



# UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
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## College Council | Friday, November 24, 2023 | 1:30-3:30pm | Hybrid: PCCC & Zoom

### Present:

Markus Stock	Robert Gibbs	Colleen Dockstader	Ryan Woolfrey
Naeem Ordóñez	Isabelle Cochelin	Sue Ropchan	Yasmini Coomar
Jennifer Jenkins	Jerry Plotnick	Neha Sultana	Maya Javier
Ryan Cho	Adam Hess	Vikki Visvis	Joseph Heath
Divi Gupta	John Marshall	Smaro Kamboureli	Katherine Hartig
Subhi Jha	Leanne de Souza	Gabrielle Fournier	Stacy Upton
Poorvi Sharma	Yagmur Yenilmez	Behram Hathi	Ary Kwun
Therese Perucho	Sebin Im	William Wynne	Robert Diaz
Kristina Co			

### Regrets:

Donald Ainslie	John Marshall	John Vervaeke	Dana Seitler
Barbara Fischer	Florence Narine	George Elliott Clarke	Michael Cobb
Seika Boye	Yvonne MacNiel	Kathleen Gallagher	Alnoor Gowani
Margaret Fulfold	Xing Fan	Walid Saleh	

### Officers:

Casey Conklin	Christina Kramer		
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### Guests:

Sobhneek Hothi	Marley Rosen	Karl Abian	Georgia Laidlaw
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## ***Quorum (1/3 of College Council Voting Members) – Met***

### **WELCOME – Markus Stock**

#### **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

### **REPORTS**

#### **Update from the Principal, Markus Stock**

- Introduced new Council members: William Wynne (HSSU-HST), and Sebin Im (CASA-COG)
- Reading of Land Acknowledgement
  - Principal Stock noted that UC has made efforts to meet the obligations and tasks implied in the land acknowledgement. University College’s 2019 response to the Calls to Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), contained a request for regular updates on UC’s TRC-related activities and priorities every other year – accordingly today’s Council meeting includes such an update. The report, written by an external Indigenous consultant, Felicity Oien, is included in the council materials before you. Markus also commended that UC Lit is a positive force at UC in this matter, organizing an open forum and publishing their Five Points Towards Truth and Reconciliation paper.
- Noting that Council members will have read in this and past reports that opportunities to smudge in UC Buildings have been under discussion for some time, and today our partners from First Nations House have kindly agreed to lead a smudging ceremony here today. While this will not be a regular feature of Council meetings, it marks both the special topic of council today, and a welcome change in U of T’s approach to smudging

in buildings – and the Dean of Students will elaborate on this – but it also signals that smudging is possible and welcome in University College.

- Recognizing the strong partnership between UC and First Nations House in co-advocating in the matter, the ceremony today is led by Jenny Blackbird, who has joined us today and is the Resource Centre and Programs Coordinator at First Nations House Indigenous Student Services.

### **Jenny Blackbird – Smudging Ceremony**

Introduced herself and referred to the practice of smudging and how it has been curtailed, as an example of how access to Indigenous lands for such ceremonies is difficult when so much of the land is “owned” by others. Recognizing that communication is key to understanding, she invited everyone to visit First Nations House, whose doors are always open to visitors from all cultures and backgrounds

### **Smudging Ceremony**

- After the ceremony, Professor Strock thanked Jenny and advised that the latter part of the meeting would be devoted to the UC report on its work to respond to the TRC Calls to Action.
- With regard to the impact of the Gaza crisis on our community, Professor Stock noted that we put our hope in the diplomatic process that seems to have begun and hopefully can be sustained, but also noted that we have watched with growing concern and anguish the toll the conflict has taken on civilian lives: Israel’s military operation in Gaza with terrible consequences for civilians, Hamas’ assault on civilians in Israel with terrible consequences – events that have deeply effected many members of the UC Community. Professor Stock expressed his support to all of our community members impacted by these frightening developments and noted our student-facing staff teams continue to support UC students affected and connect them to services and resources. Opinions on the historical and present causes and context of the events are shapely divided, and tension in the UC community is palpable. A recently posted statement from UC Lit has elicited responses to the Principal’s office and across the institution. While fully acknowledging the Lit is an autonomous student organization, and Lit leadership is free to express their personal opinions, Principal Stock has requested a meeting with the Lit leadership to discuss their obligations toward all UC Lit members and the Lit’s shared responsibility to provide a caring and inclusive space for students from all backgrounds. UC continues to fully support President Gertler’s statement from Oct. 18:  
<https://www.president.utoronto.ca/president-gertlers-message-to-the-u-of-t-community-on-the-conflict-in-the-middle-east>
- Principals Stock noted that the freedom of open debate as well as respect and care in our interactions are immensely important. UC’s role is to provide care and an environment in

which all students can feel heard and feel safe. If any member of the UC community feels unsafe, they can reach out to campus safety or the community safety office; other supports are in place for students, staff, and faculty in our community.

