



Innis College

Innis College Council

339th Meeting

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 10:15am

Events Room, Innis Residence

Minutes

Present: Daniel Adleman, Teniola Awolaye, Kate Bishop, Jenny Chen, Jannie Chien, Corinn Columpar, Sam Guevara, Eva-Lynn Jagoe, Yasmeen Jafarzadeh Jahromi, Kate Johnson (assessor), Charlie Keil, Sophie Liu, Alice Lo, Megan McDonald (assessor), Nikole McGregor, Cynthia Messenger, Rahna Moreau, Kyle Newcombe, Rima Oassey, Jake Pereira, Tony Pi, Dryden Rainbow, David Roberts, Stephanie Saab, Daman Singh, Joanne Uyede, Juliana West, Ben Weststrate (secretary), Jamie Yi, Wing Yip, Alberto Zambenedetti, Elsie Zhu

Regrets: Donald Boere (assessor), Jason Brennan (assessor), Juliana Concini, Connie Guan, Elijah Gyansa, Jiya Jakher, Cindy Lei, Cynthia Lin, Suzanne Macintyre (assessor), Dylon McLean, Wesley Noell, George Steiner, Anson Wong

1. Welcoming remarks

Speaker Kyle Newcombe called the meeting to order at 10:24am.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

A motion to approve the [March 11, 2025, meeting minutes](#) was moved (Rainbow), seconded (Jagoe), and carried.

3. Business arising from the minutes

None reported

4. Principal's report

A. Staffing update

Keil reported the following staffing changes:

- **Maya Waldman's** contract-based position as the development officer within the Advancement Office has been converted to continuing role.

- **Clara Chow** and **Gokce Erdem**'s event coordinator roles were also converted to USW Appointed status in the Fall term.
- The 2025 Cheryl Regher Early Career Teaching Award has been awarded to **Aditi Mehta** of the Urban Studies Program (USP) and **Lauren Cramer** of the Cinema Studies Institute (CSI). Congratulations to both.

B. Renewal and Expansion update

Keil reported the following capital project updates:

- The construction crane was dismantled on April 1.
- From May 12 until August 24, the college elevator will be out of service and the route between the east atrium and the administrative area will be obstructed.
 - This means that washroom access for students and visitors to the College will only be accessible by stairs to the basement or the upper floors.
 - Staff will need to use their fobs to gain access to the washrooms, kitchen, and photocopier via the entrance in the north stairwell.
 - Innis College Library will be closed May 5–September 1.
 - The elevator will be operational in time for Orientation Week (August 25-29).

C. Upcoming events

Keil noted that the College will host a free screening of the documentary, *Citizen Jane*, with CSI, USP, and [Jane's Walk](#) on April 28.

5. Board reports

A. College Affairs Board

On behalf of board moderator Jiya Jakher, Weststrate invited council member to review the [March 26, 2025, meeting minutes](#).

Weststrate highlighted several facilities-related updates, including upgraded lighting and improved locking technology in the administration area and AV enhancements to screening room 222E. The Residence is also undergoing a lock system upgrade, and one study room will be converted into a sensory-friendly space and four single-occupancy bedrooms into double rooms.

Keil added that feedback on new chairs was solicited for the Renewal & Expansion; results were varied but helpful. Town Hall will undergo repairs to the wood-veneer panelling during the summer to address where it has been peeling.

B. Community Affairs Board

Jafarzadeh Jaromi, board moderator, reported the following highlights of a March 27 meeting. [Read the minutes here](#).

- Since the previous board meeting, \$320,000 was raised for the Renewal & Expansion, plus \$170K in other giving areas.
- Innis's participation in the U of T Giving Day campaign targeted two equity-focused funds.
- Many new student ambassadors have been onboarded to support communication about and fundraising for the Renewal & Expansion.
- The [ninth edition of the college magazine](#), *Innis Alumni & Friends*, was distributed.
- Later Life Learning continues to offer hybrid format lectures. They completed their \$250K donation commitment to the Renewal & Expansion. **Tara Carrothers** will assume the presidency at the April Annual General Meeting.

C. Student Affairs Board

Pereira, board moderator, reported the following highlights of an April 8 meeting. [Read the minutes here.](#)

- ICSS achieved three major goals for the year, including increasing event participation. They launched a new website, launched and codified Breakfast Club, and saw two referenda passed.
- IRC reported increased event attendance and the continuation of the stairwell mural project.
- The Dean of Students Office reported on successful programming, including Insider and alumni mentorship programs and a series of principal's dinners. Orientation planning is underway.
- The Registrar's Office expanded its programming over the year. Preparation for Convocation and the incoming new-student cycle is underway. The keynote speaker at Innis's June 16 Convocation ceremony will be alumna and Indigenous arts leader **Sandra Laronde**.
- Representatives of the Recruitment, Admissions, and Awards Committee reported that award applications were open; adjudication will occur at the end of the term with some revisions to the process.
- Representatives of the Student Services Committee reported on three commitments made in the Winter term (i.e., Out@Innis, Breakfast Club, bird-friendly film installation).

