



Innis College

Innis College Council

338th Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 2pm

Events Room, Innis Residence

Minutes

Present: Teni Awoleye, Jenny Chen, Juliana Concini, Connie Guan, Sam Guevara, Elijah Gyansa, Yasmeen Jafarzadeh Jahromi, Eva-Lynn Jagoe, Jiya Jakher, Kate Johnson (assessor), Sophie Liu, Alice Lo, Suzanne Macintyre (assessor), Megan McDonald (assessor), Nikole McGregor, Dylan McLean, Rahna Moreau, Kyle Newcombe, Rima Oassey, Tony Pi, Dryden Rainbow, David Roberts, Stephanie Saab, Anupa Sapkota (designate of Jake Pereira), Daman Singh, Juliana West, Ben Weststrate (council secretary), Anson Wong, Wing Yip, Alberto Zambenedetti, Jamie Yi, Elsie Zhu

Regrets: Daniel Adleman, Kate Bishop, Donald Boere (assessor), Jason Brennan (assessor), Jannie Chien, Corinn Columpar, Cindy Lei, Cynthia Lin, Cynthia Messenger, Wesley Noell, George Steiner, Joanne Uyede

1. Welcoming remarks

Speaker **Eva-Lynn Jagoe** called the meeting to order at 2:13pm.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

A motion to approve the [December 11, 2024, meeting minutes](#) was moved (Yi), seconded (Rainbow), and carried.

3. Business arising from the minutes

None reported

4. Principal's report

A. Staffing update

Principal Keil reported on the following staffing changes:

- On January 6, **Ned Seager** moved into one of the College's three AV coordinator roles, which was vacated by **Sean Rogers**. Ned had been working in a casual capacity as a classroom and event AV technician for several years.
- On February 18, **Kristina Pink** began as acting assistant dean – community wellness, covering for **Daina Zweig** while on leave.
- There are two changes to the College's on-location support staffing: **Nicole Ranieri** is now our accessibility advisor; and **Jonathan Turner** was appointed as our second career educator.

B. Student Elections

Keil congratulated the recently elected 2025-26 ICSS executive members:

- President – **Juliana Concini**
- Executive Vice-President – **Bianca Mehrotra**
- Vice-President – Internal – **Miray Waki**
- Vice-President – Finance – **Felicity Tran**

Nominations have just opened for the ICSS General Election and will close March 23. Students can self-nominate for one of 16 positions being contested.

Keil also congratulated the Innis Residence Council executive, elected the previous week:

- President – **Wing Yip**
- Vice-President – Internal – **Nicole Jacquette**
- Vice-President – Social – **Isla (EYE-la) Munnik**
- Vice-President – Communications – **Joanna Wang**
- Vice-President – Finance – **Aiden Liu**

Elections for next year's *Innis Herald* masthead run March 12-19.

Keil thanked Mehrotra and fellow ICSS commuter representatives on hosting a successful Off-Campus Student x Staff Lunch in prior to the council meeting.

C. Renewal and Expansion update

Keil provided the following updates on the College's capital project:

- Over the next two weeks, structural steel will be installed at the top level of the expansion (i.e., the roof of the fourth floor/the penthouse level).
- The crane is scheduled for dismantling beginning the week of March 31. On Friday, April 4 or Monday, April 7, the crew will begin removing the concrete slab upon which the crane sits. This will cause period of higher-than-normal noise and vibration. The process will take five days.

- From May 12 until late August, the College’s elevator will be taken offline as the contractor connects the new “link” corridor to the existing east wing. This will interrupt access between the east atrium and the administrative area. An alternative pathway is being finalized soon. It also means that the second and third floors — and all washrooms — will only be accessible by stairs. Learning and Space Management and the AODA Office have been notified of this change. The library will be physically closed during this time.
- Keil added that Town Hall will be briefly offline as work is done around the walkway that leads to the projection booth.

5. Board reports

A. Academic Affairs Board

Rainbow, board moderator, reported the following highlights of [the March 3, 2025, meeting](#):

- Thank you to **David Roberts**, director of the Urban Studies Program, for his years of service at Innis. Roberts delivered his final report to the board, as the program will relocate to the Department of Geography & Planning effective July 1, 2025.
- Cinema Studies Institute is in its 50th anniversary year and is mounting a Monday-night event series with Institute alumni and faculty.
- The board approved changes to the Innis One Program and several of its courses to better reflect Innis’s current program offerings and to remove references to Urban Studies.
- The board approved allowing three Innis One courses to satisfy requirements for the Writing & Rhetoric minor program.

Rainbow noted that applications for the Patricia and Peter Shannon Wilson Undergraduate Prize are open until April 13. Johnson added that the application is research-focused, and faculty signatories are required.

B. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee

Awoleye, board co-moderator, reported the following highlights of [the March 4, 2025, meeting](#):

- Out@Innis representatives reported that group membership has continued to climb. They have run one event, and will host a screening on March 31, International Day of Transgender Visibility. A college-wide student survey is in development too.
- ICSS Equity & Outreach directors reported on a series of winter-term events. They also described a forthcoming referendum to increase the student levy supporting WUSC-sponsored students. Awoleye noted that the referendum was subsequently successful.

