

New College Council

Meeting of Monday, April 15, 2024, 12:10 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the Meeting of March 7, 2024 ([attached](#))
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
4. Report from Student Councils
 - i) NCSC
 - ii) NCRC
 - iii) Course Unions
5. Report from Standing Committees
6. Report from the Writing Centre – M. Prescott-Brown
7. Report from Communications – A. Rodrigues Magalhaes
8. Report from the Office of Advancement – C. Argiropoulos
9. Report from the Registrar's Office – K. Huffman
10. Nomination of the Striking Committee
11. Other Business
12. Adjournment

NEW COLLEGE COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Thursday, March 7, 2024 12:10 p.m. –
2:00 p.m.

Present: R. Boyagoda, K. Huffman, D. Eyoh, N. Dragicevic, J. Newman, W. Tran, A. Guerson, R. Vander Kraats, L. McCormack-Smith, A. McGuire, C. Ramsaroop, M. Prescott-Brown, B. Russell, O. Guo, T. Seburn, D. Williamson, B. Registe, A. Rodrigues Magalhaes, C. Argiropoulos, R. Buiani, A. Stone, L. Kwiatkowski, D. Racelis, T. Walkland, Florentine Winkler (NCRC), Mahalia Newman (PATH), Lauren Rego (PATH), Carly Jazbek (PATH)

Regrets: H. Si, M. Lo, E. Weisbaum, F. Garrett

Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Discussion regarding proposal to close Buddhism, Psychology & Mental Health program (guest Prof. Randy Boyagoda, Vice Dean Undergraduate)

J. Newman explained the initial discussion with R. Boyagoda would follow a prepared list of questions. These questions and their notes may be accessed via https://bit.ly/bpmh_questions. After the preset questions are asked, there will be space for questions from the meeting participants.

R. Boyagoda described that attending the New College Council (NCC) meeting is a part of the broad consultation that is required by University of Toronto Governance when considering program closure. R. Boyagoda will answer questions as well as gather feedback from NCC participants to share with the level of the Dean's Office and then ultimately the University by way of Vice-Provost, Susan McCahan, who has academic authority delegated by the Provost, Trevor Young, for consideration of changes to major academic programs at the institutional level. R. Boyagoda emphasized that, due to the nature of the various parties and levels of Governance involved, the consultation process is an ongoing conversation.

J. Newman asked the first question: "What are the Faculty of Arts and Science's concerns regarding Buddhism, Psychology and Mental Health (BPMH)?"

R. Boyagoda shared that any academic program offered in the Faculty of Arts and Science needs to have both (1) a stable, sustainable, long term academic sponsor and (2) permanent faculty. This is because the Faculty makes a promise to students when they enroll that the courses they take come from faculty, research, and teaching fully invested in a long-term project associated with the field. This requires tenure and teaching stream faculty as the normative demographic. While this is not always possible, as long-term sessional lecturers are very important to academic programs throughout the faculty, at base these two faculty types are the crux of this pedagogical promise.

R. Boyagoda elaborated that the Faculty has determined New College can no longer provide the permanent academic home for the BPMH program. As such, the decision was made to look for academic sponsors. The two Academic Units first consulted were the Department of Psychology and the Department for the Study of Religion due to these programs being cognate units that intersect with BPMH. However, neither Academic Unit expressed interest in sponsoring or co-sponsoring BPMH. As such, the Faculty was in a spot where it is difficult to see the continuation of the program due to lacking both a clear academic sponsor at the level of the unit and the permanent faculty typically associated with a program in Arts and Science.

J. Newman invited meeting attendees to discuss the first question.

R. Buiani asked to clarify the meaning of an “academic sponsor”.

R. Boyagoda explained that no academic program can operate at a university without it being housed in a unit, which can be a department, institute, or College. An academic sponsor takes academic responsibility for a program offering, which means they propose, develop, and refine the curriculum — all of which presupposes permanent faculty, which need to belong to a “home unit”.

