

**OISE COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OISE COUNCIL, held on February 23, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom

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**Present:**

Prof. Normand Labrie, Interim  
Dean  
Prof. Katharine Janzen, Chair

Ms. Rushain Abbasi  
Mr. David Allens  
Ms. Sezen Atacan  
Ms. Kerri Bailey  
Ms. Vesna Bajic  
Prof. Abigail Bakan  
Ms. Diana Barrero  
Ms. Asmita Bhutani Vij  
Prof. Clare Brett  
Ms. Samantha Burns  
Ms. Missy Chareka  
Prof. Charles Chen  
Ms. Jennifer Cho  
Prof. Anne Marie Chudleigh

**Guests:**

Ms. Lynne Alexandrova  
Ms. Tess Barclay  
Ms. Ai-ri Brown  
Ms. Lara Cartmale

**Regrets:**

Ms. Maha Babeker  
Prof. Nina Bascia  
Prof. Joshua Barker  
Prof. Megan Boler  
Prof. Jennifer Brant  
Prof. Kathy Broad, Vice-Chair  
Prof. Yiola Cleovoulou  
Prof. Daniel Corral

Dr. Valerie Damasco  
Ms. Alison D’Cruz  
Ms. Monique Flaccavento  
Dr. Sheldon Grabke  
Mr. Justin Holloway  
Ms. Helen Huang  
Dr. Hilary Inwood  
Prof. Kaja Jasinska  
Ms. Alison Jefferson  
Mr. Perry King  
Prof. Emmanuelle Le Pichon-  
Vorstman  
Dr. Carly Manion  
Prof. Rhonda Martinussen  
Prof. Douglas McDougall  
Prof. David Montemurro  
Prof. Sarfaroz Niyozov  
Prof. Michele Peterson-Badali  
Prof. Angela Pyle

Ms. Mindy Harris  
Ms. Sim Kapoor  
Prof. Evelyn Kipkosgei  
Ms. Jessica Lovett  
Prof. Ann Lopez

Ms. Julia Duncan  
Prof. Diane Farmer  
Prof. Rubén Gaztambide-  
Fernández  
Prof. Meric Gertler  
Prof. Kang Lee  
Ms. Christine Lowe  
Mr. Varun Malik  
Dr. Kenneth McNeilly  
Prof. Roy Moodley

Ms. Jeananne Robertson  
Prof. Creso Sá  
Dr. Gurpreet Sahmbi  
Ms. Huda Salha  
Mr. Said Sidani  
Mr. Ian Liujia Tian  
Prof. Njoki Wane  
Mr. Desmond Wong  
Prof. Earl Woodruff  
Ms. Zian Zhang

Ms. Biljana Cuckovic, Secretary  
of OISE Council

**Secretariat:**

Ms. Lisa Smith  
Ms. Jennifer Tucker  
Mr. Doug Ullrich

Prof. Amal Madibbo  
Ms. Denise Makovac  
Ms. Henrjeta Mece  
Ms. Mai Naji

Dr. Elisabeth Rees-Johnstone  
Prof. Cheryl Regehr  
Dr. Jesse Sims  
Mr. Henry Ssali  
Mr. Matt Stodolak  
Prof. Miglena Todorova  
Dr. Lesley Wilton  
Ms. Yun Zhan  
Prof. Terezia Zoric

*Acknowledgement of Traditional Land*

The Chair, Professor Katharine Janzen, commenced the meeting by reading the land acknowledgement.

**1. Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the third meeting of OISE Council in 2021-2022, and



online platform. The incident was immediately reported to the Provost's Office, Community Safety Office, Campus Police, and Toronto Police. As a result, the Education Commons established a protocol and issued guidelines to increase security of Zoom platform.

Turning to awards, honours and fundraising, the Dean reminded members that nominations for OISE's Staff Excellence Awards are open until early March. Owing to the hard work of Ms. Sim Kapoor, Director of Advancement and External Relations, and her team, a good progress was made in fundraising for new scholarships and awards. Since the last Council meeting, over \$100,000 was received in donations.

In closing his report, the Dean addressed several issues raised at the previous meeting. Regarding the request for the creation of a generic email account for student members of OISE Council, it was explained that, at the University of Toronto, this service is available to faculty and staff only, and students cannot open a generic email account, or shared mailbox, on their own. In case of recognized student groups or associations, the faculty and staff responsible for these groups initiate the creation of a generic email account and request permission for access to students while maintaining ownership of the account. Relatedly, as per the *University Policy on Official Correspondence with Students*, the University has the right and responsibility to provide the infrastructure, such as listservs, to make official communications available to students electronically.

Related to the funding provided to the former OISE Graduate Students Association (GSA), this year, the Dean's Office distributed these funds to the departments for the accredited departmental student associations. There is a carry forward of about \$20,000 in the GSA account, which will remain in the account until the establishment of a new accredited association of OISE graduate students.

Related to Ms. Diana Barerro's comment at the previous meeting that graduate students are being asked to perform duties of Teaching Assistants without being properly compensated, the Dean commented that this was initially understood to be concerning Graduate Assistants (GAs). He noted that instructions to faculty regarding creating GA positions are clear and define GAs as students engaged in research activities who are not permitted to perform teaching-related, nor administrative tasks. Given that that Ms. Barrero clarified her comment, the Dean's Office will investigate any specific reports of volunteer work of graduate students.

***For Information: Approval of the Not-for-Credit Certificate Program: Continuing Education:***

***Enabling Life***

The Dean responded that return to in-person activities is being considered in light of the need to protect the health and safety of the community, while making adequate pedagogical decisions for teaching and learning. These decisions are academic in nature and are being made collegially at the level of programs. In September 2021, a survey of OISE students was conducted regarding their experiences in online classes, and their interest for future offerings—either in-person or online, which generated data for future planning. Related to student groups, the Dean mentioned that the *University Policy on Recognition of Student Groups* outlines responsibilities and procedures that must be met for a student group to be recognized. He then invited Ms. Helen Hung, CAO, to respond to the question regarding the building. Ms. Huang noted that the issue of air quality is important, and is a frequent topic of discussion at the Joint Health and Safety Committee. The University has a website dedicated to strategies for managing indoor air quality. Most of rooms at OISE meet the standard of a hospital waiting room where air circulates six times per hour. For those rooms that do not meet this standard, the University will install an air purifiers. Regarding masks, the University procured some medical-level masks to provide to those community members who, for any reason such as supply chain disruptions or equity issues, are unable to obtain them. These can be picked up at the Robarts Library. OISE also procured a small amount of N95 masks for emergency use for students who may need them for practica in case the placement sites are unable to provide them.

Mr. Justin Holloway thanked the Dean for his responses to concerns raised at the previous meeting noting that it is odd that OISE Council is unable to generate an official email address for its student members, and that he believed that Council should have the power to do so. Related to the GSA funding, the students heard that this funding was distributed to the departments for the departmental student associations; however, the students have requested the actual proof of this. The former GSA provided many supports such as conference funding, which students have not been receiving since the start of the pandemic. According to the website, funding applications for conferences that occurred in May 2020 are still being processed. Related to the February 7, 2022 incident, Mr. Holloway characterized it as a “violent hate crime”, asked why it was not reported to the Joint Health Support



created a brief survey to conduct an environmental scan of equity-related programs, initiatives, and events across OISE's departments, centres, and units. The scan aims to provide an opportunity for sharing (not evaluating) information about best practices along with enhancing communication. The second Committee-sponsored event