1. **WELCOME**
Speaker Alexander Leggatt welcomed Council members to Council and then passed the word to Alana Clarke, Advancement Development and LAG Officer, who read a memorial resolution on the recent death of Genevieve Cowgill, who ran the UC book sale store for many years. The memorial resolution stated:
“Be it resolved that University College Council deeply mourns the passing of Genevieve Cowgill, the leader of the University College Book Sale, on November 13, 2014. The University College Book Sale began in 1979 as a small, annual sale offering affordable books to students. Genevieve took the UC Book Sale to the next level. Today, volunteers collect and assess over 100,000 books annually; operate a year-round Book Shop in the College; maintain listings of over 5,000 books in an online store at AbeBooks.com; and organize the large Fall sale in October. The way we see the book sale today is truly a testament to Genevieve’s vision and dedication. Genevieve was one of University College’s most long standing alumni volunteers and we will truly miss her presence here on campus. We are grateful for her tremendous contributions and dedication to the College. She will be greatly missed by the UC community. She is survived by her partner, Gordon Winch, as well as his sons.”

A moment of silence ensued.

Then the speaker reminded council members that the second half of the meeting would be taken up with a visit from the U of T President, Meric Gertler, who was going to discuss his 3 priorities.

2. MINUTES
   ➢ On a motion duly moved by Jim Reilly and seconded by Melinda Scott, it was resolved that the minutes of the October 24, 2014 College Council meeting be approved as distributed to members. Approved nem.con (unanimously).

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the October 24th meeting.

4. REPORTS
   Update from the Principal

   Remembrance Day
   Principal Donald Ainslie began by thanking UC Lit members for participating in the Remembrance Day ceremony on Tuesday, November 11, 2014.

   Latin American Studies (LAS)
   Then he moved on to discuss an issue concerning Latin American studies program in Arts and Science. LAS is a stand-alone program, which means that it’s not run by a department or college, it rather operates autonomously in FAS with its own budget; there are very few of these types of units. It's currently residing at Trinity College but Trinity for various reasons can no longer house them and so LAS has approached UC about the possibility of moving their operations here, though they would continue to have an independent budget. They need three offices. The Principal has consulted the issue with the Executive Committee and the Program Directors and they agreed that this might make sense so long
as the College benefits in some way. Therefore, the Principal proposed to LAS that they offer a course in Latin Canadian Studies that could be used by the Canadian Studies program in exchange for their use of our space. In terms of spaces, at the moment UC has about 49 faculty members in various offices around the college; 21 staff and officers; there are 9 offices that are currently being held by visitors of various kinds and then we still have 5 available offices. The downside is that we would be losing offices, which permanent UC faculty might want to take up. However, the issue of recruiting faculty at UC is a bit fraught, because many faculty members would rather stay with their disciplinary colleagues. Therefore, the Principal decided to pursue negotiations with LAS department and see whether this collaboration will work out or not.

**Provost’s Seven Priorities for 2014-15**
Principal Ainslie also discussed the Provost's seven priorities, which she has recently announced in light of the President's three priorities. They are the following:

1. Improving service delivery to divisions (e.g. streamlining undergraduate and graduate quality assurance processes; streamlining of vice-provostial portfolios).

2. Enhancing undergraduate education (e.g. improving student recruitment; supporting technology-enhanced learning; fellowships for teaching innovation for teaching-stream faculty; etc.)

3. Enhancing graduate education (review of funding policies; support for reduction in time to completion; alt-doc and graduate skills initiatives).

4. The student experience (new Provostial Advisor on access; following through on co-curricular record; new mental health framework).

5. Leadership renewal (initiatives to build leadership and succession planning in the divisions).

6. Faculty engagement (building on the feedback from COACHE and the SJAC process to improve communication between Simcoe Hall and the faculty).

7. Budget (continuing significant challenges).

Also, Principal Ainslie is considering asking Jill Matus, the Vice-Provost for Students and also a UC faculty member to join one of our future council meetings where she can talk about the recently released report on mental health at U of T.
5. **UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT, UC LIT**  
What and Who are the “Lit”?  

