



Innis College

Innis College Council

320th Meeting

Friday, October 16, 2020 at 10 am

Minutes

Present: Yona Anderson, Srijita Banerjee, Lauren Cramer, Ennis Blentic (assessor), Donald Boere (assessor), James Cahill, Jannie Chien, Madi Frost, Lucas Granger, Joyce Hahn, Tony Hu, Kate Johnson, Paul Kaita, Charlie Keil, Binseong Kim, Steph Kroone, Claudia Li Tang, Breanna Lima Martinez, Ella Ma, Steve Masse (assessor), Josie Meza-Silva, Miriam Moren, Mukti Patel, Emma Paulus, Tony Pi, Amisha Punja, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, David Roberts, Nicole Rodriguez, Rolla Tahir, Bart Testa, Kenny Trinh, Joanne Uyede, Lina Yan, Carol Ye, Ben Weststrate (ICC secretary), Andrea Williams, Michelle Zhang

Regrets: Sharon English, Nancy Green, Annie Liu, Tony Niu, Noel Simpson

1. Speaker's Remarks

Weststrate, ICC secretary, initially chaired the meeting and spoke about the unique oversight and advisory role of governance at the University and the College.

2. Introduction of Principal's Appointees

Principal Keil Six introduced his six appointees:

1. **Jannie Chien:** program coordinator, Innis College; Innis alumna
2. **Tony Pi:** graduate program administrator, Cinema Studies Institute
3. **Ceta Ramkhalawansingh:** long-time friend of Innis College; instrumental in founding of Women & Gender Studies; president, Harold Innis Foundation (HIF); co-chair, Working Group on Black Student Experience at Innis College
4. **Rolla Tahir:** recently hired events coordinator, Innis Advancement Office; former Town Hall staff; Innis and Cinema Studies alumna
5. **Joanne Uyede:** co-chair, Renewal and Expansion campaign cabinet; Innis alumna; HIF board member; former Innis representative, College of Electors (Governing Council)
6. **Carol Ye:** student services advisor, Office of the Faculty Registrar; Innis alumna

3. Introduction of Members

All members present introduced themselves.

4. Election of Speakers

Weststrate called for nominations for ICC speaker representing non-students. Principal Keil nominated Uyede, who accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations.

A motion to acclaim Uyede as speaker was moved (Keil), seconded (Ramkhalawansingh), and carried.

Weststrate called for nominations for ICC speaker representing students. Paulus nominated Lima Martinez; Hu nominated Kaita; and Keil nominated Granger. All accepted their nominations. After brief remarks from each nominee, council voted to elect Lima Martinez as speaker.

Uyede agreed to chair the remainder of the first meeting.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Uyede noted that the last time council met was in February 2020, which was the third meeting of the year. Because of the COVID-19-related lockdown, the fourth meeting was held by the Executive Committee, in lieu. The outcomes of that meeting will be reported under section 9, below.

A motion to approve the [minutes of the previous meeting](#) was moved (Ceta), seconded (Granger) and carried.

6. Business arising from the Minutes

Keil updated council on the [Review of the Role of the Colleges on St. George Campus](#).

The [steering committee](#)'s purpose is to review reports from five working groups, most of which have not met due to COVID-19-related disruptions. The Recruitment, Admissions, and Enrolment Planning working group, of which Boere is a member, will meet for the final time later this day.

Based on working group input, the steering committee will produce a report. One aim is to reduce perceived inequities between colleges. This could bode well for Innis as we are a relatively under-resourced college.

7. Principal's Report

A. Staffing changes, updates, and awards

Administration:

- Provost's Office announced that **Keil has been reappointed as college principal** for a second term (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2026), including a one-year administrative leave.
- On March 9, **Miriam Moren** became financial services officer, a newly reworked position (previously at UTSC).
- On April 13, **Madi Frost** became assistant dean, Student Life (previously at New and

Woodsworth Colleges).

- On May 25, **Ryan McLean** began in the newly created finance and operations assistant role (previously at A&S and Facilities & Services); Ryan leaves the College on November 25 for an opportunity at A&S.
- On June 15, **Emily Harrison** began in the newly created residence operations coordinator role (previously at Chestnut Residence).
- On August 17, 2 Sussex caretaker **Lui Lim** was reassigned to another facility on campus and will be greatly missed.
- On September 7, **Rolla Tahir** became events coordinator in the Advancement Office, having previously worked for Innis Town Hall.

