



Innis College

Innis College Council

321st Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2020 at 10 am

Minutes

Present: Srijita Banerjee, Ennis Blentic (assessor), Jannie Chien, Lauren Cramer, Sharon English, Madi Frost, Lucas Granger, Joyce Hahn (assessor), 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, Emma Paulus, Tony Pi, Amisha Punja, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, David Roberts, Noel Simpson, Joanne Uyede, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Andrea Williams, Lina Yan, Carol Ye, Michelle Zhang

Regrets: Yona Anderson, Donald Boere (assessor), James Cahill, Nancy Green, Elijah Tabi Gyansa, Annie Liu, Tony Niu, Mukti Patel, Nicole Rodriguez, Rolla Tahir, Bart Testa, Kenny Trinh

1. Speaker's Remarks

Lima-Martinez chaired the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A motion to approve the [minutes of the October 16, 2021 meeting](#) was moved (Lima-Martinez), seconded (Uyede), and carried.

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None reported

4. Principal's Report

A. Guest Speaker: Professor Joe Desloges, provostial advisor on Process Redesign of Mental Health Services

Principal Keil acknowledged that this is a stressful time of year for everyone and expressed remorse over a recent suicide on campus. He extended gratitude to the Registrar's and Student Life Offices for their support of students' mental health, and underscored the importance of staying connected, reading the signals, and offering support to one another.

Keil introduced Professor Desloges to speak to some of the many measures the University has

initiating to address student mental health. Desloges has been heavily involved in the implementation of the “process redesign” of mental health services.

Desloges congratulated everyone on navigating these difficult times and noted that a strength of the colleges is offering local access to support. He pointed to the [final report of the Presidential and Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health](#), which generated 21 recommendations based on extensive outreach to the university community. The Provost moved quickly to accept all recommendations and set up 40 action items around them. [See the Provost’s website that monitors progress](#) across five categories.

Desloges observed that many of the University’s efforts have been behind the scenes. He advised council not to expect “eureka” moments of change, but to trust that much work is happening and positive change will manifest over time.

Regarding the “Service Delivery and Coordination of Supports” category of action items (i.e., the one Desloges is directly involved with), they have found that the existing service-delivery model was not uniformly applied across the University. The recommended “stepped care” model of support is organized across levels (a.k.a., steps) of urgency, and is “student-centric, recovery-oriented, and measurement-based.” U of T has been coordinating with UBC, McGill, and UC Berkley—institutions that have already adopted this model.

Desloges opened the floor to questions from council.

Desloges clarified that consultation has been primarily with CAMH but will extend more broadly come January 21. Diversity and inclusion have been at the fore of all conversations.

Williams observed that the notion of “a culture of caring and excellence” is ephemeral and qualitative, making it difficult to measure and tangibly implement. Desloges specified that with respect to anxiety around the academic experience, there will be implications across the board (i.e., student, staff, and instructors). Implementation at the college-level will stem from leadership.

Ramkhalawansingh reported that, in her role as co-chair of the College’s Black Student Experience Working Group, she found that most students did not know about the resources available from the University. Outreach, therefore, needs to be granular and involve collaboration with student groups.

Desloges described [the new Student Mental Health Resources portal](#) as aiming to enhance student access (i.e., wayfinding) to resources. It does not address the model of care itself.

Noting that the portal is a student-centric, Roberts inquired about an analogous site for instructional staff who may struggle in keeping up to date on available resources to support students. Desloges acknowledged this outstanding need and indicated that work is being done

at the faculty level. Keil reinforced the importance for instructors, who operate as de facto frontline workers, to identify and refer their students.

Desloges invited council to email any further questions to him following the meeting.

Frost describes the Innis Office of Student Life's **Mental Health Skills Certificate** Program:

- 6 sessions from November 9-11, hosted by OSL under leadership of student-staff Tony Hu
- Goal to expand students' capacity to recognize mental health challenges in themselves and peers, identify available resources to support mental wellness, and reduce stigma related to mental health on campus
- 45 students participated

B. COVID-19 Impacts and Updates

The [President](#) and [Dean](#) recently announced a delayed start to the Winter term, for undergraduate students, and the provision of paid “wellness days” for staff-appointed employees. The timing of reading week remains unchanged, though the term end date is extended. [A message from Principal Keil](#), elaborating on implications at the College, was issued on November 25.