- With regard to major modification of the Health Studies program now underway, this program has been under-supported in terms of its teaching complement. It has been a great program sought after by students and was one of Professor Stock's priorities when he came onboard as UC Principal to find the program well supported toward the end of his term. UC, the Faculty of Arts & Science and The Dalla Lana School of Public Health are working together to rejuvenate the program. Markus recognized Colleen Dockstader's leadership as Health Studies Program Director in making this partnership happen. This is the first step in a longer consultation that will last over the next couple of months – more information on this will be shared in greater detail in the report by the Acting Vice-Principal, Bob Gibbs.

**A Motion was proposed by Ryan Cho** to grant speaking rights to Sobhneek Hothi regarding the agenda on changed to the Health Studies Program

Markus Stock advised a motion is not required as any member of the College can speak to points raised. These contributions could be added after the report of the Acting Vice-Principal, who will propose the motion. Ryan Cho sought clarification noting the Mr. Hothi is not a member of UC. Principal Stock advised that this is clearly delineated in our Constitution – any program student, for the purposes of Council is a member of UC, and any comments Sobhneek wishes to make are most welcome.

**The motion was withdrawn.**

**Motion to approve minutes of the meeting held on September 22, 2023**

Christian Kramer called for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Motion called by Robert Gibbs**

**Motion seconded Smaro Kamboureli**

**Motion Carried**

**Update from the UC Literary & Athletics Society, Neha Sultana**

- **UC Lit Commission/Council Activities**
  - October 27<sup>th</sup> hosted the Halloween Formal, "Reznikoff's Revenge". With over 100 guests in attendance, festivities included a dance floor, costume fashion show, mask painting, food and refreshments. The Literary and Creative Arts commission also organized a "Gallery of the Dead", featuring student artwork – this was also

well attended. Overall, the event went smoothly with no security or health concerns.

- Preparations are already underway for Fireball (tentatively scheduled for February 10<sup>th</sup>). A call for volunteers has been made and a theme has been chosen – announcement to come.
- The Off-Campus commissions, along with UC Community Coordinators are making snacks available for commuter students in the Commuter Student Centre. Approximately 2100 snack units are being distributed free of charge. Dietary restrictions/options have been taken into account to make sure there is something available for everyone.
- The Spirit and Social Commissioner has a movie marathon and murder mystery event in the works for January/February. In addition, the team is also designing new UC merchandise with the goal of having it ready for the holiday season or the new year.

- **Fall Elections**

- UC lit has wrapped up Fall elections, including a by-election for a final upper-year representative left vacant in the first election. During the first election period (September 11 – October 5), all five of our first-year representatives, a final vacant mid-year representative, and one of two vacant upper-year representative positions were filled, including the election of the UC Lit Spirit and Social Commissioner position. In the subsequent bi-election (held October 6 – November 4) a final upper-year representative was elected which brings the UC Lit 2023-24 Council elected positions to full complement.

- **2023-24 Orientation Season Preparation**

- Plans for hiring the 2024 University College Orientation Co-Chair positions are underway. As there were issues last year engaging students for hiring posts, the Lit and members of the Office of the Dean of Students, have been working together on some of the details of the Co-Chair roles, the orientation program, and hiring dates and deadlines. Also, under consideration is determining if there are incentives that could be offered to help attract eligible students to apply for these roles.
- Neha responded to a question regarding the theme for Fireball, that it is still under consideration but expects that will be finalized and announced by mid-December.

## **Update from Chief Administrative Officer, Markus Stock, on behalf of Yvonne MacNeil**

### **Staff Announcements – Office of CAO**

- Jessie Chen has returned from maternity leave, and is working with Danielle Meade and Khamla Sengthavy supporting students, program directors, and our Vice Principal in delivery of our College programs.
- UC has completed the recruitment process for the three new positions for the events team and will be making offers today. Once these have been signed, we will send out communications on all the new hires, changes to staff roles, and how best to reach them. There will be a transition period to allow for movement of some responsibilities to both new and existing staff in the new year.

### **Construction Update**

- The Laidlaw project is moving along, drywall has been installed. The proposed completion date is now April 2024.

### **Financials**

- **Ancillary Operations**
  - UC just completed our review with the SARG group for our submission of ancillary budgets for 2024-2025 that will now be forwarded to the Business Board for approval. UC is forecasting a favourable outcome for residence ancillary and slightly less favourable than we budgeted for in the food service ancillary.
- **Operating Budget**
  - We will begin our meetings in January with each program director and unit managers for the 2024-2025 Operating budget.

- **SharePoint**

We have started the process of moving the College to SharePoint and leaving our server hosted shared files. We have a project team from Faculty of Arts & Science IIT and we have identified our project team to work with them to get us there. We have a starting point to begin setting up the platform site. We will do more of this work in the new year and will keep you posted through our communications coordinator.

