



Innis College

Innis College Council (ICC)

336th Meeting

Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 1pm

Events Room, Innis Residence

Minutes

Present: Reid Anderson (designate of Nikole McGregor), Daniel Adleman, Kate Bishop, Jason Brennan (assessor), Jenny Chen, Jannie Chien, Corinn Columpar, Juliana Concini, Connie Guan, Sam Guevara, Elijah Gyansa, Kiersten Herborth (designate of Alice Lo), Eva-Lynn Jagoe, Yasmeen Jafarzadeh Jahromi, Jiya Jakher, Kate Johnson (assessor), Charlie Keil, Madeline Keizer (guest), Sophie Liu, Suzanne Macintyre (assessor), Dylon McLean, Rahna Moreau, Kyle Newcombe, Wesley Noell, Rima Oassey, Jake Pereira, Tony Pi, Gheyana Purdbodiningrat (guest), Dryden Rainbow, Stephanie Saab, Daman Singh, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Anson Wong, Jamie Yi, Wing Yip, Alberto Zambenedetti, Elsie Zhu

Regrets: Teniola Awoleye, Donald Boere (assessor), Cindy Lei, Cynthia Lin, Megan McDonald (assessor), Cynthia Messenger, David Roberts, George Steiner, Joanne Uyede, Juliana West

1. Welcoming remarks

Ben Weststrate, ICC secretary, called the meeting to order at 1:08pm.

2. Self-introduction of members

Keil introduced his six principal's appointees—alumnae Jannie Chien, Rahna Moreau, and Joanne Uyede and staff Wesley Noell, Rima Oassey, and Tony Pi—and then initiated members' self-introductions.

3. Election of speakers

In accordance with Section VII of the [ICC Constitution](#), Weststrate called for nominations for the positions of non-student speaker and student speaker, who shall alternate chairing council meetings.

Jagoe self-nominated for the role of non-student speaker. There were no further nominations.

A motion to acclaim Jagoe to the role was moved (Rainbow), seconded (Brennan), and carried.

Keil nominated Newcombe for the role of student speaker; Newcombe accepted. There were no further nominations.

A motion to acclaim Newcombe to the role was moved (Adleman), seconded (Oassey), and carried.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

A motion to approve the [minutes of the April 18, 2024, meeting](#) was moved (Rainbow), seconded (Concini), and carried.

5. Business arising from the minutes

None reported

6. Principal's report

A. Staffing update

Keil reported the following staff and faculty updates:

Office of the Dean of Students:

- **Riley Myers'** last day as Innis Residence front desk steward was May 17, she left to pursue a job in Halifax; **Alejandra Molina Vélez** then held the role until recent Innis graduate **Yona Anderson** assumed the role on August 26.
- **Nick Callow** began as assistant dean – residence life on April 29, covering **Kimiya Karbasy's** secondment to the Family Care Office.
- **Daman Singh** began as assistant dean – student life & equity (ADLSE) on May 27.

Student Success Team:

- **Meghan Litteljohn's** last day as learning strategist was August 30; she is now at St. Michael's College. **Milena Pandy** has been the interim learning strategist. **Vivian Zhang** was just hired as Innis's dedicated strategist, on contract until May 2025.

Office of the CAO:

- **Phoebe Chiu's** last day as financial services officer was May 30. She accepted a position with the Department of Linguistics. **Wesley Noell** began in the role on July 8, coming from the Factor Interwash Faculty of Social Work.
- Congratulations to **Jason Daye**, whose long-held and vital position at the College was recently reclassified from IT specialist to senior IT specialist. We also wish Jason a speedy recovery.
- The AV team has rehired its complement of term-appointed and casual staff, including **Thomas Chan, Clara Chow, Gokce Erdem, Hannah Fleisch, Ned Seager, Jarret Sorger**, and **Victoria Watson-Sepejak**. **Ellie Shisko** and **Peter Vickers** are new to the team.

Academic Programs:

- **Jannie Chien's** last day as college program coordinator was May 24. She took a position at EASI. **Rima Oassey** began in the role on July 17, coming from the Faculty of Medicine.
- On July 1, **Daniel Adleman** began directorship of the Writing & Rhetoric Program (W&R) and Innis One Program for three-year terms, succeeding **Andrea Williams**, who is now on research and study leave.
- **Vikki Visvis**, a longtime W&R and Innis Writing Centre instructor received a 2024 Superior Teaching Award in the Sessional Instructor category from the Faculty of Arts & Science (A&S).
- Two new sessional instructors have been added to the Innis One roster: **Anna Lee-Popham** and Innis alumna **Hamutal Dotan** join returning instructor **Adam Nayman**. Longtime instructor **Shawn Micallef** is on parental leave for Winter term. Congratulations, Shawn.
- There are five returning W&R sessional instructors: **Kelli Deeth, Viktoria Jovanovic-Krstic, Simon Lewsen, Roz Spafford**, and **Becky Vogan**.
- There is one new Urban Studies Program (USP) sessional, **Tathagato Chakraborty**. Six are returning: **Daniel Fusca, Peter Galambos, Alana Jones, Neil Price**, and **Alan Webb**.

