



## New College Council

*Meeting of Monday, January 31, 2022, 12:10pm–2:00pm*

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### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the Meeting of December 15, 2021 ([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 – T. Goldstein
    - a. FAS initiative for future courses
    - b. Fall/Winter timetable
    - c. The [Arts & Science Internship Program](#) (ASIP)
    - d. New Pedagogies Discussion Group
    - e. New Research at Noon with Senior Doctoral Fellows
    - f. BPMH: Making the Invisible Visible
    - g. NEW One: “Who Cares? Sustaining Relations of health beyond the time of crisis”
    - h. Senior Doctoral Fellow Presentations
    - i. Community-Engaged Learning Events
      - Working for Change Conference
      - CEL Retreat
    - j) Next Academic Affairs meeting is Feb 7, 2022
6. Report of the Principal – B. McElhinny
7. Report of the Vice Principal – T. Goldstein
  - i) Artist-in-Residence program
8. Report of the Chief Administrative Officer – R. Vander Kraats
9. Report from the Registrar’s Office – K. Huffman
10. Report from the Office of Residence and Student Life – L. McCormack-Smith

11. Report from the Advancement Office – M. Petri
12. Report from the Communications Office – N. Cahill
13. Other Business
14. Adjournment



## New College Council

*Meeting of Wednesday, December 15, 2021, 12:10pm–2:00pm*

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Present: J. Newman (Chair), N. Dragicevic (Secretary), R. Vander Kraats, A. Guerson, E. Weisbaum, L. McCormack Smith, N. Cahill, K. Huffman, M. Petri, J. Stronghill, L. Kwiatkowski, B. Russell, L. Newbery, T. Goldstein, B. McElhinny, H. Si, M. Neuman, N. Crawley, N. Rodriguez

Regrets: N. Jain (NCRC Director of Communications), M. Cassar

### Minutes of the Meeting of November 4, 2021

Approved.

### Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### Report from Student Councils

- i) NCSC – none.
- ii) NCRC – none.
- iii) Course Unions – none.

### Report from Standing Committees

- i) Academic Affairs – T. Goldstein
  - ♦ Hiring of sessional instructors and TA's is almost done.
  - ♦ New Pedagogies for course instructors will be continuing in the new year with two more planned.
  - ♦ New Research at Noon programming is continuing. Senior Doctoral Fellows have been taking turns being interviewed by T. Goldstein about their graduate journey as doctoral students and the interviews continue in the new year.
  - ♦ The Research Opportunities Program (ROP) has started again. Instructors who are interested in recruiting second- and third-year undergraduates to conduct research with them and linking the students' research work to an academic course for course credit. should get in touch with T. Goldstein.
  - ♦ The opportunities for travel abroad have opened. Travel this spring and summer depend on whether COVID travel restrictions are in place or not.
  - ♦ T. Goldstein thanked N. Crawley and N. Dragicevic for their support.
- ii) NEWSS – L. McCormack-Smith
  - ♦ The final NEWSS meeting of this term will take place tomorrow, where updates and changes to the orientation project charter will be finalized. Many changes that were written in last year were meant to respond to pandemic times.

- ♦ A visioning exercise will start in January, to think more broadly about the ways that NEWSS can impact New College student services more generally. The focus will be more on being in person, with some questions around COVID related experiences. An external facilitator will be brought in to do the visioning exercise.

### Report of the Principal – B. McElhinny

- Data from early December shows there were no outbreaks on campus for September, October, or November. There was no transmission of COVID that occurred in an on-campus context. Testing was done twice a week in all residences using COVID wastewater testing procedures, and there were no instances of COVID.
- Support continues for formally supported requests for accommodations from Family Care & Health and Well Being.
- There was planning for increased opening of the Principal's office but that is on hold at the moment.
- There was an in-person party at the Faculty Club. There is also an online party coming up on Friday. The caretakers received a standing ovation for the extraordinary work they've done throughout this pandemic period.
- At a recent Chairs, Principals and Academic Directors meeting, the lead item was related to Caribbean Studies moving towards EDU: B status. This will occur July 1<sup>st</sup>. B. McElhinny gave N. Rodriguez an opportunity to speak on this:
  - ♦ N. Rodriguez advised things are going well and that there have been no obstacles in the process. Arts and Science has been supportive. N. Rodriguez thanked New College, the Principal, the Vice-Principal, and colleagues for their support.
- B. McElhinny noted to J. Newman that if there are changes to governance related to the new status of Caribbean Studies with New College Council, it would be good to get started on this.
- It was announced at the last Principals and Deans meeting that there is a review of the sexual violence and harassment policy and the bulk of that meeting was devoted to a discussion of this. The review is being co-led by the Dean of the School of Nursing and Allison Burgess, a former student in Women and Gender Studies. B. McElhinny noted that New College supports the policies that prevent sexual violence and sexual harassment and is willing to have ongoing conversations.
- The last scheduled session of anti-racism workshops happened and was well attended. Additional training sessions will be offered.
- The letter of accountability from African Studies and Caribbean Studies called for an external review of New College and B. McElhinny has been doing work thinking about what that might entail.
- An offer has been made for the CLTA position in the Writing Center on anti-racist and anti-colonial practice, there will be an announcement soon.
- Last year as a result of the pandemic, the New College dining hall moved from a buffet model to a declining balance model and this will continue this year. There were some concerns voiced about the change and an external review was requested of the food service provision as a college. B. McElhinny proposed bringing forward some of the recommendations from the report to share in the new year.
- Ongoing collective bargaining is happening with Unit Six.
- The Second Cup Coffee shop will open January 10<sup>th</sup>, located at 45 Willcocks.