- Question for Markus to explain the SharePoint issue.  
Markus explained that all of our administrative offices have been working on a Shared Drive system that is dated and spans all of UC. SharePoint is a significant upgrade; it is very safe and used across university Administration. This change

will not affect faculty whatsoever, as they have their own methods of sharing information for students, co-workers and researcher partners.

## **Closure**

- Please note that the University will be closed from 5:00 pm, on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, to reopen on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Be sure to close windows before you leave. Yvonne MacNeil will send out a reminder prior to the closure with contact information during the closure.

## **Update from the Registrar, Ryan Woolfrey**

### **Operational & Staffing Updates**

- All staff in the AARO completed a six-week training program in October and November in preparation for the introduction of the new Salesforce-powered Student Advising Service CRM in Arts & Science.
- Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>, the team in the AARO will start to use the system to record our advising notes, track referrals to other offices for students, and record information in students' files.
- Further functionality on the Student Advising Services will start rolling out to academic units in Arts & Science next term, and to Arts & Science students in Fall 2024.

### **Graduation Updates**

- 150 UC students graduated at the Fall Convocation Ceremony which took place on Monday, November 6; a reception was held after the ceremony in the Clark Reading Room for students and their families – a special thanks to the Advancement team for organizing this event for our graduates.
- Graduation requests are now open for the June Convocation Ceremonies to students who will finish their degree requirements by April 2024.

### **Advising Updates**

- Virtual Zoom drop-in advising continues twice per week along with one-on-one virtual and in person advising appointments offered to students every day
- Wait times for non-urgent scheduled appointments have averaged 2-3 business days for the majority of the term, and additional drop-in advising times have been added at the end of the Fall Term to accommodate urgent requests for support from students
- Primary issues for students at this time of the year involve assistance with securing term work extensions, withdrawal from courses, connecting with campus supports and resources, navigating issues with final exams and final assessments, and proactive academic planning for the upcoming term.

- Financial aid advising and U of T grant assessment continues for UC students through our Financial Aid & Awards Advisor
- Advising-related professional development activities this Fall have included staff attending the National Academic Advising Association's annual conference, and two new advisors have completed U of T's new Academic Advising Training Program (AATP)

### **Recruitment, Admissions & Enrolment Updates**

Now that our November 1 Count date has passed, below are updates on our newly admitted and total student population for 2023-24:

- Including upper-year transfer students, University College has registered 1,378 newly admitted students for September 2023
  - This represents 18.5% of the total Arts & Science new student population
  - 61% Domestic [Canadian Citizen/Permanent Resident]
  - 39% International [Study Permit/Other Visa/Visitor/etc.]
- In total, University College has registered 5,700 students in the 2023-24 Fall/Winter Session, representing our largest enrollment ever
  - By Domestic/International
    - 3,812 (68%) Domestic [Canadian Citizen/Permanent Resident]
    - 1,888 (33%) International [Study Permit/Other Visa]
  - By Year of Study
    - 1,442 Year 1
    - 1,533 Year 2
    - 1,281 Year 3
    - 1,418 Year 4
    - 26 Non-Degree
  - By Attendance Status
    - 5,142 Full-Time
    - 558 Part-Time
- On Saturday, November 18, the AARO and the Office of the Dean of Students are partnering to represent UC at Fall Campus Day. Information booths at UC will be staffed by advisors in the AARO, and tours of the college and its' spaces will be provided to prospective high school students and their families by team in the Office of the Dean of Students.

### **Financial Aid & Awards Updates**

- UC has nominated two students for the John H. Moss Scholarship; this scholarship is awarded to a student who is intending to pursue graduate studies, and who demonstrates excellent academic achievement and outstanding leadership in the community.



- On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, we have circulated in advance our annual list of award expenditures for the 2022-23 fiscal year. In the 2022-23 fiscal year, we awarded over \$1.9M in scholarships and awards to over 1,150 unique students; this includes close to 30 students who were awarded scholarships totalling about \$50,000 which provide specific preference to Black and Indigenous members of our student community.
- In reference to the above, the Registrar moved two motions: the first to approve three (3) new scholarships that have been reviewed and approved by the Scholarship Committee, and the second to approve the 2023-24 UC Scholarship Committee membership – both of which were circulated to Council in advance of today’s meeting.

## **Motions**

*Be it resolved that the University College Council approve the following three (3) new awards approved by the UC Scholarship Committee:*

### **The Hamilton Family Trust Award in Support of Black Students at the University of Toronto**

To be awarded on the basis of financial need and will be awarded and administered in accordance with the University’s Policy on Student Awards and the UTAPS program. Preference will be given to Black students in the Faculty of Arts & Science who are enrolled at University College.

### **Lau Family Bursary**

To be awarded on the basis of financial need to students enrolled in University College who are residing in Whitney Hall Residence.