J. Newman clarified if the unit is assigned the FTE of tenured and teaching stream faculty.

R. Boyagoda confirmed this is the case.

J. Newman asked if it is possible for a College to be assigned tenured positions.

R. Boyagoda responded that tenured positions are not assigned to Colleges. R. Boyagoda further elaborated that in order to hold tenure at the University of Toronto, one of the basic expectations is graduate supervision and graduate teaching. Graduate teaching does not happen in the Colleges with the one exception being the Divinity or Theology schools, but those are separate from Arts and Science. Therefore, a faculty member would hold most of their appointment in a unit that has a graduate program and can only hold up to 49% of their appointment in a College.

A. McGuire asked if there were other options for identifying cognate units outside of Psychology or Religion.

D. Eyoh responded that the cognate units were identified based on their natural affiliation with BPMH as well as their previous collaboration with the program.

Florentine Winkler asked to clarify how the individuals in the working group for the review of the BPMH program were selected and why staff and faculty from the program were not included.

R. Boyagoda explained one of the guiding principles when striking a program review working group is to not involve individuals from the program being reviewed due to the importance of maintaining objectivity. Thus, the individuals recruited are from outside the program but generally have the following qualities: a technical understanding of program structure at the University and/or a natural disciplinary affiliation with the program.

C. Ramsaroop asked how many programs in the Faculty are in the same program review position as BPMH and if it would be possible to change perspectives from whether the BPMH program should close to finding ways in which it could be continued or preserved instead, especially given the benefits of the program for student wellbeing and general interest in it.

R. Boyagoda shared there are about a half dozen programs of study that are currently going through the same program closure review process but at various points in Governance. In response to the second question, R. Boyagoda clarified if the question could be reworded as if the Faculty, in its pre-existing structures in other programs or co-curricular activity, could respond to student interest within the context of enrolment into the program being suspended and the ongoing consultation process. If so, this would not be possible as it would be unfair to the parties involved. While students may experience the lifting of the enrolment suspension as a positive, it would ultimately be extending a promise the program will continue when it is not possible to commit to the number of years in which it will be available.

C. Ramsaroop added that potential program closure creates a precarious employment situation for the BPMH faculty, which is a workplace concern.

R. Boyagoda agreed individuals in sessional lecturer positions are in a precarious position and added this challenge is by nature of the role.

J. Newman asked the second question: "What options are there for mitigating the concerns raised by the working group, the Faculty of Arts and Science, and the University?"

R. Boyagoda explained the options, to some degree, have already been tried. The primary option was finding a sponsor or funding unit that wishes to sponsor the BPMH program because the availability of permanent faculty that can take responsibility for its curriculum would naturally follow. This option was exhausted as the cognate units both declined to sponsor BPMH, meaning the search needs to be expanded. R. Boyagoda elaborated that BPMH as well as New College can provide suggestions to help with the search. However, as Psychology and Religion were the most logical departments, there is only so much further out the search can be facilitated.

D. Eyoh shared the Department of Psychology was interested but was unable to take on the responsibility of the BPMH program due to not having enough teaching staff to dedicate. Meanwhile, the Department of Religion would be interested in facilitating courses in the broad area of religion, mindfulness, and will consider a long-term plan for a joint appointment with Psychology but it is not their current goal.

R. Boyagoda further elaborated that academic hiring to respond directly to student interest in BPMH would be a medium-term solution at best, as it takes at least two years for hiring to be completed.

J. Newman invited meeting attendees to discuss the second question.

Lauren Rego shared anecdotally that there are large populations of students in other programs, such as within the School of Environment, that are also simultaneously enrolled in the BPMH

program, and these populations may exceed those of students who are enrolled in Psychology or Religion.

R. Boyagoda reworded this observation as a suggestion to ask the Office of the Faculty Registrar to generate reports that show a heat map of other programs BPMH students are enrolled in and to bring the current dialogue to those departments to gauge interest in sponsoring the BPMH program. R. Boyagoda confirmed this action item is possible and will bring it to the Office of the Faculty Registrar.

T. Walkland asked if the BPMH program needs to be sponsored or housed by a unit within the Faculty of Arts and Science or if an external entity, such as OISE's Department of Applied Psychology, could take responsibility for it.

R. Boyagoda responded it is exceptionally rare to move a program from one division to another due to the bureaucracy involved. R. Boyagoda gave the example of the Faculty of Forestry taking 7-8 years to move into the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design despite both parties being in agreement. R. Boyagoda added that OISE does not have an undergraduate program.

