AGENDA:

1. Minutes of the Meeting of March 5, 2020  (attached)

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

3. Report from Student Councils
   i) NCSC
   ii) NCRC
   iii) Course Unions

4. Report from Standing Committees
   i) Academic Affairs – J. Larkin
   ii) NEWSS – L. McCormack-Smith
   iii) Library Committee – J. Newman

5. Report of the Principal – B. McElhinny


7. Report of the Vice Principal – J. Larkin

8. Report from the Registrar’s Office – K. Huffman

9. Report from the Office of Residence and Student Life – L. McCormack-Smith

10. Report from the Writing Centre – L. Newbery

11. Report from the Advancement Office – C. Argiropoulos

12. Report from the Communications Office – N. Cahill

13. Other Business

14. Adjournment
NEW COLLEGE COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Thursday, March 5, 2020
12:10 p.m. –2:00 p.m., Wilson Hall, Room 2053, New College

Present:  To be updated at a later date.

Regrets: To be updated at a later date.

Minutes of the Meeting of January 27, 2020

The minutes of the meeting of January 27, 2020 were accepted as recorded.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Report from Student Councils

• NCSC
  ♦ The election processes for next year’s Council are in progress. Voting starts March 10 and ends March 18. Results will be published after the election committee meets.
  ♦ An open forum will be held tonight; all are welcome.
  ♦ A number of constitutional amendments have been proposed during this election as a referendum. There has been a campaign to raise awareness of these items.
  ♦ The formal is planned for March 20 at the Fairmont Hotel, and tickets are sold out

L. McCormack-Smith congratulated NCSC on the work done on constitutional amendments. There was a lot of work involved and many thoughtful recommendations emerged.

A round of applause followed.

• NCRC
  ♦ After tonight’s NCSC forum, all residents will be invited to the NCRC annual general meeting, where constitutional amendments will be reviewed; students will be able to voice concerns; and there will be a recap of this year’s events.
  ♦ An election meeting will be held March 26. Nominations for next year’s Council are due March 6.
  ♦ A number of trips are planned, including a trip to the maple syrup festival.

Report from Standing Committees

• Academic Affairs
  J. Larkin reported the following:
  ♦ There will be one more round of curriculum submissions for the 2020-2021 Calendar. Following a long consultation process, the name change for the Equity Studies Program will be going forward, along with revisions to the program description.
Timetabling for 2020-2021 is underway.

There will be three international programs this summer: Ghana, Kenya and Belize.

Mental health of students, faculty and staff was the topic of the most recent New Pedagogy meeting, with a focus on creating a "Culture of Care". What is meant by this? How might this be implemented? L. Newbery presented a starting framework by defining what care is. Strategies included ideas for making syllabi sound less punitive and more of a pedagogical document; eliminating unclear/vague assignments; providing a spectrum of deadlines for assignments; avoiding overlapping assignment due date; collective notetaking; and different ways for students to participate in class. Next steps include meeting with the President in May to discuss ideas from both the New Pedagogy group and the President’s Teaching Advisory Group.

92 applications were received from Human Resources in response to the Librarian search. J. Newman is completing a high-level overview to help with interpretation to as not to overwhelm the search committee.

Review and Reactivation of the Members Committee

B. McElhinny proposed that the Members Committee, an 8-person committee responsible for soliciting nominations and reviewing privileges for members, be revitalized. New members should be proposed. Existing policies, privileges and responsibilities need to be reviewed and updated. For example, we can’t offer office space, but we can offer access to NCIF, New College teaching awards, etc.

_B. McElhinny moved, seconded by A. Guerson, that the Members Committee be reconstituted._ CARRIED

Update on Program Anniversary Activities

B. Russell announced that the International Foundation Program (IFP) is celebrating 10 years in 2020, while the International English Program (IEP) is celebrating 25 years. IFP will be holding a conference May 29th and 30th. A lunch was held for the current and previous IFP Senior Doctoral Fellows. Most of the previous Fellows now hold appointments at various institutions. Summer celebration events are on hold due to COVID-19.