### **Engelbert Estate Bursary**

To be awarded to University College students on the basis of financial need.

**Motion called by Ryan Woolfrey**

**Motion seconded by Isabelle Cochelin**

**Motion carried**

*Be it resolved that University College Council approve the 2023-24 Scholarship Committee membership:*

### **2023-24 Scholarship Committee Membership**

***Bold = Ex-Officio Members***

<b>Registrar</b>	<b>Ryan Woolfrey</b>
<b>Dean of Students</b>	<b>Naeem Ordonez</b>
<b>Financial Aid &amp; Awards Advisor (Non Voting)</b>	<b>Claire Skinner</b>

Assistant Dean, Student Life	Jared Boland
5 Teaching Staff	Joe Repka
	Christina Kramer
	Kenneth Green
	Patrick Keilty
	Jane Wolff
3 undergraduate students (Appointed by UC Lit)	Behram Hathi
	Yamini Coomar
	Udaya Reddy

**Motion called by Ryan Woolfrey**  
**Seconded by Jennifer Jenkins**  
**Carried**

**Question from Jennifer Jenkins for information on the procedure by which the five teaching staff are selected.**

Ryan responded, that there is a list of teachers who have sat on the committee in the past and that group is usually polled to see if any are willing to serve again, however they are always looking for new volunteers, and if anyone is interested in doing so for next year, to please reach out to the Registrar and let him know.

**Update from UC Advancement, Adam Hess**

**Team Update**

- Adding advancement support to events, to complement the alumni and donor facing programs. The team has benefited from support from Edith Tumarwe on the Events Calendar for UC through November, including the 3-night Priestley lectures next week, and a 150-person lecture last week with Cameron Bailey.

**Advancement Vision through the year and in to 2024**

- Focus is back on donor-facing activities to secure major gifts and re-energizing our alumni relations program to attract newly engaged alumni. The Pandemic was a major interruption along with staffing changes.
- Personal and team commitment to applying an equity lens looking at both external representation among alum, donors and influential groups, as well as the internal structures within UC Advancement that may be unknowingly limiting participation.
- Specific funding priorities, but also being able to answer the question “why” are we raising money for UC, not just “how”.

**Update on implementing TRC:**

- Working in partnership with the Registrar, we have increased the representation from, and support to Indigenous students in conjunction with outreach to Indigenous-identifying alumni, of note: eight new awards created that provide preference for

Indigenous students and amending the terms of two existing awards to provide a similar preference.

### **Engagement – alumni from day 1 onwards**

- UC Mentorship event – January 8<sup>th</sup>, held at UC with all incoming Mentors and Mentees
- Spring Reunion – UC specific activations
- The Wined Down Event celebrating our Book Sale event (which raised \$53,000) took place this past Tuesday
- Additional roles supporting Communications and Advancement Events

### **Update from the Dean of Students, Naeem Ordóñez**

#### **General Updates**

- Hundreds of families and prospective students visited UC and participated in tours of our residences, engaged with staff from AARO and ODOS. Thank you to Nancy and Jared – staff from AARO and ODOS – as well as the student tour guides who were welcoming, knowledgeable and helpful in ensuring the day was a success.
- Career Mentorship program pairings are complete and working with our friends in Advancement on the event scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, supporting both mentors and mentees.
- UConnect Student Leadership Conference is taking place on January 27, 2024 – “Unlocking Your Potential”
- Residence Move in and Orientation 2024: Residence Move-in for first year students will take place on August 25<sup>th</sup>, Orientation activities will begin on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Updates on our Partnerships with First Nations House – grateful to Rouya and her team for her work on these:**

- Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – end of term reflection/wellness circle 6-8PM at FNH with Bonnie Jane Maracle
- January 25<sup>th</sup> – Full moon social gathering at FNH 11AM – 12Noon, hopefully followed by a lunch for students at UC
- January TBD date – Wellness Canvas activity with Indigenous artists, at UC.
- March (TBD – likely March 16<sup>th</sup>) Maple Syrup Tapping trip with FNH at Lalonde Farm. There will be more details shared once they are finalized closer to the dates.

#### **Residences**

- Winter Break 2023 – last day to move out and the commencement of winter break is December 21<sup>st</sup>. Students will be moving back in on Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. The residence team is supporting winter break stay applications due December 4<sup>th</sup>. Professional staff on call coverage shared with our colleagues at New College as last year.

- Residence team working with UC Residence Council to update our points system for supporting returning students' applications to residence tied to their involvement.
- Thanks to Felicity Oien for reviewing and providing guidance on our self identifying prompts that make up our residence application process. We are hoping these changes will help us and Indigenous students better self-identify and be supported.
- We are happy to report to Council that Fall 2024 will mark the launch for making spaces available in residences for smudging to Indigenous students. This is in line with U of T's change in approach to smudging in buildings. Students will also be able to smudge in their residence rooms. This could not have occurred without our partnerships and guidance from our friends at the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, U of T Fire Prevention Services, U of T Facilities and Services, and our UC Residence Facilities team. This begins to address one of the recommendations from the 2019 and 2021 UC Report on the response to TRC Calls To Action in an ongoing effort to continue to make available spaces for smudging at the College.