R. Buiani asked if it would be possible for BPMH to be housed by multiple departments instead of just one.

R. Boyagoda explained that while there can be co- and joint sponsors, a single core academic unit must house a program.

J. Newman asked the third question: "Is there a role that New College can play with respect to fundraising, advocacy, external donors and so on?"

R. Boyagoda emphasized the importance of never letting a fundraising opportunity determine academic direction as it should be in response to academic direction instead. R. Boyagoda added that the scale of fundraising involved in hiring a sufficient faculty complement to outfit an academic unit would be tens of millions of dollars, which would be incredibly difficult relative to the status of current fundraising, notwithstanding the priorities of the Faculty, or even what a given College administration can do.

R. Boyagoda elaborated that the College can contribute to the co-curricular side of the BPMH program, especially given that one of the greatest focuses of the program is its wellness component, which may be possible to facilitate in a co-curricular context.

A. Guerson asked if the decision to close the BPMH program would take place in the March meeting of the Governing Council.

R. Boyagoda responded, as the Chair of the Faculty's Curriculum Committee for all undergraduate courses and programs, that the final Governance meeting of the year happening in March is when academic units bring forward proposals for different courses, changes to their programs and so on. These changes are then approved at the Arts and Science Council, which meets every six weeks or so. R. Boyagoda elaborated that the Faculty recognizes it would be wrong to rush a decision for the BPMH program through Governance and so it will not be discussed in the final meeting of this year.

J. Newman asked, considering the BPMH program will be existing for another academic cycle, if it would make sense to re-open enrolment into the program for that academic year and then close it again once the discussion continues.

R. Boyagoda explained that this would not be the case, especially since the Faculty is already working on a case-by-case basis with Registrar Offices and their students who wish to enroll into the BPMH program. R. Boyagoda further elaborated the challenge to re-opening enrolment would be promising students they can fulfill the program's completion requirements three or four years later.

M. Newman shared many students are confused with the announcement to suspend enrolment into the BPMH program as of January 31, 2024. M. Newman further explained many students do not know about being able to manually enroll into the BPMH program via their Registrar's Office and asked for clearer communication of this possibility.

D. Eyoh agreed this process can be confusing for students and clarified the students that Registrar Offices would be manually enrolling into the BPMH program would be ones who have already completed several program requirements.

K. Huffman explained the process for students to manually enroll into the BPMH program would entail meeting with an Academic Advisor in the College Registrar's Office to review courses towards the program they have already completed as well as what is still required. Based on this consultation, the Academic Advisor would determine eligibility for exceptional enrolment. K. Huffman further elaborated the process is ultimately case-by-case as, for example, students may have started this past 2023 Fall term with the expectation they could add the program in March 2024 and may have taken some of the core courses from Psychology or other academic units to work towards completing the program in the meantime.

F. Winkler asked what the process of re-opening the BPMH program would be in the case it were to close and if it would follow the procedure of a new program opening or if there is a separate process that takes into account the program's history.

R. Boyagoda responded that this question would be best answered by Professor Susan McCahan, Vice Provost, Academic Programs and will contact them as well as provide an answer once a response is given.

A. McGuire asked to clarify if the biggest problem the BPMH program is facing would be the lack of a stable, permanent non-College academic unit to house it.

R. Boyagoda explained the definition of a stable housing unit is permanent faculty.

D. Eyoh added the example of how Cognitive Science at University College has a commitment from the Department of Psychology to contribute permanent faculty and teaching part of their loads.

J. Newman confirmed there were no other meeting attendees who had questions.

R. Boyagoda confirmed two action items coming from the meeting: (1) working with the Office of the Faculty Registrar to identify potential academic units that may be interested in sponsoring the BPMH program outside of the already identified cognate units and (2) confirming with Professor Susan McCahan, Vice Provost, Academic Programs the procedure for re-opening a program. R. Boyagoda will send the responses to these two items to D. Eyoh and J. Newman to share with the New College Council members.