- Nancy Rowe, an elder at New College has invited us to do three full day training sessions at her launch on the New Credit reserve, in January, February and March. An invitation has been circulated. The requirement to sign up is to be available for all three sessions.

#### Report of the Vice Principal – T. Goldstein

T. Goldstein took an opportunity to have E. Weisbaum talk about a successful event from the Buddhism, Psychology & Mental Health Program

- E. Weisbaum talked about an online book launch in December for “Zen and the Art of Saving the Planet”:
  - ♦ In partnership with Thich Nhat Hanh’s (a Zen master, nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize by Martin Luther King Jr), centre in France “Plum Village” who does work around mindfulness and social engagement.
  - ♦ E. Weisbaum thanked J. Newman for his help in setting up the webinar.
  - ♦ There were over 280 participants in attendance from Canada and the US, as well as representation from around the world. There was live translation to Italian.
  - ♦ Representatives were invited from Buddhism, Psychology & Mental Health, from the School of the Environment, and Public Health to participate in the Q&A session. It was a meaningful way to connect.
  - ♦ A speaker series is in the works for the winter term and will feature BIPOC speakers discussing caring for ourselves and the planet through the lens of mindfulness and compassion.
- T. Goldstein noted an event funded through the New College Initiatives Fund titled “Who Cares? Sustaining Relations of Health Beyond the Time of Crisis,” an interdisciplinary conference with art-based research which will explore community, caring and mental health. The conference will be held in the spring.

#### Report of the Chief Administrative Officer – R. Vander Kraats

- With a 93% occupancy in residence, we will have an operating surplus of about \$600,000, which will go to our accumulated deficit. The decision was made not to spend the surplus on major maintenance at this time.
- It is important to keep our residence affordable for our students. This year there is a base rate increase of 2.8%. There is a bed-over-desk option, increasing by 2.2% this year. We have decided to move to rate parity. We can charge an equivalent amount to 45 Willcocks, and we will spread that increase over five years. We are in year four of that five-year program, so there is 1.9% rate premium for rate parity. In Wilson Hall and Wetmore Hall, the base inflation rate is 2.8%, but students will actually be paying 4.7% more. There will be one more step like that next year, and it will be inflationary increases thereafter.
- With the increased occupancy, our deficit will be eliminated in fiscal 2023.
- The operating side is doing well. The funding that we receive from the Faculty of Arts and Science is not sufficient to balance our budget. We use our entrepreneurial revenues from the International Foundation Program and the International Summer Academy to supplement those funds, and 45% is funded through entrepreneurial revenues. We had strong demand in the International Foundation Program.
- We have sufficient funding to replenish the New College Initiatives Fund. R. Vander Kraats encouraged people to continue submitting applications.

- We did not do as well with the International Summer Academy. It has moved to an online format. Normally there are 800 or more students in person. That did not occur this year in the summer or the summer before. There is contingency funding in place.
- On the construction side, the 45 Willcocks project is moving along very well. We expect to finish up within the third week of February. Second Cup is opening January 10<sup>th</sup> and there will be a grand opening.
- We are continuing to run into unforeseen site conditions in our Wilson and Wetmore projects, and we are also running late. There is no definite finish date, it may be late winter or early spring.
- We have a commitment to open the classrooms, so rooms 2006, 2007D, and 2008 will be available. Classrooms 52 and 51C will be in service as well. There is still a lot of work to be done in 54 G.

