1. **WELCOME**

   Speaker Alexander Leggatt welcomed Council members to Council and then proceeded to read an obituary about the death of late professor David Higgs:

   “Be it resolved that University College Council deeply mourns the passing of David Higgs, a member of University College and the Department of History, on October 20, 2014. Professor Higgs was a long-time member of the Department of History of the University of Toronto, where he once served as graduate coordinator. David was also a fellow of
University College and a founding member of the Sexual Diversity Studies program. He taught at the University of Toronto for exactly forty years. He passed peacefully in Toronto, on Monday October 20, 2014 in his 75th year. David’s colleagues, graduate students and friends will remember him for his kindness, good-humour, wit, collegiality and guidance. He will be dearly missed. He is survived by his partner Kaoru Kamimura, as well as by a brother, Michael Higgs, and sister-in-law Rosemary Lear.

Be it further resolved that this resolution be inscribed in the minutes of University College Council and a copy be sent to the family as a token of the deep appreciation University College feels for the life and career of our valued colleague Professor Higgs. Council members are called on to observe a moment of silence in memory of Professor Higgs.

(A moment of silence ensued). Then he asked that each member of council introduce themselves since it was the first meeting of the new academic year.

2. MINUTES
Speaker Alexander Leggatt noted that there were a few errors (words missing) on page 8 before the “Update of the Registrar” on the minutes of March 21st meeting. The words missing were from the motion moved by Melinda Scott and seconded by Donald Ainslie. The following is the motion missing from the March 21st minutes:

Be it resolved that College Council thanks the 2013-14 UC Lit Council for their hard work on behalf of UC students and the College more broadly, and expresses our particular appreciation to this year’s Core Executive – President Nishi Kumar, Vice-President Ryan Phillips and Finance Commissioner Lyndsay Menzies.

Be it resolved that the minutes of the March 21, 2014 College Council meeting be approved as corrected. Approved nem.con (unanimously).

3. BUSINESS ARISING
Principal Ainslie informed council about the recent academic appointments: Lisa Mar has been appointed Associate Professor of History and the inaugural Richard Charles Lee Chair in Chinese Canadian Studies. John Vervaeke has been appointed as a Lecturer in the College, with a cross-appointment to Psychology; his UC teaching will be in support of the Cog Sci. program. Ana Perez-Leroux, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and Linguistics, has taken on the role as Director in Cognitive Science. Nelson Wiseman, Professor of Political Science, has taken on the role of Director in Canadian Studies.

4. REPORTS
Update from the Principal

Principal Ainslie began by talking about the Project Planning Committee (PPC) for the UC Revitalization. He explained that when a unit is involved in an expensive building project, it has to go through certain approval cycles so that Governing Council can be sure that the university is spending money appropriately. The first step in that process is a Project
Planning Committee, which examines the proposed initiative in detail, identifies a source of money is coming, consults widely, considers possible staging, and addresses any knock-on effects (such as increased demand for electricity and other services). A report is submitted, and ultimately makes it way to Governing Council and its committees. The UC PPC includes faculty and student representatives (Jesse Berlin-President of CASA, Melissa Vincent and Alexander Surgenor from UC Lit), as well as representatives of various staff involved in making a project like this happen.

Principal Ainslie stated that we currently have about $5M in hand, which has been raised from various sources, to renovate West Hall, including installation of an elevator (to increase accessibility) and improvement of air handling. The air handling is a very complicated matter and a very expensive proposition that will take a while to get sorted out. PPC’s goal is to submit the report by January 21, 2015. If that is done due to the lengthy process, it will get to the Governing Council by the end of April 2015. However, if the January deadline is missed then it will be submitted by February 23, 2015. Once the committee gets some initial approval from the Governing Council, then the committee will be able to follow some preliminary steps to make things happen such as hiring an architect. Principal Ainslie referred to the Terms of Reference of the PPC (which was delivered ahead of council) and explained that part of the project requirement is to consult about the building plans within the broad UC community. A fair amount of the consultation has already been done. The project has been presented to the Alumni Community, UC Lit, and College Council and has also been published on the UC magazine.