Report of the Principal

B. McElhinny reported the following:

- **Thanks** – K. Huffman was thanked for organizing the scholarship reception, and C. Argiropoulos and B. Registe for bringing some of the donors who supported the scholarships to the reception.
- **Searches**
  - Néstor Rodriguez is the new Director of the Caribbean Studies Program.
  - The Vice Principal nomination is currently going through the governance process.
  - Four candidates for the continuing Teaching Stream position in Equity Studies will be coming to campus to give talks. Members of the College community are encouraged to attend and give feedback.
  - There is the potential for an opportunity hire in Caribbean Studies. A public talk will be given.
- **Coronavirus and Academic Continuity**
  The risk of infection remains very low in Ontario. However, given increasing concerns, U of T is
establishing continuity procedures. Templates have been developed and distributed to faculty, staff and students. Key points:

♦ Students must register with Safety Abroad if travelling abroad.
♦ Address and telephone records must be kept up to date.
♦ Follow the guidance on the travel advisory website.
♦ Make sure not to monitor inappropriately (concerns about racial profiling).
♦ Follow best practices in work continuity.
♦ Support students electing to self-quarantine.

Students received information letters from their Registrar’s Offices and Residence Offices today.

• Academic Plan
The draft version of the academic plan for 2020-2025 has been posted to the website (https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/about/strategic-overview/academic-planning). Feedback is being accepted until March 6. The draft is 20 pages long. 25% is devoted to equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives and indigenous teaching and learning. The College Principals met with the Dean to offer suggestions on an earlier draft. Key points:

♦ There are substantive recommendations, including developing a new Bachelor of Arts & Science; an Arts & Science Institute for Advanced Study; a new awards committee to recognize achievements; and review of all degree requirements (undergraduate degree requirements haven’t been reviewed in approximately 10 years). Within this, there is also a discussion about first-year education. In recent years, there has been a push towards expanding first year foundational courses and small class experiences; now these are on hold pending the review of degree requirements. Current first-year initiatives will continue to be supported, but expansion has been put on hold for now.

♦ The plan contains a brief section on Colleges, in which the need for additional residential space is acknowledged, and the need to develop more robust relationships between the registrarial services at the Faculty-level and the service provided by College Registrar’s Offices is emphasized.

♦ There is significant emphasis on experiential learning, which includes the development of a new co-op program. There are two units in FAS addressing this: The Experiential Learning and Outreach Office and FAS Strategic Partnerships Office. S. Tecle, the New College Community Engaged Learning Coordinator, will be organizing a retreat on Community Engaged Learning in April so that we can reflect on what we’ve been doing and think about what we want to do in a strategic way that aligns with the academic plan.

♦ Supporting indigenous teaching and learning – (1) allowing the Centre for Indigenous Studies to become an EDU-A, which allows it to make its own appointments instead of being reliant on other units for joint appointments; (2) building a dedicated space that will become an Indigenous College/House; (3) supporting indigenous research; and (4) multi-year strategy for proactively recruiting indigenous teaching faculty and staff.

♦ There will be a new Equity & Diversity Officer.

L. Newbery asked if a date had yet been set for S. Tecle’s CEL retreat. B. McElhinny advised that they are still conferring on the best date and will send out an announcement once one has been chosen. This should be settled soon.
Report of the Chief Administrative Officer

R. Vander Kraats reported the following:

- **Finances**
  The new fiscal year begins May 1. This is when the operating budget is set. During this process, we estimate the costs of running the College and establish the budget, outlining how we’re going to pay for everything. This year will be the same as in previous years – the Faculty of Arts & Science will fund 60% of the cost of running the College, and we subsidize the rest from intrapreneurial activities. There is some uncertainty around Summer 2020 revenues. However, we have a substantial contingency fund (1 year’s worth) in place, so the College should be okay.

- **William Doo Auditorium**
  The City of Toronto Building Inspector will be inspecting the William Doo Auditorium today. Our teams believe we have complied fully. However, it remains a construction site until it passes inspection. The partition has arrived, and the furniture will arrive Monday. Staff are being trained on the new IT systems. The speakers are “smart” in that they know which configuration the room is in and will reconfigure themselves as appropriate. There are two independent 4K projector systems. The IT student staff will be trained to provide free support for the first few months. Although the delays have been significant, the end result should be worth it. The first event in the Doo will be a student event. A soft launch is being planned, with a formal launch event with U of T dignitaries in attendance planned for later.

- **45 Willcocks Atrium & Mezzanine Renovations**
  We will be completely transforming this space. Renderings will be presented at the next meeting of Council. The costing for the project came in under budget. We are spending extra money to ensure NCSC can use their offices throughout the fall semester despite construction.

- **Other Capital Projects**
  The major project is the Wilson Lounge renovation. Additional student service space is one thing has been requested to be incorporated into the renovation.