### **Staffing Updates**

- Daman Singh has moved on from his role as Coordinator, Student Success and Transition to pursue a new opportunity with New College as of November 15<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank Daman for his many years of service with UC and wish him success in his new role.
- Jared Boland continues to work and support student engagement and student life programming, now in a new role – Assistant to the Dean, Student Life and Leadership. Jared will be taking on three new areas of focus: 1) Student facing and student collaborative EDI programming initiatives, 2) harmonization of risk management and risk migration of student events and activities, and 3) implementing and supporting proactive intervention programs and supports for students whose academic progress is at risk or on a perilous track and connecting them to the services and supports to partner with.
- Mandy Nelson began on October 25<sup>th</sup> as Coordinator, student Life Programs. Mandy will be helping steer the development of a collaborative pilot program supporting academically at-risk students. This program will be jointly supported by the Academic Advising and Registrar's Office, as well as the Dean of Students.
- Mohammed Nabils starts in a new role as Coordinator, Student Programs Administration and Communication on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Mohammed will be providing administrative support to a lot of our core students facing programs in initiatives.

There were two questions for Naeem regarding the UC Residence Council design of the point system for students:

**Q:** (Isabelle Cochelin): Is the point system only focused on activity within UC or UofT, or does it also include student involvement outside of residence/campus activities?

**A:** Naeem clarified that the suggestion of a points system was brought forward by students to the UC Residence Council, who worked with residence students to facilitate the current points system.

**Q:** (Subhi Jha): Are students who are working part-time off campus also taken into account in the point system?

**A:** Naeem – Yes, off-campus involvement is also a factor in the point system and there is no reason for that to change as a result of the review.

## **Update from the Vice-Principal, Robert Gibbs**

- The UC One has its end of term poster on November 30<sup>th</sup>, which gives us a chance to see what engaged Toronto students are doing – this will take place in the Clarke Reading Room.
- Senior Common Room Update  
There is a presentation this week with the Barker Fairley Distinguished Visitor, Ange Loft.
- Faculty Searches
  - Black Canadian Studies – this search is approaching the final stages, and will be a spilt appointment with UC and the Transitional Year Program. Health Studies will conduct a joint search with Human Biology next term however both searches are meant to recruit faculty for the 2024 Fall term.

## **Motions for Approval**

- There are three different motions before Council, with three different sets of changes, i.e., “modifications”. Each motion will be reviewed and discussed in turn, and there will be opportunities for questions/comments. The Vice-Principal briefly described the multi-stage process these proposals go through before they receive final approval. The items before UC Council today, have come via the UC Curriculum Committee.

### **Motion to Approve the proposed minor changes modification to the Cognitive Science Program**

The minor modification is to create the possibility of a full-year option

Motion called by: Robert Gibbs

Seconded: Isabelle Cochelin

### **Comments/Questions:**

**Q:** Smaro Kamboureli – will the full year option eliminate the half-year option?

**A:** Robert Gibbs – No

**Q:** (Unidentified) – the minor modification highlights that the CogSci minimum grade requirement is still not disclosed under any circumstance - is there any insight as to why that is?

**A:** Robert Gibbs – this changes from year-to-year, and is highly competitive so to stipulate what the level would be would create false expectations. This is not a change, but rather something that has been established for some time.

There being no further questions a vote on the motion was called.

**Motion carried.**

### **Motion to Approve the proposed minor changes modification to Health Studies Program**

The Vice-Principal highlighted that the minor changes to the Health Studies Program if carried in this motion, will be carried forward into the Major modifications version. Should the major modifications not be approved, the minor modifications approved will remain. VP Gibbs briefly reviewed the minor modifications: Two course name changes, three new courses, one of which is replacing another course.

Motion called by: Robert Gibbs

Seconded by: Smaro Kamboureli

### **Comments/Questions:**

**C:** William Wynne (President HSSU), noting the minor changes will be welcomed, however has some concerns with two new courses – HST250 and HST253. In public health qualitative and quantitative research go hand in hand, and the fact that for HST253 there is no prerequisite – only a recommended preparation by taking quantitative research. The concern is that many students moving forward won't be equipped – not only in the program but also in Grad School, or in careers by not focusing on the other huge aspect of public research. With that, he would like the Committee to consider moving HST250 from a recommended preparation to a prerequisite for HST253.