Landmark Committee
Principal Ainslie then proceeded to provide an update on the Landmark Committee. The Landmark Committee item was also discussed during last council. Last year, this Project Planning Committee investigated the historic green spaces at the center of campus (Hart House Green, Front Campus, Sir Dan’s Quad, the areas surrounding the new field on back campus). The committee has produced a report that will be going through governance when funds are secured. He stated that the committee wants to make sure that there is proper consultation with the general U of T and the broader community public. They’re trying to figure out what the best strategies are to go about it. There’s a strong desire by all involved to get input from students, faculty and staff community.

The core idea is to hire an architect, who will create a proper, implementable, phased plan. The Report has two sets of high-priority recommendations. The first is the removal of parking from Tower Road and King’s College Circle. That would be a tremendous change to the physical landscape because Tower Road would no longer serve as a parking lot but rather a proper entrance to the university. The cultural spaces such as the Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, UTAC, and Soldiers’ Memorial Tower would no longer be hidden if we get rid of parking. Then he discussed the concern regarding King’s College Circle where there are three or four lanes of roadway (two for parked cars and two for moving vehicles) while pedestrians are crowded onto the sidewalk. Hence, the Committee concluded that it would be worthwhile to remove the parking and pedestrianize the roadway. However, that is not easy because the university is required by the city to maintain a certain number of parking spots. Currently it has the exact minimum number of spaces it is required to have by the
city. Moreover, there is still need for parking because our current lots are at or over capacity. Principal Ainslie noted that the Committee explored some possible solutions regarding the issue. One is to put parking underneath Front Campus, with a natural grass landscape installed on top. Another solution would be to increase the size of lots under new constructions nearby. However, putting parking underneath a building is very expensive and costs approximately $100,000-150,000 per parking spot. Another solution is offsite parking close to the university grounds.

Then he moved to the second core recommendation: Convocation Hall, where a massive number of students now exit directly onto a high-traffic street increasing risks of accidents. There’s a strong desire to have the area in front of Con Hall turned into a celebratory space such as a Convocation Plaza.

Other recommendations focus on making the campus a more engaging learning environment for students, faculty, staff, and students. However, without funding in hand, and with a tight university budget, it will take some time to implement any of the recommended initiatives. Principal Ainslie then suggested that it might be a good idea to have Campus & Facilities Planning deliver a presentation to College Council and better inform them regarding the Landmark Committee’s Report.

**UTAC/JMB federation**

Principal Ainslie then focused on the UTAC and the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery. Last year, an Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the two galleries be federated. This would lead to several positive outcomes such as: increasing galleries’ links to academic programs; more efficient use of U of T’s limited funds; greater legibility of activities to the general public; and more opportunities for external funds (philanthropic, arts councils). UTAC, unlike JMB, doesn’t currently get any operating funds from the Arts Councils. However, this may change when both galleries are federated and presented as one art gallery with two locations.

Barbara Fischer has been appointed as the Director of UTAC, in addition to her role as Chief Curator and Executive Director of JMB. Last summer, Barbara received a grant from Canada Council to hire a consultant to offer guidance on the federation process. A lot of consultation has been done with various stakeholders. A new board structure has been proposed to offer advice to the Executive Director and Chief Curator of the federated galleries (Barbara) and it will have a greater community presence and also student representation. Membership on the Board would be a valuable learning opportunity for students, especially those interested in the arts. Principal Ainslie hopes that a final version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the federation will be signed shortly and then they will take the appropriate steps to expand the Board.

**Student Society Summit**

The summit was created as a result of the controversy between divisional student societies and the UTSU. About a year ago, the Provost put together a summit with representatives from all undergraduate student societies (societies where students pay mandatory fees), including the Lit; four faculty members as expert consultants (Linda White, Graham White,
Joe Desloges, and Principal Ainslie), who wrote a report with recommendations for the Provost.

The report was made available last April and it had several recommendations. The core recommendation is that since the university requires students to pay mandatory fees, it has a reciprocal duty to ensure that their interests are appropriately represented by their student societies. At the same time it is important that student societies have autonomy in how they run their affairs. However, currently there is a policy vacuum because some students are unhappy with the societies that represent them. The only applicable policy is the Policy on Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees, which allows the Provost to withhold student fees if the group is not acting in an “open, accessible, and democratic” fashion; but these terms are not defined nor is the Provost’s process for invoking the clause operationalized. Therefore, the summit proposed that a university wide appeals board is established to issue binding requirements on student societies, with failure to comply meaning the Provost could indicate a failure to be open, accessible, and democratic. The Provost has not yet issued a full reply, but she plans to do that at the next Governing Council meeting (October 30, 2014). Prior to that, UTSU has its AGM on October 29, 2014 where it proposes to change its board structure, replacing faculty and divisional reps with reps of particular constituencies (international students, LGBTQ students, women, racialized students, indigenous students, mature students, students with disabilities, commuters, athletics, and first year students).

