UNIVERSITY COLLEGE COUNCIL
Friday, February 1, 2013 – 1:30pm
Croft Chapter House

DRAFT MINUTES

Present:

Alan Ackerman
Isabelle Cochelin
Margaret Fulford
Antoinette Handley
Christina Kramer
Tania Li
Matthew Mohan
Jenny Purtle
James Reilly
Renee Tarantino

Donald Ainslie
Shelley Cornack
Emily Gilbert
Alanna Horton
Nishi Kumar
Yvonne MacNeil
Ryan Phillips
Aimee Quenneville
Melinda Scott

Suzanne Akbari
Benjamin Dionne
Paul Hamel
Daniel Konikoff
Alexander Leggatt
John Marshall
Jerry Plotnick
Scott Rayter
Peter Sudenis

Regrets:

Ryan Ackers
Ellen Cunningham
Kelcie Jones
Madison Kurchik
David Naylor
Walid Saleh
Lorne Tepperman

Nicole Belosevic
Naomi Hood
Donghee Kim
Munira Lila
Niamh O’Laoghaire
Alex Smith
David Townsend

Brian Corman
Stephen Johnson
Jeffrey Kopstein
Cheryl Misak
Kathleen Qu
Philip Sohm

Guest:

Suzanne Stevenson

Julian Weinrib

1. Welcome
Speaker Alexander Leggatt called the meeting to order and welcomed Peter Sudenis to Council. Peter is taking over the at-large staff position vacated by Paul Morrison.

2. MINUTES
On a motion duly moved by Aimee Quenneville and seconded by Christina Kramer, it was resolved that the minutes of the November 30, 2012 meeting be approved as distributed to members. Approved nem.con.
3. BUSINESS ARISING
Following up on the discussion at our previous meeting, concerning constitutional implications stemming from the change of status of the Drama and Sexual Diversity Studies Programs and the implication that might have with program students’ representation on Council, Principal Ainslie noted that for the time being we have decided that only College sponsored programs will have representation on Council. If affiliated centers feel that they would like to have representation on Council we could explore adding one more representative. This would require a constitutional amendment which would have to be approved by Governing Council.

4. CONSULTATION – Faculty of Arts and Science Self-Study
Suzanne Stevenson, Vice-Dean, Teaching and Learning, Faculty Arts and Science made a presentation to Council members regarding the Faculty’s Self-Study.

Discussion ensued

5. REPORTS
Update from the Principal
Principal Ainslie informed members that the first of three Student-Faculty dinners hosted by the Principal was held on January 31st at Bissell House and was a huge success. This is a chance for students to interact with faculty in a relaxed and social setting.

The Principal was pleased to announce the creation of the new Principal’s Distinguished Staff Award to recognize outstanding College staff members. The Executive Committee (excluding staff members) will serve as the Selection Committee for this Award. Going forward, the winner of the Award will also serve on the Selection Committee. The Staff member will be acknowledged at the End of Year Reception.

Principal Ainslie noted that the Memorandum of Understanding between the College and the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies will take effect on July 1, 2013. We are waiting to hear back from the Dean’s Office on the proposed base budget which was submitted to them at the end of last year.

The Cognitive Science Program, which was originally a College Program, was abruptly moved out of the College because the College, for financial reasons, was going to discontinue the Program. However, the four departments which have a stake in the Program, Philosophy, Computer Science, Linguistics and Psychology, came together to save the program. These departments have stepped up in helping run the program and now there is a desire from the departments and the Dean’s Office to have the Program reconnect as a College Program. The Executive Committee agrees that this is a good move which will bring a connection to the sciences but feels that past issues, namely a lack of faculty involvement from the departments and a lack of funding, must be addressed. Principal Ainslie noted that he would be writing to the Dean requesting two joint teaching stream positions as well as some administrative support for the Program. Assuming that the Curriculum Committee approves this move, we would be bringing this to a vote at the next Council meeting.
The Principal updated members on some items from the Faculty of Arts and Science Council including the establishment of an Islamic Studies Institute, the move of the Visual Studies program from the Department of Art to the Faculty of Architecture, a renewed push for graduate expansion, and the new appointments process. Principal Ainslie noted that we would be requesting a position in Chinese Canadian Studies, as well as teaching stream appointments connected with Cognitive Science where we would partner with Philosophy and with Psychology.

