



# Innis College

## Innis College Council

### 328th Meeting

Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at 12:30 pm

## Minutes

**Present:** Dan Adleman, Shayla Anderson, Donald Boere (assessor), James Cahill, Jannie Chien, Madi Frost, Joty Gill, Rhea Gosain, Ria Gupta, Elijah Gyansa, Sana Imran, Denise Ing, Eva-Lynn Jagoe (assessor), Kate Johnson (assessor), Nina Kamal, Kimiya Karbasy, Rhonda Liu, Suzanne Macintyre (assessor), Steve Masse (assessor), Aditi Mehta, Tony Mei, Makayla Morrison (guest), Kyle Newcombe, Mike Orr, Daniela Pirraglia, Karen Reid, Noel Simpson, Raven Stoddart, Emil Stoyanov, Ayaka Teshirogi, Bart Testa, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Cindy Yan

**Regrets:** Mikael Abbas, Ennis Blentic (assessor), Jason Daye, Lydia Ghernaout, David Roberts, Mary Stefanidis, Eilene Su, Sanam Syed, Joanne Uyede, Andrea Williams, Victor Zheng

### 1. Welcoming remarks

Weststrate, Innis College Council (ICC) secretary, chaired the meeting until new speakers were elected. He welcomed everyone to a new session of college governance. Noting the high level of first-time members, he described the unique oversight function of ICC then encouraged members to complete two onboarding forms: [fall-term availability](#) and [board and committee sign-up](#).

### 2. Introduction of principal's appointees

Acting Principal Karen Reid introduced the six principal's appointees to council.

Returning to ICC are **Sana Imran**, assistant dean, community wellness, and **Joanne Uyede**, Innis alumna and current co-chair of the Renewal and Expansion Campaign Cabinet.

New appointees include **Shayla Anderson**, Innis's events and mentorship coordinator and an Innis and Urban Studies alumna; **Denise Ing**, the Cinema Studies Institute undergraduate program assistant and assistant to the director; **Kimiya Karbasy**, Innis's assistant dean, residence life; and alumna **Mary Stefanidis**, the employer recruitment & engagement lead at U of T's Career Education & Exploration and chair of Queer University of Toronto Employees (QUTE).

### 3. Introduction of members

Weststrate initiated a round of self-introductions among members.

## 4. Election of speakers

As per Section VII<sup>1</sup> of [the ICC Constitution](#) Weststrate called for nominations for non-student and speaker of council. **Chien** was the sole nominee for non-student speaker. **Gosain** and **Liu** self-nominated for student speaker.

Both candidates were invited to briefly vouch for their suitability. They were asked to temporarily leave the room/virtual meeting, while council voted. Gosain received the majority vote.

A motion to confirm Chien and Gosain as speakers was moved (Gyansa), seconded (Gupta), and carried.

Chien agreed to chair the first meeting.

## 5. Minutes of the previous meeting

A motion to approve the [minutes of the April 22, 2022, meeting](#) was moved (Jagoe), seconded (Testa), and carried.

## 6. Business arising from the minutes

None reported

## 7. Principal's report

### A. Staffing changes and accolades

Reid reported the following changes to the College's *administrative staff*:

- **Andrea Blackler** began in the newly reconfigured role of development officer within the Advancement Office on May 24. She was previously at Hart House for several years.
- **Karen Reid** began a one-year term as acting principal on July 1.
- **Jack McGrath's** position in the Registrar's Office was redeveloped in mid-July to assistant registrar -- advising.
- **Nicholas Freer** began at the College's building reception on September 6.
- **Makayla Morrison** joined the community wellness team as a MSW intern on September 14.
- **Dianthi Fernando** left the student life coordinator position on September 23 for a role in the University College registrar's office.

*Cinema Studies Institute:*

- Two faculty appointments: **Bliss Cua Lim**, professor; **Brett Story**, assistant professor

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<sup>1</sup> Section VII states that "Two Speakers shall be elected annually by and from the voting members of Council at its first meeting. One Speaker shall be a representative of the students, and one Speaker shall be a representative of the others."

- 10 returning sessional instructors: **Stephen Broomer, Amanda Greer, Daniel Laurin, Patrick Marshall, Mike Meneghetti, Erin Nunoda, Ganga Rudraiah, Diana Sanchez, Jillian Vasko, Christian David Zeitz**

*Innis One Program:*

- Three returning sessional instructors: **Simon Lewsen, Shawn Micallef, Adam Nayman**

*Urban Studies Program:*

- **Aditi Mehta** has been hired as an assistant professor, teaching stream; following her tenure as a CLTA.
- One new sessional instructor: **Alana Jones**
- Three returning sessional instructors: **Daniel Fusca, Peter Galambos, Laura Visan**

*Writing & Rhetoric Program:*

- Four returning sessional instructors: **Viktoria Jovanovic-Krstic, Simon Lewsen, Vikki Visvis, Becky Vogan**
- Three instructors are teaching a 100-level Writing & Rhetoric course as part of the University's Transitional Year Programme: **James Hahn, Marci Prescott-Brown, Joanne Valin**

Reid congratulated several staff and faculty on their recent awards and appointments.