Discussion ensued:

Eric Schwenger, UC Lit President, elaborated more on the topic. While the Lit has not taken an official stand on the proposed UTSU Board change yet, Eric stated that it would be discussed the following weekend.

Principal Ainslie encouraged students, who have any concerns regarding the student associations to bring them up to Governing Council in October 30th because the governors are looking to hear from students.

Ian Radforth inquired how the new Board proposal aims to revise the way how the affected students’ constituencies are underrepresented.

Eric responded that UTSU is a corporate entity and must move from the Canada Corporation’s Act to the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act; they must also, therefore change their board structure. The current board is composed mainly of representatives from colleges and professional faculties under which each college votes for each of their directors. Under the new Not-For-Profit Corporations Act, there cannot be specific Board members voted for by only specific classes. Everybody has to be able to vote for anyone. If and when this new board structure is active everyone will be able to vote for each of the constituency directors.

Munira Lila, UC Vice-President, stated that the new proposal is an idea that was adapted from other universities’ proposals and how other colleges’ boards are constructed. The new
proposal aims to have those specific reps deal with the association which they represent (i.e. an LGBTQ rep will deal with issues involving LGBTQ students).

**President Gertler’s “Priorities” consultation**

Principal Ainslie described President Meric Gertler’s consultation process and his three “Priorities”, which he will be pursuing in his term. They are: leveraging our location at the center of Mississauga and Toronto; increasing our role as Canada’s international university and reimagining and reinventing undergraduate education.

Principal Ainslie decided to concentrate on the third priority “to reimagine and reinvent undergraduate education” because it’s most relevant particularly to the Arts and Science community. In undergraduate education, the President identified challenges regarding the loss of monopoly in higher education with the rise of various online entities. The desire of both students and some of the broader community to have more “job-ready” graduates. Others note a mismatch between student demand and social need in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields. While there’s a strong desire on the part of the business world for more STEM students, however there’s not as much desire for students to enroll in these programs.

The President has identified the following goals in order to solve these challenges in undergraduate education: preparing students for lifelong success; rejuvenating the liberal arts model; anticipation and creation of disruptive mechanisms for knowledge production. He imagines that these goals will be pursued through the following elements: research-based learning; experiential learning; international experiences; strategic use of new learning technologies; programs for transitions to the working world (e.g. Step Forward in Arts and Science).

Principal Ainslie informed council that President Gertler will join us at College Council on Friday, November 14th to discuss his consultations as he develops strategies around these priorities. Also, the Principal informed the members that the November 14 council meeting will not take place at the regular location (Croft) because it is booked instead for convocation. The second council meeting will be held at the third floor in the Laidlaw wing, at UC 314. The third floor in the Laidlaw wing was renovated during the summer and is now being used by the School for Public Policy and Governance (SPPG).

**Update from the President and Vice-President, UC Lit**

Eric Schwenger, UC Lit President, began by updating Council members on the Lit transition. Two major elections were completed. Due to Frosh week, they had a major candidate turnout about 24 people running for 3 first-year rep positions. The Lit also had a President and Vice-President by-election following the resignation of former Lit President, Leo Chen. Eric Schwenger was elected the new Lit President and Munira Lila is the new Vice-President. Also, all council positions are now filled and ready for the year.
Munira talked about the orientation since she was one of the orientation’s coordinators. She reported that 760 students registered to attend the orientation. Orientation was sold out. It was a huge success!

Also, some new initiatives were implemented: “PRE U of T” and the Survival Guide. Pre U of T is a program orientation (inter-collegiate events attended by 6/7 colleges). The goal was to provide students an orientation to their disciplinary sector. It featured a student networking session, a faculty panel and a course union fair. This initiative was headed up by UC administration and students. This year’s orientation also included a Keynote/Mock Lecture by Principal Ainslie, Timeline of the year presentation by the Dean of Students’ Office and a student panel. It provided students with a bit more of an academic orientation.