Cinema Studies Institute (CSI):

- Only July 1, **Alberto Zambenedetti** began as institute director, following **James Cahill's** five-year term. James is now on research and study leave.
- **æryka hollis o'neil** was recently hired to the new position of assistant professor in trans cinema and media, a cross appointment with the Bonham Centre of Sexual Diversity Studies.
- New and returning sessional instructors include **Stephen Broomer, Robyn Citizen, Jason Fox, Patrick Marshall, Mike Meneghetti, Justin Morris, Dillan Newman, Ganga Rudraiah, Roshaya Rodness, Carrie Reese, Diana Sanchez, Jillian Vasko, Magdalena Yuksel**, and the new screenwriter-in-residence, alumna **Chandler Levack**.

B. Renewal and Expansion update

Keil reported that, on the 2 Sussex Avenue construction site, three concrete structures are being installed: two stairwells and the elevator core. The steel frame for the west-wing expansion and link will be installed next.

The revised expected completion date is April-May 2026.

Keil clarified that the initial expected completion date was August 2025. The delay is largely the result of two factors: a delay in building material supply and an apparent lack of proactive accommodation when supply issues were forecasted.

Regarding project funding, Keil clarified that the University would not approve any project for construction if funding were not secured. However, the funding model is complex in that the College must still raise money through the alumni and friends community for debt financing purposes.

Keil described the existing student levy that all full-time Innis College students pay. Singh added that the levy is \$5 per student per semester and is a graduated fee structure such that it will increase when the building opens, for a 20-year period. This levy was overwhelmingly passed via referendum by the student body in 2019.

Macintyre confirmed that the fee increase would begin at the start of the next academic term after reopening (i.e., Fall 2026, following May 2026 completion).

7. Introduction of boards

A representative from each of the 2023-24 ICC boards was invited to describe its respective scope and functions, to inform ICC members' selection. Members were invited to sign up for at least one board using an [online form](#).

A. Academic Affairs

In lieu of a board introduction, Rainbow reported that the Academic Affairs Board already met on [October 8, 2024](#). She was elected board moderator and Pereira was elected secretary. Meeting highlights include:

- Oassey was hired as program coordinator.
- USP and CSI are celebrating 50th anniversaries. USP marked the milestone with a panel during Innis's alumni reunion. Many celebratory events are planned by CSI for throughout the current Fall/Winter session.
- The board reviewed minor W&R enrolment declines, though none were found to be cause for concern.
- Two new W&R courses were approved, one with conditions related to consultation. Next, the courses will require A&S governance approval.
- The Writing Centre reported a high last-minute-cancelation rate in 2023-24.
- The Registrar's Office will host an Experiential Learning Fair for all students on November 19, 2024.
- Roberts, USP director, announced the phased migration of the program to the Department of Geography & Planning.

Keil added context to the USP update, noting that a scheduled program evaluation ([UTQAP](#)) revealed sharp increases in USP enrolment. Owing to this success, A&S decided to migrate the college program to the robustly resourced department. The two USP faculty members, **David Roberts** and **Aditi Mehta**, have already moved. The courses will move for the 2025 Fall term.

Keil acknowledged the high level of commitment, leadership, and contribution that Roberts and Mehta have brought to the college community. Their formal departure is a sorely felt loss. At the same time, we recognize the change is a consequence of program success.

Moreau expressed sadness at this news, indicating that the program has been a central part of the college culture for so long. She inquired as to the possibility of reversing the A&S decision.

Noting that the move is decisive, Keil highlighted that one outcome of the college-department agreement is the establishment of a “lab,” which would be situated at Innis and enhance our first-year learning experiences.

Moreau inquired about the recruitment value that the Urban Studies Program brought to Innis College. Keil indicated that most Innis students are not enrolled in this program. Innis has 7% of the A&S student body, and 8% of USP students are from Innis. So, the impact should be minimal. He added that Cinema Studies undergraduate programs, which have long since administratively left the College, still see a higher percentage of Innis students.

Brennan inquired about the possibility of developing a new academic program at Innis College. Keil reported that this phenomenon is occurring across A&S and reflects a general contraction of resources for college-based programs. Buddhism, Psychology & Mental Health, for example, is being closed at New College. Keil has been assured by A&S that there is no risk of further contraction (i.e., loss of W&R); Jagoe concurred.

B. College Affairs

Weststrate described the board, and its constituent Residence Committee, for council members.

C. Community Affairs

Chien described the board, and its constituent Art Committee, for council members.

D. Student Affairs

Pereira described board, and its constituent Recruitment, Admissions, & Awards Committee and Student Services Committee, for council members.

E. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee

Weststrate described the committee for council members.

Weststrate and Keil encouraged students to sign up for as many boards and committees as they wish, with an understanding of one’s own availability.

8. Executive Committee

Jagoe noted that the Executive Committee is comprised of the ICC speakers and secretary, the college principal, the ICSS president, and each board moderator. It meets in advance of council meetings to set the agenda. This year, we will also consider proposing amendments to the ICC constitution, which would be brought forth to the wider council in the Winter term.

9. Other business

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

Jagoe reminded council members that [the UTSLA nomination deadline is November 8, 2024](#). Questions can be directed to Innis’s divisional coordinator, **Shayla Anderson**, or ADSLE **Daman Singh**.

B. Student representation on council

Guevara observed that student membership on ICC skews overwhelmingly toward upper years of study. They recommended that college administrators reach out to the unelected—especially first-year—students to encourage their involvement in other college endeavours. Keil concurred and reported that he has personally emailed all unelected candidates to that effect.

Weststrate encouraged each student representative to find a first-year student to attend an ICC meeting as their designate, in the event that the elected member cannot attend.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Chien) and carried. The meeting adjourned at 2:23pm.