Hahn thanked everyone for their cooperation as the College has implemented operational changes in response to the pandemic. As of December 1, the college building was closed to the public (i.e., only those with keys can still access). This measure coincides with the provincially imposed 28-day lockdown. From December 23 to January 2, the University will be closed. This means that ventilation, climate control, and disinfection measures will be scaled back. If someone must access the building during this period, please contact Hahn to make a plan. In the meantime, anticipate and collect items that may be required during the shutdown.

Masse reported that the delayed term start does not affect residence re-opening. Over the break, residents who are unable to return home will be accommodated at [CampusOne](#), an affiliated residence, for a subsidized cost and meal plan. Professional staff support will be provided (e.g., from the CIE). To date, 14 Innis residents have registered to stay there. Operational changes at the residence include ceasing to host small-scale in-person events, closing some common areas, and implementing a booking system to access to study space.

C. Innis College Renewal and Expansion Update

We are in a “quiet” fundraising phase and are individually reaching out to prospective and past donors. This effort is led by Keil and Ennis Blentic, associate director—Advancement, with the support of the Campaign Cabinet, co-chaired by Joanne Uyede. We owe thanks to the many students who have lent their words, faces, and time to promoting this project. Student presence has been integral to our outreach as the Renewal is an expressly student-centric project.

D. Fall Graduation Recognition Ceremony

Innis's virtual graduation ceremony for Class of 2020 November graduates took place on Saturday, November 21, immediately after Convocation. 79 Innis graduates were recognized. Aliyah Ahaad (HBA '12 Innis), Bermuda's Brussels representative, delivered a keynote address. [The proceedings can be viewed on YouTube](#). Congratulations grads!

5. Board Reports

A. Academic Affairs

Board has not met since last council meeting

B. College Affairs

Kaita, board moderator, reported the following highlights of a November 26, 2020 meeting:

- Reduced Innis Residence numbers due to pandemic-related restrictions
- Several facilities upgrades to the Residence
- Innis Town Hall's audio-visual team has been actively supporting online events delivery, and the College has received very positive feedback from across the University.
- Website redevelopment progress continues steadily, expecting launch in second quarter 2021.
- Innis Café celebrated 20 years of services in September. Congratulations!

C. Student Affairs

Ma, board moderator, reported the following highlights of a November 26, 2020 meeting:

- ICSS reported student fee reductions, given scaled-back program delivery
- IRC reported changes to operating budget and event delivery
- Residence reported staffing and programming updates (e.g., Residence One)
- OSL reported new e-mentorship program, a revamped peer mentorship program, and a successful virtual orientation delivery (co-chaired by Lima Martinez)
- Registrar's Office reported that they are connecting with a comparable number of students to previous years, despite conversion to exclusively virtual/phone/email advising
- RAAC: Pivoted the process to adjudicate student awards in spring 2020; approved new award: Lesra Martin Student Changemaker Award
- SSC: Observed 19% opt-out rate from the Student Choice Initiative; approved series of expenditures, primarily to refurbish student spaces at the College

D. Community Affairs

Board will meet on December 10

6. Executive Committee

Nothing to report

7. Other Business

- Keil reported that three works by Indigenous filmmakers were screened for the **Canadian Film Forum** (CFF) this term. An aim of the CFF is to present a range of voices.
- Blentic described a series of potential, **Winter-term events**:
 - *American Woman* screening with CSI alumna Sarah Gadaon and Semi Chellas – January
 - *How to Pronounce Knife* book talk with Giller Prize-winning author Souvankham Thammavongsa, co-hosted by Writing & Rhetoric Program – March 4
 - *Funny Boy* screening with Deepa Mehta and Shyam Selvadurai - date TBD
 - Public talk with alumna and environmental activist [Tzeporah Berman](#) (BA '92 Innis) of Stand.Earth – date TBD
- Frost encouraged faculty and students to think about how **SafeTalk training** could be implemented at the College. Both Masse and Frost are SafeTalk trainers.
- Masse reported that a **Black Student Experience Implementation Group** will be meeting for the first time on December 15, with representatives from each of the College's operational units.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Lima Martinez) and carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.