



Innis College

Innis College Council

337th Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 10:30am

Events Room, Innis Residence

Minutes

Present: Daniel Adleman, Teniola Awoleye, Kate Bishop, Jason Brennan (assessor), Jenny Chen, Corinn Columpar, Juliana Concini, Connie Guan, Eva-Lynn Jagoe, Yasmeen Jafarzadeh Jahromi, Jiya Jakher, Kate Johnson (assessor), Charlie Keil, Cynthia Lin, Sophie Liu, Alice Lo, Megan McDonald (assessor), Nikole McGregor, Dylon McLean, Rahna Moreau, Kyle Newcombe, Rima Oassey, Jake Pereira, Tony Pi, Dryden Rainbow, David Roberts, Daman Singh, George Steiner, Joanne Uyede, Juliana West, Anson Wong, Jamie Yi, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Wing Yip, Alberto Zambenedetti, Elsie Zhu

Regrets: Donald Boere (assessor), Jannie Chien, Sam Guevara, Elijah Gyansa, Cindy Lei, Suzanne Macintyre (assessor), Cynthia Messenger, Wesley Noell, Stephanie Saab

1. Welcoming remarks

Student speaker Newcombe called the meeting to order at 10:40am.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

A motion to approve the [October 23, 2024, meeting minutes](#) was moved (Rainbow), seconded (McLean), and carried.

3. Business arising from the minutes

None reported

4. Principal's report

A. Staffing update

Principal Keil reported two college staffing updates. **Michael Mejia** began a one-year contract as Student Life & Wellness Coordinator (SLWC) on December 2. Michael was formerly the student life

assistant with Innis Student Life. **Sean Rogers'** last day as AV coordinator will be January 17, 2025, as he has moved to Sarnia, ON. Sean began working with the AV team as a Cinema Studies student during his undergraduate degree from 1999-2003, making him one of the longest serving employees at the College. He will be greatly missed.

B. Renewal and Expansion update

Keil reported that the steel structure for the west-wing expansion and connecting “link” are now in place. The “hollow-core slabs,” which fill in the floor plates, will begin to be installed later this month.

5. Board reports

A. College Affairs

Jakher, newly elected board moderator, reported the following highlights of a [November 20, 2024 meeting](#).

- Lei was elected board secretary.
- College and residence budgets are balanced and undergoing approvals.
- 2 Sussex Ave. facilities updates include the installation of USB-C outlets, bird-friendly film, and livestream and recording capabilities in Screening Room 222E.
- At 111 St. George St., upgrades include a new fob-lock system and solar-film installation.
- Innis Residence is 98% full; 75% of occupants are first-year students.
- Board members discussed noise pollution coming from the Woodsworth construction project.

Brennan, dean of students, added that the Innis Residence Council (IRC) issued a survey to all residents regarding the noise, which received over 200 individual complaints. The College has conveyed this information to the construction management team, who promised to relay the concern to the contractor. Brennan noted that the City of Toronto Noise Bylaw limits construction to 7am until 7pm, and the University construction management team had indicated that construction would not begin until 8am during the exam period. Despite this, Brennan has observed noise prior to 8am and immediately followed up.

Keil recommended that that residents may call 311 to report construction noise outside of the allowable window of time.

B. Community Affairs

Jahromi, newly elected board moderator, reported the following highlights of a [November 19, 2024 meeting](#).

- Pereira was elected board secretary.
- The Advancement Office raised of \$99K for the “Renewal & Expansion Campaign” since the previous board meeting, bringing the total raised to \$4.76 million.
- The University’s “Fall Campaign” raised over \$68K for the College.

- Later Life Learning’s (LLL) twice-annual “Week of Giving Campaign” recently raised over \$13K, the highest to date.
- The Advancement Office has hosted 12 events since the last board meeting, including a three-part reunion in Summer 2024.
- The Alumni Mentorship Program now includes 52 pairs of alumni and students and has expanded by offering multiple forms of mentorship.
- Two submissions were accepted for the Innis Student Art Exhibition in 2024.

Steiner, LLL president, reported that LLL presented the College with a cheque on December 5, marking the final instalment in the organization’s commitment of donating \$250K toward the Renewal & Expansion Campaign.