J. Newman shared the two directors of the BPMH program, Frances Garrett and Eleanor Weisbaum, whom are not in attendance have ideas for other relevant cognate disciplines and wish to meet to discuss them.

R. Boyagoda confirmed a meeting is already in discussion.

Minutes of the Meeting of January 22, 2024.

T. Walkland shared their name was included twice in the note of present meeting attendees. Please see [here](#) for the correction.

The minutes were approved.

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

Updates about ongoing acts of voyeurism – February 23:

- Campus Safety and the Toronto Police Service are continuing to investigate the acts of voyeurism. Uniformed security continues to patrol the residence and publicly accessible parts of New College for additional protection and support.
- Signage has been posted in all washrooms where incidents of voyeurism have occurred – both in the public washrooms and private residence washrooms
- Signage has been posted in residence dissuading the practice of tailgating through access-controlled doors and elevators in residence as well as use of cellphones in washrooms (which are shared space).
- All residence buildings have had at least one shower space temporarily modified to be completely no-look.
 - The 3rd floor of Wetmore Hall's washrooms and the 3071 washroom in Wilson Hall have been modified with a pilot project to more permanently modify washrooms to increase privacy in shower stalls. If the pilot is successful in providing the increased privacy while also maintaining necessary airflow, this will be rolled out more broadly.
 - A single use washroom is also available for students with safety planning needs, and this support can be arranged through the Office of Residence and Student Life.
- On the recommendation of the New College Residence Council and Campus Safety, we are installing access-control (fob) locks for all the residence floor washrooms. This is a longer-term project.
- We are also installing security cameras at every New College perimeter door, alongside signage that indicates public areas are being monitored. This is also a longer-term project.

- We continue to encourage feedback on these projects and are available to support any student or community member who may want help.
- All future updates to the community will be provided through the New College website. Updates from February 21 and February 23 are available there currently. Residence students will also be updated through emails to the community as we have more - <https://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/news/statement-from-new-college-acting-principal-on-ongoing-acts-of-voyeurism/>

Update from week of March 4:

- Cameras at exterior doors are being put back online – this is through SD cards in the existing cameras. Footage will only be reviewed if there is a request and reason to do so. Footage is held for 30 days. This is ONLY for exterior doors, not doors onto residence floors.

Report from the Office of Advancement – C. Argiropoulos

Advancement Updates

- New College recently announced a 5-million-dollar donation from Mr. Richard Rooney (NEW '78). This is the largest gift in history for New College, African Studies Centre and Centre for Caribbean Studies and the gift is matched by the Faculty of Arts & Science. The donation supports two endowed professors, one in each centre, and two post-doctoral fellowships, again one in each centre. Mr. Rooney has been very connected to New College with over 20 years of volunteerism and support to campaigns — he supported the endowment for New One and the plaza redevelopment — and was inspired to support the work in African Studies and Caribbean Studies.
- The University of Toronto's Day of Giving is taking place on March 26, 2024. This is a coordinated campaign across the University to encourage giving and support from alumni and the broader community. Every donation is matched up to \$1K/donation. The New College campaign features Daman Singh, Assistant to the Dean, Student Life & Leadership in the Office of Residence and Student Life and encourages support to New College to expand enriching experiences for students with a focus on engagement through scholarship, community work, activism and experiential learning.

Alumni Development Winter Activities

- The New College Career Mentorship Program launched this Winter and matched almost 60 students with alumni mentors into program. Students heard from Paul Nazareth in the program orientation and met mentors and peers at the Mentorship Program Reception on February 21st, hosted by Vice Principal Alexandra Guerson. This year, we also onboarded 15 new mentors and paired 13, a fantastic achievement supported by New College communications who brought the mentor registration process online and shared posts on LinkedIn and social media to bring on new volunteers.
- The Dinner@NEW program continues this winter and on Wednesday, March 6th, we hosted an evening with alumnus Brady Carballo-Hambleton. It was well attended, and the students had many great questions.
- Alumni Reunion will be taking place on Friday, May 31st. More details will be announced closer to the event.

Awards Updates

Background

- Scholarships and awards as well as changes to these are approved through NCC, which then are reviewed by Governing Council.
- Upon review, we are requesting NCC approval to update the conditions of two existing awards.

