



Innis College

Innis College Council, 333rd Meeting Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 2:30pm Events Room, Innis Residence

Minutes

Present: Shayla Anderson, Jason Brennan (guest), Aaron Chan, Anson Chan, Jocelin Chang, Jannie Chien, Kristin Cleverly (guest), Juliana Concini, Kelly Curran, Lydia Ghernaout, Eva-Lynn Jagoe (assessor), Kate Johnson (assessor), Charlie Keil, Sarah De La Rue (guest), Anya Liu, Suzanne Macintyre (assessor), Emma McCann (guest), Megan McDonald (assessor), Cynthia Messenger, Kyle Newcombe, Tony Pi, Dryden Rainbow, David Roberts, Raven Stoddart, Joanne Uyede, Sophia Wang, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Andrea Williams, Carol Ye, Jamie Yi, Daina Zweig

Regrets: Yona Anderson, Donald Boere (assessor), James Cahill, Corinn Columpar, Osarumen Ekhaton, Elijah Gyansa, Max Hazen, Vedant Iyer, Andy Lee, Cindy Lei, Yiming Ma, Aditi Mehta, Kathy Nolan-Garner, Maahi Patel, Jake Pereira, Noel Simpson, Cindy Yan, Lina Yan

1. Welcoming remarks

Ghernaout, student speaker, chaired the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

A motion to approve [the October 19, 2023, meeting minutes](#) was moved (Curran), seconded (Rainbow), and carried.

3. Business arising from the minutes

None reported

4. Guest speakers: INLIGHT Student Mental Health Research Initiative

Keil introduced **Kristin Cleverley**, with whom he recently sat on U of T's [INLIGHT](#) steering committee. Cleverley is INLIGHT director, associate professor at Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing and Faculty of Medicine Department of Psychiatry, and senior scientist at CAMH.

Cleverley introduced co-presenter **Emma McCann**, who leads student engagement and the Student Advisory Committee for INLIGHT.

Cleverley described the impetus for INLIGHT, pointing to significant increases in psychological

distress and demand for mental health services among post-secondary students, on and off campus, and increased calls for universities to react. Following [recommendations by the University's president and provost](#) re student mental health, INLIGHT was formed in 2022.

Cleverley identified that U of T has unique research capacity for student mental health because of its population size, diversity across campuses, and the ability to research iteratively across similar units (e.g., colleges). U of T also has many hospital partners, including CAMH, the largest psychiatric hospital in North America.

Cleverley highlighted three ongoing projects: accessibility and mental health; exercise and mental health; and improving pathways to accessing care via CAMH. INLIGHT's role in this is to support the evaluation and research of clinical redesign efforts. Cleverley reported that U of T has increased its mental health service capacity threefold since 2019.

McCann described the ways in which the University is investing in “mental wealth” (i.e., wellbeing) in students by engaging them in research capacities, including as research participants, co-investigators, and expert advisors. At the centre of this effort is a Student Advisory Committee.

Cleverley closed the presentation by encouraging council members to explore <https://smhr.utoronto.ca>.

The floor was opened for council discussion.

Williams stated that she has been integrating movement and greenspace-based classes into her teaching and inquired about INLIGHT research efforts around classroom space. Cleverley noted that there is a recognized need for research re teaching spaces, and that they are keen to connect with any interested faculty.

Keil inquired as to whether INLIGHT would be a suitable outfit to evaluate the effectiveness of college-based initiatives, such as Innis's Mental Health Skills Certificate. Cleverley indicated that INLIGHT's role would be to receive applications for funding to support local evaluation (i.e., performed by unit staff or faculty) and to directly support the work of these evaluators.

Gheraout thanked Cleverley and McCann for their time.

5. Principal's report

Keil reported the following:

A. Staffing changes

- **Michael Mejia's** contract as transition program assistant ended October 20.
- **Ian May** began in the new role of financial assistant on November 20, coming from Faculty of Medicine.
- **Jason Brennan**, currently the manager of residence life at Woodsworth College, will join the College on January 8, 2024, as the new dean of students. Keil welcomed Brennan, who was present at the meeting, to the college community.

B. Renewal and Expansion update

- Most up-to-date construction information can be found here: <https://innis.utoronto.ca/project-updates/>
- All demolition of the west-wing expansion (i.e., behind the Victorian House), the west atrium, and part of the east atrium was completed by December 1. Ground preparation for the drill rig was completed at the same time.
- Recent site developments appear quiet and largely involve preparing the site for crane installation and acquiring City permits. A drilling rig is scheduled to arrive onsite today, after which soldier piles will be installed by December 15.

C. Benefit Concert

Keil expressed thanks to all performers and guests who participated in the seventh annual benefit concert for the Innis College Refugee Student Fund on Friday, December 8. It was our best-attended concert to date. The full recording is available on the College's [YouTube channel](#). He added that the College's AV staff, Anderson, Boere, and Chien deserve extra thanks for all their behind-the-scenes work.

6. Board reports

A. Community Affairs

Chien, newly elected board moderator, reported the following highlights of [the November 29, 2023, meeting](#).

- The Advancement Office saw two staffing changes: Anderson was hired as alumni relations officer, and Connie Guan joined as senior development officer.
- Several major gifts from the alumni community were received that will furnish new student awards. Renewal and Expansion Campaign fundraising continues.
- 12 Advancement-partnered events were hosted in summer-fall 2023. The Alumni Mentorship Program expanded again this year with the addition of a “micro-mentorship” stream.
- The alumni magazine will again be distributed in print and online in January.
- Art Committee issued a second call for student art submissions in June 2023 that yielded several pieces of which two were selected for installation.

B. Student Affairs

Concini reported the following highlights of [the December 7, 2023, board meeting](#), on behalf of Pereira, who was elected moderator.

- The ICSS reported that necessary financial documentation has been submitted to an auditor. They will work with the Office of Student Life (OSL) to amend 2024 orientation.

- The IRC reported on two successful residence forums, in collaboration with Residence Life, and several additional events.
- OSL is gathering feedback on its summer-fall orientation programming; all signs point to success with The Insider mentorship program. The Community Pantry has been relocated from the west wing to the second-floor lounge of 2 Sussex Ave.
- Community Wellness has been busy with one-to-one appointments, therapy dog sessions, the Mental Health Skills Certificate, World Mental Health Day activities, and exam support.

7. Executive Committee

No report delivered

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Curran) and carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:34pm.