The UC Lit President, Eric Schwenger reminded Council of some of the details of how the UC Lit operates. The Lit is the governing student body at UC. It is composed of 24 council members, 8 commissioners as well as different representatives from different years of study as well as core executives: Munira Lila, UC Lit Vice-President and Eric Schwenger, the President. UC Lit commissioners take care of events and the facilitation of student initiatives based on the nature of the event. Eric introduced two of them, who were present during council: Sean Xu, is the University and Academic Affairs Commissioner, who deals with academic life; and Amanda Stojcevski, the Service Commissioner, who deals with the big formals that the Lit organizes for students. The Lit also consists of 3 first year Reps, 6 mid-year reps and 3 up year reps.

Sean and Amanda discussed in further detail what their positions entail within the UC Lit and also talked about the upcoming events that they’re in charge of. Amanda’s commission, hosts the main formals at UC, Fireball. Fireball will be held on Saturday, January 31, at 8pm-1am in the UC. Everyone is invited! Amanda encourages the involvement of as many society members as possible involved in her commission, so that they feel that they are contributing to the event planning as well. One of her favorite parts of being a commissioner is getting to see everybody involved with the events. There’s also a gala coming up at the end of the year to celebrate award winners and UC Lit would like to give out athletic awards for intramural sports; as well as community involvement awards which the Lit actually just started last year at the first end-of-year gala. Amanda mentioned that it is really nice to acknowledge those members who aren't on council and on commissions, and yet they have contributed a lot without having the obligation to contribute because they are on council. Sean, the University and Academic Affairs Commissioner focuses on hosting events, which cater to students’ academic needs. "Coffee with Profs" is one of those events. This event runs around different themes and professors come to talk about topics such as education. The purpose of the event is to try to tackle the subject from different perspectives, so that all sorts of majors can apply their sort of thinking to it. They also host exam De-stressors right before exam period. This year, the Lit is considering doing a stress-ball making session and they’re also going to host the puppy De-stressor session, on Thursday December 4. The latter one was a big hit last year.

Eric concluded the report by encouraging all council members who are interested to learn more about UC Lit and what they do, to reach out to the student governing body. Their office (in the JCR) is open Monday-Friday, between 10:00am-4:00pm.

Discussion ensued:

Principal Ainslie pointed out that the Lit has news ties for this year and if anyone is interested to get one, you can buy one for $20. Also, Amanda added that there are more items available for purchase such as: sweaters, shirts, mugs, scarfs, mittens - they're looking into getting socks; athletic wears and etc.
The Principal also encouraged faculty, present during council to volunteer for some of the "Coffee with Profs" events as they’re very productive and beneficial for students who attend them.

6. **UPDATE FROM UC ADVANCEMENT**

   **Update from recent events**

Alana started with an update of the recent events hosted by the UC Advancement Office. UC’s Harry Potter Movie Night, hosted on Wednesday, October 29, was a great success! They received a lot of positive feedback and have had donations come in and thanking the Advancement Office for an awesome event. As a result, they will screen a second Harry Potter movie in October 2015. In addition, UC’s Alumni of Influence event that took place on Thursday, November 6, was also successful. 13/14 recipients attended in person or sent family members to collect the award in their place. The program is growing every year and numerous previous recipients attend the event. The nomination process for next year’s recipients is already opened and Alana encouraged council members, who would like to nominate any UC alumni (alive or deceased)—whom they’d like to be honoured in the next year’s event—to do so as soon as possible. An online form can be found at uc.utoronto.ca/aoi. UC hosted the Heritage Society event on Thursday, November 13. Prof. Elizabeth Legge spoke to the Heritage Society Members on “Before there was a University of Toronto Art Centre”. She proved to be very popular and the event reached capacity within days of being advertised. Fall 2014 Convocation ceremony took place on Monday, December 17. A reception was held afterwards in the convocation tent, at the front campus field. Advancement Office handed out medallions to graduates and provided non-alcoholic beverage to the graduates and their guests. The Book Sale Wined Down event, a celebration for the Book Sale volunteers took place on Tuesday, November 18 and special tribute was paid to Genevieve Cowgill. The Graham Lecture on the "Accelerating Universe" presented by Nobel Laureate, Brian P. Schmidt will take place on Wednesday, November 19th at 4:30pm. Lastly, the UC Book Club will be held on November 20, at 7-8:30pm in the UC Alumni Lounge. Margaret Fulford will lead the discussion of "The Imperfectionists", by U of T alumnus Tom Rachman.

