



Innis College

Innis College Council (ICC)

332nd Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 10:30am

Events Room, Innis Residence

Minutes

Present: Dan Adleman (designate of Cynthia Messenger), Shayla Anderson, Donald Boere (assessor), James Cahill, Aaron Chan, Anson Chan, Jannie Chien, Juliana Concini, Kelly Curran, Lydia Ghernaout, Elijah Gyansa, Vedant Iyer, Kate Johnson (assessor), Charlie Keil, Andy Lee, Yiming Ma, Megan McDonald (assessor), Aditi Mehta, Kyle Newcombe, Kathy Nolan-Garner, Maahi Patel, Jake Pereira, Tony Pi, Dryden Rainbow, David Roberts, Noel Simpson, Sophia Wang, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Andrea Williams, Cindy Yan, Lina Yan, Jamie Yi, Daina Zweig

Regrets: Yona Anderson, Jocelin Chang, Corinn Columpar, Osarumen Ekhatior, Max Hazen, Eva-Lynn Jagoe (assessor), Cindy Lei, Anya Liu, Suzanne Macintyre (assessor), Steve Masse (assessor), Cynthia Messenger, Raven Stoddart, Joanne Uyede, Carol Ye

1. Welcoming remarks

Weststrate, the returning council secretary, welcomed members to the first meeting of the 2023/24 governance cycle. He noted that 19 of 40 members are new to ICC this year, then he summarized the purpose of the governing body and its unique parity representation.

2. Introduction of members

Weststrate facilitated members' self-introductions.

3. Introduction of principal's appointees

Keil re-introduced his six appointees to council:

- **Lydia Ghernaout**, a graduating student leader and Innis Residence don,
- **Max Hazen**, one of Innis's AV coordinators,
- **Tony Pi**, the Cinema Studies Institute (CSI) graduate program advisor,
- **Joanne Uyede**, an Innis alumna (BA '69) and longtime volunteer, who currently co-chairs the Renewal and Expansion Campaign Cabinet,
- **Carol Ye**, also an Innis alumna (HBSc '16) and the student services advisor at the Faculty of Arts & Science (A&S) Registrar,

- **Daina Zweig**, Innis’s new assistant dean – community wellness in the Office of Student Life (OSL)

4. Election of speakers

Weststrate facilitated the election of council’s 2023/24 speakers, pursuant to Section VII of the [ICC Constitution](#).

He called for nominations for the role of non-student speaker. Keil nominated Chien, who accepted. There were no other nominations.

A vote to acclaim Chien as the non-student speaker was moved (Curran), seconded (Pereira), and carried.

Weststrate called for student speaker nominations. Ghernaout and Iyer self-nominated. They were given one minute to vouch for themselves then left the room while members voted. Ghernaout received a majority of votes and was duly elected student speaker.

Chien agreed to chair the first council meeting.

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

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

6. Business arising from the minutes

None reported

7. Principal’s report

Keil reported the following staffing updates since the last convening of council:

A. Congratulations:

- **Jason Daye**, Innis’s long-time IT specialist, received a 2023 A&S Technical Services Award at a June 13 ceremony.
- **David Roberts**, Urban Studies Program director, received an Outstanding Teaching Award at the same ceremony.

B. Administrative staff changes:

- On July 10, **Dryden Rainbow** was hired to the new role of associate registrar – academic engagement in the Registrar’s Office. She came to Innis from the Office of Student Recruitment.
- On July 19, **Daina Zweig** began as assistant dean – community wellness.
- On July 29, **Nick Freer**’s contract at the reception desk ended.
- On August 28, **Shayla Anderson** made the transition from the events and mentorship coordinator position, in the Advancement Officer, to the new, permanent role of alumni relations officer.

- On September 6, **Connie Guan** started in the new role of senior development officer, also in the Advancement Office. Connie came to Innis from Trinity College.
- From August 14 until October 3, **Nicolette Dimokopoulos** held the new role of Innis Residence Steward. Alum **Riley Myers** has been in the position since October 5.
- There are three new writing centre instructors: **Dan Adleman** (also a Writing & Rhetoric faculty member), **Jessica Copley**, and **Supipi Weerasooriya**.
- **Steve Masse's** last day as dean of student will be October 27. He vacates this role, after five productive years, to become the University's new director of student life for spaces and experiences. Hiring for the new dean is imminent; the posting closes October 30.

