

New College Council

Meeting of Monday, January 23, 2023, 12:10 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

AGENDA:

- 1. Minutes of the Meeting of November 24, 2022 (attached)
- 2. Business Arising from the Minutes
- 3. Report from Student Councils
 - i) NCSC
 - ii) NCRC
 - iii) Course Unions
- 4. Report from Standing Committees
- 5. Report of the Principal D. Eyoh
- 6. Report of the Chief Administrative Officer R. Vander Kraats
- 7. Report from the Registrar's Office K. Huffman
- 8. Report from the Office of Residence and Student Life L. McCormack-Smith
- 9. Report from the Writing Centre L. Newbery
- 10. Report from the Advancement Office C. Argiropoulos
- 11. Report from the Communications Office N. Cahill
- 12. Other Business
- 13. Adjournment

NEW COLLEGE COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Thursday, November 24, 2022 12:10 p.m. –2:00 p.m.

Present: B. Alvarez, R. Buiani, N. Cahill, N. Crawley (Secretary), S. Doyle-Wood, N. Dragicevic, A. Dias, D. Eyoh, F. Garrett, T. Goldstein, J. Gravestock, K. Huffman, M. Lo, L. McCormack-Smith, J. Newman (Chair), T. Patel, M. Prescott-Brown, C. Ramsaroop, B. Registe, T. Seburn, H. Si, E. Weisbaum

Regrets: M. Cassar, ESSU, N. Feng, A. Narang, M. Neumann,

Minutes of the Meeting of September 26, 2022

The minutes of the meeting of September 26, 2022 were accepted as recorded. N. Dragicevic was congratulated for the work she did on NCC minutes over the past 2 years.

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

Report from Student Councils

- NCRC
 - House Councils are reporting significant difficulties in attracting people to in-person events. Students only seem to attend if food is offered. Asking for advice on how to re-spark involvement in the community.

T. Goldstein noted that all groups are struggling with the same problem and the only suggestion that can be offered is to just keep trying.

- A maple syrup trip is being planned, and that has generated a lot of interest.
- Collaborating with NASAH (New Against Sexual Assault and Harassment)
- There is a desire to provide sanitary products in residence bathrooms.

Report from Standing Committees

• Academic Affairs

T. Goldstein explained the role of the Academic Affairs Committee and reported the following:

- There was a search for a full-time joint position between Caribbean Studies and Community Engaged Learning. Kevin Edmonds was the candidate selected. Chris Ramsaroop (the current CEL instructor) was thanked for his work this year. All people involved in CEL will be meeting in January to discuss the past, present and future of CEL at New College. There is significant funding from U of T and the Faculty of Arts & Science available for experiential learning.
- New College fall convocation was held on November 7, 2022. Kevin Edmonds was the Beadle.

- Minor modifications to several African Studies (AS) courses and two new courses were approved at the FAS Curriculum Committee meetings, the week of November 14, 2022.
- Minor modification to courses in the Buddhism Psychology and Mental Health (BPMH) will be presented at the FAS Curriculum Committee meetings in January 2023.
- African Studies and BPMH are waiting for the Dean's responses to their UTQAP review.
- ISA and IFP instructors are now eligible for Advancement as CUPE 6 instructors. Tara and Marci Prescott-Brown have formed a committee to do teaching observations as part of the Advancement process. They have completed 5 observations for the ISA program so far
- New College 2023-2024 timetabling will begin in January 2023.
- NEWSS
 - L. McCormack-Smith reported the following:
 - Updates to the Orientation Project Charter
 - Changes to the Peer Leader structure. Retaining 100 leaders for orientation, but will include peer leaders, events/logistics leaders, and orientation influencers
 - BIPOC Resource Fair has now been written in as a formal part of the orientation experience. Will continue to be open to call colleges and divisions, but hosted by New College, and will have the goal of featuring student clubs and resources for BIPOC students.

Report of the Principal

D. Eyoh reported the following:

- We are in the process of getting back to an in-person University. We are doing as well as can be expected.
- The November convocation ceremony went very well, and it was obvious that students were happy to have the event return to an in-person format. There will be a December event to celebrate students that graduated during the pandemic.
- With respect to COVID, the province has not announced anything that would result in the University changing procedures. There is currently no masking requirement in place.