Terry Buckland Memorial Award:

- Background: This award was funded in 2009 by the Arts and Science Students' Union in memory of Terry Buckland
- To be awarded to one or more undergraduate students in the Faculty of Arts and Science, at New College. Preference will be given to students entering 2nd, 3rd or 4th year enrolled in South Asian Studies (program or courses), and/or students who are active in student politics, advocacy, and other equity-oriented co- and extra-curricular activities. Students must be in good academic standing and demonstrate financial need.
- Rationale: South Asian Studies program is not within New College, specific conditions make this difficult to award, ASSU representative in agreement with update to award
- Recommendation to update conditions - Awarded to New College students in years 2, 3 or 4 with financial need. Preference for students who demonstrate leadership and engagement in the areas of advocacy, equity and social justice.

A. McGuire asked to clarify if this award is only for New College students or if it would include students enrolled in New College programs.

C. Argiropoulos confirmed the award is only for New College students.

A. McGuire shared most students enrolled in the Critical Studies in Equity and Solidarity program are not New College students, so there may not be many eligible students for this award.

C. Argiropoulos acknowledged this point and will consider it in future meetings.

The New College Student Council Centennial Award:

- Background: This award was created from a gift from NCSC in 1967 which established an endowment. The conditions specify that the award grants \$400 from the investment income of the endowment. However, the endowment has grown substantially and generates over \$1000 in investment returns each year. It is typical practice for endowed awards to grant the amount of investment income annually.
- New College Student Council voted to increase the value of the New College Student Council Centennial Award to align with the annual return generated from the investment moving forward; and to broaden the terms of the award to allow for more than one student to receive the award each year
- Recommendation to update conditions – Update award amount to be annual income from endowment; Update so more than one student can receive the award annually

C. Argiropoulos motioned to approve the changes to the two awards' conditions.

A. McGuire seconded. The motion opened for discussion.

All in favour. Motion carried with all in favour.

Report from Student Councils

NCSC:

- No representatives in attendance.

NCRC:

General activities

- General Assembly meetings and Dining Hall Committee meetings have continued to be held. The student representatives have been very communicative of issues in the student residence experience and providing other feedback.
- Completed consultation with the Director of Finance and Director of Administration. One point of reflection for next year is to investigate how resident activities can be better supported through various programming given that engagement can be sparse.
- This year, F. Winkler and the necessary student body representatives will be meeting to complete a re-evaluation of the Residence Council constitution.

Dining Hall Communication

- We are presently communicating with dining hall representatives. We are now in contact with Onkar Tendulkar, the Assistant Director, Residence Dining, who has been an open and accessible point of contact to share feedback and gain further insight into the ongoing changes.
- Collaborative planning of trips and activities that will aid in connecting students with the staff and operations are also underway. We are currently planning a committee field trip to the Greenhouses that supply our fresh produce and look forward to conversing more with Onkar Tendulkar on future events such as easy-cooking workshops, which are currently being trialed at Chestnut Residence.

Inquiry with Caretaking Services for Resident Washroom Cleaning

- At the fifth NCRC General Assembly meeting (February 14th), the dissatisfaction with washroom cleanliness despite daily sanitation procedures was expressed. A motion was proposed and passed to agree to a potential petition requesting at least two more deep cleanings of the washrooms — ideally mid-semester — per year. This issue was raised in meetings with the NCRC ORSL advisor and more specific feedback was shared to identify possible actions for Caretaking.
- The petition process is currently paused to converse with Caretaking first and make the most effective decision after.

Course Unions:

- No representatives in attendance.

Report from Communications – A. Rodrigues Magalhaes

- Eunillyne Lazado's last day as the Communications Assistant was February 9, 2024.
- All personnel should send communications requests and queries to communications.newcollege@utoronto.ca.
- Communications office has helped A. Guerson with the Artist in Residence event and the Office of Advancement with various events, including the 5-million-dollar gift from Richard Rooney, via social media, and the Writing Centre as well as Library with the Writing Retreat.
- CAMH event occurring at the end of March about Eleanor Weisbaum's research.
 - Currently a webinar.
- Arts and Science has been collecting alumni stories, which have been reshared to the New College website.
- Launch of a new New College Facebook page that combines the existing three New College-based pages into one.
 - The handle for Twitter/X, Instagram, and Facebook are now all aligned as newcollegeuoft.
 - Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/newcollegeuoft/?hl=en>
 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NewCollegeUofT>
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/newcollegeuoft>
- New Roots orientation page will be launching next week.

