Innis College Council
314th Meeting
Wednesday 5 December 2018 at 4 pm
Innis Residence Events Room

Minutes

Present: Dan Adleman (designate of Roger Riendeau), Elspeth Arbow, Ennis Blentic (assessor), Donald Boere (assessor), James Cahill, Jannie Chien, Corinn Columpar, Sharon English, Dianthi Fernando, Lucas Granger, Didier Ha, Joyce Hahn (assessor), Amal Ismail-Ladak (designate of Rita Chen), Kate Johnson, Charlie Keil, Ethan Kim, Stephanie Kroone, Daniel Li, Brandon Liu, Annie Liu, Steve Masse (assessor), Merle McMurray, Tony Pi, Daniela Pirraglia, Jean-Luc Pullano, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Ashlee Redmond, Samuel Reimer, David Roberts, Tyler Schilz, Bart Testa, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Paxton Wong, Caroline Wrobel, Andrew Zhao

Regrets: Sarah Burley Hollows, Rita Chen, Sarah Chocano, Andrew Choi, Varun Malik, Janielle Palmer, Roslin Pan, Roger Riendeau, Ishan Sharma, Joanne Uyede, Nancy Zhao

1. SPEAKER’S REMARKS

Ashlee Redmond chaired the meeting. She advised Council members to look for an email in the new year asking for winter term availability. The third ICC meeting is expected to take place during the week of February 25 (i.e., post-Reading Week) and the fourth and final meeting in early April.

Redmond welcomed nine new student representatives, who were elected to Council at special by-elections after the last ICC meeting, as well as new principal’s appointee Elspeth Arbow.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 1 OCTOBER 2018

A Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting was moved (Ramkhalawansingh), seconded (Granger), and carried.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None reported

4. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Principal Charlie Keil reported the following:

Business services coordinator Varun Malik has left Innis College for a position at OISE.

First-Year Foundations pilot at Innis College: Keil, who co-chairs the A&S First-Year Foundations Council, tentatively announced that the Faculty is amending its approach to undergraduate education. Each first-year student will be mandated to complete a half credit in a small-class setting. This will build upon the existing college “Ones” course offerings and involve re-patriating the 199
(seminar) courses back to the respective departments. The Foundations Council suggested that an A&S college pilot the initiative. In consultation with the registrar, Principal Keil intends to signal Innis’s willingness to take part—though nothing is finalized. Keil invited questions from Council.

Upon Roberts’ inquiry, Keil clarified that the pilot would involve all first-year Innis students. These students would need to demonstrate they are enrolled in a course that qualifies. A selection of available Innis-based courses would be presented to them, in addition to the existing 199-style courses, for the pilot year. Granger inquired about the criteria for determining which courses would qualify. This is not yet resolved.

Wrobel asked: In the scenario in which a student drops their first-year course, would they be allowed/forced to take it in an upper-year? Boere speculated that there would have to be an opt-out clause for some students, in some specific circumstances—rather than being forced to take the course at an upper-year of study. Keil noted that there would be amendments to the “Level of Credits” A&S degree requirement—i.e., the limit of 6.0 FCEs at the 100-level would be lifted.

Pi inquired about the logistics of physically accommodating this influx of courses, in light of the challenges with the new ACE booking practice. Keil clarified that there is a wish for these courses to be offered in the physical vicinity of the College, yet it would be infeasible to house them all within the College itself.

Masse inquired about the alignment of these course offerings with other subject matter priorities being discussed at the University (i.e., Indigenous peoples).

Granger inquired about the possibility of the CR/NCR designation. Boere clarified that prevailing policy for small-class experience courses disallows CR/NCR.

Boere added that the College would require financial support to host the digital content (i.e., information for students) associated with this pilot.

Redmond asked what mechanisms are in place to solicit direct feedback from students. Keil noted that each College has a student representative on the Council. Innis’s representative is Daria Mancino.

Revitalisation and expansion project:
The College is currently searching for an architectural firm for the “design and development phase” of the project. The University’s process requires that we open up the bid to other firms at this stage—it does not reflect dissatisfaction with the previous firm, Montgomery Sisam.

Discussions with the ICSS president and executive VP, Brandon and Sarah, regarding a student levy are ongoing (see Student Affairs Board Report, below).