- On May 16, it was announced that **Ben Weststrate**, communications officer, received a Dean's Student Life Award in Arts & Science. At the same time, **Jessica Whitehead**, an instructor and postdoctoral fellow at the Cinema Studies Institute, received an A&S Superior Teaching Award for Sessional Lecturers.
- On June 2, it was announced that **Charlie Keil** is a recipient of a President's Teaching Award, recognizing excellence and innovation in teaching.
- Recently, **Andrea Williams** was appointed as a deputy director of the Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation.

## B. Website redevelopment update

Reid reported that two new academic program websites were launched in late summer:

<https://urban.innis.utoronto.ca/> and <https://writingprogram.innis.utoronto.ca/>.

The Innis Town Hall website is being incorporated into the college site under a new "Venues" section, which clearly and attractively presents all rentable spaces at 2 Sussex Avenue. Publication of these webpages is imminent.

## C. Innis College Renewal and Expansion updates

Reid summarized the aims of the Renewal and Expansion project. She noted that inflation-imposed budget constraints demanded a "rescoping" of the design, resulting in a downsizing of the overall footprint while retaining all new student-focused spaces.

She reported that the Advancement Office mounted a successful "campaign soft launch" party on

September 15 at the home of alumna **Linda Schuyler**. 75 donors from our alumni and friends community were in attendance, including our Campaign Cabinet alumni volunteers and 11 student ambassadors.

Reid extended her thanks to the student leaders who participated in a consultation session with project architects from Montgomery Sisam (MSA) on September 20 that focused on the configuration of commuter lounge and student office spaces. All Innis-housed student groups were represented.

MSA and U of T Planning staff are actively progressing the project (e.g., twice-weekly meetings).

## D. Orientation recap

Reid reflected on a highly successful Orientation Week in September and congratulated the Innis College Student Society and Office of Student Life (OSL), particularly coordinators **Rhea Gosain** and **Yash Singhal**.

From September 6 to 13, Innis's OSL collaborated with other constituent colleges to offer the first Black Student Orientation, under the leadership of Innis student **Eli Rose** and graduate student **Tolu Ogunyomi**.

## E. Start-of-term registration updates

Reid stated that, according to the Registrar's Office, Innis's student population is almost 2,200 — including 500 new first-year students, 65 transfer students entering upper years of study, and 50 exchange students. Our first-year population is comprised of students from 46 different counties.

Definitive numbers will be reported to the Student Affairs Board after on November 1, the University's "count date."

Reid noted that there were significant visa issues for international students coming to Canadian universities this fall. U of T administration was heavily involved in the resolution, and most students have now arrived on campus.

## F. Fall-term events and programs at Innis

Reid forecasted the College's diverse range of upcoming events.

- October 13: **Frank Cunningham** Memorial & Social Justice Award Launch, in tribute of Innis's sixth principal, who passed away this year
- October 14: OSL's second book club begins. They will be reading **Brené Brown's**, *The Gifts of Imperfection*.
- October 14 is also the first of three "Cookbook Club" sessions, hosted by our OSL with student-chef **Yona Anderson**
- October 27: Hiller Scholarship celebration and screening, to launch a new scholarship by the family of celebrated filmmaker **Arthur Hiller**
- November 3: "Writers on Writing" series, hosted by the Writing & Rhetoric Program, returns with poet and Giller Prize-winning author **Ian Williams**

- November 7: Fall Graduation Reception, celebrating our newest members of the Class of 2022
- November 15: Annual Harold Innis Lecture with Indigenous activist and lawyer **Aaju Peter**, who is travelling to Innis Town Hall from Iqaluit for this event.
- November 23: annual Innis College Awards Ceremony returns to Town Hall, celebrating recipients of admission and in-course scholarships awarded in 2022

## 8. Introduction of boards

Chien invited a previous member from each board to describe its scope and functions to help current members [select which boards they would like to join this year](#).

Chien started by introducing the Academic Affairs Board. Johnson introduced the College Affairs Board; Anderson the Community Affairs Board; Weststrate the Student Affairs Board; and Masse the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee.

## 9. Executive Committee

Reid noted that ICC will continue its tradition of inviting guest speakers from across the University for topical discussion. Representatives from the [Review of the Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence](#), which was published earlier this year, will attend the next meeting.

Reid welcomed suggestions for other future topics to herself, Weststrate, Chien, or Gosain.

## 10. Other business

### A. U of T Student Leadership Award (UTSLA) applications

Chien noted the November 18 deadline for students to apply for a UTSLA. Candidates must intend to graduate in June or November 2023 and can contact **Shayla Anderson**, Innis's divisional coordinator, for inquiries. [The nomination form is available here](#).

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

Reid reported that the Provost's Office published [a report on Review of the Role of the Colleges](#), after a comprehensive, two-year effort. Among the many outcomes is a recommendation to ensure consistency of student-focused services across the colleges. This call to action will be met, in part, with increased staffing support at Innis College. The administrative connections between the colleges and the Faculty of Arts & Science are also being enhanced.

## 11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Chien) and carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:39 pm.