**A:** Markus Stock – thanked William for his comment and proposed that it be referred back to the Curriculum Committee while council approves the change in principle and let the Curriculum Committee decide on what the exact prerequisite is. These processes are iterative, so this will go to Arts & Sciences as well, where there may be changes. (invited Colleen Dockstader to also comment on this)

**C:** Sobhneek Hothi – President last year of HSSU, 4<sup>th</sup> year specialist in Health Studies. Noted several beneficial changes to the program but does have some concerns with some of the minor changes. There are numerous errors in the document that was distributed this week and cited that “PHS101” is also referred to as “PHS103”. He expressed concern that errors – why isn't there more diligence in making sure these errors are corrected before bringing to Council for approval?

**A:** Robert Gibbs – acknowledged the oversight was his, and confirmed the new course name is “PHS103”. Principal Stock also advised that any clerical errors in the document

will be corrected, and thanked Sobhneek for bringing it to our attention, and noted that in the process, these types of errors sometimes make it to Arts & Science and are then referred back to us for correction. Principal Stock expressed appreciation that students acknowledged the need for this course.

**Q:** Council Speaker asked for clarification on the actual procedural process involved in moving the documents forward.

**A:** Markus advised there is precedence in the Council approving minor modifications in principal and referring them back to Curriculum Committee. We can approve here today as there is a written record – as Council is aware. Markus recommended that we move this ahead and make modifications as it goes through the process. In all likelihood, things come back to the College from the Arts & Science process and to the Curriculum Committee. He recommended that we minute these very welcome comments from students, and make sure that going forward they are documented in the right way, but for now leave these items un-touched as they are recorded in the minutes.

Motion called by: Robert Gibbs

Seconded by: Naeem Ordóñez

There being no further questions a vote on the motion was called.

**Motion carried.**

### **Motion to Approve the proposed Major modification to the Health Studies Program.**

Vice-President Gibbs advised that after the UTQAP review, it was determined that modifications of the Health Studies Program are needed. The Major modification proposal includes documentation of the consultation and development of these changes, which have gone through various bodies and versions, resulting in the version before us today. As noted earlier the approval process going forward is an iterative one, with considerable back-and-forth. While detailed accuracy is important, what is before us today for consideration is the major modification for which there was extensive consultation – which included students. This resulted in renaming the program “Public Health Studies”, to work much more intensively with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, changing new hires, new structure, and building a new program before Council today.

Comments/Questions

**C:** William Wynn – noted that this version of the major modification to the Health Studies Program before us now has not been discussed by the UC Curriculum Committee. Speaking on behalf of all students challenging both aspects of the modifications, the name “Public Health Studies” is meaningless and does not communicate as a program “brand” – nobody knows what it means. “Public Health” is more recognizable as a brand. Prior to this latest version of changes the course name last seen by UC Curriculum Committee was “Public Health” – not “Public Health Studies”.

Changing the name to Public Health will help build a community and attract more students into the program.

With regard to the plan to cancel the Specialist, he noted that every student surveyed disagreed. Mr. Wynne proposed that closing the Specialist inherently harms the future success of the program. If the Specialist does close, at least add a minor.

**A:** Markus Stock advised that he would not speak to the name change, but rather point to the fact that Public Health is a different Faculty from the Faculty of Arts & Science and this guides a couple of the decisions that were made here. We can continue to talk about the name of the program, but it remains an Arts & Science program and that is important for a variety of reasons. Having said that, he is delighted that we have this working relationship with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. In terms of this program modification, again this is an iterative process. Markus advised that he received a report that there was little time to discuss this major modification, but as he believes students on the Curriculum Committee are aware, the procedures that we decided on was to start this process consultation by moving it along in Council.

With regard to the Specialist, Markus is sympathetic to the students' position on this. It is quite an expensive proposition especially when you look at extensive inter-divisional teaching. It is part of the negotiation process, especially with Arts & Science to create the best possible program with the best possible support by Arts & Science and Dalla Lana without over-stretching the other budgetary needs this program has. In that sense the procedural questions raised here were approved by the Curriculum Committee over the weekend. The Committee could review the name again, but it might have to be a name that is sufficiently different from the name of a different Faculty. Markus asked Colleen Dockstader if she had to anything to add?

**A:** Colleen Dockstader advised that she thinks that students that students here today are so invested in the program and really appreciate their feedback and hopes that they know the plan is to keep working with them. This still a moving target and the consultation process with everyone is still very important and we will continue to keep making this the best program that we can.

**C:** William Wynne – expressed that he is all for helping the program but doesn't want to approve something he knows he can't change but also agrees that students should not have wait another year. Nevertheless the "Public Health Studies" name is unacceptable to students and he cannot vote in favour of it.

**C:** Jennifer Jenkins – Point of clarification regarding the point about a minor [in relation to the Specialist program] is one that is important to students, and we are all interested in bringing more students into the program so she wanted to add her support to the idea of adding a minor.