Report from the Registrar’s Office

K. Huffman reported the following:

- **June Convocation**
  June Convocation is scheduled for June 11. This year, in response to the nearly 950 New College students requesting June graduation, we will have both an afternoon and an evening ceremony, with the award ceremony being held in the morning. This makes scheduling the reception a bit challenging.

- **Program Enrolment Sessions**
  There will be one additional program enrolment session held March 9. K. Huffman thanked the communications team for their assistance in advertising these sessions. Attendance has been very good.

- **Program & Summer Course Enrolment**
  Program enrolment opened March 1, as did summer course enrolment. Enrolment controls will drop on Monday.

- **Program Change**
  Threshold marks for enrolment in Computer Science programs have been steadily increasing.
In response, a supplemental application is now included. There are 4 questions on this application; students respond to three. The Program will weigh marks and the information from this supplemental application. It is hoped that this change will help diversify the student body and reduce the required grade average. This change applies to current students in 1st year and to incoming students applying to the computer science stream.

M. Papaconstantinou asked about priority enrolment in the summer. K. Huffman explained that, unlike the fall/winter priority enrolment process that is spread over a number of days/weeks, summer enrolment priority is handled throughout the course of one day.

Report from the Office of Residence and Student Life

L. McCormack-Smith reported the following:

- **2020-2021 Hiring**
  All hiring for 2020-2021 senior student positions (dons, peer leaders, RAP) has been completed. Offers are going out on Friday, with a common response date of March 16. It was a very competitive process this year, with 140 applications received. Many applicants were for returning positions and there was a lot of interested in the RAP positions. The hiring team was thanked for their work.

- **RecogNEWtion**
  The ceremony will be held March 16. It’s set to be held in the Wilson Lounge, but it is hoped that it might be held in the William Doo Auditorium. 102 nominations for the awards were received. The nominations have gone through the first round of reviews and the committee has reduced it to 5 individuals per category.

- **SafeTalk & ASSIST**
  The last SafeTalk session for this year will be held March 18; ASSIST will run May 7th & 8th. Registration information is available on the website. All faculty, staff and students are eligible to enroll in these sessions.

- **Welcome Day**
  There will be only one welcome event held this year. It is scheduled for June 6. More information will be sent to participants soon.

- **COVID-19**
  There are concerns regarding illness in residence. ORSL is involved in preparedness planning now.

- **Living & Learning Communities**
  Changes are being proposed in response to demand. See the [attached document](#) for details.

Report from the Office of Advancement

C. Argiropoulos reported the following:

- The spring giving campaign has launched. The theme is around international experiences and experiential learning: “The World is Here at New”.
- Currently working on the Fall 2020 annual giving campaign. The University organizes this campaign, and New College has its own place within it.
- Planning continues for the new major campaign. There will be more to report at the next meeting.
• The Mentorship Program organized by the Alumni Office launched in February with a reception. There are 43 matches this year.
• On March 19, another instalment of the Alumni Speaker Series will be held. The talk will be on the art and science of wine-making, and will be followed by a wine-tasting in the library. The speaker is a graduate of the Sociology and Equity Studies Education Program (now called the Social Justice Education Program) at OISE.
• Spring alumni reunion will be on May 29 and will be held in the Dining Hall. Chef James will do a presentation addressing myths around “Beyond Meat” and will prepare a fully vegan menu. Last year, 120 alumni attended.

Report from the Communications Office

N. Cahill reported the following:

• Communications Review – the 3 shortlisted vendors for the website and visual identity design came to the College and made presentations. Each brought something different to the table. The reference checks on the vendors has been concluded. The next step is to have a final consensus meeting and select a vendor. Procurement will negotiate the contract.
• Website – the office has been very busy posting news and events on the website. We want everything to have space on the website and social media channels, so it is critical that the office is given sufficient lead time to prepare postings, particularly when requesting graphic design.
• Communications on Campus – N. Cahill met with other communications officers across campus. Going forward, this group will meet three times per year to discuss challenges and successes, as well as where communications is moving.

L. Newbery asked how much lead time is required for website postings. N. Cahill said as much as possible, especially during busy times.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

On a motion by L. McCormack-Smith, seconded by L. Newbery, the meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m. CARRIED
Changes to Learning Communities at New College Residence 2020-2021

The Learning Communities at New College Residence will be evolving for the academic year 2020-2021 with three significant changes:

- **The Kwant House Life (+) Sciences Learning Community** will expand to formally include Johnson House as well. Over the years, Johnson House has typically accommodated the overflow of life sciences students unable to secure a spot in Kwant House. With the change, the total number of spots for the Kwant-Johnson Life Sciences Learning Community will double. The programming will still be centred around the community’s theme and feature stronger connections with New College’s Human Biology program. There will still be two dons that will collaborate on programming even as the houses continue to compete distinctly for the House Championship Cup for Wilson Hall.

