



UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
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College Council | Friday, September 22, 2023 | 1:30-3:30pm | Hybrid: PCCC & Zoom

Present:

Markus Stock	Robert Gibbs	Colleen Dockstader	Ryan Woolfrey
Naeem Ordóñez	Yvonne MacNeil	Sue Ropchan	Margaret Fulford
Nell Bent	Jerry Plotnick	Neha Sultana	Maya Javier
Ryan Cho	Florence Narine	Vikki Visvis	Xing Fan
George Elliott Clarke	Michael Cobb	Smaro Kamboureli	Katherine Hartig
Walid Saleh	Leanne de Souza	Alnoor Gowani	Stacy Upton
Sobhneek Hothi	Yagmur Yenilmez	Behram Hathi	Ary Kwun
Therese Perucho			

Regrets:

Donald Ainslie	Robert Diaz	John Vervaeke	Dana Seitler
Barbara Fischer	Isabelle Cochelin	Joseph Heath	Jennifer Jenkins
Seika Boye	Christina Kramer	Kathleen Gallagher	Gabrielle Fournier

Officers:

Casey Conklin	John Marshall		
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Guests:

Christina Bartha	Marley Rosen	Larissa Lai	
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Quorum (1/3 of College Council Voting Members) – Met

WELCOME

College Council Zoom/Hybrid Protocol

- If joining virtually via Zoom:
 - Please ensure microphone remains muted unless speaking
 - ‘Raise hand’ function for seconding motions, and signaling comment or question
 - Motions voted upon by using ‘yes’ and ‘no’ buttons, with ‘go slower’ as abstention
 - Chat comments monitored by the Secretary
- If joining in person:
 - Speak into microphone so those joining via Zoom can hear reports and questions

Motion to approve John Marshall as Speaker in Christina Kramer’s absence today

Motion called by Markus Stock

Seconded by Naeem Ordóñez

Motion Carried

Motion to approve minutes of the meeting held on March 17, 2023

John Marshall asked for a motion to approve the minutes

Motion called by Smaro Kamboureli

Motion seconded by Ryan Woofrey

Motion Carried

REPORTS

Update from the Principal, Markus Stock

- Introduced new Council members.
- Land Acknowledgement
- Noted that there a variety of events around Orange Shirt Day, will have a number of indigenous speakers in our endowed lectures, the first one on September 28th – N. Graham Lecture in Science, Professor Deborah McGregor will present on Decolonizing Conservation: Living in Harmony with Nature.

- New Appointments in the College:

Acting Vice-Principal, Robert (Bob) Gibbs

New Program Director in Canadian Studies, Robert Diaz

Colleen Dockstader in Health Studies –

Markus also thanked the outgoing Program Directors Siobhan O’Flynn and Michael Widener.

Motion of Gratitude to outgoing Program Directors Michael Widener and Siobhan O’Flynn for their hard work and dedication to UC over there years of service.

Motion called by Markus Stock

Motion seconded by Sobhneek Hothi

Motion carried.

- Thanked Student Orientation Leaders as well as Naeem’s team for highly successful Orientation events, and a great start to the Term.
- Congratulated Nadeem Ordóñez for Faculty of Arts & Science Dean’s Outstanding Staff Award - Student Life.
- Faculty – two Professorial teaching searches with one already posted: Assistant Professor – Teaching Stream, Black Canadian Studies in the Canadian Studies program, jointly with the Transitional Year Program. Markus encouraged everyone to encourage qualified candidates to apply. There is also another search for a joint position between Health Studies and the Human Biology Program later this academic year. This will be the first continuing appointment that we have in health studies. Both of these appointment were approved by the Dean’s Office late last year. They speak to support that our programs are receiving from the Dean – a very heartening signal
- Building update: Laidlaw wing and surrounding spaces still under renovation and being reconfigured to house the Drama Centre Theater and Performance Studies.
- UC Book Fair – happening again after a hiatus of a couple years, after the Thanksgiving weekend. Thanked the teams involved: Yvonne MacNeil and her team, as well as the Advancement team.

