Innis College Council
317th Meeting
Wednesday 2 October 2019 at 11 am
Innis Residence Events Room

Minutes

Present: Ennis Blentic (assessor), Sarah Burley Hollows, James Cahill, Jannie Chien, Kimlin Chin, Grace Choi, Lauren Cramer, Lucas Granger, Joyce Hahn (assessor), Alexandra Hu, Kate Johnson, Paul Kaita, Charlie Keil, Daniel Li, Annie Liu, Eyan Logan, Daria Mancino, Mynt Marsellus, Steve Masse (assessor), Merle McMurray, Josie Meza-Silva, Mukti Patel, Tony Pi, Daniela Pirraglia, Ashlee Redmond, Noel Simpson, Bart Testa, Joanne Uyede, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Jeffrey Ye, Nancy Zhao, Andrew Zhao

Regrets: Aliza Aziz Lakho, Donald Boere (assessor), Shauna Brail, Winston Chan, Mira Chow, Sharon English, Angelica Fenner, Didier Ha, Janielle Palmer, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Carol Ye, Louisa You

1. SPEAKER’S REMARKS

Ashlee Redmond, 2018-19 student speaker, welcomed everyone to the start of another governance cycle.

2. INTRODUCTION OF PRINCIPAL’S APPOINTEES

Principal Keil introduced his five appointees.

- **Jannie Chien**, Innis College program coordinator and alumna (HBA 2017)
- **Tony Pi**, Cinema Studies Institute graduate program assistant
- **Ceta Ramkhalawansingh**, Harold
- Innis Foundation (HIF) president and long-time friend of Innis College, who worked at City Hall for three decades, focusing on diversity and human rights
- **Ashlee Redmond**, Innis College advancement assistant and alumna (HBA 2019)
- **Joanne Uyede**: Innis alumna (HBA 1969), HIF board member, Campaign Cabinet member, and former Innis representative on the College of Electors

3. ELECTION OF SPEAKERS

Redmond invited nominations for both council speaker roles (i.e., representing “students” and “others”).

For the role of student speaker, Principal Keil nominated A. Zhao; Granger nominated himself. After remarks from each candidate, the Council voted to elect Zhao as the speaker representing students.

Redmond nominated Uyede for non-student speaker. There were no other nominations. A motion to elect Uyede as the speaker representing other members was moved (Redmond) and carried.
Uyede agreed to chair the first meeting.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Redmond inquired about the status of the Pre-Arrival Orientation proposal for incoming students in China. Masse confirmed that, after extensive discussion with a key stakeholder in Shanghai, the initiative was deemed infeasible at this time. First-year students were surveyed to gauge interest. The Faculty of Arts & Science (A&S) currently host comparable events in China, and Innis hopes to work more closely with them.

6. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

   A. Staffing updates

Administrative:
- Tyler Schilz left the residence life coordinator role on July 15 to become the student services coordinator at the Faculty of Music. Anica Dang took over on July 22 in the (revised) position of assistant dean—residence life.
- Jordan MacQuarrie left the assistant dean—admissions and operations role on Aug. 29, after three years at Innis. He is now at University College. Recent graduate Maddie Freedman is acting in this role until the position is formally filled.
- On Sept. 3, acting front-line advisor Jannie Chien was hired to the newly created college program coordinator position. Tony Pi's role was concurrently revised to exclusively focus on the CSI graduate program.
- In the Advancement Office, Ashlee Redmond has been the advancement assistant since May 17, and Jimmy Vuong began yesterday in the new role of alumni and development officer.

Teaching:

   Cinema Studies Institute
- Lauren Cramer was hired as an assistant professor, coming from Pace University.
- Scott Richmond was promoted to associate professor (i.e., tenured).
- Nic Sammond was promoted to full professor.
- New and returning sessionals: Jason Anderson, Nick Fernandes (PhD student), Daniel McFadden (PhD), Mike Menghetti, Adam Nayman, Elizabeth Wijaya, and Magda Yuksel (PhD)

   Urban Studies Program
- Shauna Brail returned from sabbatical and resumed the program director position.
- David Roberts, having achieved rank of associate professor, teaching stream, is on a Research and Study Leave this academic year.
- New and returning sessionals: Zahra Ebrahim, Kofi Hope (Innis alumnus), Kate Nelischer,
Emily Paradis, Shalini Sharma, and Laura Visan

- **Returning adjunct:** David Hulchanski (OISE)

**Innis One Program**

- **Returning sessionals:** Simon Lewsen, Shawn Micallef, and Adam Nayman

**Writing and Rhetoric**

- Roger Riedeau, now retired, returned to teach one course.

**Writing Centre**

- Becky Vogan was awarded a 2018/19 Margaret Procter Award for Excellence in Writing Instruction.

**First-Year Foundations**

- Past principal Janet Paterson is instructing the FYF course “Hoboes, Geniuses and Immigrants: Otherness in Contemporary Culture.” This is the sole Innis-based course in the program (12 others from elsewhere in A&S).

**B. FYF pilot update**

Principal Keil summarized the pilot program and reported that the majority of courses are filled to capacity though not all are filled by Innis students. Metrics to assess the pilot are being developed by A&S with the College. Donald Boere is presently attending such a meeting. We will need to determine why some courses were more popular (i.e., filled by Innis students) than others, and how effective the communications/roll-out of the program was for incoming students. The ultimate goal is to implement this pilot as a mandatory, faculty-wide program, whereby colleges are the home bases for all FYF courses.