Then Eric, informed council that Diabolos, is currently closed due to financial issues. It won't reopen until next year. A coffee board is organized to govern how Diabolos operates, is managed and runs. The coffee board was called about two weeks ago and decided that it’s in the best interest of the business and the greater part of the community for Diabolos to remain closed for now. Diabolos will reopen when the board is certain that it will operate as a sustainable business and fulfill its role in the JCR and UC. In the meantime, the board is keeping busy with consulting different businesses around campus how to turn Diabolos around. They’ve also been consulting with the UC Food Services to open a Reznikoff satellite in the Diabolos space for the second semester. It will be an interim solution to bring coffee to the JCR.

Yvonne C. MacNeil, the UC CAO, offered her assistance and that of Chef Michael Kobayashi to help with making the Reznikoff satellite a more viable option.

Then Eric announced different events hosted by UC Lit: “UC Fashion Show Featuring You” on October 28, 2014. He also mentioned the most recent Coffee with Profs event, which was held on October 7, 2014, at JCR. During this types of events students get to talk to professors in a relaxed environment about topics of education, professors and U of T. The professors who attended this event were Principal Ainslie, Scott Mabury (VP, University Operations), Jill Matus (Vice-Provost, Students) and Claire Brett (Associate Chair at OISE).

A Constitution Review Committee will be undertaking a significant overhaul of the Lit Constitution & Policy this year; the documents have mostly been brought up to speed but are still lacking in many areas and their deficiency is definitely felt in certain areas. Things like reconciling the documents, ensuring they reflect the current council and the implementation of things such as a grievance structure and accountability measures will allow for council to operate more effectively & efficiently.

Eric and Munira are hoping to consider re-running the referendum for the College Restoration before the end of the year. They feel it is necessary to take a second assessment to see if last year’s referendum properly reflected the student agenda.
Principal Ainslie then took on the chance to thank the group of four students (Yolanda, Maddie, Shawn and Krystal) who stepped in during the Lit’s transition and helped during its difficult time.

- On a motion duly moved by Melinda Scott and seconded by Yvonne MacNeil, it was resolved that the University College Council congratulates the UC Literary and Athletic Society on a successful Orientation, and thanks them for their hard work and dedication to welcoming new students to the College. Approved nem.con (unanimously).

Update from the Registrar
Associate Registrar Ryan Woolfrey delivered the report. Registrar Shelley Cornack sent her regrets, because she was occupied handling an urgent student issue.

Admissions and Enrollments Statistics and the Scholarship and Bursary reports will be available for the January 2015 Council meeting.

In June 2014 the Registrar’s, the Dean’s Office staff and the UC Lit held two Welcome events with attendance at approximately 660 (300 students and 350 parents). UC Day (Orientation) also went well and they had approximately 550 new students plus 100 leaders in attendance. Also, about 85 International students attended the “Orientation Welcome” and Transition event, which are held specifically for those students during the orientation week.

More course enrollment information is now available online centrally so students have a number of options for obtaining information. However, the Registrar’s Office continues to offer course enrollment sessions both at the Welcome Session in June, a number of small sessions throughout July and one extra added in at the end of August specifically for students who are unable to make it to campus previously and who might still be struggling with adding courses. In total, 475 students attended those sessions.

Graduation is coming up on November 17, 2014, at 2:30pm. UC is expected to see approximately 160 students graduate in November. There will also be a reception following the convocation and the Advancement will speak the details of this.

Lastly, topic-specific drop-in advising sessions are now being offered at the Registrar’s Office. The first drop-in session was aimed at newly admitted students with secondary school transfer credits and the next sessions are geared towards prospective June graduates.

Update from the Chief Administrative Officer
CAO Yvonne MacNeil began with a review (referring to Power Point slides) on the Pan Am games and talked about its key dates (see below). These plans have been run through with U of T Police, Fire, AODA (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act), space management, and various other stakeholders.
Yvonne discussed Phase One- Back Campus Field where games will run until 9:00 in the evening. There will be some music/announcements etc. prior to game time and some during the games. At 9:00pm the lights will be dimmed and cleanup will be done as quickly as possible to have the venue shut down quickly.