C. Teaching staff changes:

- **Bart Testa** has retired after a 40-plus-year tenure in CSI and now holds the status of associate professor, teaching stream emeritus. Bart has been one of the most instrumental and revered figures in the program/institute. Thankfully, he will continue teaching *CIN460H: Cinematic Cities: Berlin & Los Angeles* in the Winter term.
- **Innis One Program:**
 - New sessional instructors include **Maggie Reid** and **Mandy Pipher** (who has been teaching in the writing centre)
 - Returning sessionals are **Shawn Micallef**, **Adam Nayman**
- **Cinema Studies Institute:**
 - New faculty: **Patrick Keilty**, associate professor, cross-appointed with Faculty of Information where has been teaching for 12 years.
 - New sessionals: **Jason Fox**, **Tamas Nagypal**, and **Roshaya Rodness**
 - Returning sessionals: **Mike Meneghetti**, **Adam Nayman**, **Carrie Reese**, **Kate Russell**, and **Diana Sanchez**
- **Urban Studies Program (USP):**
 - New sessionals: **Pamela Fuentes Peralta** and **Neil Price**
 - Returning sessionals: **Daniel Fusca**, **Peter Galambos**, and **Alana Jones**
- **Writing & Rhetoric Program (W&R):**
 - New sessional: **Kelli Deeth**
 - Returning sessionals: **Viktoria Jovanovic-Krstic**, **Vikki Visvis**, and **Rebecca Vogan**

D. Renewal and Expansion update

Keil described recent developments with the College's Renewal and Expansion project, noting that the project began at the beginning of his tenure as principal, eight years ago.

- August 2: "groundbreaking" ceremony ([Read A&S News coverage here.](#))
- August 3: construction began with tree protection fencing and perimeter hoarding, followed by tree removal
- September 12–October 20: asbestos abatement in west wing
- October 2–present: internal demolition of west wing (excluding Victorian House) and topsoil/organics removal

- October 23: exterior demolition scheduled to begin (expected to be completed in two weeks)
- November 7–10: temporary elevator closure for east wing abatement, followed by a partial obstruction of the area but retaining access to the door into the administrative area
- August 2025: expected project completion

Keil added that the primary stakeholders in site development include Montgomery Sisam Architects, Urbacon (construction company), and U of T’s Planning Department.

A dedicated, public-facing [“Project Updates” page](#) is being maintained on the college website.

Ghernaout inquired about active construction times in a given day. Keil clarified that City of Toronto by-laws restrict permits construction noise from 7am–7pm, Mondays to Fridays, and 9am–7pm on Saturdays. No construction noise is permitted on Sundays or statutory holidays without special permitting.

8. Reports/introduction of boards

Chien invited members to [sign up for ICC boards and committees using this online form](#).

A. Academic Affairs

Ghernaout reported the following highlights from [a board meeting that took place on October 10](#), in which she was elected moderator and Weststrate secretary.

- Innis One Program total enrolment is up from last year, and 21% are Innis students.
- W&R discussed the largely positive results of a recent U of T Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) review. W&R also proposed a series of curriculum changes, all of which were approved.
- FYF@Innis involves 13 seminars this year, and enrolment is strong. Efforts have been made to integrate college-based student services (i.e., librarian support) within the seminars.
- USP also underwent a UTQAP review process, the results of which were positive.
- Innis’s Writing Centre will offer 1,100 appointments this Fall/Winter term, 50% in-person and 50% online.

Boere inquired about the percentage of Innis students enrolled in FYF@Innis Seminars. Chien reported that the proportion ranges from 53% (a biology seminar) to 9%. Council discussed whether this discrepancy could be instructive for seminar selection in future years (e.g., Should we offer more of what is popular?). The Registrar’s Office will examine the data more closely for 2024/25 planning.

Keil added that UTQAP processes are part of a regular review cycle conducted by A&S.

Keil and Chien observed that not only is course enrolment high across Innis College programs, but drop-off rates are relatively low. These are clear markers of popularity.

B. College Affairs

Weststrate described the focus of the board: facilities, operations, and budgets. The Residence Committee reports to this board.

C. Community Affairs

Anderson described the focus of the board: fundraising, alumni relations, and community relations, including Later Life Learning. The Art Committee reports to this board.

D. Student Affairs

Chien described the focus of the board: student-centred activities and services, including co-curricular and registration matters and student government. The Student Services Committee and Recruitment, Admissions, and Awards Committee report to this board.

E. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee

Curran described the focus of the board: examining how the College accounts for equity-related issues in all activities.

9. Executive Committee

Chien noted that the committee will first meet once all boards have met and elected their respective moderators. The first meeting will precede the next ICC meeting.

The committee hopes to continue its tradition of inviting guest speakers from across the University to speak at ICC meetings on topical issues. In recent years, we've heard from representatives of the Sexual Violence Prevention & Support Centre, U of T Anti-Black Racism Task Force, etc. Please send your suggestions for topics and/or speakers to Chien, Ghernaout, and Weststrate.

10. Other business

A. Fall-term meeting availability

Chien invited members to complete a weekly availability form to aid in meeting scheduling.

B. Student awards

Chien noted that [the U of T Student Leadership Award nomination deadline is November 17, 2023](#). Anderson is Innis's divisional coordinator.

Boere reported that scheduling the 2023 Innis Student Awards Ceremony, which is typically held in November, is still pending as we wait for definitive award results from A&S.

C. 8th Annual Refugee Student Fund Benefit Concert

Keil reported that the annual concert, which involves many student musicians and performing artists, will be held on Friday, December 8 at 1pm in the Town Hall.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Cahill) and carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:47am.