Innis College Council
318th Meeting
Friday 6 December 2019 at 10 am
Innis Residence Events Room

Minutes

Present: Sarah Burley Hollows, James Cahill, Jannie Chien, Kimlin Chin, Lucas Granger, Didier Ha, Joyce Hahn (assessor), Paul Kaita, Charlie Keil, Daniel Li, Annie Liu, Daria Mancino, Steve Masse (assessor), Merle McMurray, Mukti Patel, Tony Pi, Daniela Pirraglia, Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, Ashlee Redmond, Bart Testa, Joanne Uyede, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Carol Ye, Louisa You, Andrew Zhao (speaker)

Regrets: Aliza Aziz Lakho, Ennis Blentic (assessor), Donald Boere (assessor), Maria Bon, Shauna Brail, Winston Chan, Grace Choi, Mira Chow, Lauren Cramer, Sharon English, Angelica Fenner, Alexandra Hu, Kate Johnson, Meghan Lees, Eyan Logan, Mynt Marsellus, Josie Meza-Silva, Noel Simpson, Jeffrey Ye, Nancy Zhao

1. SPEAKER’S REMARKS

Speaker Andrew Zhao invited Sarah Burley Hollows, assistant dean—Student Life, to speak about the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women (December 6).

Click here to view the remarks. Burley Hollows reflected on 1989 École Polytechnique massacre, when 14 women were murdered on the basis of their gender. She pointed to the continuing imperative, 30 years later, to educate on this issue and identified several on-campus resources addressing violence experienced by women, transgender women, and individuals from vulnerable populations.

Ramkhalawansingh noted the annual candlelight vigil at Philosopher’s Walk at 6 pm that day.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None reported

4. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

A. Staffing changes

- Jack McGrath joined the Innis Registrar’s Office as front-line advisor on November 4, 2019. Jack previously worked at Rotman Commerce, and takes over from Tammy Pecoskie, who
accepted a position at the Faculty of Law.

- **Jenny Owens** was hired as assistant dean—Admissions & Operations at the Innis Residence, beginning November 13, 2019. This position had been vacant since Jordan MacQuarrie’s departure. We thank Maddie Freedman for stepping in to fulfil the demands of the role in the interim.

### B. Review of the Role of the Colleges on St. George Campus

A comprehensive review of the college system is underway under the direction the vice-president & provost. This is a review of the system as a whole, not an evaluation of individual college performance. Five working groups were struck with representatives from each college. Principal Keil sits on the steering committee, and he will keep Council apprised of what transpires.

### C. New publications

New issues of the *Innis Herald* and *Innis Alumni & Friends Magazine* are available.

### 5. BOARD REPORTS

#### A. Academic Affairs

Board moderator Jannie Chien reported the following highlights from an October 8 meeting:

- **Cinema Studies Institute:** Two new courses in 2020/21: 1) First-Year Foundations (FYF) course entitled “Storyworlds” instructed by Bart Testa; 2) “Queer Cinema and Media” by Scott Richmond. A second FYF course proposal is in development.

- **Urban Studies:** Developing a course in partnership with Ryerson University and York University, in accordance with a university-wide push to expand experiential course offerings.

- **Writing & Rhetoric:** The inaugural (and well-attended) Franklin Lecture was held on October 7, 2019 featuring Jodi Dean.

- **Innis One:** Removing two course requirements to open up seminar course offerings to a greater number of first-year students—in anticipation of a mandatory FYF course policy for all first-year students.

- **Writing Centre:** A new online booking system is in place and is proving to be effective.

- **FYF:** The pilot has been extended to two years.

#### B. College Affairs

Moderator Andrew Zhao reported the following from a November 25 meeting:

- **Innis Residence:** Laundry modernization is underway, as is weekly suite cleaning by a third-party service, which should help facility upkeep over time. Elevator upgrades are imminent.

- **Innis Town Hall:** Livestreaming service restored. Positive results from a client satisfaction survey.

- **Chief Administrative Officer:** Facilities concerns of any nature should be directed to CAO Joyce Hahn. Complaints of smoking on the third floor of the east wing have been reported.
The protocol is to inform campus police immediately. The third east atrium lobby table, purchased by the Student Services Committee in 2019, is scheduled for installation.

- **Innis College Renewal and Expansion**: A community consultation with architects and landscape architects will take place on November 21. Posterboards are up in College and Residence lobbies. Feedback on the designs via post-it note or email is highly encouraged.

C. **Community Affairs**

No report delivered. The first board meeting is on December 11, 2019.

Later Life Learning President Merle McMurray reported that there is space available in their Friday afternoon course in the winter term. She issued an open call for registrants: $60 for a 10-week course.

D. **Student Affairs**

Moderator Annie Liu reported the following highlights from a November 25 meeting:

- Student Choice Initiative was struck down by an Ontario court, which means that—barring successful appeal by the provincial government—clubs and student societies should expect restored funding by 2020/21.

- Applications are open for the University of Toronto Student Leadership Awards (UTSLA), formerly the Gordon Cressy Awards. Student leaders are encouraged to connect with Innis’s local coordinator, Ashlee Redmond.

Principal Keil added that, in the wake of award restructuring, the Innis-nominated recipient quota has been increased from five to six. Arts & Science’s quota increased to 28. Therefore, if a student’s involvement includes course/program-related leadership, it is strategic to apply via their academic department to the A&S nomination channel.

Redmond clarified that a student can only apply to a single stream, but if Innis receives surplus applications, there may be a narrow window for us to internally forward applications to the A&S channel.

Redmond added that students whose leadership is primarily at the central university level, should apply through the College. The rationale for disbanding the central nomination channel, as explained by the organizers, is that they felt ill-equipped to make decisions about student nominees that they are not directly familiar with.

Principal Keil offered to provide feedback to the organizing body, following the impending adjudication process.

- In a recently published *Innis Herald* opinion piece, editor Daria Mancino addressed the Presidential & Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health. Mancino described, to Council, her impetus for writing the article, pointing to some quick, tangible changes that the Faculty can implement, alongside the ongoing higher-level discussion—namely
comparable UTM and UTSC policies re credit/no-credit (CR/NCR).

Pirraglia noted that discussion has taken place, at the Faculty level, regarding CR/NCR deadlines, but nothing definitive has emerged. She also drew attention to the December 9—20 counselling services at Robarts Library.

Cahill observed high student anxiety related to course work late policies (e.g., grade drops per day). CSI has a strict 3% max per day policy. Cahill called for students to come forth if a Cinema course instructor imposes a >3% penalty.

A motion for Innis College Council to put forth recommendations on academic policies that benefit student mental health was moved (Mancino), seconded (Liu), and carried.

Principal Keil will present the recommendations directly to the dean of A&S.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

No report delivered.

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Redmond), seconded (Pirraglia), and carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.