Principal Ainslie concluded his report by moving the following motion:

- On a motion duly moved by Donald Ainslie and seconded by Matthew Mohan, it was resolved that Shelley Cornack serve as Investigation Officer and Melinda Scott as Hearing Officer for UC Code of Student Conduct cases.

Discussion ensued

Approved nem.con.

**Update from the President, UC Lit**

UC Lit president, Mr. Benjamin Dionne was pleased to share that the referendum question which will be posed to students on March 6 was approved at the last Lit council meeting. The referendum question has been widely publicized on the UC Lit website (memorandum appended). Two Town Hall meetings will be held on February 28 for students to discuss the referendum. The question will ask student to pay a $12.50 levy per term over 20 years to raise approximately $2.1M towards the UC Building renovation.

Mr. Dionne noted that the next Lit Executive will be elected on March 6 and their term will begin on April 1st.

Mr. Dionne concluded his report by reminding Council that February 2nd was Fireball and he encouraged everyone to come out and have a great evening.

Principal Ainslie congratulated the Lit and noted that he was very excited with their support of the College renovation plans. The Principal stated that he is happy to support the students as they are campaigning in any way he can. The Principal also noted that there would soon be a display in the Library to help give students a sense of what the renovations plans are. Principal Ainslie thanked students for this huge commitment that demonstrates to alumni the Lit’s support of this project.

**Update from the Vice Principal**

Vice Principal John Marshall began his report by updating members on Health Studies Director search. The Committee has been struck and will be meeting next week.

The Vice Principal updated members on some of the numerous Program activities and referred members to visit the website for details on more events. For the second year in a row, the Health Studies Student Union has partnered with the Canadian Roots Exchange, an Aboriginal
youth leadership organization, to offer students an opportunity to visit Six Nations on the Grand River reserve over reading week.

Vice Principal Marshall noted special thanks not only to Emily Gilbert and Canadian Studies, but also to our Barker Fairley Visitor Sarah Polley for assembling an unprecedented panel of Canadian directors for the Toronto: City on Screen event. The discussion focused on representations of the city in film and was moderated by TIFF artistic director Cameron Bailey. The event sold out in two days and had over 250 people in attendance.

The Canadian Studies Undergraduate Student Conference: "Challenging Canada: Past, Present, Future" will be held on March 8 and will feature the work of undergraduate students in the Canadian Studies program.

The Sexual Diversity Studies Program will be holding a Symposium in Honour of David Rayside on March 1st.

The Vice Principal concluded his report with a discussion on the revised Appointments Policy & Procedures which had been previously distributed for Council’s information. The Vice Principal noted that he has been working with the Appointments Committee to articulate and plan for the new categories of College members, namely graduate members and other academic appointees.

Discussion ensued

Update from the Registrar
UC Registrar, Shelley Cornack noted that since returning from the holidays, the Registrar’s Office has been meeting with students and processing documents with respect to course enrollment, petitions, June convocation degree audits and financial advising and will begin reviewing the second term bursary requests within the next few weeks.

The Registrar noted that all College Registrar’s Offices participated in the Faculty of Arts and Science’s First Year Advising project to meet with first-year students who have had difficulties with first term courses in order to assist with determining the causes for the poor evaluations and discuss possible remedies including Late Withdrawals. This year, Registrar’s staff will also be contacting some returning students who are struggling with their academics.

The first of three admission segments begins on February 5. As well as admitting students to UC, this also includes the review and planning for the admission of students to UC One. The Dean’s Office and the Registrar’s Office have begun planning the Welcome Sessions in June and summer course enrollment sessions and Orientation week activities.

The Registrar’s Office will be participating in the two-day March Break Open House for prospective high school applicants to the University on March 14 and March 15. The event allows applicants an opportunity to meet with various college and departmental representatives, including the One programs, to discuss possible areas of study and to tour the campus.
Also in March, New College and UC will be holding the joint annual information, tour and lunch session for students in the Transitional Year Program who will be applying to Arts and Science for September.

The Registrar’s Office will be closed on February 26 for its annual staff development day.