Report of the Chief Administrative Officer

K. Huffman reported the following on behalf of R. Vander Kraats:

- The Service Ancillary Group (SARG) reviews ancillary operations and presents rate increases for Hart House and the constituent colleges to the Student Affairs Board. Food Services and Parking now report directly to the Business Board.
- There was a change in process for the College this year. Last year we reported directly to the SARG group as this aspect of the College was under the jurisdiction of the Provost. This year we reported to the Faculty of Arts & Science with the responsibility for the constituent colleges delegated from the Provost entirely to the Dean.
- The residence ancillary has recovered very quickly from the accumulated deficit position caused by the pandemic. It peaked at a deficit of \$2 million but by fiscal year-end 22/23, it will clear with expected reserves of around \$2 million. Large temporary reductions in the major maintenance budget account for much of the turnaround.
- Demand for rooms continues to be strong. Despite reserving rooms for isolation, we will have a 97.1% occupancy rate (98.5% is the usual rate). The summer hostel business far exceeded

expectations as budget conscious travellers seemed to put the pandemic behind them. We were at 80% of a typical summer. Our summer educational program enrollment was around 2/3 of a typical summer.

- For next year, we have requested a base increase of 3.6% which will apply to 45 Willcocks. For Wetmore and Wilson, it will be higher by 1.7%-2.2% because of a rate-parity increase. Over the past four years, WE/WI increases have been higher as we move to the same rate for all buildings. With the major investments made in WE/WI over the past decade, those buildings are now comparable to the newer 45 Wilcocks building and no longer should rent at a discount. This year we finally achieve rate parity. I'll note several of the other residences have requested a base 5% increase for next year. Our most affordable bed-over-desk double will increase by 3.2% and continues to be, by far, the most affordable double on the St. George campus.
- We will restore the major maintenance budget in FY 23/24 allocating \$2.3 million for building maintenance and construction to continue at pre-pandemic levels in the residence. Even we this level of spending, we anticipate that accumulated reserves will be \$4.7 million by the end of fiscal 23/24.
- SARG requires the preparation of a five-year plan. With modest 3 % to 4% rate increases over the next 5 years; the residence is expected to generate reserves of \$18.2 million by the end of the 5- year planning horizon. We've talked about increasing our space at the College by expanding Wilson Hall westward. \$18.2 million would make for a healthy down payment and demonstrate that the College is serious about this project.
- Slides of the new renovations are <u>attached</u>.

Report from the Registrar's Office

K. Huffman reported the following:

- There continues to be a high demand for advising appointments.
 - a) 30 minute appointments are generally booked a week in advance
 - b) Drop-in times are usually close to capacity
- All students, including international students, are eligible to apply for bursary/grant support through their College Registrar's Office. The grant application is available online at: https://future.utoronto.ca/finances/financial-aid-old/emergency-assistance-grants/
- A make-up convocation is being held December 14, 2022 for New College students who convocated in 2020 and 2021. We're expecting about 400 students to attend convocation and the reception.

Report from the Office of Residence and Student Life

L. McCormack-Smith reported the following:

- Residence has been quite full this year.
- Continuing to see students attending formal programming (like workshops) at a lower rate than previous years, but higher attendance at drop in programming. Will be looking at how we can use high impact practices in a drop in setting so students receive information in a format that they are comfortable engaging.
- New College will be bringing back the in person hiring carousel for this year for Residence Dons, Learning Experience Assistants, Community Advisors, and Orientation Coordinators. Hiring will open on December 1 (links to be posted on the website) and will close in early

January. Carousel will be in the first weekend of February. If anyone knows of great students for these positions, please encourage them to apply.

Report from the Communications Office

N. Cahill reported the following:

- Our new SharePoint site has been set up. All visual identity templates are hosted on this site and all College members should have access. Contact Nicole if you can't access the site.
- The office is working a new holiday card template. Once complete, it will be uploaded to the SharePoint site.
- A social media policy will be uploaded as well. There are many concerns at the College and the University at large, especially given policy changes in some of our media channels.
- Nicole is working with Aneta Kwak, one of the College librarians, to develop a resource guide for accessibility for the web.
- Hoping to add faculty and staff bios and pictures to the website
- A news writer from the Faculty of Arts and Science wants to write articles focusing on College programs. Please send any program-related news and events to Nicole.
- Working on developing an image bank on the SharePoint site. Please send Nicole any photos from events.