#### Report from the Registrar's Office – K. Huffman

- In the last meeting K. Huffman advised that the Registrar's office was starting to establish regular drop-in hours that were being conducted by Zoom. Those have been occurring regularly and have been very successful. There have been five sessions with over 150 students in attendance. These meetings provide an opportunity for a student to meet one on one with an academic advisor, usually for fifteen minutes.
- These appointments will be offered twice a week in the winter term, on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- In terms of the late withdrawal deadline, the credit/no credit deadline was December 8. This was a week ago with around 400 requests for late withdrawals.
- There was confusion from students this year about what the dates were because they have shifted several times over the past couple of years.
- It is becoming clear that students may prefer to connect with the office primarily in a virtual way.

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

- The Office of Residence and Student Life is busy trying to figure out the support for winter break. Currently there are about 250 students of our 800 registered to stay over the break, and that number is expected to grow as there are students who are facing different quarantine restrictions at home.
- L. McCormack-Smith suggested if anyone is talking with a student and they are unsure as to whether they need to leave, if they live in an on-campus residence, they should get in touch with the office as quickly as possible, or their on-campus residence. There are only a limited number that are currently open and if a student is from another college, they may be told there is not currently capacity, but they will have support in finding additional accommodations elsewhere.
- Important information for people to know is regarding quarantine changes when people are returning for winter term if they've been traveling. This will impact both commuter students and residence students.
  - ♦ Unvaccinated individuals entering the winter term and in on campus residence are eligible to join the quarantine program through the University, but that program is only open to students who are registered with an on-campus residence. If they are not registered with an on-campus residence, then they are eligible to do the fourteen day at home quarantine program.

- ♦ For any student who is returning internationally (not from the United States) for the winter term, they are currently going to be required to do a three-day isolation while pending PCR test results. The thing that is the most crucial is that if they are in an on-campus residence, they are not permitted to do it in residence. They need to register to do that at supported quarantine facilities and if the tests come back negative and they are there for three days, they can then move back into their residence. This has been communicated to all students in residence
- ♦ There is also a three day at home isolation program. If people are in off-campus housing and are coming from anywhere other than the US, they can do it through that program. That is for fully vaccinated individuals.
- ♦ It is important for students to understand whether they are vaccinated or unvaccinated under the Government of Canada regulations, they are going to have to do some kind of isolation protocols upon reentering the country.
- ♦ For anybody traveling within the US only, they will need to demonstrate a backup quarantine plan at the border. The backup quarantine program shows that if they have been required to quarantine for some reason, then they have a location in which they can do it.
- This information is available through the [Center for International Experience](#) and the Office of the [Vice-Provost, Students](#) pages.
- The Residence reopens January 9, and for students there is no entry point with Residence prior to that unless they have already arranged for that.
- L. McCormack-Smith noted being exceptionally proud of her team. A lot of programming was done. The Final Countdown went well as did the pancake study evening. There will be some fun programming in the winter term.

#### Report from the Advancement Office – M. Petri

- Since the last update, two additional events occurred:
  - ♦ The Speaker Series kicked off with Stefan Dyer, an award-winning instructor who has helped thousands of professionals become confident speakers.
  - ♦ Another event occurred with Dr. William Ju, an alum and a faculty member with the Faculty of Arts and Science. The topic was imposter syndrome and mental health.
- An engagement goal was achieved and surpassed by B. Registe, of 142%.
- The University of Toronto launched the Defy Gravity campaign. This campaign is the largest campaign in Canadian history. The campaign will include two goals, one for alumni engagement, and one for fundraising. The goals are to inspire 225,000 alumni to get involved, as volunteers, mentors, donors, participants, and leaders, to encourage them to contribute their time and talent to the University of Toronto collectively. The campaign will also seek to raise \$4 billion for the university's highest priorities.

#### Report from the Communications Office – N. Cahill

- A couple of weeks ago, Northern presented a first draft of a website concept they created based on the visual identity work and research that they've done. New College gave feedback, and Northern will come back mid-January with some revisions.
- The Communications Office is focused on writing content. An email reminder was sent a couple of weeks ago to all the division administrators asking for the first draft of concepts to be completed by January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Images are being curated and prepared for the site. The aim is to build a bank of images that

are both representative of the college and where people in the images gave consent to be used publicly. There are great images of student life events and of the architecture of the building, but not many that represent academic programs. Staff are encouraged to share any images with the team.

- The last newsletter of 2021 is going out tomorrow. The newsletter went well this year, with high open rates and great feedback.

B. McElhinny shared an update received from the Dean during the meeting that there would be an announcement on significant changes to university operations to come. B. McElhinny she would have the information to share by 6pm.

#### Other Business

There was no other business.

#### Adjournment

On a motion by L. Kwiatkowski, seconded by H. Si, the meeting was adjourned at 1:27pm. CARRIED.