

**Innis College Council
312th Meeting
Monday 9 April 2018 at 1 pm
Innis Residence Events Room**

Minutes

Present: Yolanda Alfaro, Ibraheem Aziz, Kass Banning, Ennis Blentic (assessor), Donald Boere (assessor), Sarah Burley Hollows, Cameron Clairmont (assessor), Joel Colby, Corinn Columpar, Jason Daye (guest), Sharon English, Allie Hayes, Kate Johnson, Charlie Keil, Miranda Lees, Daniel Li (guest), Alice Liu, Eyan Logan, Varun Malik, Troy Peschke, Tony Pi, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Lesli Ransom, Ashlee Redmond, David Roberts (designate of Shauna Brail), Bella Rogal, Archana Sridhar (guest), Meredith Strong (guest), Marta Switzer, Bart Testa, Joanne Uyede (speaker), Ben Weststrate (secretary), Caroline Wrobel

Regrets: Elspeth Arbow, Shauna Brail, Rita Chen, Jannie Chien, Zakerie Farah, Helen Fu, Lucas Granger, Michael La Rosa, Hugh MacDonald, Roger Riendeau, Lukas van Arragon, Ethan Wong, Tim Worgan (assessor), Carol Ye, Joe Yule

1. SPEAKER'S REMARKS

Joanne Uyede chaired the meeting.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 28 FEBRUARY 2018

A Motion to approve the [Minutes of the previous meeting](#) was moved (Lees), seconded (Ransom), and carried.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None reported

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Charlie Keil shared the good news that Elspeth Arbow, ICC student speaker, recently underwent a successful lung transplant. She is in recovery and can now receive visitors. Members can share well wishes by email. On Elspeth's behalf, Principal Keil advised everyone to sign their donor cards.

Congratulations to Writing & Rhetoric faculty member Cynthia Messenger, who was recently re-elected as UTFA president. Cynthia's term lasts until June 30, 2020.

The Urban Studies Program has completed its Contractually Limited Term Appointment (CLTA) hiring process for a new instructor. Aditi Mehta will be coming to Innis College from MIT and will begin her two-year contract on July 1, 2018.

Congratulations to the following seven Innis College recipients of the 2018 Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award: Elspeth Arbow, Graham Coulter, Miranda Lees, Jacob Lorinc, Teodora Pasca, Jennifer Su, and Andy Yang. For future applicants, Principal Keil noted that eligible fourth-year students can be nominated through their college (to a max. of 5 nominees) or central channels (e.g., Hart House, Arts & Science, university-wide). The Innis Cressy Award Committee seeks to nominate students with greater college-based involvement,

allowing central divisions to nominate additional Innis students whose leadership is more relevant to/rooted there. For example, Jacob Lorinc, *Varsity* editor, was a central university nominee. This strategy allows the College to maximize the number of Innis-affiliated recipients.

Congratulations to Innis student Anthony Johnson, who was a recipient of a 2018 Student Engagement in the Arts Award.

Innis College Renovation Capital Project Update:

Since the last Council meeting, working concept designs were presented to the University's Community Liaison Committee and Design Review Committee. A second town hall forum for all Innis College staff and students took place on April 5, 2018.

The *concept design and feasibility study* phase of the project continues at the anticipated rate. The architects are developing a sufficiently detailed plan for costing and fundraising purposes. We hope to receive provostial approval of this concept design and feasibility proposal within one month. Ideally, these preliminary design schematics will closely resemble the ultimate architectural plans for the sake of expeditiousness.

Of the two iterations that the architects initially proposed, we are confident that we must proceed with the "heritage-retention" option. This decision will have minimal impact on the building program, and the College has implored the architects to retain student-centric space as much as possible. It is notable that the plans not only increase net student space (i.e., square footage), but also the range and number of spaces for students to use.

Principal Keil clarified that the College is not expected to raise the full cost of the project itself. University College, which is currently undergoing a facility renovation, raised an unusually high 50% from donors. 30% is customary. There are other sources at the University to supplement local donor contribution.

The Spectatorial:

Principal Keil shared that the College will be provisionally sponsoring the student-run journal *The Spectatorial* at the behest of Writing and Rhetoric Director Sharon English.

English explained that she received an appeal by the editor, himself a Writing and Rhetoric Program student. This annual, student-run publication focusses on speculative and non-fiction writing. English endorses the proposal on the basis that: it is the sole journal lacking a permanent home at the University; contributions are regularly made by Writing and Rhetoric Program students; Innis College is currently without a journal of its own (given the now defunct nature of the *Innis Review*); and *The Spectatorial* is high quality.

A condition of Principal Keil's endorsement is that the relationship between journal and College/program be explicitly formalized (e.g., inclusion of College in masthead). Production costs are relatively low, and he would like to explore the possibility of the ICSS eventually adopting it.