Tower Road will be closed to traffic and will be maintained for emergency vehicle use. The area will be monitored by PAN AM security as well as U of T Police and some City Police at the Harbord/Queen’s Park/Devonshire intersections.

Deliveries for UC will continue to come through either the front of the building, as many already do, or around the side to the Soldier’s Tower area, and then wheeled through back of building and up the ramp at Laidlaw Wing. Erindale Walkway (at back of the building) will be accessible for access to the building. These transportation plans will be in effect as of July 10, 2015.

Parking on KKC will not be greatly affected if you park there, only 5 spots will be taken up with Accessible Parking.

In regards to Phase two, Spectator’s Plaza, Yvonne reported that there will be an enclosure for spectators to gather that will be set up on the east side of Sir Daniel Wilson quad. It is expected that fans will gather and mill about between events. This space will close off the east side of the UC building to local traffic.

Pathway from KCC to Harbord will be opened and available for use. The Hobbit Door (archway), H Wing and F wing doors on the east side of the building will be locked and access will be from the UC quad doors.

Signage will be placed throughout to direct people to the exits for fire and emergency etc.

Accessibility to HWing for the Alumni Lounge and JCR will be maintained. There will be a checkpoint at the KCC entrance to the path where security will walk anyone who needs access through the HWing door to the door. If you have any questions, please bring them to the CAO.

Update from the Director, UC Advancement
Development Officer, Leadership and Giving Alana Clarke delivered the report on behalf of the Director of Advancement. Naomi Handley is away from her office.
Fall Convocation in November 17, 2014 will be held at the Convocation Tent at the front lawn and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

The Alumni of Influence event will take place on Thursday, November 6, 2014 at the Great Hall, Hart House. 14 recipients will be announced and 12 out of 14 have confirmed that will be attending. In addition, they have 31 students’ seats, which have been sponsored by alumni, faculty and Principal Ainslie.

The Harry Potter night, a family event for alumni is scheduled to take place in Wednesday, October 29, 2014 in East and West Halls. The venue will be decorated as Hogwarts from the “Harry Potter” movie since visitors frequently comment on UC’s likeness to Hogwarts. Over 200 people and 100 children are attending. They reached the capacity within two weeks of advertising the event.

Also, a new LAG officer (Alana Clarke herself) was hired in the Advancement Office, and the office is currently in the process of recruiting for the vacancy that was created in the alumni relations officer position.

During the meeting, Alana played the “Thank You” video addressed to UC donors. The video will publically launch in late November. The U of T has met another significant milestone in the boundless campaign $1.5B. The Advancement has secured close to $5M for the UC restoration campaign and continues to engage our alumni community.

At last, Alana informed that the Book Sale Event was a success and thanked the volunteers who made sure that everything went well.

- A motion moved by Margaret Fulford and seconded by Alana Clarke to thank all the UC Book Sale volunteers and staff for their hard work in coordinating this year’s Book Sale—especially Genevieve Gowgill, thanks to whose dedication, organizational savvy and leadership the Sale went smoothly even in her absence, and that Council send all the best wishes for her speedy recovery. Approved nem.con (unanimously).

**Update from the Dean of Students**

Melinda Scott, informed that they had a successful summer residence operation again this year, with good occupancy and relatively few behavioral issues.

There were a couple of staff changes. Steve Masse accepted a new role as the Assistant to the Dean of Students, Residence Life at Woodsworth College. Cameron McBurney was recruited as the new Student Life Coordinator in May. Also, DJ Sison was hired to fill in for the role of Assistant to the Dean of Students, Administration where he will be responsible for coordinating the administration of the UC residences, and supporting student communication and programming.

The Office of the Dean of Students continues to be focus on the development of opportunities to support co-curricular student-faculty engagement. In September, it hosted a very successful faculty-student dinner for orientation leaders. Next week there will be one for International
students. A lot of positive feedback has been so far received from student participants. Also, Melinda extended her sincere thanks to the faculty who have participated in these dinners.

