous ethics of relationality. The creation of the centre is in direct alignment with OISE’s commitment to Indigenous education—one of the focusing themes in the OISE Academic Plan. Following extensive internal and external consultations, the proposal for the establishment of the Centre was review by the Provostial Advisory Group at the meeting held on March 11, 2020. The proposal was also approved by the Research Standing Committee at the meeting held on April 1, 2020.

On a motion duly moved, seconded and carried, IT WAS RESOLVED,

THAT the establishment of the Indigenous Educational Research Centre (EDU: C) be APPROVED effective April 15, 2020.

- **Disestablishment of the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development (EDU: C)**

The FMIHD is an EDU: C with OISE, the Faculty of Medicine, the University of Toronto Mississauga listed as active collaborating divisions. The FMIHD establishment was approved by all three divisional councils in 2011-2012. The Dean’s Offices of all three active collaborating units have collaborated in the process of the development of the FMIHD closure proposal and are in favor of the closure. The Dean’s Offices of the associate collaborating units (the Faculty of Arts and Science, and the University of Toronto Scarborough) have been informed regarding the closure. The Division of University Advance-1000030046>10004F5005200coll004F5003(a)-10(1)5(lt)5( t)nterbor2 0 1 90.025 3n dods19 re4C56orU: C)

restrictions. It was explained that the University is continuing to plan very carefully taking into account advice from public health officials and that one of the possibilities certainly is that classes may continue to be delivered online during the fall term, which will allow all, including international students to begin their studies as anticipated.

Mr. Justin Holloway, staff representative, asked why are managers and staff at OISE being permitted to access the OISE building to do nonessential work while the public health officials are asking the public to stay at home to prevent the spread of COVID-19. He added that there are staff who are paying out of pocket to buy supplies to enable them to work from home, and asked why the senior administration does not offer financial support and reimbursements to all staff for the reasonable cost they incurred during the