Other Business

- J. Gravestock asked about the ongoing struggle with upper-year returning students in residence as noted in the minutes of the previous NCC meeting. He noted that many students are quite anxious about being able to return. L. McCormack-Smith noted that, at present, upper-year students comprise 20% of the residence population. This is a direct result of the first-year residence guarantee. When Leah started in her current position, 40% of the population were upper-year students. Since then, the Faculty of Arts and Science has continued to grow, but residences have not. Many international students didn't know where they were going to live until mid-August.
- J. Newman noted that the library's 24 hour study space will return on December 9.
- H. Si reminded Council that the next BIPOC luncheon will be held November 30 at 12:30 p.m. in the Senior Common Room.
- M. Prescott-Brown asked if Quercus help would be available on the SharePoint site, as there isn't a lot of Quercus-specific information available. N. Cahill advised that she could help with that.

<u>Adjournment</u>

On a motion by L. McCormack-Smith, seconded by T. Goldstein, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. CARRIED



Welcome to the "New" 45 Willcocks

The "Mezz" Lounge



The Gnu Lounge

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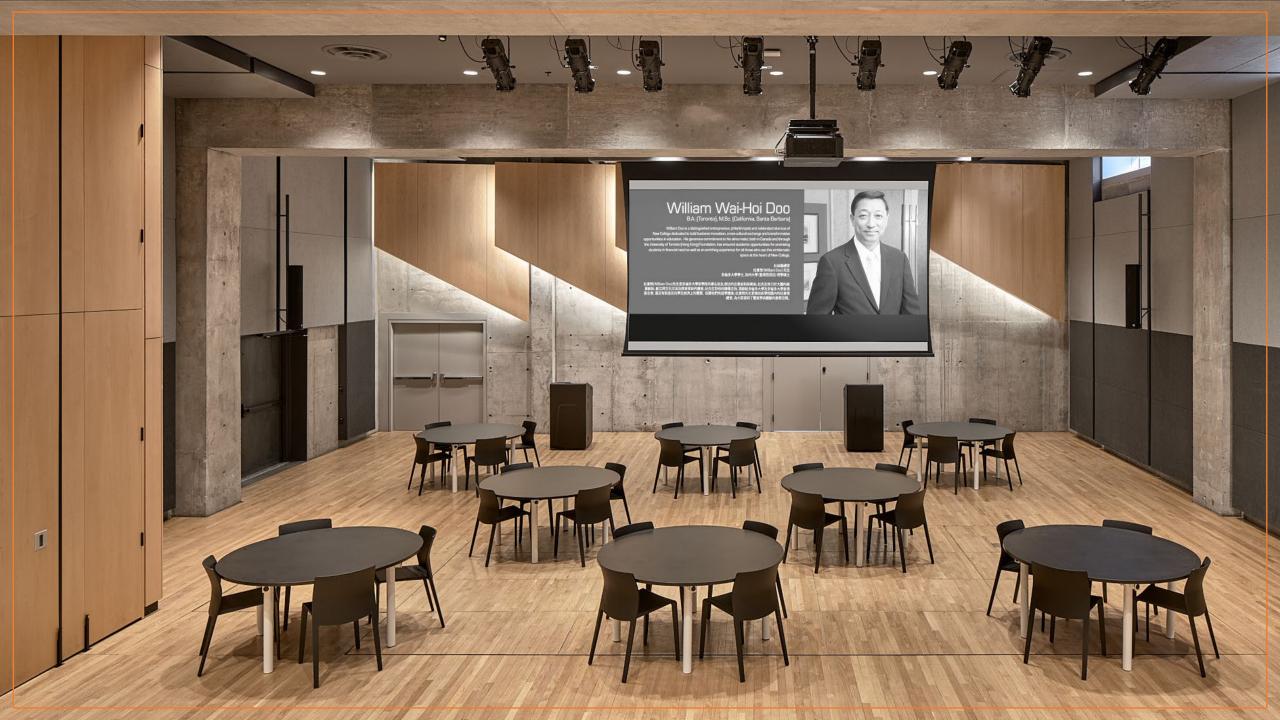