Keil commended Innis College's student leadership for overseeing an across-the-board increase in in-person participation this year.

6. Executive Committee

A. Amendments to the ICC Constitution & By-Laws

Newcome invited council members to review the set of constitutional and by-laws amendments that has been put forth 28 days prior.

The four most substantive sets of amendments were presented in [Appendix 1](#) for individual council deliberation and vote. Newcombe noted that the balance of the amendments primarily relates to accuracy (e.g., evolving job titles) and writing style and will be put forth for vote as a slate.

Newcombe added that, at this stage, council can only edit the form of the amendments (e.g., sentence structure, word choice) — not the substance.

Vote 1: Amendments to ensure a minimum quota of first-year representation on ICC

Newcombe summarized the proposed amendment ([appendix 1.1](#)) and the rounds of discussion that led to it.

He described the sequence of motions that this set of amendments will involve. First is a motion to agree to set an unspecified minimum number of first-year students based on a specific definition. If this carries, next is a motion to set the quota at five students. If that carries, this amendment is considered approved. If it fails, a motion to set the quota at four students would be proposed.

A motion to amend Constitution section IV.B.6 to stipulate a minimum number of first-year students; and to amend Constitution section II.G to include "First-Year Student" means any new full-time undergraduate student entering their first year of a postsecondary program for the first time." was moved (Pereira) and seconded (Rainbow).

Council discussion ensued.

Singh questioned whether the proposed definition of “first-year student” was too narrow and suggested using the University’s definition of “any student with fewer than 4.0 FCEs.”

Rainbow clarified that this definition comes from the University’s residence guarantee policy and is also used for awards consideration. She identified that the FCE-based definition would enable returning students who have earned 3.5 or fewer credits to fill the first-year student slots on council.

Rainbow recalled that the intention of this amendment proposal was to ensure representation among students who were effectively experiencing post-secondary education for the first time, which the proposed definition aligns with.

Newcombe clarified that the intention is not to exclude any students but to ensure a minimum from one group.

Newcombe called for a vote on the motion as moved and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Next, council considered a motion to specify what the minimum quota should be.

A motion to stipulate the minimum number of first-year students as five was moved (Pereira) and seconded (Rainbow).

Council discussed ensued.

Pi recommended four as a more appropriate number. Saab concurred, adding that more than four first-year student would still be able to run for, and potentially be elected, to council.

Rainbow advocated for higher first-year involvement, pointing to the potential for mentorship opportunities between first-year and upper-year students within governance. This could help to ensure continuity within council membership and create growth potential for members throughout their tenure.

Keil added that he regularly interacts with first-year students who enter university with enthusiasm to participate but fail to get elected due to structural disadvantages, including low initial name recognition.

Newcombe called for a vote on the motion as moved and seconded. The motion carried with 68% in favour.

Vote 2: Amendments to enable two ICSS executive members to designate their membership to other students

Newcome invited members to consider the second set of amendments ([appendix 1.2](#)).

A motion to amend Constitution sections IV.B.3 and 4 to name the president and executive vice-president as ex-officio members of council and enable the vice-president – internal and vice-president – finance to designate their membership to others was moved (Pereira) and seconded (Saab).

Council discussion ensued.

Keil inquired who gets to do the designating: the individual ICSS executive member or the council. Yi summarized the impetus and previous council discussion on this amendment, clarifying that the decision would rest with the individual executive member.

Saab suggested that the designated representative be elected by an internal ICSS vote, but that it should be a decision made within council. Newcome concurred, recommending that this should be handled as an internal ICSS process. Pereira noted that the wording of the amendment does not inherently mean that the designates come from within ICSS council.

Keil suggested, to the ICSS, that they consider the first two unelected students from the Fall By-Election. Rainbow added that this could be an opportunity for the ICSS to ensure commuter-student representation, or other historically under-represented groups of students. Saab concurred, pointing to international students as another potential group.

Council members agreed that the specific designation process is an ICSS matter, falling outside of the ICC Constitution and By-laws.

Newcombe called for a vote on the motion as moved and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote 3: Amendments to redistribute council representation between administrative and teaching staff

Newcome invited members to consider the third set of amendments ([appendix 1.3](#)), which had been discussed by council at the previous meeting. Newcombe clarified that this change has no

implication on total non-student representation.

A motion to amend Constitution sections IV.B.8 and 9 to stipulate four members of the teaching staff and six members of the administrative staff was moved (Pereira), seconded (Rainbow), and carried unanimously.

Vote 4: Amendments to establish an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility (EDIA) Board and alphabetize the list of standing committees

Newcombe invited members to consider the fourth set of amendments ([appendix 1.4](#)). Weststrate noted that the proposed board definition was drafted and approved by the existing EDIA Committee itself.

A motion to approve the amendments to the By-Laws sections II.C and III was moved (Uyede), seconded (Chien), and carried unanimously.