Update from the UC Literary & Athletics Society, Neha Sultana

Ms. Sultana introduced herself as the New President of UC Lit.

- A goal for Orientation events this year was to address engagement that had fallen during the Pandemic with a wide variety of programming that included “Meet the Lit”, a UC Lit Clubs Fair as well as:
 - A fund-raising activity to benefit the National Overdose Response Service.
 - LCA, Athletics and Off Campus Commissioners organized creative/active Commuter Orientation events.
 - Red and White Event: Commissioner Divi’s work over the summer on Red and White contributed to a successful and safe event.
 - From Prep week through Orientation, Chair Thérèse and the Exec team planning produced “Club Night”, “Tradition” and “Midnight Madness”.
- Fall Plans for UC Lit
 - Fall Elections are under way. Voting period will take place from Oct. 3rd – 5th.
 - Elections will produce new council members, including deputies, 5 first-year representatives, 1 new mid-year representative, 2 new upper-year representatives, and a new Spirit and Social Commissioner.
- The Off-Campus Commission and UC Community Coordinators will distribute over 300 back-to-school kits September 26 in the Community Student Centre.
- Planning for Formals are underway and include our 2nd Halloween Semi-Formal, Reznikoff’s Revenge, and Fireball in February. UC Lit is working with ODoS to ensure these events are well planned and executed safely.

Update from Chief Administrative Officer, Yvonne MacNeil

Human Resources

- USW agreement ratified giving the staff ATB 9% retroactive to July 2023, 2% July 2024, 1.8% July 2025. Some other additional items in personal days and benefits.

Staff Announcements – Office of CAO

- We have a few new positions on the horizon for the CAO office and movement of some of the current staff into more defined roles and responsibilities.
- In the Program support area, we will now have two Program Coordinator positions, Jessie Chen when she returns from maternity leave in October, and Danielle Meade remaining in a Full-time permanent position as Coordinator with the College. Khamla Sengthavy will move to a more focused Graduate/Undergraduate Program Administrative/Academic Liaison profile giving more support to the Vice Principal and Program Directors and Programs in program development, curriculum development, calendars, and program reviews.
- Financial and human resources activities are now focused on the Financial Office in Room 59 where Maricar Velasco is taking on more responsibilities in the role of Financial Services Officer and Susan Dick will take on Payroll and Financial responsibilities in her new role as Finance & Payroll Assistant.

- Events will now be managed by Marley Rosen in the new role as Manager College Events which will manage the event team and streamline our events in the various new spaces we now have online and have become very busy. We will be hiring for a new AV Coordinator as well as facilities coordinator and event assistant for this team in the coming weeks.

Facilities updates

- Laidlaw project is moving along. Currently drywalling 2nd and 3rd floors. Did further sound and vibration testing to ensure Art Museum is not affected.
- Landmark project continues. Final completion of the circle looks good, the parking area is still under construction.
- Working on upgrade to the Wifi services in the three residences. Difficulty is old infrastructure meeting the needs of students with 2-3 devices. Working with FASIIT/ITS central team to implement a short-term solution with more access point installations. In spring/summer with less occupancy, we will schedule possible upgrades to the wiring in each of the buildings. Some areas have been addressed previously when we had capacity to work over the summer months.
- Currently in the process of upgrading all desktop computers at the recommendation of our IT group and FAS move to laptops/docking stations.

Financials

- We will be starting our 2024-2025 process for the Ancillary budget in October, with our Service Ancillary Review Group meeting in November, for approval of the budget in January 2024.
- Process for the FAS Operating budget will begin in January 2024.

Update from the Registrar, Ryan Woolfrey

Operational & Staffing Updates

- Two new staff have joined the Academic & Registrar's Office since our last Council meeting: Dimitri Thompson as our Academic Advisor, International Experience. Tammy Forlipa, one of our Front Line Advisors, is currently on leave of absence. Martta Hepomaki will join us on October 3rd as a Front Line Advisor on a one-year term contract.
- Both our main and H-Wing offices are seeing large numbers of students walking in for advising and support, and we are staffing both locations accordingly to help ensure that our students' needs are met.