The Bodyworks Studio & The Den

(not shown is the new student Multi-Purpose Room & additional Music Room)



The "Hang Out Steps"







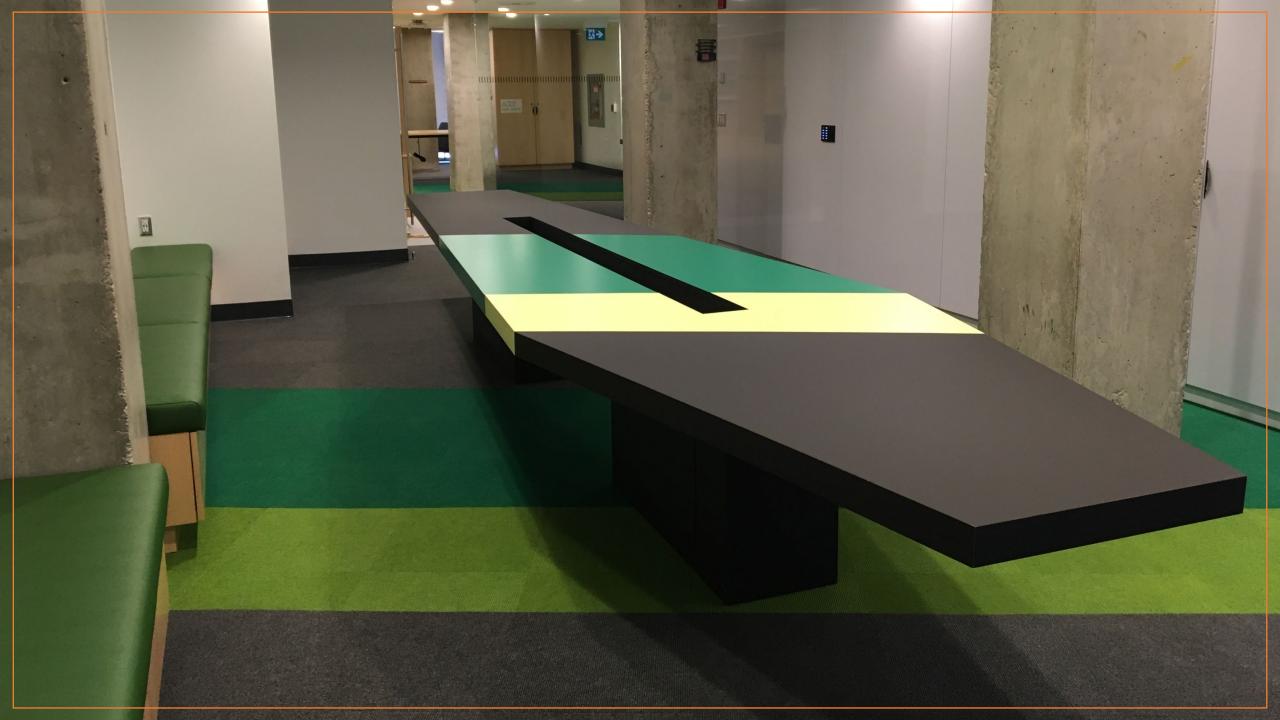
NCSC Meeting Roo

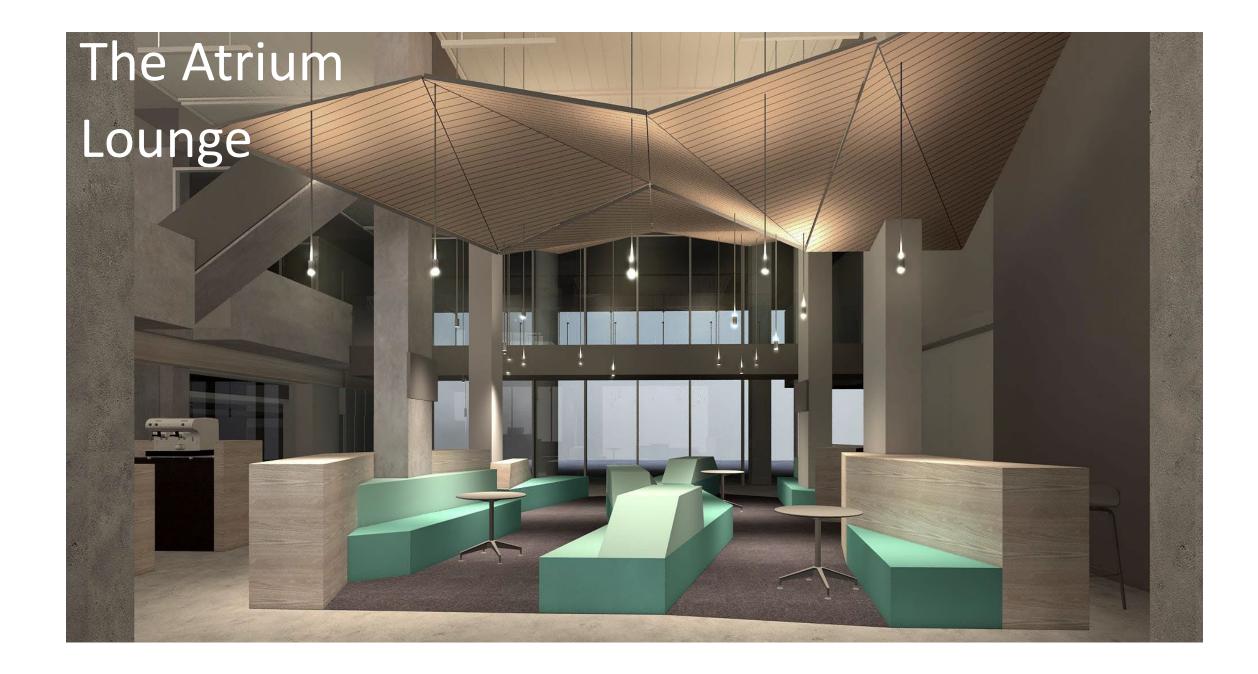
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100A STUDENT UNION

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The Atrium Lounge