Vote 5: Slate of additional, smaller changes

Newcombe invited members to review [the previously circulated PDF version of the Constitution & By-Laws](#) in which all proposed amendments were presented as comments.

A motion to approve the slate of remaining Constitution and By-Laws amendments was moved (Saab), seconded (Rainbow), and carried unanimously.

B. Vote: Election of council secretary for 2025-26 governance session

Pursuant to section 8.A of the Constitution, Newcombe called for nominations for 2025-26 council secretary. Newcombe nominated Weststrate, who accepted. There were no other nominations.

A motion to acclaim Weststrate as ICC secretary for the 2025-26 governance session was moved (Newcombe), seconded (Pereira), and carried.

7. Other business

A. Summer adjudication authority for student awards and bursaries

A motion to extend temporary authority to adjudicate awards to the Innis College Registrar, while RAAC is dormant throughout the Summer and early Fall session — to ensure that students aren't denied bursary funding while ICC is in recess, was moved (Newcombe), seconded (Oassey), and carried.

B. Gratitude and congratulations

Pereira thanked Newcombe and Weststrate for their service on council this year.

Keil congratulated Guevara on publishing their last edition of *The Herald* for the year.

Rainbow thanked Roberts on his service to ICC, and she congratulated graduating members of council.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved (Pereira) and carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:44am.

Appendix 1: Four Specific Sets of Amendments for Isolated Council Vote

1.1 Amendments to guarantee a minimum number of first-year student members:

This amendment has three implications — in the Constitution (p. 2, Definitions; p. 5, Membership) and in the By-Laws (p. 9, Terms of Membership). Yellow-highlighted text, below, identifies the proposed added text.

II. Definitions

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G. "Students" means undergraduate members of the ICSS and Graduate Students enrolled in the Cinema Studies Institute. "Undergraduate Student" means any student registered in the Faculty of Arts and Science through the College in a program of study leading to a degree, post-secondary diploma, or certificate, who is not registered in the School of Graduate Studies. First entry professional faculty students registered at the University of Toronto and living in the Innis Residence, in addition to non-degree students enrolled in the Faculty of Arts and Science through Innis College, are also considered to be members of the ICSS. "First-Year Student" means any new full-time undergraduate student entering their first year of a postsecondary program for the first time. "Graduate Student" means any student registered in the School of Graduate Studies through the Cinema Studies Institute.

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IV. Membership

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B. The voting members of Innis College Council shall consist of:

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6. thirteen members elected by and from among the ICSS, at least x* of whom are first-year students.

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A. Terms of Membership

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3. Should any vacancy occur among the elected Student members of Council because there was an insufficient number of candidates, the Secretary shall inform the ICSS President who, in

consultation with the members of the relevant constituency, shall fill the seat. Should any vacancy occur among the elected Other members of Council because there was an insufficient number of candidates, the Secretary shall inform the Principal who, in consultation with the members of the relevant constituency, shall fill the seat.

1.2 Amendments to enable two ICSS Executive members to designate their membership to other students

This amendment has two implications in the Constitution (p. 5, Membership). Yellow-highlighted text, below, identifies the proposed revised text.

IV. Membership

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3. the President and the Executive Vice-President of the ICSS;
4. ~~three~~ the two other members of the ICSS Executive, or their designates;

1.3 Amendments to redistribute staff representation in light of Urban Studies Program departure

This amendment has two implications in the Constitution (p. 5, Membership). Yellow-highlighted text, below, identifies the proposed revised text.

IV. Membership

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8. ~~six~~ four members elected by and from among the Teaching Staff;
9. ~~four~~ six members elected by and from among the Administrative Staff;

1.4 Amendments to establish an Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility Board and to alphabetize list of standing committees

This amendment has two implications in the By-Laws (p. 9, Standing Committees of Council; pp. 11-15, The Boards). Yellow-highlighted text, below, identifies the proposed revised and added text.

C. Standing Committees of Council

1. The Standing Committees shall consist of at least ~~four~~ five Boards:
 - a. Academic Affairs Board
 - b. ~~Student Affairs~~ College Affairs Board

- c. ~~College Affairs~~ Community Affairs Board
- d. ~~Community Affairs~~ Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Board
- e. Student Affairs Board

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III. The Boards

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D. The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Board

1. Composition:

The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Board shall consist of at least 16 members, including:

- a. ex officio: four members defined in By-Law II.D.3, the Dean of Students, the Assistant Dean – Student Life and Equity, the Assistant Principal and Registrar, an ICSS Equity and Outreach director, or their designates;
- b. at least one student representing of each of the following Innis College groups: Black Student Network, Out@Innis, and students with disabilities;
- c. a Principal's Appointee;
- d. a member of the teaching staff, appointed by the Principal;
- e. two additional student members of Council;
- f. an additional other member of Council;

2. Powers and Responsibilities:

The Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee shall:

- a. advise the Principal and Council on priorities and policies pertaining to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) at Innis College
- b. receive regular reports on EDIA-related policies and actions from the Principal or the appropriate College officer