Cinema Studies Institute:

- **Lauren Cramer** and **Elizabeth Wijaya** both received 2020 Connaught New Researcher Awards.
- **Brian Jacobson** left to become professor of Visual Culture at the California Institute of Technology.
- New and returning sessionals: **Guy Maddin**, screenwriter-in-residence; **Kevin Chabot**; **Patrick Marshall**; **Mike Meneghetti** (Cinema Studies HBA alum); **Ganga Rudraiah**; **Kate Russell**; **Miriam Siegel**; **Ramtin Teymouri**; and **Jessica Whitehead** (postdoc)

Urban Studies Program:

- **Shauna Brail** began a new position on July 1 at UTM's Master of Urban Innovation Program. Shauna has been with Urban Studies for 15 years, mostly recently as program director.
- **David Roberts** has been appointed program director (a three-year term).
- Returning adjunct: **David Hulchanski** (Social Work)
- Returning sessionals: **Emily Paradis**, **Shalini Sharma**, and **Laura Visan**

Writing & Rhetoric Program:

- New sessional: **Roswell Spafford**—recipient of a 2020 Margaret Procter Award for Excellence in Writing Instruction
- New faculty: **Andrea Williams**, associate professor, teaching stream—recipient of a 2020 A&S Outstanding Teaching Award. Andrea was previously at A&S since 2011 spearheading the Writing-Integrated Teaching (WIT) program. Will begin instructing in Fall/Winter 2021/22.

Innis One:

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

B. Innis College Renewal and Expansion Update:

- An application for site plan approval was submitted to the City mid-summer and is now consideration. The process typically takes 12-16 months.
- The project was announced in [U of T News on October 2](#). This publicly signals the realization of this project.
- A Campaign Cabinet, co-chaired by Uyede, last convened on October 6. They are now discussing next steps.

Ramkhalawansingh commended the extent to which the College and project architects consulted with the neighbouring community (e.g., Huron-Sussex Residence Org.) and the sensitivity exhibited by the design.

C. New award announcement: Lesra Martin Student Changemaker Award

In mid-summer, Principal Keil began consulting with Black members of the college community, including outreach to key alumni. The College was seeking a more immediate action to respond to anti-Black racism at Innis. Through conversation with alumnus Lesra Martin, [this award](#) was established. It can be adjudicated this year.

D. Working Group on the Black Student Experience at Innis College

Keil reported that Ceta Ramkhalawansingh and Innis alumnus Jaren Kerr agreed to co-chair this new committee and were graciously joined by Lauren Cramer as a faculty representative. The balance of the group was comprised of Black students (5) and a Black alum (1). Input was received from additional students and college leadership.

Ramkhalawansingh reported that, through a series of three meetings, 24 broadly grouped recommendations were developed and [published in a report](#). They variously address the college, faculty, and university at large.

A lack of student scholarship and funding for Black students was an emergent theme, as was the important distinction between commuter and non-commuter students and the particular need to build community with racialized commuter students.

Thanks to Cramer for facilitating the meetings.

Cramer described how impressive the students who participated were, particularly given the emotional burden of the subject (i.e., based on personal experience).

Keil reinforced the exceptionally demanding nature of this process upon the students. Steve Masse has been appointed chair of an implementation group at the College. Masse will reach out to representatives of all implicated operational units at the College.

Principal Keil has sent the 24 recommendations to higher-level administrative units and other college principals. Each college is at a different stage in terms of consultation and implementation.

8. Board Reports

Uyede noted that Weststrate will circulate an online form asking members to sign up for at least one committee, after this meeting.

A. Academic Affairs

Michelle Zhang, newly elected board moderator reported the following highlights from an October 15 meeting (i.e., day prior):

- All programs doing well with respect to enrolment, in all cases Innis student enrolment has increased.
- Urban Studies is exploring a collaboration with City of Toronto and other institutions.
- The Board approved the new Writing & Rhetoric course proposal, Writing Literary Journalism, which should be offered Summer 2021.

9. Executive Committee

Uyede reported the following decisions made by the Executive Committee at an April 22, 2020 meeting, which was held in lieu of the scheduled ICC meeting due to COVID-19 restrictions.

- Ben Weststrate was re-elected secretary of council for 2020/21.
- Donald Boere, college registrar, was designated discretionary authority, while ICC was in recess over the summer, on decisions concerning the adjudication of awards and bursaries.

On July 22, the Executive approved, via email, the creation of the Lesra Martin Student Changemaker Award (see section 7.C), which received subsequent approval by Governing Council. This allowed for the adjudication of the award in Fall/Winter 2020/21.

10. Other Business

- **Student Code of Conduct**

Keil noted the re-appointment of Steve Masse as the College's chief investigating officer for 2020/21.

A motion to appoint Donald Boere as chief hearing officer for 2020/21 was moved (Keil), seconded (Ramkhalawansingh), and carried.

- Keil encouraged graduating students to considering applying for the [U of T Student Leadership Award \(formerly Cressy Award\)](#). The application deadline is November 20, 2020.
- Ramkhalawansingh added that the [2020 Harold Innis Lecture](#) will take place on Monday, November 9 at 7 pm with Jesse Wente (HBA '96 Innis, Cinema Studies)

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was moved (Uyede) and carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:41 am.