At the last Council meeting, Professor Marshall had requested that the Registrar check with the Faculty office to see if it was possible for the Late Withdrawals to be noted on Blackboard. The Registrar clarified that there is a nightly download which updates Blackboard but Professors must check the system daily for changes.

The Registrar concluded her report by referring to the list of scholarship and bursary expenditures for the fiscal year April 30, 2011 to May 1, 2012 which was distributed to members for review and approval. The Registrar informed members that although a list of scholarship holders for the allocated awards was not provided, that information was available from the Registrar’s Office should anyone be interested.

- On a motion duly moved by Shelley Cornack and seconded by Jim Reilly, it was resolved that the list of scholarship and bursary expenditures for the 2011-2012 fiscal year as proposed in the Report of the Scholarship and Bursary Committee be approved as distributed to members. Approved nem.con.

**Update from the Chief Administrative Officer**

Chief Administrative Officer, Yvonne MacNeil noted that the 2012-13 budget year is winding down and most of the budget information will be presented at the March Council meeting. The U of T Central budget meeting will be held in early March and then the Faculty of Arts and Science will allocate our budget to us. The CAO will be working with the Vice Principal and the Program Directors to develop the 2013-14 budget. The CAO noted that the ancillary budget had been submitted and approved. The CAO confirmed that the College plans to continue to upgrade and improve the older buildings on the UC Campus.

The CAO was pleased to announce that Deniz Ozturk has joined the UC team as our new Computing Services Coordinator.

Professor Antoinette Handley wished to register her thanks as someone who has benefited from the upgrades to the Cloisters Wing. Ms. MacNeil noted that in May we expect to receive more funds from Central to upgrade even more of the space in the College.

Principal Ainslie reminded members to contact Susan Lishingman if they notice any clutter in their areas of the College and Susan will arrange to have it removed.

**Update from the Director of UC Advancement**

Principal Ainslie delivered an update on behalf of the Director of Advancement who was unable to attend the meeting. Principal Ainslie was pleased to share that we received a $1M
donation for the UC One program. This will help put the program on a more consistent foundation in terms of funding.

The Principal was also pleased to announce that for the 2012-13 fiscal year, the advancement intake tripled that of its established goal of $2.2M. Thanks in part to the $4M anonymous donation towards the establishment of a Chair in Canadian Studies and the matched gift for the UC One initiative.

The Principal noted that there continues to be much excitement around the building renovation project and he hopes that we can maintain that level of intensity in 2013. We are waiting for our U of T approved campaign promotional materials which should be available soon.

Principal Ainslie noted that although launched in September 2012, there continues to be improvements to the website. Work is ongoing to improve visual elements and update the college directory; nonetheless it is a very dynamic website.

The Principal informed members that the spring edition of the UC Magazine will be available at the end of March. With the theme of “Fashion” it will feature stories about alumni who have made their mark in the fashion industry. This issue will be submitted to CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) for consideration for an industry award.

The Principal concluded this update by noting that the Underwood Room is slowly being transformed into a dedicated alumni lounge. We have been acquiring furniture, framing archival photos, and collecting alumni books and artwork for display. The grand opening will coincide with Spring Reunion on May 31, 2013. Students will be welcome in the space which provides them with the great benefit of interacting with our alumni.

The Principal thanked the Advancement team for their efforts in putting together the Toronto on Film event which was a huge success.

Update from the Dean of Students
Dean of Students, Melinda Scott, was pleased to report that the Office of the Dean of Students has now moved to their new home in the D-Wing of the College and will host an Open House on February 14 from 11am to 1pm. The Dean encouraged members to stop by to visit the new space.

The Dean shared that the 2013-14 Don hiring process if now underway for both Residence and Commuter Dons. The application deadline is February 4 and interviews will be taking place throughout the month of February.

Dean Scott also shared that the 2013-14 residence admissions process will begin soon and will be using a new residence application portal called “MyRes” which the University has recently introduced. First year students who wish to qualify for the housing guarantee must indicate their interest in residence through MyRes by March 31. Upper year students who wish to re-apply to residence will also be utilizing the MyRes portal.
The Dean was also very pleased to share that the University College residences are also introducing a new residence admissions process for the 2013-14 academic year. The Star Rez system will allow students to complete their residence applications online as well as submit online deposits. Star Rez is the residence admissions system now utilized by the majority of the U of T residences. The Dean hopes that the introduction of Star Rez will allow us to streamline our residence admissions processes and enhance the level of service we are able to provide to students.