**C:** Maya Javier noted that as a student, while not in a specialist program, found the comment of specialist program being related to money disturbing considering that as a UofT student currently going into debt to get an education, but lucky enough to be a domestic student – noting some international students are paying up to \$60,000/year and to say that they can't do a program because it's going to cost more money when we're able hold faculty holiday parties is a bit appalling.

**C:** Sobhneek Hothi – with regard to the program name, noted that for the past two years



there has been agreement that it should be changed to “Public Health”, but over the course of a weekend it was changed to “Public Health Studies” without any consultation with students. With regard to the Specialist program, Sobhneek advised that he is a Specialist and elaborated on the academic opportunities this has afforded him. He also mentioned a survey that was sent to students, and not a single student identified that they wanted the Specialist to be removed.

**C:** Markus asked Colleen Dockstader to comment on the consultation process with students.

**C.** Colleen Dockstader advised that an anonymous survey was circulated to 14 Specialists, about half that number replied. They were asked what they thought about the Specialist program. This was done 4-6 weeks ago. A follow-up focus group was attempted but finding a mutual time for participants was not successful. However, another attempt to find time for follow-up is underway.

**A:** Markus reiterated to Council that if we are not voting on the modification now we will hold up the program for a year. If we vote on it now we start a consultative process that is iterative with things coming back to UC Curriculum Committee and UC Council at any point over the next couple of months, including Council meetings in the Spring. The Curriculum Committee can recommend modifications and pulling the whole proposal, as well as any changes that come down from Arts & Science, and the consultation process will be discussed.

On that basis Markus asked Council to move forward with the major modifications.

**Q:** Behram Hathi - Looking for clarification on the process – if we were to vote in favour of this today, just confirming that it would go back to the academic council – and if they made no changes, would this come back to us to agree or make further changes?

**A:** Markus – the proposal would go forward to Arts & Science – the Curriculum Committee would consult on it next week, and then it would go to Arts & Sciences and then come back to us at any time. Markus would be happy to bring it back to Council for a vote in the next Council meeting.

**C:** Robert Gibbs – advised the Curriculum Committee meets again on Monday – we can change the name, or not. We can change our recommendation about the Specialist, or not. It will only go to Arts & Sciences after the Committee sits. The approval in principle from College Council is essential in terms of UC governance in order for it to be considered this year by Arts & Science – it won’t be considered by A&S for two months, so there is chance to talk to about it again and they themselves may make suggestions or the Vice Provost may make suggestions that have to come back to be considered by Council in future, but if we miss this particular window, then it will be deferred for a year. Nothing in the document is fixed at this point, not by the Curriculum Committee, or College Council, but also Arts & Science and the Vice Provost.

**A:** Markus Stock – the answer to the question is whatever Curriculum Committee decides will come back to Council to be voted on here. If Council votes it down, Markus will send an e-mail to Arts & Science immediately saying that we need to pull the proposal from process, that we might re-submit it next year and he will have to explain to them why that happened. That is possible, absolutely permissible, and there is precedent for this kind of procedure.

**Motion from the floor called by Behram Hathi that: After approval in the UC Curriculum Committee if changes are made regarding the program name and Specialist issues, it will return to UC College Council for approval.**

Seconded by: Markus Stock

**Motion carried**

Markus Stock – on the basis of this clarification can we now vote on the Major Clarification item as it stands before us?

Motion called by: Robert Gibbs

Seconded by: Markus Stock

In Favour – 10

Opposed – 6

Abstentions – 6

**Motion carried**

## **Biennial update on UC's commitment to the TRC Calls to Action**

### **Presentation by Antoinette Handley, and Emma Stromberg**

**Arts & Science Dean's Advisory Committee on Indigenous Research, Teaching and Learning** (note: guest presentations are not normally minuted at UC Council, exception in this special case due to the significance of the topic for UC and U of T)

Markus Stock provided a brief introduction: Turning back to the TRC Report, every other year UC received updates on TRC actions. We have the portfolio in front of us and we wanted to make time to discuss these items at Council, however the time we have left doesn't allow for that. The UC TRC update will be discussed at a future council meeting. Markus introduced Antoinette Handley as the Vice Dean, Graduate Education and Co-Chair of the Dean's Advisory Committee on Indigenous Research, Teaching and Learning. Emma Stromberg, who is the Indigenous Advisor at the Faculty of Arts & Science.

- Antoinette Handley thanked UC College for the invitation and advised that their colleague, Susan Hill was unable to join them today. Today they will talk about the parallel process in Arts & Science with the Indigenous Research, Teaching and Learning Committee, as well as their sense of where there might be some overlaps and complementarities between the two processes.
- Some background: The IDRTL Committee was established in 2017 in order carry out a number of recommendations that had been made in response to the Call to Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and in particular how Arts & Science could take this work forward. The Committee is chaired and co-chaired by the Vice Dean as well as the Director for the Centre of Indigenous Studies, in order to insure the proper integration of the work of the Committee into the life of the Faculty of Arts & Science. The

Committee draws on members of the Faculty, as well as members of the academic staff leaders in Arts & Science, as well as students in A&S. More recently emphasis has shifted to research and how critically important that is to the University's mission incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing. Also, to re-focus on how moving very strategically, the extent to which Arts & Science is making meaningful progress on the Calls to Action. The Committee continues to be a consultative space, but wanted to focus on the original Calls to Action and commitments that were made by A&S, and the extent to which we are meeting those.