C. Student Affairs

Pereira, newly elected board moderator, reported the following highlights of a [November 26, 2024, meeting](#).

- Concini was elected board secretary.
- The Innis College Student Society (ICSS) and IRC reported high participation in fall-term events. IRC is initiating another mural project.
- Innis Student Life and Communications are collaborating on a monthly @INNIS calendar series, highlighting college-wide events and deadlines for students.
- Four Black History Month (BHM) screenings and a second Innis-Office of Indigenous Initiatives collaborative screening are planned for the Winter 2025 term.
- The Innis Registrar’s Office hosted two events and mounted another successful Student Awards Ceremony in Town Hall.
- Innis College will receive a \$10K grant for four years toward the WUSC-sponsored refugee student.

Singh, assistant dean – student life & equity, added that the increased WUSC funding enables the second-year WUSC student to have their Innis Residence fees waived.

D. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee

Singh, newly elected committee co-moderator, reported the following highlights of a [November 12, 2024, meeting](#).

- Awoleye was elected co-moderator. Weststrate was elected secretary.
- The ICSS ran its annual “Movember” fundraiser.
- Three of the above-mentioned BHM screenings are planned in collaboration with the Black Students’ Association and the Cinema Studies Students’ Union.
- The Black Student Network is in a transitional phase, looking to expand and to offer peer-to-peer mentorship.

- Out@Innis, the College's 2SLGBTQ+ student-staff group, delivered its first report to the committee since forming in summer 2024. Its membership had reached 29 (23 students, 6 staff) at the time of the meeting.
- Innis Residence plans to retrofit one study room to become sensory friendly, through a pilot collaboration with the Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy.
- The Advancement Office has established a new [EDI Awards Fund](#) and continues raising money for the new [Innis Admission Scholarship for Black Students](#).

Singh reported that he and Weststrate met with the Office of the Vice-Provost – Students (OVPS) to discuss gaining access to college-level data from the U of T Equity Census. At present, only university-wide aggregate data is available. The OVPS agreed, in spirit, to grant the data request, which would be the first disclosure of its kind.

Newcombe indicated that two recommendations came forth from the EDIA Committee to amend the terms of its membership. These will be presented in a slate of proposed [ICC Constitution & By-Laws](#) amendments for council consideration at the next two meetings (see item 6, below).

The terms of the EDIA recommendations are follows:

1. To amend the EDIA Committee bylaws to include two representatives from the group Out@Innis
2. To amend the EDIA Committee bylaws to include two members representing students with disability

Newcombe opened the floor for discussion. No concerns were expressed with either proposal.

6. Executive Committee

Noting that the most recent ICC Constitution & By-Laws amendments occurred in 2017, Newcombe indicated that Executive Committee wishes to consider several amendments at the next two council meetings. He noted that council members must have 28 days' notice of proposed amendments prior to voting and that two-thirds majority is required for approval. Approved constitutional amendments subsequently require Governing Council approval; by-law amendments do not.

In addition to the amendments proposed above, ICC will also consider constituting (i.e., codifying) the EDIA Committee as a "standing board" of ICC.

Newcombe noted that other potential amendments include:

- Accounting for the upcoming departure of the Urban Studies Program within the Academic Affairs Board composition, including redistributing teaching vs. administrative staff quotas
- Updating the role of "Library Coordinator" to "College Librarian"
- Updating "Dean of Students and Residence" to "Dean of Students"
- Removing references to "Student Life Dons," which are, at present, described as separate from "Residence Dons"

7. Other business

A. Benefit Concert

Keil reported that eighth annual Benefit Concert for the Student Refugee Fund was hosted in Town Hall on December 5. It appeared to have the highest concert attendance on record. Keil expressed special thanks to LLL members for their donations. Keil extended gratitude to the many students who supported the fundraising by performing.

Jago added that Keil and his partner have generously agreed to match all gifts, dollar for dollar, made to the fund on the day of the concert.

B. Writing Centres

Yi inquired, after hearing reports from another college's student leadership, as to whether the Faculty of Arts & Science plans to scale back writing centre offerings.

Keil and Associate Registrar Rainbow indicated that they have not been made aware of such news.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Rainbow) and carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.