

Dr. Barnabas Emengou was elected as the representative of other academic appointees
Aytaj Pashayeva was elected as the representative of graduate students

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Dean Walker commenced her report by welcoming new and returning students, as well as new faculty and staff who joined OISE since the beginning of 2024-2025, enthusiasm that continues to inspire her. She noted that the Council, meeting of the year coincided with the fall convocation and congratulated the 291 graduates who graduated on October 30, 2024. She then acknowledged new academic leaders including Professor Abby Goldstein, Chair, Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development (APHD); Professor Jen Gilbert, Chair, Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning (CTL); Professor Marcelo Vieta, Interim Chair, Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education (LHAE); and Professor Rubén Gaztambide-Fernández, Chair, Department of Social Justice Education (SJE). The Dean also welcomed Professor Maydianne Andrade, Special Advisor on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and Professor Ann Lopez, Special Advisor on School and Community Partnerships, as well as new student and alumni leaders Aytaj Pashayeva, President of the Graduate Students Association, and Jacqueline Karsemeyer, President of the Alumni Association. The Dean also extended gratitude to Vice Dean, Professor Sá, Associate Deans, Professors Flessa and Peterson-Badali, to CAO, Helen Huang, and to all Office staff and volunteers for their support of multiple community events and initiatives.

An update on the Academic Planning process was provided. The engagement phase took place during the winter and spring of 2024 and was characterized by a broad survey along with eight focus groups across various constituencies including students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. Special sessions were held for the Black Faculty Caucus, the Sustainability and Climate Action Network (SCAN), as well as for early career faculty. There was also an all-community session on the previous academic plan. The focus groups were well-attended with close to 200 participants across eight sessions. The Survey generated many insights with 456 responses (incl. 48% students, 23% faculty, 15% staff, 11% alumni, 4% partners/other). Additionally, the Academic Planning Engagement Team (APET) members consulted with about 350 additional connections contributing ideas to the engagement phase. OISE Deans and Chairs (DAC) and APET also contributed ideas to this phase, all of which resulted in more than a thousand touchpoints, a wealth of insights, and plethora of data environmental factors that impact our work. Over the summer months, these rich data were analyzed by DAC and shaped into possible strategic directions and initial intentions for OISE based on emergent themes. This later became the preliminary academic planning framework, which was further refined by APET. The next phase of the planning includes sharing the draft framework with heads of OISE departments, units, and special groups to engage in making shared sense of the intentions and identifying contributions to the realization of shared goals and objectives contained in the framework.

The emerging themes in the planning framework are underpinned by the core principles that permeate all work at the Institute and include equity, inclusion, diversity, accessibility, well-being, and sustainability, as well as deepening commitments to educational opportunity for those underserved in the education system including Black and Indigenous children, youth, and adults. Building on the notion of OISE as a hub for ongoing learning and exchange, the academic plan will center broader community connections both within and beyond OISE, creating flexibility and diversifying learning opportunities beyond traditional programs, and cultivating interdisciplinarity and collaboration for excellence in research and teaching across programs and departments. The Dean noted that the academic plan will come to OISE Council for approval in the winter term, and thanked faculty, staff, students, and alumni for contributing their ideas to the planning process. She then acknowledged APET members for their leadership and for inspiring community engagement Institute-wide.

Turning to advancement, the Dean reported that OISE is close to reaching 85% of its fundraising goal, Defy Gravity Campaign. She thanked Sim Kapoor, Director of Advancement, Communications, and External Relations, and her team for their work on this front. This success also rests on compelling stories about OISE research, innovation, and commitment to teaching and learning that inspire alumni, friends and partners to generously give to the Institute in support of our mission and priorities.

Regarding recent awards and honours, the Dean acknowledged faculty

Prof. Peterson-Badali reported that, at its first meeting held on October 9, 2024, the Committee elected Professor Ansloos as Chair for 2024-2025. In addition to reviewing its mandate, the Committee discussed ways to enhance its work including mapping onto , emerging academic plan. This may include supporting collaboration between research centres, building capacity for integrating equity, diversity and inclusion considerations within research projects; facilitating conversations on conducting ethical research above and beyond the institutional requirements (e.g. considering alternative processes for Indigenous research ethics); building capacity for engaging in equitable research partnerships with organizations in the global south; enhancing departmental support for postgraduate awards administration; supporting transitions from graduate studies into research experiences such as providing support to doctoral students on applying for postdocs; working with other Committees of Councils (e.g. Equity) on research and equity. Best practices for centering communities in strategic research planning, and continuing conversations regarding open access were also discussed. Relatedly, it was noted that Jenaya Webb, Director of OISE Library, , t an upcoming meeting.

7. Adjournment

The formal part of the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. and transitioned into a reception for members and guests of Council.