Burley Hollows noted that the Office of Student Life is happy to facilitate CCR accreditation.

5. DISCUSSION: FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Principal Keil introduced two special guests to Council. Archana Sridhar, assistant provost, and Meredith Strong, director, Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and Student Policy Advisor were invited to speak to the issue of free speech.

Sridhar and Strong introduced Council to a recently launched free speech website, <http://freespeech.utoronto.ca/>. The Provost's Office worked with U of T equity officers to review existing policies and statements and sought to make them more accessible to the university community. Formerly, conversations re freedom of speech involved pointing to policies and documents hidden within Governing Council's website. The new resource includes FAQs based upon some of the more contentious topics that have arisen at the University, with an emphasis on event-related issues.

Sridhar noted that discrepancies between Canadian and American legal contexts create misunderstandings for American faculty. The relevant Constitutional Amendment in the USA is more definitive, it applies to the individual, and there is no hate-speech based clause that restricts the right to freedom of speech. Alternatively, in Ontario and Canada there are hate speech laws. In the next phase of development, the free speech website will include historical context for this discussion. The University focusses less upon this legal context and more upon fostering free speech in general.

Banning inquired about the relationship between academic freedom and freedom of expression. Sridhar clarified that the University perceives academic freedom as advancing the development of knowledge. That is primarily governed by the [University of Toronto Faculty Association Memorandum of Agreement](#). Freedom of expression, on the other hand, is a community-wide issue.

Uyede inquired about university protocols to manage situations in which disruptions (e.g., event protests) arise. Strong described the best practice policy is to allow for the maximum amount of debate, to a point. A Chair has the right to recess a meeting, based upon a determination as to whether free speech is still able to take place. Customarily, recessing does occur and meetings are resumed at another time and place. Sridhar noted that event organizers can meet with Strong, in advance, to plan how to make space for dissenting opinions or protests. Strong added that the solution is often about making space for both sides.

Ramkhalawansingh inquired about policies for staff and faculty, who feel threatened or discriminated against, and whether an annual report of sanctions is produced (i.e., an indication of the current climate on the issue). Sridhar pointed to University anti-discrimination policies on the free speech website. Sanctions are considered on a case-by-case basis, involving mediation—as per a policy held by the Department of Human Resource & Equity. The University's goal is to answer feelings of silencing with more expression. Strong noted that issues addressed through the [Code of Student Conduct](#) are reported annually to Governing Council. Sridhar added that issues addressed through the equity code are not formalized into such a report. She will convey this recommendation to Simcoe Hall.

Burley Hollows inquired about resources for those experiencing hate speech, hateful, or hurtful speech—distinctions that surface often in Office of Student Life activities. Strong pointed to [university equity offices](#); the [Community Safety Office](#); campus police (for imminent safety concerns); and college deans of students. Sridhar recommended creating opportunities (e.g., fora, groups) to talk about the distinctions between hateful and hurtful speech.

Keil advised negotiating such issues at the lowest level first (i.e., attempt to find compromise), and he

impressed that a positive outcome will be a commitment to more conversation. Keil concluded the discussion with a recommendation to visit [the free speech website](#) to further understand the scope of the University's action, and he thanked the guests for coming.

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Academic Affairs

Sharon English noted that the Board has not met since the last ICC meeting. There was nothing to report.

B. College Affairs

Kate Johnson reported the following highlights from an April 6, 2018 meeting of the Board.

[Click here to view the Minutes.](#)

- The IT Helpdesk pilot was successful, and the College will continue to fund it.
- The Innis Library is open for extended hours (10 am – 9 pm) through the exam period (i.e., April 6 – 29), including on weekends.
- Both services will offer work-study positions throughout the summer. Work-study applications open on Friday, April 13, 2018.

C. Community Affairs

Marta Switzer reported the following highlights from a board meeting on March 22, 2018:

[Click here to view the Minutes.](#)

- *Mentorship*: The fourth cycle of the alumni mentorship program is near completion, having just hosted the wrap-up reception on April 5, 2018.
- *Past events*: Four Canadian Film Forum (CFF) instalments were hosted at the College this term, as well as two Urban Studies events. Based on a demographic analysis of event registrations, we find that 50% of U of T alumni registrants are 55+ years old; 30% are between 35-54; and the remaining 20% are under 35. This pattern of lower young-audience registration extends to students as well. The Board discussed opportunities to increase student event engagement, including promotional and programmatic considerations. Principal Keil added that two of the featured CFF directors fell under the age of 35.
- *Upcoming events*: Two summer reunions are scheduled: Class of 1968 50th anniversary reunion on June 1, 2018; and a general reunion BBQ on July 7, 2018 with a special honour of the Class of 1993, celebrating the 25th anniversary of their graduation.
- *Harold Innis Foundation*: A Board meeting is scheduled for later this day. The Foundation has confirmed author Charlotte Gray for the 2018 Harold Innis Lecture on November 8.