Administrative & Advising Updates

- In June, the AARO and the Office of the Dean of Students partnered in offering two virtual welcome and information sessions for newly admitted students. Local, out of province, and international students shared the same opportunity to connect with college supports in preparation for course enrolment, registration, and arrival in Toronto.
- In July, advisors in the AARO held over a dozen course selection workshops for new students via our online Quercus platform to help them plan for their first year.
- In August, additional sessions helped students navigate financial aid, scholarships and awards, and the accessibility and learning strategy supports available.
- Over the summer the AARO team visited First Nations House, to strengthen our connections with colleagues there, tour their renovated spaces, and learned more about specialized resources and services available to better support Indigenous students at UC.
- In early September members of our team took part in first year Orientation – organized and led by the Office of the Dean of Students.
- Advisors have been busy over the last months with 1,000 one-on-one appointments, 500 drop-in visits with less than 10 minute wait times. Issues for students include course selection/finalization, financial aid and fees, special consideration from summer term, academic integrity, and academic standing and penalties.
- The new Salesforce Student Advising Service launches in October in all College Registrar's Offices – this will unify student records, improve effectiveness/efficiency of student advising and referrals, and facilitate strategic and data/driven decision making.
- Advisors have supported students with almost 2,000 petitions for special consideration to the Faculty of Arts & Science, including 1,200 deferred examinations, 50 exam re-write requests, 300 extension requests at the end of term, and 360 requests for retroactive withdrawal from courses without academic penalty.
- New in 2023-24, policies around student absences: Starting September 1, students will only be able to declare their absence without documentation once per term for up to 7 days.

Administration & Enrolment Updates

- UC continues to enrol approximately 18.5% of the new admitted Arts & Science population. Overall, the Faculty of Arts & Science and UC are on track to meet our general enrolment targets for November 1. Both A&S and UC will likely come in about 2% under target internationally, but 2% over target domestically by November 1. UC's newly admitted student population is shaping up to be approximately 38% International and 62% Domestic.

Graduation Updates

- 853 students graduated at our June Convocation Ceremonies this summer, including 86 Commerce students, 284 Arts students, and 483 science students.

Financial Aid & Awards Updates

- Reviewed major central admission scholarship recipients. Also noted two University College students have been nominated for the Rhodes Scholarship this year.
- The University of Toronto's Advanced Planning for Students Program (UTAPS) changes this year include students are now required to apply for UTAPS grant funding, rather than being automatically considered. Our team is issuing reminders and will monitor the impact of the change closely.
- UC's In Course and Admission Scholarship assessment and disbursement is currently being reviewed and finalized.
- A breakdown of UC's 2022-23 award expenditures by the Scholarship Committee will be brought to Council for information at the next meeting. A motion to approve the 2023-24 UC Scholarship will also be presented at the November Council meeting.

Update from UC Advancement, Nell Bent

- Review the following upcoming events:
 - September 28th - Graham Endowed Lecture featuring Deborah McGregor, presenting "Decolonizing Conservation: Living in Harmony with Nature"
 - November 1st – the Richard Charles Lee Chair in Chinese Canadian Studies, Larrisa Lai will be presenting.
 - November 16th – R.K. Teetzel Lecture in Architecture and Art will feature Alanis Obomsawin in conversation with Cameron Bailly, CEO of the Toronto International Film Festival
 - November 28-30 – the Priestley Lectures in History with Glen Coulthard: Maoism without Guarantees: Third World Influences on Fourth World Anti-Colonialism in Three Parts.
- Welcoming back our Book Sale on October 12-15. We are still looking for alumni volunteers to help run this event. Please reach out to Maria Ferreira, our alumni relations officer who can assist.
- We had a number of very successful alumni events over the spring and summer months: Several well attended lectures, an alumni reunion, a High Tea that included students, and a family friendly scavenger hunt.
- Development team saw a very busy spring and summer with donor and prospect activity, closed a couple of MGs, and are working on closing some fairly large MGs by year end.