Melinda congratulated the Lit on an extremely successful My Definition and new student orientation. There were no major problems, and a lot of positive feedback has been received from participants. The Office of the Dean of Students did a survey for first year students which closed on October 6th and are currently in the process of analyzing the data and preparing a report. They are very pleased to be able to work closely with this year’s Orientation Coordinators in the development of the Orientation schedule – particularly the expansion of academic orientation programming.

One particularly exciting new event this year that was not part of the original Step Forward proposal was PRE U of T. The idea for PRE U of T originated with the student Orientation Coordinators, and grew into a Faculty of Arts & Science event designed to orient new students to their academic admission stream. During PRE U of T, first year students had the opportunity to attend one of five academic hubs located across the campus – Humanities, Social Science, Life Science, Math, Physical and Computer Science, and Commerce. Each of the hubs hosted a faculty panel, small group break-out sessions and a course union fair. The Office of the Dean of Students was pleased to support this event and coordinate the involvement of the other Colleges, the Faculty of Arts & Science Registrar’s Office and the Office of Student Life.

### Update from the Vice-Principal

Vice-Principal John Marshall gave an update on the activities within UC One program and the work of Curriculum Committee’s on the development of programs. UC One has hosted two speakers to date (Fiona Crean and Anne Michaels) and they have three more to go for 2014-15 academic year. The students have engaged very well with their visitors. In November, some UC One students along with other UC students will attend lunch with TD Canada Trust CEO, Ed Clark, and discuss housing challenges in the GTA. The Canadian Studies held their award ceremony in early October and it was well attended. Cognitive Science has its major UTISM 2014 conference on “Church and Mental State: Perspectives on Cognitive Science and Religion”.

The Curriculum Committee has already met because they had to meet the deadlines for action from Arts and Science. The committee approved two new courses in Health Studies, first and fourth year courses that are funded under the UCDF program. UCDF is a program by which the Provost pays units that don’t have undergraduate teaching (i.e. Law, Music school and etc.) to teach undergraduates in Arts and Science. For college programs it’s a great way to make programming happen on someone else’s dollar. The committee approved the following two courses. The first year course is the PHS100H1: Grand Opportunities in Global Health and the fourth year course is UNI408H1: Case Studies in Health Policy.

The Cognitive Science program has proposed some small changes: A new COG 498 independent study course is very similar to their COG 499 course, but this one is geared towards students who are interested in the experience of independent work. It has also changed two of its course titles to make them clearer for students. “Issues in Cognitive Science I” is now “Issues on Attention, Perception and Consciousness”. “Issues in Cognitive Science II” has become “Issues on
Concepts, Theories of Mind, and Cognitive Evolution”. Also, Cognitive Science has proposed housekeeping within their posts to keep students well informed. All of the above mentioned changes were approved by the curriculum committee.

The Curriculum Committee supported the Endeavour of re-designating the Health Studies and Canadian Studies courses. The committee has also submitted to Arts and Science five 199 First-Year Seminar proposals (samples of those forms were circulated to council and they will vote on these changes on the next meeting).

5. MOTION TO APPROVE STANDING COMMITTEES

- A motion duly moved by John Marshall and seconded by Isabelle Cochelin that the members of the standing committees, as indicated in the pre-circulated list, be approved. Approved nem.con (unanimously).

6. STEP Forward

   Introduction (Donald Ainslie)

Principal Ainslie referred to the STEP Forward website when presenting the introduction to council. STEP Forward is a new initiative from Arts and Science and connected to some of President Gertler’s priorities in order to reimagine, reinvent undergraduate education. It concentrates in particular on helping students understand how their studies connect to their future after the university. FAS has a history of focusing on undergraduate programs and not so much on preparing students for life after Arts and Science. STEP Forward changes this by dividing the four years of the academics program into four steps: Stepping into Arts& Science, stepping into your program, stepping into action, and stepping into the future (the future job world). There was a call for proposals for various activities that units might undertake to support them, particularly in mentorships, research skills, internship placements, academic preparations and careers and skills. UC developed more proposals than any other unit. All nine of them were funded. There will be a call for proposals for next year coming forward and Principal Ainslie encourages students and faculty to integrate these aspects of student experiences into their courses. We went through the 9 initiatives in chronological order. Some of the initiatives have already taken place and the rest will happen in the future.