The Dean reminded members that applications are being accepted for the student-faculty engagement grants that were announced earlier this term. The next deadline will be March 1, 2013. Applications are available on the website in the News section. Students, staff and faculty are encouraged to submit applications for funds to support activities designed to encourage student-faculty engagement outside of the classroom.

The Dean concluded her report noting that nomination forms for University College Merit Awards will be available next week. The Merit Awards are designed to recognize graduating UC students who have made significant contributions to the UC community. The deadline to submit a nomination is February 28 and the Merit Awards ceremony will take place on March 13, 2013.

Principal Ainslie thanked the Dean and her team for getting the UC residences on the Start Rez system. He also encouraged Council members to submit applications for the student-faculty engagement grants.

6. OTHER BUSINESS
Professor Alan Ackerman expressed once again his strong concerns with the Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education’s plan to have the back campus refitted with AstroTurf and presented a speech to Council (copy appended).

Professor Ackerman’s concerns were shared by many members of Council including Matthew Mohan and Cristina Kramer who wished to go on record as strongly opposed.

Discussion ensued.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS
No additional announcements

8. ADJOURNMENT
On a motion duly moved by Antoinette Handley and seconded by Ryan Phillips, the meeting was adjourned.

Next College Council Meeting – Friday, March 15, 2013, 1:30pm – Croft Chapter House
MEMORANDUM
TO: The University College Literary & Athletic Society at the University of Toronto
FROM: The Election Committee
DATE: January 30th, 2013
SUBJECT: Referendum & Election Notice

The University College Literary & Athletic Society at the University of Toronto will be holding its Spring election on March 6th, 2013. At the same time, the Society will also hold a referendum regarding its membership fees.

The members of the Society will be asked to elect the Core-Executive of the Society, that is the President, Vice-President, Finance Commissioner, and the Executive of the Society, being the Athletics Commissioner, Community Outreach Commissioner, Global Action Commissioner, Literary & Creative Arts Commissioner, Off-Campus Commissioner, Services Commissioner, Spirit & Communication Commissioner, Social Commissioner and University & Academic Affairs Commissioner.

Any University College students can run for elections. Nomination forms will be posted on the Society’s website. Application deadline for any candidates will be February 27th, 2013 at 5pm. Forms should be hand in the Society’s administrative office in the Junior Common Room.

In accordance with its Policies and the Society’s By-Law, Council voted to hold a referendum on its levy. The members of the Society will also be asked to answer the following referendum question:

The University College Literary & Athletic Society is seeking consent from its members for the creation of a new project levy. The proposed increase is $12.50 per session for Full-time students and $5 per session for Part-time students, to be collected over 20 years. This levy shall only be collected for the fall and winter sessions.

The new project levy shall be allocated to the renovation and improvement of the College building, its classrooms and its quad, the construction of a new library and reading room in East Hall and West Hall, and the establishment of accessibility initiatives.

In appreciation of the students contribution to the project, the College would immediately start the renovations of the Junior Common Room. Moreover, the Society will obtain preferential booking for all spaces and the first right of refusal for the construction of a student-run café next to the library. Finally, any projected surplus up to $50,000 will be allocated toward the creation of a scholarship fund.

If the increase is approved, the total fee for University College Literary & Athletic Society for the 2013-2014 academic year will increase from $16.94 to $29.44 per session for all full-time University College students and from $7.62 to $12.62 per session for all part-time University College students.

Yes I agree with the above proposal and allow the University College Literary & Athletic Society to increase fees.
No, I do not agree with the above proposal and refuse to give permission for the University College Literary & Athletic Society to increase fees.

Campaigning details regarding the referendum will be released shortly as an updated version of the Referendum Code will be approved. Any members of the Society who so wish to obtain more information on the matter can contact the Election Coordinator, Shawn Tian, at elections@uclit.ca.