- Giving fall campaign has just launched.
- Donor relations development team update: Annual Donor Reporting Season – the team is preparing reports to our donors on their endowed funds and providing impact reports from our students. This will also include our development team engaging with donors we have not spoken with – some for the first time since COVID.
- Collaboration with A&S – the team has benefited from sharing ideas and best practices, as well as sharing resources where it makes sense.
- New Alumni Officer Maria Ferriera has just joined the team two weeks ago.
- Recruitment has begun to cover a couple of Mat Leave vacancies for Special Events Supervisor and a new Senior Development Officer
- We will be welcoming a new Director of Advancement in the coming weeks.

Markus noted this will likely be Nell's last meeting with UC Council as Acting Director of Advancement, and acknowledged and thanked her for her great work for the College.

Update from the Dean of Students, Naeem Ordóñez

E-mentorship Program

- Our pre-orientation transition program involved 35 E-mentors sending newsletters to 1575 incoming students on Constant Contact.

Residences over the summer

- A record 287 students stayed between May to August, supported by 7 Dons who delivered 24 residence-wide programs.
- For the first time since COVID, we had seven summer groups – Five small groups (100 guests) over short stays, two large groups stayed through July/August (avg. 73 guests per week)
- Looking for opportunities to refine the approach to summer groups as an important source of revenue for ancillaries.

Pre-Service Training for Student Staff

- Pre-service training over 2 weeks and 40 sessions for 23 Residence Dons and eight Community Coordinators. 757 Reflection/Assessment responses received and under review to improve the program. 28 Student Porters also received training in their front-line support to students at our two residence desks.

Resident Move-in

- 500 students moved on September 3rd and 4th, with remainder population moving in earlier or throughout Orientation Week, and the following weekend. 98.5% occupancy - 80% first-year,

20% upper year. Two LLCs in Whitney Hall – Life Sciences and Arts and Culture.

Orientation and Transition Programming

- Commuter Orientation – 37 participants, 14 leaders – weekend of August 27th.
- JOLT Training – 118 Orientation leaders and 22 THRIVE leaders participated in campus-wide training program for orientation leaders.
- UC Orientation – Seven-day programing - 657 incoming students registered.
- Pre-U of T – Five Concurrent panels (Computer Science Humanities, Life Sciences, Social Sciences, Math and Physical Sciences). Estimated attendance was 3500 students across five panels.

Black Student Orientation/International Student Welcome/Coffee with Profs

- Black Student Orientation: UC hosted key programs – part of this orientation included Black Hair Expo and the Black Semi Formal. International Student Welcome took place in the SCR on Thursday of Orientation. Coffee with Profs – thanks to 10 UC Faculty members for their participation.

Current Pain Points

- IT/Wi-Fi Access issues in residence priority – working group involving IT, CAO's office, Residence Teams to address these concerns in a timely manner.

Staffing Updates

- Rebecca Smith, started in June as Coordinator Residence Education Programs. Rouya Botlani-Esfahani, began in June as Assistant to the Dean, Community Wellenss. Katherine Pak, Coordinaor, Student Community Development, began in July.

Question from John Marshall - Struck by 80% first year students in our residences, and if 20% are upper year students, is there a sense to what extent that represents the upper year demand or is there a greater upper year demand than the 20% represents?

Dean of Students Response: Over the years there has been increasing pressure to house the over-burgeoning demand from first year students to live in residence. Originally, we were at a 70/30% but there has been an increasing demand for first year student housing, however upper year students provide leadership and mentorship. Nothing has changed in the last 5-6 years in terms of demand from upper year students.

Principal's Response: Beyond UC, this is a concern that affects all colleges in Arts & Science. The Dean is aware and A&S works with the constituent colleges to address housing pressures for A&S students.

Motion of Gratitude to the membership of the UC Literary and Athletic Society for the 2022-23 academic year for their hard work, contributions, and service the University College.

Motion called by Naeem Ordóñez
Motion – seconded by Alnoor Gowani
Motion carried.