Thrive (Melinda Scott)

Thrive was launched in the Fall of 2013 as a one-day alternative Orientation event for students who were unable to attend traditional orientation or for who traditional orientation activities did not appeal (e.g. mature student, transfer students).

The focus of Thrive was to offer students some core pieces of information to set them up for success at University – with an emphasis on academic orientation. As part of the Step Forward program UC received funding to expand Thrive to a two-day program – at no cost to student participants, and to enhance the academic orientation content included in traditional Orientation week. Nearly 100 students registered for Thrive this September which included a series of academic workshops, campus tours and low key social activities. With the expansion
to a two-day program, Thrive participants were also able to participate in the UC Day programming offered by the Registrar’s Office.

The Lit’s cooperation was very much appreciated in expanding the academic programming offered as part of traditional orientation week. With the assistance of Step Forward grant UC was able to offer a mock lecture in con hall – delivered by Principal Donald Ainslie, as well as workshops on the transition to University, a student panel, and the Coffee with the Profs event.

Although not originally part of the Step Forward proposal – PRE U of T was extremely well aligned with the goals of enhancing academic orientation and cooperation with the Step Forward team ensured that activities were connected to the “Connect, Reflect, Project” framework.

**Mentorship Hub (Melinda Scott)**

This initiative is designed to bring together the numerous mentorship opportunities offered throughout the college and coordinate them in clearer ways, to enhance and expand those programs.

As part of the Step Forward process this year, the first year student E-Mentoring program includes all first year UC students and runs from the point of admission to the end of first term. Upper year student mentors were assigned groups of incoming UC students whom they communicated with via both group emails and personal messages. The Office of the Dean of Students provided key messages at specific points throughout the program and offered support to mentors. They’re currently in the process of developing an evaluation of the program that will be conducted at the end of the term.

This was also the first year that the Office of the Dean of Students and the Advancement team collaborated to deliver the Alumni Mentorship Program. Some of the changes to the program include the development of a group interview process, training sessions for mentees to ensure that they are properly prepared to appropriately engage with their mentor, and check-in sessions over the course of the program. Coming up next term the Office of the Dean of Students is planning a short-term (4-6 week) mentorship program which will pair first and second year students with upper year students and will be structured around a series of leadership workshops. Also, it hopes to hold a speed-mentoring event for graduating students.


In August the Cognitive Science program organized a major orientation organized by the program director, 2 lead instructors and 2 CASA members. About 60 students attended, some of them being old-timers and the rest new students. The goal was to introduce instructors, staff, directors and CASA members to new and existing majors; to help students understand the complex structure of the program and discuss potential paths to the major; and how to plan their course of study. During the orientation, CASA hosted some Cognitive Science games. Also, there were advising sessions that included information regarding program requirements, questions about specific courses, life and study balance. The program received very positive feedback.
Backpack to Briefcase in Cognitive Science (Ana Perez-Leroux)
B2B was held in early October. It was organized by Arts and Science. Two of the alumni were neuroscience majors with cognitive coursework. About 30 students attended. The goal was to discuss career paths and what students can do to help them succeed in the professional world. Ana shared with council some positive student feedback that the department received regarding the B2B event. Cognitive Science is eager to create more similar positive engagements.

Experiential Learning in Canadian Studies (Nelson Wiseman)
Professor Wiseman discussed UNI435Y1, “Active Citizenship in a Canadian Context” which is funded by STEP Forward. The course integrates service learning into the curriculum. It provides a rigorous engagement with the interdisciplinary academic literature on citizenship (especially that arising from Canada), and with foundational concepts such as political community, rights and responsibilities, marginalization, belonging, and accessibility. Students engage with interdisciplinary debates on issues such as active citizenship, and urban, cultural, environmental and global citizenships. Enrolment has expanded over the past year from 7 to 21 and that the course placed students with organizations such as the Kensington Market Historical Society, Toronto Parks People, Dixon Hall Literacy Program, Toronto Newcomer Office, West Queen West Business Improvement Area, and Artscape Youngplace. Also, he shared positive student feedback regarding the initiative with the council.

Experiential Learning in Health Studies (Sarah Wakefield)
HS wants to use the STEP Forward opportunity to enhance student experience in HS and solve some issues within the curriculum. The Specialist program previously involved a series of courses (student had to take a third and fourth year course) which focused on research opportunities. Students involved in the third year research opportunity were overwhelmed by the possibility to have to approach instructors, find a project to work on (supposed to be done prior to entering the course). Thus, there weren’t many students who were willing to do it to start with (Specialist numbers were artificially low) and students were not starting research until in late third year.