SECOND CUP COFFEE CO. . GIL A PROPERTY. AND DESCRIPTION

Welcome to the Wilson Lounge

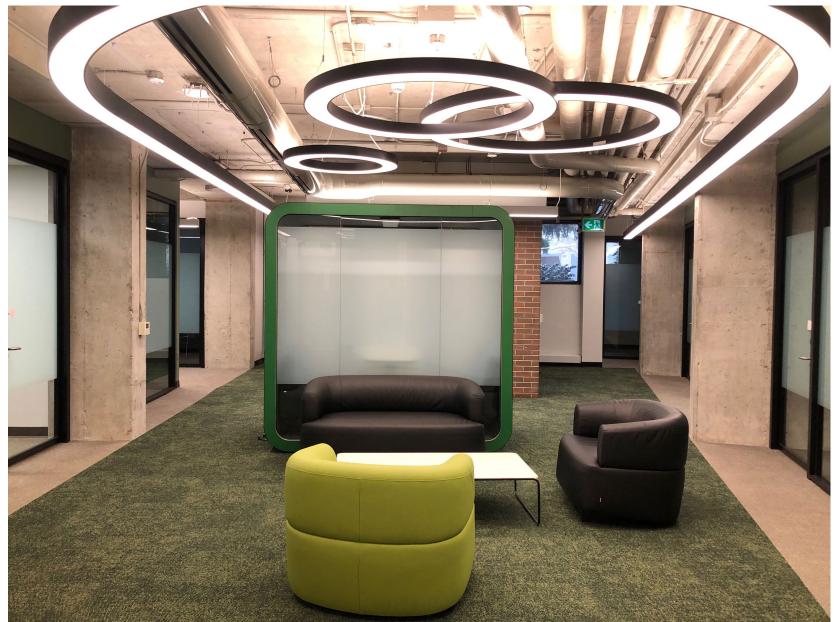








The "Lower Level" of Wetmore Hall





The "Pod"

- The lower level of Wetmore Hall is now fully accessible with the addition of two lifts.
- The fire alarm system in Wetmore Hall has been replaced.
- The new system incorporates both visual and audible alarms.