Motion of Gratitude o the UC Orientation 2023 Chair, Executives and Leaders for organizing and delivering a successful UC Orientation 2023.

Motion called by Naeem Ordóñez
Seconded by Smaro Kamboureli
Motion carried.

Update from the Acting Vice-Principal, Robert Gibbs

- Curriculum Committee – as much of the work of Council is done in Committees – any changes to programs must go through the Curriculum Committee. Professor Gibbs reviewed membership which was circulated with the agenda.

2 Undergraduate Students members from College Programs, appointed by the principal in consultation with the Presidents of the Program Course Unions	William Wynne (HS) Seben Im (Cog Sci)
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1 Undergraduate Student appointed by the College’s Literary and Athletic Society	Selen Bayram
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3 Teaching Staff or Other Academic Appointee members appointed by the Vice-Principal in consultation with the Executive Committee	James John Larissa Lai Raza Mirza
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The Program Directors from the College Programs	Colleen Dockstader John Vervaeke Robert Diaz
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Ex-officio members: The Vice Principal (chair)	Robert Gibbs
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The College Registrar	Ryan Woolfrey
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Motion that this Committee be struck as the Curriculum Committee of the College Council.

Motion called by Robert Gibbs

Seconded by Naeem Ordóñez

Motion carried.

- The Appointments Committee will be struck at the next College Council meeting. The Appointments Committee approves new members not to the Council, but to the College. There are seven new members of the college:

Eliot Britton – Faculty of Music

Larissa Lai – Richard Charles Lee Chair in Chinese Canadian Studies, Professor of Canadian Studies in the Department English

Julie Moreau – Assistant Professor in both the Department for Political Science and the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies

Izuu Nwankwo – Professor in the Centre for Drama, Theatre, Performance Studies

Ato Onoma - Professor in the Department of Political Science

Sabastian Sobecki – Professor in the Department of English and the Centre for Medieval Studies

Michael Widener – Chair, Department of Geography and Planning

- New Program Leadership
 - Robert Diaz – new Director for Canadian Studies, and Associate Professor in Women and Gender Studies Institute
 - Colleen Dockstader – new director for Health Studies, and Associate Professor in the Human Biology Program
- New People
 - Ange Loft is the 2023-2024 Barker Fairley Distinguished Visitor. Ange is Kanien'kehá:ka from Kahnawà:ke (QC).
 - Jonathan Bayer has joined the UC Faculty as the new UC Fellow in Early American History.
 - Can Mekik new faculty member cross appointment between Cognitive Science and Psychology.
- New Faculty Searches: One for Health Studies and Human Biology, and one for Black Canadian Studies
- SCR program is launching with an exciting lineup of people this fall/winter. The Senior Common Room is a great opportunity for the members of the college to enjoy each other's intellectual company and to meet people for the teachers and researchers they are.

Guest Presentation, Chris Bartha, Senior Executive Director, Student Mental Health Systems, Policy and Strategy

Introduction of presenter by Markus Stock

Welcome to Chris Bartha. Chris has been the Senior Executive Director, Student Mental Health Systems Policy and Strategy at U of T for little over a year. Chris works closely with campus mental health service providers, as well as mental health experts in the broader University community. This is about the implementation of the recommendations made by the Taskforce on Student Mental Health, which has been a topic for the College and Council as well, to provide oversight and vision. Chris has joined U of T coming from Sick Kids Hospital. We are delighted that Chris has found time from very busy schedule to talk to us.

Presentation by Chris Bartha: Student Mental Health: Tri-Campus Network of Collaboration

Ms. Bartha's presentation highlights some of the accomplishments of the Presidential and Provostial Task Force, post report activity, including some of the collaborations that she is leading.