**C. Renewal and Expansion update**

Project architects have been continuously updating the building plans. While “endless revising” is typical of such projects, we are now at the Design Development Phase (i.e., the “nitty gritty”). CAO Joyce Hahn and Principal Keil attended a costing meeting yesterday, and learned that the project’s costing is at level “C” (“A” is good to proceed). Costing and design resolution advance in tandem.

We are presently working toward a January deadline in the University’s Capital Projects and Space Allocation Committee (CaPS) meeting cycle, after which plans for the first phase—demolition of the Victorian House—can be developed. Should we not meet this deadline, we will have to wait for the April 2020 session.

Given summer event programming and September Orientation, the goal is to retain use of the Innis Green during the early demotion phases. Planning for the relocation of current West Wing occupants is imminent though everyone at the College, even in the Residence, will be affected to some extent.

Hahn thanked the College community for participating in the most recent round of design consultations (i.e., students; staff and faculty; student resource centre/student life), which generated a great deal of specific, valuable input.
Principal Keil thanked students Didier Ha and Megan Pham-Quan for encouraging student involvement in the consultation process.

The Campaign Cabinet will hold a second meeting on October 8. This is the group of alumni and friends of the College responsible for advising on fundraising efforts.

7. INTRODUCTION OF BOARDS

Because boards do not meet until after this first general council meeting, there were no reports to deliver. Instead, representative from each of last year’s boards described its activities and scope.

Uyede reminded members to join boards and committees on the following website: alumni.innis.utoronto.ca/icc/boards.

A. Academic Affairs
Weststrate described the functions and scope of the board, and noted the upcoming meeting on October 8, 2019.

B. College Affairs
Previous moderator Johnson described the Board and its two constituent committees: Accessibility and Residence.

C. Community Affairs
Weststrate described the Board.

D. Student Affairs
Previous member Redmond described the Board and its constituent committees: Co-Curricular Record Local Evaluation; Recruitment, Admissions, and Awards; and Student Services.

8. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
No report delivered.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Appointment of chief investigating and chief hearing officers for 2019/20
Principal Keil noted the re-appointment of Steve Masse as chief investigating officer (re Student Code of Conduct) for 2019/20.

A motion to appoint Donald Boere as chief hearing officer for 2019/20 was moved (Keil), seconded (A. Zhao), and carried.

B. Student Choice Initiative update:
Masse described the outcomes from the “Student Choice Initiative” (i.e., mandatory choice to opt
out of non-essential student fees), which show great variation across the different fees at Innis College. He will work with students to determine how to best communicate the importance of these fees for the winter term opt-out deadline (November).

- Orientation - 9%; ICSS - ~23% (catch-all for CINSSU, Herald, WUSC, etc.); IRC - 19%; Student Services Fees - 19%
- Campus average - ~23%

Pirraglia observed that the total value of non-essential fees for an upper-year student is $165, which is minor compared to the total incidental fee value.

Keil noted that fees with less obvious purposes are more likely to be elected out of. He encouraged the College community to better communicate the consequences of specific opt-outs.

Burley Hollows reported receiving feedback from students about the length of the opt-out period. U of T students have a relatively long time (November 1 to January 20) — the longest of any Ontario university. Student society presidents will be meeting with the Office of the Vice Provost, Students, next week to discuss this matter.

C. Student mental health issues:
Principal Keil acknowledged a recent student suicide on campus, which has redoubled desire to address student mental health issues and how the University is equipped to respond to them.

Masse expressed remorse for the tragedy and encouraged the College community to work toward increasing our capacity to connect with and support students who may experience mental health issues. He recalled the Student Mental Health Forum, which was reported upon at the last ICC meeting, and the three specific goals that emerged. The College has been working with students to advance these goals. Efforts include: Residence-wide peer-led workshops to de-stigmatize mental health issues and build awareness of resources; a Mental Health Certificate Program; and a SafeTalk session on October 25, open to the entire Innis community. Masse added that the Office of Student Life is very open to hearing additional ideas from the community.

Liu described the desire for a mental health director position on the ICSS that emerged from the student forum. A position description was developed over the summer with a mandate that includes advocacy and innovation (i.e., develop and support local initiatives and programs). The decision has been made to forgo the elected ICSS position in favour of a hired role, through the Innis OSL.

Masse added that the rationale for this decision was, in part, to have a more robust vetting process for the hiring (versus popular vote via general election). He clarified that the position is not intended as a therapist, but someone who is very aware of available resources.

Pi cautioned that, should the position be hired through the work-study (WS) program, the periods of greatest need (i.e., exams) would likely occur outside of the timeframe of the WS program.
Hu suggested that the new position have a commuter student focus, given that the Residence don team already does much of this support work for student residents. Masse acknowledged the success of the don team as a peer-support model, but noted that advocacy is a distinct need that has been brought forth by the student community.

Simpson offered, given his career experience in community mental health, to contribute directly to the discussion. He stressed the importance of the College community collectively adopting a vernacular around mental health awareness and human connection—that is, creating a state of community that acknowledges mental health.

Principal Keil called for the entire Innis community to be aware of students who may feel isolated. He implored faculty members to connect students in their courses with local services (e.g., OSL, Registrar’s Office), and—at the very least—form a human connection with any student who may feel isolated.

10. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Testa), seconded (Cahill), and carried. The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.