D. Student Affairs

Lesli Ransom reported the following highlights from a board meeting on March 2, 2018.

[Click here to view the Minutes.](#)

Student Services Committee:

The purchase of one mobile charging station was approved for student use in the Commuter Lounge. Annual funding for works of student art, selected by the Art Committee, was approved for the next two years. The recently selected works are on display in the north hallway and the library. A call for submissions for the fall 2018 exhibition will go out soon.

Recruitment, Admissions, and Awards Committee (RAAC):

The Committee voted to disband the Bursary Subcommittee, and to transfer power to the registrar. The rationale for this decision is that, in practice, the Subcommittee was more of a formality and unnecessary time commitment, which effectively slowed down the bursary adjudication process. The Subcommittee has always approves requests, which the Registrar's Office itself vets and presents.

New Award Records:

On behalf of the Board, Assistant Principal & Registrar Donald Boere reported that four new student award records were approved by RAAC and the Student Affairs Board, successively. The records now require ICC endorsement before they can be instituted by Enrolment Services. Boere and Blentic summarized the proposed records for Council.

- Innis Admission Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples (currently an expendable fund)
- Robert Patrick Student Initiative Award (endowed fund)
- Roger Riendeau Award in Writing & Rhetoric (currently expendable)
- Russell Canada Prize (endowed fund)

A discussion of the most recently developed award, *Innis Admission Scholarship for Indigenous Peoples*, ensued. The award, initiated by an Innis College and Cinema Studies alumna, follows the aims of the [Report of the Steering Committee for the University of Toronto Response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#) (TRC). The number of recipients varies, year to year, based on the number of Indigenous incoming students. Until the fund is sufficiently endowed, an expendable component of the fund will pay out students.

Boere clarified that Indigenous students self-identify when applying through the OUAC system. Financial need is not an award condition as Indigenous students have access to other, external sources of funding. Furthermore, few of Innis's admission scholarships serve as a recruitment "tipping point" for prospective students.

Keil added that the TRC aims, more broadly, to increase Indigenous participation at the University—by supporting more examples for prospective students to aspire to, presumably across a range of socio-economic levels.

A Motion to endorse these four award records for Enrolment Services authorization was moved (Ramkhalawansingh), seconded (Lees), and carried.

Office of Student Life:

Sarah Burley Hollows reported that the *IN2U Transitions* day on April 7, 2018 was highly successful and saw an unprecedented turnout of Innis student leaders. The ICSS orientation coordinators are hired, and planning discussions have commenced. The Innis Residence Events Room is now open as a 24-hour student study space throughout the exam period. Burley Hollows and Sonja Smiljanic, residence life coordinator, will present at two conference this summer on the topic of gender inclusive housing and women in student services.

Innis College Student Society:

Yolanda Alfaro thanked the ICSS Elections Committee for a successful March 21-22, 2018 general election. The election results are as follows:

- President: Brandon Liu
- Executive VP: Sarah Chocano

- VP, internal: Nancy Zhao
- VP, finance: Janielle Palmer
- Social directors: Effie Fai Yun Liang, Paul Kaita
- Athletics directors: Lydia Ng, Meghan Lees
- Equity and outreach directors: Michelle Zhang, Megan Pham-Quan
- Off-campus representative: Breanne Lima Martinez
- Grad representatives: Caroline Wrobel, Elizabeth Weber

Jerricho Allick and Isheeta Chakrabarti were also hired as orientation coordinators.

Innis Residence Council:

Miranda Less reported the following IRC and senior house representative election results:

- President: Daniel Li
- Vice-president: Andrew Zhao
- Treasurer: Katharina Vrolijk
- Secretary: Paxton Wong
- Social convener: Josie Meza-Silva
- Ads and publicity director: Julie Huynh
- Senior house representatives: Keleila Handleman-Kerman, Claire Hsuing, Evelyn Kodis, Becky Mai, Megan Pham-Quan, Gabriel Tjong

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

A. Election of Council Secretary for 2018/19

As per Section 8.A of the ICC Constitution, which reads, "A Secretary shall be elected by Council at its final regular meeting of the academic year," Uyede invited nominations for Secretary.

A Motion to acclaim Ben Weststrate as secretary for the 2018/19 governance cycle was moved (Ramkhalawansingh), seconded (Boere), and carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Redmond inquired about the process of proposing constitutional amendments. Weststrate invited all members to suggest constitution and by-law changes to him by email. The next opportunity to initiate an amendment process will be when the Executive Committee reconvenes in fall 2018.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Alfaro), seconded (English), and carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.