- **The Innovation & Technology (iTECH) Learning Community** currently housed in 45-6 will be moving to Wetmore Hall and occupy the Elmsley and Boulton Houses. Over the past five years, the iTECH Learning Community has been one of the most sought after houses, but with one of the lowest capacities. Owing to the demand, this change grows the capacity for iTECH from 40 spaces to 95 spaces, an increase of 55 spots. Similar to Kwant-Johnson, the iTECH Learning Community will feature collaborative programming between the Elmsley and Boulton Residence Dons, and greater connections to our engineering, computer sciences, and entrepreneurship-oriented programs on the St. George Campus.

- The Equity and Inclusion (E&I) Learning Community of Powell House (Wetmore Hall) will be moving to 45-2 House in Willcocks Residence. Furthermore, the mandate of this learning community will be expanded to include a focus on sustainability. The new **Sustainability-Access- Equity (SAE) Learning Community** will prioritize “having a say” - storytelling with a focus on examining the social relations together with the many systems that structure and order them along with identity formations with all of its complexities. This community will reduce in size from 50 spots to 38 spots. While the numbers narrow, we hope the broader scope of the community will allow for a more focused experience afforded to those who are especially interested in these issues. New College is the perfect place to host this community with Equity Studies (the seventh largest program at UTSG) and the Women and Gender Studies Institute being housed here. This learning community will feature greater ties to global food equity and disability justice and deeper partnerships with our campus equity office partners.

- **What happens to Global Connections, Women’s Leadership, and HeART and Wellness?** While the communities that captured these themes will no longer officially retain these foci, the values of global cultures, leadership development, creative practices, and wellness will continue to permeate the programmatic and growth opportunities we provide our residents. In fact, we hope to have all dons integrate these values into the work they will do to steward their communities.
Our Life (+) Science Learning Community brings together students in a Life Sciences program, or who have an interest in life sciences, health, or becoming a healthcare professional. This residential community strives for balance where residents are not only able to engage with college life but also gain academic and social support tailored for students studying or interested in Life Sciences. This community is supported by a specially selected Residence Don with an academic background in either Life Science or Healthcare studies and features programming tailored to the needs of Life Science students.

Location: Wilson Hall, 3rd Floor – KWANT HOUSE and JOHNSON House

The Innovation & Technology (iTECH) Learning Community brings together those first-year and upper-year students committed to innovation and technology in their academic programs. This LLC tends to attract students specializing in engineering but is also designed to attract those students who simply have a passion for technological innovation. This community is supported by a specially selected residence don with such a background, and who understand the pressures associated with a degree in the STEM fields.

Location: Wetmore Hall, 2nd Floor – ELMSLEY HOUSE and BOULTON House

Sustainability, Access, and Equity (SAE) Learning Community will have the opportunity to be a part of a truly unique community and engage in thought provoking programming opportunities. This community is designed for students who are interested in issues of equity as it relates to social identities such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, religion, socioeconomic class, national origin, education, citizenship, (dis)ability, etc. and who wish to develop their of these issues within a broader perspective of justice, sustainability, and community development. Programming in this community promotes participation in the New College Community and the wider University and Toronto communities and practical experiences in a variety of settings.

Location: Willcocks Residence, 2nd Floor – 45-2 HOUSE

Gendered Communities at New College Residence 2020-2021

The single gender communities at New College Residence will also be undergoing changes for the academic year 2020-2021. We are moving towards having single-gender communities in each of our three buildings.

- The Men-identifying community, currently in 45-2 House, will be moving to 45-5 House in 45 Willcocks Residence.
- The Women-identifying communities of Laurence and Crawford, a total of 84 spots, will be moving to Wetmore Hall 4th floor – Wilson House and Russell House. The move will result in an increase of 11 spots for women-identifying students. This change is in response to the increased demand for such living preferences. What this also means is that Laurence House and Crawford House will become coeducational communities for 2020-2021 academic year. If you are interested in women-identifying communities, please note this clearly in your returner application or housing application, and know that you may be placed either in Wilson Hall (Whitton House or Carr House on Floor 4) or Wetmore Hall (Wilson House or Russell House on Floor 4).