**Campaign Update**

On Monday, November 10, University of Toronto thanked donors of the Boundless Campaign at the new Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport and engaged in a panel discussion regarding entrepreneurial spirit. It surpassed the $1.5 billion dollar mark as an institution. Here, at UC the Advancement Office continues to engage donors and alumni about our building campaign and attempting to garner support. Recently, with regards to some of their new forms of engagement and events, they have received more donations from attendees, many of whom are first-time donors. The "Thank You" video will debut on Monday, November 17 via e-mail to donors and then will be promoted on Facebook and Twitter. Feel free to share the video with your friends and colleagues!
Faculty and Staff campaign

A faculty mailing (including emeritus) was sent out in the mail on the week of November 17th. The staff campaign began in the summer and was successful in acquiring new staff donors to the building campaign. There is still time to get your donation in before the end of December and receive a 2014 tax receipt!

Principal Ainslie encouraged faculty and staff to participate in the Boundless campaign. The donations will be used to revitalize our University College home.

7. UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Yvonne MacNeil, UC CAO, notified council that UC has just completed the first draft for the ’15-'16 submission for the ancillary budget and so far it is looking good. Seeing as we have done some improvements there this year, we have worked very hard at upgrading rooms and new oven in the kitchen and try to get our staff in the kitchen and in the residence to a stable, non-casual number so that we know who we need to run the programs. The forecasting for November is currently on the works and the second forecast goes in on January for the Arts and Science budget. A meeting is due in January 2015, which program directors will attend to see where the college is at, after the first semester and to start discussions for the ’15-'16 budget. Yvonne also informed council that on Monday, December 1st, UC building will light up in RED, to show its support for World AIDS Day.

8. UPDATE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

Orientation Survey Data

Melinda Scott, the Dean of Students, shared a Power Point presentation concerning some of the results from the 2014 orientation survey. This is a survey that has gone out for the past two years to all first year UC students. Melinda, focused on key points of the orientation such as in those where they experienced a strong success and where they continue to experience challenges. She noted that those challenges are not necessarily related to the work of the Lit and orientation coordinators. They tend to be institutional issues and issues that are not unique to this year - they are issues on which they have been working on for quite some time. More detailed information from this survey will be shared with the Lit and orientation coordinators of this year's and next one's too. In the general satisfaction category of how students felt about orientation, 80% of students said that it was either excellent or good. During the past few years, 80% remains to be a consistent number which is a good thing. Although, the orientation organizers aim to increase that number, sitting at 80% is a relatively good place to be. For students living in residence, they were asked how they felt about their move-in experience because it is obviously a really important day in the lives of first-year resident students. About 91% stated that it was an excellent or good experience, which is also consistent with past years. Melinda noted that this positive result would not be possible without the hard-work of the Lit and orientation leaders, who assisted the new residents during their move-in day.
The survey also includes some questions about the overarching outcomes from orientation. For instance one of the main reasons that we do orientation for students is, so they can find community and to make friends, but are also to orient them to the academic side of the institution and orient them around campus. Therefore, based on the orientation 80-85% have declared that they understand the values of UC and feel part of the UC community and meet new friends, which is really key. UofT is a big place. UC alone is a big place and some of the friendships that are made during orientation are the same friendships that will follow them right through to the point of graduation. In the survey, the students were asked whether they know what resources are available to them, especially in terms of their academics. The Office of the Dean of Students put a lot of effort into enhancing the academic orientation and transition and as a result they noticed an improvement in terms of the outcomes related to suit academic transition. This is very positive and they hope it will continue to build on.