A committee of ~25 student ambassadors is being assembled and will meet on Friday, December 7. The committee represents the full spectrum of students. Ambassadors will act as the “student face”
of the project. Keil hopes that the enthusiasm that he senses among the student population will spread by virtue of having this team of ambassadors.

5. BOARD REPORTS

A. Academic Affairs
Board moderator Sharon English reported the following highlights from an October 12 meeting. [Click here to view the Minutes.]

- The Board reviewed enrolment stats and was satisfied.
- Writing and Rhetoric and CSI proposed no major amendments to course or program descriptions.
- The Board discussed and approved revisions to the Urban Studies program description.
- CSI is searching for a tenure-track faculty member.
- The College Library and Writing Centre are as busy as ever. There is a long waitlist for the latter, and the Principal approved funding to increase instructional hours.

B. College Affairs
Board moderator Kate Johnson reported the following highlights from a November 27 meeting.

- There is a new digital display screen in the Residence Events Room, with a FOB that wirelessly connects it to personal laptops.
- The Residence lobby renewal project is impending. A student advisory group will be struck in January. Interested members can contact Dean Steve Masse.
- The College Library is looking to purchase furniture to increase student working space, given the high demand.
- The IT Helpdesk has extended its hours this term: Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm (considering 5pm).
- A wayfinding and accessibility subcommittee will be struck by the Board in the winter term. Interested members should contact Kate Johnson.

C. Community Affairs
Redmond noted that, as this Board does not meet until December 10, there is nothing to report.

Keil shared that the 2018 Refugee Student Benefit Concert will be on Friday, December 7. The talent is 90% Innis-based (e.g., students, staff). The event is primarily directed to Later Life Learning (LLL) members, but is open to the public. Student attendance is especially encouraged, and students need not feel obliged to give the suggested $20 donation. LLL President Merle McMurray added that the inaugural concert in 2017 was a huge success.

D. Student Affairs
Board moderator Lucas Granger reported the following highlights from a November 29 meeting. [Click here to view the Minutes.]
• A slate of new awards are coming to Innis College students, and will be adjudicated by RAAC in the spring. This includes the Robert Patrick Student Initiative Award and the Russell Canada Prize.

• A proposal to re-constitute the Art Committee, which was formerly under the Student Affairs Board, will be presented at the next Community Affairs Board.

ICSS Report: President Brandon Liu reported the following highlights of the student society:

• Constitutional amendments were approved at a recent Annual General Meeting: added a first-year representative to the council; removed the option for orientation coordinators to join council, following orientation week (consistent with other colleges); currently working to get CCR accreditation for College-based club leaders.

• The Annual Formal is tentatively scheduled for March 8, 2019

• The Executive has made it a priority to fill every ICSS council position next year—in the interests of making it as inclusive as possible.

• The Executive is currently supporting the student ambassador team for the College’s revitalisation/expansion project, and are looking to secure a new student levy to assist with funding. The broader goal of the levy is to demonstrate student participation in the funding of the project, thereby communicating to donors that students care about—and are literally invested in—their space.

Keil echoed the symbolic importance of student support for such a project, as expressed in the form of a levy. This is critical to incentivize prospective donors from outside of the College community.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Redmond noted that the Committee has not yet met, given the timing of Board meetings (i.e., two moderators have just been elected; one will not be until Monday).

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Upcoming events:

Blentic noted the following upcoming events at the College:

• Dec 7: Innis College Refugee Student Fund Benefit Concert

• Jan 24: Screening of “The Woman Who Loves Giraffes” with Dr. Anne Innis Dagg

• Jan 31: Screening of “Octavio Is Dead!” with filmmaker Sook-Yin Lee

• Feb 14: Screening of “Brown Girl Begins” with filmmaker and Innis alumna Sharon Lewis, as part of Black Futures Month

• Mar 28: Lecture by Innis alumnus Phil Howard of the Oxford Internet Institute on the effects of social media on global democracies

B. Social media bracket tournament:

Arbow proudly reported that an online community of U of T students held a bracket-style tournament to vote upon the “best college at U of T.” After a dramatic tournament (bots included),
Innis “finally won.” Arbow presented a trophy to commemorate the victory, which should appear in the trophy case of the 2 Sussex east atrium lobby.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Granger), seconded (Johnson), and carried. The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.