- The Dean of Students reported on a partnership with the Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy to pilot a sensory-friendly retrofit of an Innis Residence study room.
- The Advancement Office reported on Innis's involvement in the U of T Giving Day fundraising campaign, which allows gifts to two equity-oriented award funds to be matched.

6. Executive Committee

Jagoe stated that, as mentioned at the last ICC meeting, council will be asked to consider a slate of amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws at the next meeting, scheduled for April 15. Council members must be given 28 days' notice of any proposed amendments (i.e., no later than March 18).

Only constitutional amendments will require subsequent approval by Governing Council. By-law amendments, which represent the majority of the proposed changes, only require a 2/3 majority for approval by ICC.

Jagoe previewed the most substantive amendments in the forthcoming slate:

1. Reduce the "Teaching Staff" members of ICC from 6 to 4, to reflect the departure of the Urban Studies Program.
2. Increase the "Administrative Staff" membership from 4 to 6.
3. Establish a new, fifth "Standing Committee" (a.k.a., "Board")—the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Board.
4. Remove "the Director of the Urban Studies Program" as an ex-officio member of the Academic Affairs Board, and replace with "the Innis College Program Coordinator."
5. Remove references to the "Bursary Subcommittee" of the Student Affairs Board, as it has not been formed for several years owing to a structural change in how bursary funding is administered.

Jamie Yi, ICSS president, introduced another set of amendment proposals related to the 13 student representatives (reps) on Council, who are elected during the September By-Election. At present, all registered Innis College students are eligible to self-nominate and run for one of these spots.

Yi reported that voting history* reveals upper-year student are disproportionately favoured, in large part because they have higher name recognition compared to lower-year students. Yi added that the other seven student rep positions on council — ICSS executives (4), IRC president (1), don rep (1), and CSI grad rep (1) — are inherently filled by upper-year students. This means that a minimum proportion of upper-year representation is already ensured.

*Weststrate reported that of 33 candidates who ran for ICC rep positions in the 2024 By-Election, 10 were first-year students, two of whom were elected. Of the seven fourth-year candidates, five were elected.

Yi put forth three proposals to ensure more equitable representation across years of study: reduce the number of ICSS executives; limit the number of residence dons; and limit the number of upper-year students.

Council members discussed the ICSS executive quota proposal.

Yi recommended that the ICSS executive ex-officio roles be reduced from four to two, noting that executive participation in council meetings is historically low.

Saab, who holds an ex-officio role as the VP-finance, indicated that she could understand why her role, in particular, has seen relatively low uptake. She expressed support for lowering the executive quota.

Singh suggested leaving the quota at four and enabling uninterested executives to relinquish their spots to first-year ICSS representatives. Newcombe concurred.

Next, council members discussed the don representation concern.

Yi noted that there are five residence dons on council this year, four of whom were chosen in the By-Election. Each don represents 80 Innis students living in residence. Acknowledging that dons, as leaders, bring an important perspective, Yi proposed setting an upper limit on the number of dons on council. He clarified that this would entail establishing a don “category” among the 20 student members.

Newcombe advocated for don representation because, by virtue of their roles, they are highly attuned to the experience of students in all years of study.

Singh cautioned against further factionalizing student constituencies on council because being elected to a narrowly defined role changes the expectation of who the elected student is representing.

Finally, council members discussed the first-year/upper-year representation concern.

Yip recommended leaving the slate of 13 reps uncategorized by year of study. West added that upper-year students are equipped to represent first-year student concerns, as they also bring their previous first-year experiences to the council table.

Newcombe questioned whether first-year students have been unsuccessful in getting elected

because their fellow first-year students are less likely to vote in the By-Election. He suggested that encouraging greater voter participation among this under-represented group could help address the concern. Jafarzadeh Jahromi, a first-year student, concurred, speculating that most of her support came from fellow first-year students as this was the only cohort she had any familiarity at the time of the By-Election.

Council members pointed to the ambiguity of “college governance” as an explanation for why first-year students may not put themselves forth for ICC elections. Jakher recommended enhancing college-wide awareness of ICC to help all representation concerns, but especially for incoming first-year students during the summer; Awolaye concurred.

Concini identified that the issue this year was not from lack of interest or awareness among first-year students, illustrated by the fact that 10 first-year candidates ran; Jagoe concurred.

Council members discussed the merits of limiting upper-year representation versus setting a minimum quota for first-year representation.

Singh recommended focusing on first-year representation and emulating Governing Council’s model, whereby the top voting-receiving first-year candidates would be elected. Keil noted that because first-year students face a structural disadvantage, setting the quota at four would help level the playing field. Upper-year students would hopefully distribute evenly across years of study.

Council members discussed including second-year students in this quota. Concini recommended limiting it to first-year students, concurring with Keil.

Rainbow inquired about the disproportionate representation of commuter students on ICC. Yi reported that 23% of elected students (i.e., 3) are commuters — a constituency that represents 85% of the Innis student population.

Weststrate indicated that these discussions will be factored into the amendment proposals, to be circulate electronically on March 18.

7. Other business

- Singh reported that Orientation Week will take place August 25–29, 2025, and Innis Residence move-in will be on August 24.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Oassey) and carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:25pm.