Benjamin Dionne,
President & Chair

Alex Smith,
Literary & Creative Arts Commissioner

Aggie Gao,
Upper-Year Representative
To: University College Council  
From: Alan Ackerman, Professor of English  
RE: Capital Projects Development Plan to Replace Grass with Synthetic Turf  
February 1, 2013  

At our last session, Anita Comella and Jason Lum-Yip made much of the words “degradation” and “legacy” in their plan to replace grass with synthetic turf in the back campus. Ironically, it came immediately after we had condemned vandals for ripping out “heritage” copper downspouts (and the need to replace them with aluminum). This memo offers specific concerns about the project.

Student access: In spite of the assertion that the project is supposed to “increase student access to field facilities,” students might reasonably wonder how that will comport with the strategic objectives to “increase event hosting opportunities,” to “improve competition environment and results for Varsity field sports teams,” and to “create and implement a high performance training centre for Field Hockey in Ontario.” Once the high-tech field is open to rental and covered in turf, I doubt that many will want to picnic, sunbathe, discuss philosophy, or play Frisbee on those permanent field-hockey fields, and it seems strange to me that the university has so easily acquiesced to the government’s utilitarian (and often short-sighted) agenda. Spontaneous use of this shared space will be eradicated and, with it, a basic aspect of university life.

Financial Logic: There is no reason to assume that this plan is cost-effective, though it brings a short-term windfall from the government. Let’s see the Financials that went to Planning & Budget and then the Academic Board in the Capital Developments office to request these, but haven’t heard back. Synthetic turf tends to be very expensive, with a long pay-back period. But, beyond money, I oppose synthetic turf for environmental and health reasons. If the surface is made from recycled tires (as many such turfs are), experts have shown that players come off the field covered in turf particles, among numerous other problems I will mention below.

What exactly is this material is made from? Is it made of plastic pellets, chemical stabilizers and additives? Manufacturing this material is an extremely energy intensive process. Many chemicals present in artificial turf haven’t been adequately researched, and scientists have indicated numerous potentially harmful consequences of installing such turfs (including water contamination and harm to ground-dwelling organisms). Let’s have a proper environmental assessment.

An urban grass field is an ecosystem, which includes a vibrant range of life forms live below the ground, from bacteria and fungi to tiny insects, earthworms and moles. Together, this rich biodiversity brings immeasurable benefits to life on Earth. It plays a vital role in mitigating climate change, storing and purifying water, among other things. The well-being of all plants and land-based animals depends on the complex processes that take place in soil. Biodiversity loss and climate change are two of the most pressing challenges of our time, and soil biodiversity is part of the solution to both. Yet it is under constant threat, largely from human activities that we can control. It is our responsibility, therefore, to preserve the quality of soil before it is too late, and before its resident species and their fragile habitats are lost.

Global warming: It is simply a bad choice for a climate that is heating up, because of the cooling effect of living grass. I would think that the University of Toronto would want to be a leader in the global environmental movement. There is a clear relationship between urban warming and such projects. The type of surface material (e.g., asphalt, concrete, brick, gravel, grass) affects thermal conductivity, and wetness. These characteristics alter the radiation balance at ground the surface, the storage of heat in the urban fabric, and the partitioning of energy into latent and sensible heat. Numerous studies have demonstrated the importance of vegetated landscapes in ameliorating the urban heat island.

Return to synthetic materials and risks: Artificial turf, usually constructed of polyethylene plastic grass and an in-fill base of "crumb rubber" from ground-up recycled tires (as many as 10,000 in a
single field) have become increasingly popular. There are several possible ways for people to have contact with these chemicals on artificial turf fields:

- Accidentally ingesting small amounts of crumb rubber by putting fingers in the mouth or not washing hands before eating after playing on the fields
- Breathing in dust and vapors while playing on the fields. Crumb rubber may become dust as it wears and the rubber may give off some vapors.
- Direct skin contact with the crumb rubber.

In addition, recycled tires are known to contain a mix of chemicals. These chemicals include, among others, rubber chemicals, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heavy metals – lead, zinc and cadmium. What is not yet known is the extent to which these chemicals may get in to the bodies of people playing on turf fields, their associated health risks, or the extent to which they may leach from the fields into the surrounding environment, soil and groundwater.