Melinda also discussed the issue of "cheers" to welcoming students to the college. She said that due to some high-profile incidents that took place in some universities like, St. Mary's and UBC, the Office of the Dean of Students worked closely with the Lit and orientation coordinators to address this issue. Although, they did not always agree on this issue, the Lit and the orientation coordinator in particular put a lot of effort into tackling this sensitive issue. On the survey, participating students were asked how comfortable they felt participating in the cheering included in the orientation. 14%-15% said that they either felt moderately uncomfortable or very uncomfortable. There has been a shift from the very uncomfortable - so there is fewer on the very uncomfortable side moving over to moderately uncomfortable. Also, when students were asked if there were any specific cheers that they felt made them feel uncomfortable or had the potential to make others feel uncomfortable, about 17.5% replied saying: "Yes there was something". These answers were also supported with qualitative data. Nevertheless, the good news is that's down - it was 25% in 2013. For the improvement in these results, Melinda lauded the Lit and orientation coordinators for taking the leadership to represent UC as a welcoming and inclusive community.

Lastly, Melinda discussed the topic of what prevented students from attending orientation. There are two types of orientations: the full week traditional one and Thrive, which is one and half days long. Thrive cateres to students, who are not able to attend the traditional orientation or choose not to participate in it. The students who replied to the survey are thus students who didn't attend any forms of traditional orientation either at UC or through other department or division. Some of the constant barriers why students chose not to attend orientation are: the cost of attending and scheduling conflicts. Note that there's been a huge drop among students, who didn't think orientation was worth it or who didn't know about it. We are actually at zero now in terms of the students who didn't know about orientation. This means that the communication strategies are in fact working well. Another question asks students how they felt about the fees of orientation and it states: too high, just right, and too low or they don't know. There's been an increase this year in the number of students, who were saying just right and so part of that is about value for dollars. On the comments and the qualitative information that they provided, students state that it's more about the value that they see out of the program and so that’s definitely positive in the direction that we want to be moving in.
Discussion ensued:

Andrea Williams asked what methods were most effective to communicate and let students know about orientation activities and updates.

Melinda replied saying that the number one sources were: e-mail, summer welcome session and the website. Students are kept well-informed on the orientation since from the time they are admitted. Their admission package actually includes information about orientation right through to their summer welcome sessions, to the emails from the Office of the Dean of Students and the LiT.

Then John Marshall inquired about the number of students who do not attend the formal orientation.

Melinda stated that they out of 760 students who registered, 75-80% of students attended and that has been a consistent rate overtime. If you add Thrive to it (which is another 100), the registration number goes to 860 and the attendance is probably somewhere between 90%.

Munira added that they sold out for orientation and didn't have any more space in their program.

Ted Wells asked about the cost to attend and what's included in the orientation.

Melinda touched on the topic of Thrive and said that there is no cost to attend but if the student doesn't show up, then there is a small cost that gets put on to ROSI which is about $20. This is done in order to deter students from registering and then decide not to come. The Office of the Dean of Students has noticed that if they do not charge anything, students do not see a value and decide not to come.

Munira stated that the earlybird fee is $100. The regular fee is $105 and the late fee is $125. On the day of registration, to deter students from not registering in advance, they charge $135. Munira compared the current orientation fees with when she was a first-year student (she paid $100) and stated there hasn't been much inflation in the price. The fee covers students' meals, all the events, transportation; t-shirts, etc.. Also, all leaders and staff work for free for 6 days.

Melinda added that they are bursaries to help cover the fee for students who are not financially able to cover their orientation costs.

9. UPDATE FROM THE VICE-PRINCIPAL
   Curriculum changes
On a motion duly moved by John Marshall and seconded by Alan Ackerman, it was resolved that University College Council approves the new courses and changes recommended by the Curriculum Committee. Approved nem.con (unanimously).

The new course forms were circulated along with the November 14 Council meeting agenda, on Wednesday, November 12.

**College membership**

Then John asked council for input on how to increase faculty affiliations to the college as members.

Discussion ensued:

Sarah Wakefield asked if one were a faculty member at Scarborough or UTM, if they'd also be eligible to be a fellow at UC and be allowed to keep two offices.