HS decided to restructure the curriculum by guiding students on what research looked like in university (what kind of research to do; where to do it; how to develop it; how to find a supervisor and etc.). Also, the new curriculum focuses on offering opportunities (job, internship opportunities) not only for research but also for practice in HS. Therefore, HS reintroduced a service-learning experience for fourth year students. The third year now serves as a gateway for both research and practice in Health Studies. Currently HS is a third of the way through the first iteration of the third year course to become a full year course taught by a sessional instructor. The instructor has brought a lot of knowledge in the field and practice of HS but also around reflection and building of the Experiential Learning.

Evaluations indicate that students have been enjoying the experience so far. The enrollment in the course has tripled by making it available not just to SPE but also to MAJ. Current students have an idea about what’s made available through the HS field (a lot of job opportunities in
health care and associated with public health). In addition, they’ve brought experts in HS fields to share their experiences with the students.

Seven-college re-orientation initiative: “Progress beyond your PoST” (Melinda Scott)
This is a joint initiative that involves all seven colleges of Arts and Science. In the second week of January 2015, there will be offered a series of events, which are designed to encourage second year students to reflect on their first term in their Program of Study and support them in planning for the remainder of their degree and beyond. The program will be called Paths Beyond Your PoST. Each College will host at least one large scale event open to all students on topics such as gaining research experience, exploring study abroad opportunities, academic success strategies, graduate school and career preparation, co-curricular involvement and mentorship opportunities. There will also be a reflection workshop offered several times throughout the week at each of the Colleges, and some Colleges may choose to offer some College-specific workshops or activities. The Office of the Dean of Students is currently in the process of finalizing the schedule for the week and developing promotional materials.

Research Day (John Marshall)
John proposed and received funding for what he refers to as “Research and Practice Day”. This event which takes place at East and West Hall involves poster presentations from college programs on what students have done in their practicum or experiential learning course. During these presentations, the program directors of college programs have the chance to choose how to allocate 20 bristol boards from their program. This initiative has been developed from the very successful poster presentations by UC One students. The poster board sessions encourage students to become experts to each-other. The event will be officially advertised soon but it’s expected to take place on March 13, 2015 and will be open to the public.

Professional Writing (Jerry Plotnick)
The University College Writing Centre proposed to organize a two-hour workshop each year on real-world writing genres. Workshop leaders might include an editor at The Walrus, a publisher and/or editor of fiction or non-fiction books, a policy analyst in the public sector, a science researcher who writes grant proposals, a journal editor in any of a number of fields.

This initiative aims to address a popular concern in the writing field amongst students: the lack of exposure at U of T to writing practices that don’t fit into generic academic writing categories and students will need to deploy in the workplace. It will help fill a significant gap between the standard argumentative undergraduate paper on the one hand and purely creative writing on the other. Students will be able to connect with a real-world writing practice.

Workshop leaders are encouraged to include activities that involve reflection. In particular, students are encouraged to reflect through hands-on exercises and group discussion on the differences between the genre of writing covered in the workshop and those they encounter in their academic work and the advantages (and limitations) of these new genres.
Two workshops are scheduled to take place during the next year. The workshops will first be made available to UC students and any remaining seats will then be made available to all upper-year Arts and Science students. The first workshop, which is due in January 2015 has invited speaker Lisa Austin to talk about Writing and Law. The second one, will take place in early February and speaker Rachel Giese, will talk about Print Journalism.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**
   There was no other business to be addressed.

8. **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**: Wednesday, Jan. 14, 5-7
   - **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 18-20, 2015, 4:30pm, UC 140
   - **End of Year Reception**: Wednesday, April 1, 4-6, Croft Chapter House

**ADJOURNMENT**

- On a motion duly moved by Sean Xu, and seconded by Jesse Berlin, the meeting was adjourned. Approved nem.con.

*Next College Council Meeting – Friday, November 14, 2014, 1:30-3:30 pm*

*NOTE SPECIAL LOCATION: UC 314 (Laidlaw Wing)*