**Here are some of the basic problems to consider:**

1. **Heat hazard.** Like asphalt, the crumb rubber in synthetic turf fields absorbs heat from the sun and gets hotter than dirt or natural grass. The heat-absorbing properties of an artificial field make it too hot to play on in extremely warm weather. On a 98-degree day, the temperature on the turf could rise to more than 120 degrees. A Brigham Young University study found that the surface temperature of synthetic turf at its football practice field was 37 degrees higher than the air temperature. When the air temperature is in the 80’s or 90’s, temperatures above the turf can exceed 150° F. Any temperature above 122° F can injure or burn skin in less than 10 minutes.

2. **Lead.** Turf fields made from nylon or nylon/polyethylene blend fibers may contain levels of lead that pose a potential public health concern. In 2008, elevated lead levels were found in the crumb rubber of a synthetic turf field in Manhattan. Tests of artificial turf fields made with only polyethylene fibers showed that these fields contained low levels of lead. Field Turf, the largest artificial turf manufacturer in North America, sells a lead-free artificial turf, but only if the community asks for the custom-made field. The fields that most communities purchase use lead to brighten the field's colors. As Don Mays, senior director of product safety at the Consumer's Union, publisher of Consumer Reports, says, “There is no safe level of lead; let's be clear on that.” The American Academy of Pediatrics agrees, saying that there is no safe level of lead exposure.

3. **Other harmful chemicals:** Shredded rubber could contain other toxic metals like arsenic, cadmium, chromium, and selenium. Jackie Lombardo, a member of the Sierra Club National Toxics Committee, says, “We know older turf products contain toxic chemicals associated with asthma, learning disabilities, and cancer. Saying they are safe because they don’t contain lead is like saying cigarettes are safe because they don't contain lead. There are so many chemicals in this synthetic grass and we don’t know what the effects are going to be not only on children's health, but also what the effects are on the ground water as well.”

4. **Zinc hazard:** A Connecticut-based environmental advocacy group, Environment and Human Health Inc., has concluded that several potentially dangerous chemical compounds could escape into the air or leach into water under certain conditions. Levels of zinc found leaching into water were inordinately high. A study by University of North Carolina found a possible link between continued exposure to zinc and cardiovascular damage.
5. **Toxic run-off.** When an artificial field drains after a heavy rain, the run-off (which may contain lead and infill material) could leach into and contaminate a community’s ground and drinking water.

6. **Increased MRSA risk (this is a staph infection resistant to the antibiotics).** Open skin lesions (so-called "turf burns") put athletes at increased risk of MRSA. Studies have shown that athletes who use synthetic turf are seven times more likely to receive turf burns than those who play on natural grass. These open lesions are often the source of contracting and vehicle for spreading dangerous infections. In fact, a 2003 study of MRSA infections among St. Louis Rams football players found that all eight MRSA infections began at turf burn sites.

7. **Bacterial breeding ground.** Medical experts have found that staphylococci and other bacteria can survive on polyethylene plastic, the compound used to make synthetic turf blades, for more than 90 days. Blood, sweat, skin cells and other materials can remain on the synthetic turf because the fields are not washed or cleaned.

8. **Adverse affect on asthmatics.** Breathing in dust of ground-up tires could exacerbate breathing problems for asthmatics.

9. **“Turf toe”** occurs in football and soccer players on artificial turf. It is a sprain of the base of the big toe at the point where it meets the foot. It frequently occurs when a player hyperextends his or her foot by stopping suddenly on a playing field.

10. **Once artificial, always artificial.** Once a community goes with artificial turf, it has no choice but to install another artificial turf field when the first one needs to be replaced because once plastic replaces natural grass, it kills any living organism in the subsoil making it impossible without years of soil remediation to grow anything on that surface.

I will conclude by returning to a subject I know something about. Walt Whitman, who was no enemy to capitalism, wrote in *Leaves of Grass*, “I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey work of stars.” Please think of this when the language of “legacy” is used. Even mixed with mud on a grey November afternoon, the grass of the back-campus is beautiful, framed by the unclean, rocky sandstone and limestone of the Gothic structures surrounding it. At the end of “Song of Myself,” Whitman writes, “I bequeath myself to the dirt to grow from the grass I love, / If you want me again look for me under your bootsoles.” I don’t think that future generations will look for us beneath the synthetic turf. I hope not.