Principal Ainslie replied saying that the official policy is one solo office per faculty member. Therefore if a faulty member has an office at UTM or UTSC, he/she can have a shared office potentially here at St. George campus or UC, specifically. Principal Ainslie stated that there some obstacles arise when considering UTM or UTSC faculty members because we want them to participate in the life of the college. However, if they're not part of the St. George campus, he worries that they may not be as committed to Arts&Science education, as they'd be if they part of it.

Yvonne MacNeil added that Donald and she have gone through the available office space and are attempting to create better sessional offices for the groups of sessionals. Some bigger rooms will be made available around the New Year.

Alana Clark offered a new idea on how to approach this issue. She said that it may be nice to consider preparing some brochures (online or hard copy) as to what are the benefits of being a faculty member at UC. It'll probably help potential candidates with their final decision.

John said that he would bring it up to the Appointment Committee.

**PRESIDENT MERIC GERTLER**

Presentation and discussion of priorities for his term.

For your consideration, I’ve attached President Gertler’s PowerPoint presentation about the “Three Priorities” to the same email that included a copy of the November 14, 2014 draft minutes. Below you will find the discussion which ensued after the presentation:
Bob Boeckner asked the President whether any concrete steps were taken to find out where the Toronto community stands on the President's urban strategies.

The President provided some examples of the steps, which had been taken. Back in December, he invited all the leaders of the neighborhood residence association, adjacent to St. George campus to talk about neighborly relations. The meeting was set up with two objectives in mind. One was to find out what opportunities they see arising as a result of closer engagements and secondly, to acknowledge that in the past they have not always seen eye-to-eye. Therefore, they also focused on how to improve their current relations when working together towards this important project. The President reported that things have improved since then. They have been able to work together more effectively, including city councilors. In addition the President’s Office, has reached out to the Office of the Chief Planner in the city of Toronto, Jennifer Keesmat. The President has inquired how the UofT community can work with city planning, to assist with addressing some of the challenges and opportunities in the city. For instance, many decisions being taken at City Hall are being informed next to little or no research at all. Ms. Keesmat has expressed that there is a real need, for great research and energetic students to help them.

The President is also considering creating a new Advisor and Urban Strategic Initiatives position in his office. The person in charge will act as a broker/ interface between UofT and the city. Someone who would be the first point of contact for groups outside the university, who are interested to engage with the university but do not know how.

Andrea Williams inquired if the President has been giving any thought to research on teaching, particularly around the use of technology, so that faculty are making sure they’re using the best available options.

The President said that we have been successful in tracking grants to study real time experiments and experiences. According to him, it’s very important to have an evidence based research as to what works and not.

Sarah Wakefield commented on how she knew numerous students who've had an impact on city landscapes and it would be a good idea if the President uses those positive examples as part of his "Three Priorities" presentation. The President agreed that it was a great suggestion.

Then Sarah asked what resources would be made available to faculty, to support them when dealing with a higher workload such as the new service learning strategies and teaching with technology.

President Gertler thanked Sarah for her valid questions. He noted that also one of the reasons for sharing his presentation with faculty and students is to figure out ways how to allocate resources for credible initiatives. He acknowledges that it takes time to grasp new material and the support that is required. These initiatives need to be solved not only in a coordinated, but
also in a more efficient way--to foster learning opportunities across different local experiments.

President Gertler also clarified that a couple of years ago the Graduate school made a few changes to make it easier for faculty to accept international graduate students that were academically qualified and brought their own funding to be admitted to a graduated program in addition to whatever allocation of visa-student numbers were given to a department. Admitting the prior type of grad students would not interfere with allocating visa-students. While some departments have taken advantage of this opportunity, the President doesn’t think that enough know of it.

Alan Ackerman, inquired about the issue of international student bodies and how obtaining visas for international graduate students is currently a very difficult procedure. As a result, UofT misses on being able to recruit some great foreign talent. Alan wanted to know how the President sees this issue being solved in the future.