- Agenda: Presidential and provostial Task Force Report 2019: Accomplishment Highlights; Current Tri-Campus Student Mental Health Collaborations; Future State Vision: *Toward a Collaborative Network of Support*
- Reviewed Mental Health Commission of Canada: Stepped Care Model – 9 steps from lowest intensity to highest intensity services. The U of T Stepped Care (2022-23) includes 21 Task Force Recommendation – 91% actioned including 3 major initiatives: Navigation tools, Access to Counselling, and Acute Support.
- Tri-Campus Student Mental Health – Phase II 2022-23 Goal: Sustain early accomplishment, Develop Data Strategy
- Reviewed Tri-Campus Student Mental Health Governance model
- Reviewed Progress Report on accomplishments: Navigation – digital mental health results (now Telus Health Student Support); Tri-Campus Health Centres visits for wellness/counselling, and results of Tri-Campus Health Centres “Perception of Mental Health Care” survey – November 2022.
- Acute care partnerships – Student Support: CAMH/U of T Navigation Service (UTN) – launched in 2022. Provides support of U of T students transitioning from Emergency Department and inpatient units to community/campus. Year 1 – 191 referrals (Sept-Aug 2022-23)
- **QUESTIONS:**
Alnoor Gowani: as for clarification on how the Navi tool conversation works

- Chris Bartha: It isn't so much and conversation, but a way for students to seek and gather more information.

Alnoor asked about surges during the months of November and March – were there different concerns for each month?

- Chris Bartha: those two months represent the peak of academic stress within the University. According to staff at the three centres this is not an atypical trend. There has been feedback from students about long wait times during surge periods like this. These are some of the operational challenges being worked on.

Alnoor asked about his Tri-Campus initiative, were there any trends unique among individual campus' or were inquiries more or less the same regardless of campus.

- Chris Bartha: uptick in activity i.e., the number of students approaching the health centres was very similar in terms of seasonal trends and the feedback from satisfaction surveys was very similar from all three campuses.

Larissa Lai: from the point of view of a Prof... regarding best practices should a student come to me with an issue I don't feel equipped to handle, how and where should I direct them, or if I suspect there is something going on with a student how would you advise to approach them. .

- Chris Bartha – For the student who may come see you, and you have a sense that they are experiencing some kind of distress, two things: the power of listening compassionately is deeply important. The second thing is to recommend they reach out to the Health and Wellness Centre – they have capacity, encourage the student to reach out. In the situation where you're wondering if a student is experiencing some distress, it's always okay to reach out and say "hey, I'm just checking in to see how things are going", without suggesting anything. Students have talked about how the compassion of a Prof has had so much impact on them. It's always good, if there is time, to follow up with students you've connected with as well.

Smaro Kamboureli: If a student gets an appointment, how many follow-up appointments will they have, and what if they feel the appointments they've had were not enough.

- Chris Bartha: There are no absolutes in the answer to that. The single-session model is based on coming to an initial session, and if you need to come back, for another session, they may do so. A lot of students come back 3 – 6 times and for most that satisfies their needs – but it's often what they can manage given the other demands of their time. If someone is looking for long-term psychotherapy

(regular weekly sessions for 6 – 18 months), that is not offered at the University. That is more customary in a community mental health agency or hospital, where there is very limited access.

OTHER BUSINESS

Upcoming Events

- **F.E.L. Priestley Memorial Lectures in the History of Ideas**
Prof. Glen Coulthard, University of British Columbia
Title: “Maoism without Guarantees: Third World Influences on Fourth World Anti-Colonialism in Three Parts”
Tues. Nov. 28, Wed. Nov. 29, & Thurs. Nov. 30, 2023, 4:30 – 6:00 PM EST– Hybrid (Paul Cadario Conference Centre at Croft Chapter House/Zoom)
- **S.J. Stubbs Lecture in English Literature**
Prof. Joy Connolly, President, American Council of Learned Societies
Title: TBA
- Wed. January 24, 2024, 4:30pm – 6:00 PM EST Hybrid (Paul Cadario Conference Centre at Croft Chapter House/Zoom)
- **Please check back on our website for event details and registration:**
 - <https://www.uc.utoronto.ca/about-uc-connect-us-events>

MEETING ADJOURNED (3:28pm)

Moved by Naeem Ordóñez

Seconded by Ryan Woolfrey

Motion Carried.