Report from the Writing Centre – M. Prescott-Brown

- Writing Retreat concluded and went well.
 - Around 50 students attended.
- CAESS Writing Group is now going to be a bookable space so professors that have assignments late in the term and would like their students to have access to a librarian and writing instructor to get feedback on their work or to work in the space can do so.
 - Consists of Caribbean Studies, African Studies, and the Critical Studies in Equity and Solidarity program.
- Writing Room will also operate in the same manner as the CAESS Writing Group in that it will be bookable. The goal is to work more closely with professors and students to ensure they have the support and assistance they need.
- Faculty Writing Group is going well and having more attendees.
- QT Write-Ins have started.

Report from the Librarian – J. Newman

- Additional information on the Writing Retreat.
 - A one-day event featuring a collaboration of the Library and Writing Centre.

- Shared anecdotes from students who found the event incredibly helpful and meaningful.
- One of the students from the Nikibii Dawadinna Giigwag (NDG) group is going to be hosted in the Library as a co-op student. They are a student at the Wandering Spirit School, an Indigenous School.
 - They will be working on a project that involves doing an inventory of all the woodland art housed in New College as well as updating signs to ensure the correct terminology is being used.
 - All the art will have associated placards and the Library will try to create a website to host all this information.

Report of the Chief Administrative Officer – R. Vander Kraats

Solar Eclipse Event

- An event to celebrate the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8, 2024 is currently being planned.
- 400 eclipse glasses were purchased to share with the New College community so they may safely watch the eclipse.
 - Both the American Astronomical Society and NASA vouch for the company that produces these glasses.
- The event will be family-friendly, especially as many schools will be closed.
- Refreshments will be served.
- Will speak with L. McCormack-Smith about how to involve New College students.
- Will ensure adequate communications, such as signage, will be circulated regarding safety measures — in particular, not looking directly at the sun.

Other Upcoming Events and Projects

- Spring Planting coming up with 400 more plants to place outside of Wilson lounge.
 - Collaboration with NDG Indigenous youth and the Daniels Faculty.
 - Scheduled to happen around the third week of May.
- Orientation planning in early June.
- Potential Beekeeping event in the Summer.
- Creating a circle gathering space in the New College courtyard with NDG youth and the Daniels Faculty.

Other Business

- T. Seburn shared the second session of New Pedagogy occurred on March 1, and the discussion was on where political conflict and discourse, such as the conversations surrounding Gaza and China, meets the classroom.
 - Second session of the year since the pandemic. 18 attendees.
 - C. Desai and Mark Meyerson led the conversation.
 - The third session is scheduled for April 5, which will be last one of the session.
- A. McGuire shared March 1999 — 25 years ago — was the launch of the Critical Studies in Equity and Solidarity program. Events will be planned for the Fall in celebration.

- J. Newman reminded attendees that the next NCC meeting in April will be the last one they are chairing and invited nominations for a new Chair.

Adjournment

T. Walkland moved to adjourn.

T. Seburn seconded.

All in favour.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM. CARRIED.

NEW COLLEGE COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Monday, January 22, 2024 12:10 p.m.
-2:00 p.m.

Present: K. Huffman, D. Eyoh, N. Dragicevic, J. Newman, W. Tran, A. Guerson, R. Vander Kraats, L. McCormack-Smith, A. McGuire, F. Garrett, E. Weisbaum, M. Lo, C. Ramsaroop, M. Prescott-Brown, B. Russell, O. Guo, T. Seburn, L. Mak, D. Williamson, F. Taverna, A. Rodrigues Magalhaes, C. Argiropoulos, C. Bilgin, R. Buiani, A. Stone, L. Kwiatkowski, D. Racelis, Aleeya Middleton (ESSU), T. Walkland, C. Desai, H. Si, Florentine Winkler (NCRC), Dean Chen (HBSU)