The President agreed that the presence of international graduate students at UofT has shrunk in relative terms. This has happened partly because graduate expansion money that comes from the provincial government is marked to be used only by Canadian citizens and permanent residents. Although, that is a positive thing, there are faculties who are interested to also work with international students. Also in some disciplines, there isn’t a strong flow of domestic applicants and although there is capacity to teach more the visa constraints make it a challenge to recruit foreign students. The President mentioned that he has brought the issue to the attention of the Provincial Minister of Training Colleges and Universities (the current and past one). He has asked them to allow UofT more flexibility when it comes to reallocating some of its graduate expansion spaces and they have. If UofT finds a great international applicant, it will also take the responsibility to cover their costs on its own. The President added that with the return of the Liberal majority government, the reception concerning is much more welcomed. He is positive that UofT will make progress concerning this issue.

John Marshall commented on the third priority (Re-imagine and Re-invent Undergraduate Education) that it can raise some anxiety among faculty, partially because changes during the past 25 years in undergraduate education included common changes such as more sessional teaching. John thinks that in order to sell the idea of the third priority, it’s important to articulate values by which changes will be evaluated. John is eager to see which principles will help with changes in undergraduate education in the future.

Rick Salutin asked about the value of physical presence in classroom against the virtual one that could be possibly attained through technology.

The President explained that in some classes the basic lecture material is recorded and then made available online in 15-30 minutes segments, students can download it and watch it at their own pace. Therefore, when they attend class, they're expected to engage in discussions and engage in problem-solving exercises. In such a way, class would become more interactive.
One of the values of studying at UofT, is to engage in the life and values of city of Toronto. This is best done face-to-face, with physical presence. The President noted that those universities that are situated in large metropolitan regions are going to have advantages that will become accentuated over time for the same exact reasons. It's the experiential benefits of the kinds of opportunities that are available in Toronto and UofT has to take advantage of them.

Eric Schwenger noted that the current studying abroad system does not yield the right academic benefits. It becomes more of a vacation and many students cannot afford that when it comes to their academics. Eric inquired if a better academic system for when studying abroad will be made available.

The President agreed that the benefits to studying abroad need to have double benefits. It should be a rich and fun experience and learn in many informal ways but it's also important that students get appropriate academic credit for that work as well. For instance, one of the deterrents is that the credit that they receive at university X or Y won't be recognized at UofT. UofT has to work into minimizing that risk as well. There exist a couple of models already enforced; one is the joined minor with the National University of Singapore in several difference disciplines. The credits, which students take in NUS in those specific disciplines, will be recognized at UofT. Next, there's also a partnership with UC Berkley for summer courses, which guarantees a mutual recognition of courses in both institutions. The President believes that structured exchanges are to become more important overtime.

If you are interested to add more feedback to the project of “Three Priorities”, please email them to three.priorities@utoronto.ca.

1. OTHER BUSINESS
   Principal Ainslie discussed some corrections made to the October 24th council meeting announcements.

   • Scholarships and Awards Reception: Thursday, Jan. 22, 5-7, West Hall
     ***Note New Date***
   • Priestley Lectures: Louis Menand, “Art and Thought in the Cold War,” March 17-19, 2015, 4:30pm, UC 140  ***NOTE NEW DATES***

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS
   • Graham Lecture: Graham Schmidt (ANU), “The Accelerating Universe,” November 19, 4:30pm, UC 140
   • Holiday Party: Thursday, Dec. 4, 4-6, Croft Chapter House
   • Scholarships and Awards Reception: Thursday, Jan. 22, 5-7, West Hall
     **Note New Date**
• **Teetzel Lecture**: Dr. Carmen C. Bambach, “Leonardo, Michelangelo, and the question of the unfinished in their art,” March 4, 2015, 4:30pm, UC 140

• **Priestley Lectures**: Louis Menand, “Art and Thought in the Cold War,” March 17-19, 2015, 4:30pm, UC 140  ***NOTE NEW DATES***

• **End of Year Reception**: Wednesday, April 1, 4-6, Croft Chapter House

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

   4. On a motion duly moved by Shelley Cornack, and seconded by Sean Xu, the meeting was adjourned. Approved nem.con.

   Next College Council Meeting – Friday, February 6, 1:30-3:30 pm

   NOTE SPECIAL LOCATION: UC 314 (Laidlaw Wing)