- Referring to the slide presentation Professor Handley illustrated the life-cycle of the reporting process with the TRC. The Committee feeds into the work of A&S in couple of ways: Advisory to the Dean, making direct recommendations about how we move forward on the commitments that we've made, as well as feeding into the Vice Dean's portfolio to make sure the work is picked up and carried forward. The Committee also informs the A&S Academic Plan.
- There were a very large number of action items that were undertaken or committed to by A&S, and it became clear that a large number was quite difficult to manage particularly if approached in isolation. Recently, the Committee has clustered these items in order bring a more strategic focus to those areas that it was felt needed greater attention. The Committee also realized how critically important it is that we have data that indicates if we are making progress from year to year. The University historically has either not collected data, or it has been siloed. At this point systematic data collection has provided information on the number of Indigenous students, faculty, and staff members in our ranks but there are still concerns about protecting the privacy of individuals as well as insuring that this data is not misused while still allowing us to use the data to increase our understanding on progress.
- Focusing in on how the Committee can feed into and work together with the key administrative offices in A&S; attempting to build and consolidate a sense that the work we are taking forward on these commitments is not the work of our Indigenous faculty or students, but indeed the work of A&S as a whole. At the same time learning from the experience of Indigenous staff, students and faculty who are in A&S.
- Emma Stromberg touched on the working group's setup to reflect the clustered areas of focus that have begun to be addressed. Working groups established in April of 2022, hosted five sharing circles with under-graduate and graduate Indigenous students post-COVID lock downs/pandemic. Found there were differences between the experiences of under-graduate and graduate students, however for both groups there was commonality regarding isolation, a high rate of students with care-giving responsibilities, and intense experiences of grief due to community loss. Graduate students' experiences had more to do with not seeing themselves represented in the Faculty complement, as opposed to being away from friends and family. The Indigenous Research Ethics Webinar Working Group was also established in April 2022 – this was established to support institutional knowledge and capacity for ethical engagement with Indigenous communities, also thinking about harm. That work is being mobilised to support and celebrate Indigenous presence at UofT by highlighting some of our Indigenous faculty who are researchers. The Curriculum Working Group began the process of clustering action items. There are four or five recommendations that related to curriculum that range from the need for a comprehensive curricular review to communicating course offerings that touch on

Indigenous issues or are imbedded in Indigenous knowledge. Increasing opportunities for experiential learning and land-based pedagogies as well as capacity to offer curricular resources and support.

- Antoinette spoke to some very important places where there may be some complementarities between the work being done at University College and the work going on at A&S.
  - Exciting to see that UC is thinking about developing a public-facing tool that might track progress. This is something that A&S and will watch UC's progress with great interest.
  - Also noted UC's focus on the need to increase recruitment of Indigenous students. One of the things that the data collected by A&S is how shockingly small the number of Indigenous students is in A&S when you look at the number of Indigenous people as a share of the broader population. Consequently, there have been a series of conversation with recruiting services at the central University to develop a strategy to proactively focus on this as a strategic concern to the University of Toronto.
  - This also raises the question of if we are successful in recruitment, then how do we support our students once they arrive. With this in mind, attention was drawn to the reports of the various initiatives underway in UC residences. A&S is looking to work with First Nations House and the Colleges to explore how A&S might support the Indigenous students in our community.
  - It was good to see some of the training done within UC with managerial and admin staff. A&S is working with Administrative HR to develop a strategy to recruit more Indigenous staff, but also how to systematically train the staff they already have.
  - A&S is just in the process of establishing a working group to systematically look at how we might begin in an on-going way to incorporate Indigenous perspectives, Indigenous issues, and the history of Canada more effectively through every piece of our curriculum.

Comment from Jennifer Jenkins: Along the line of training for staff which is important and very welcome, perhaps training for faculty on how to interact to better understand Indigenous students would be beneficial.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Questions from student member: Requested clarification regarding UC Council By-laws and noted that student council members have not received a copy of the By-laws and asked if they could be sent. With regard to setting the College Council Agenda, it doesn't appear that all Council members are asked in advance if they have any items to add to the Agenda.
- Markus Stock advised the Council By-Laws should be available on the UC Website, but will investigate further and if that is not the case rectify that issue. With regard to the issue of items to add to the Council meeting agenda, Markus acknowledged that the

communication has not been explicit that suggested agenda items for College Council must go through the Executive Committee. Markus expressed thanks for bringing this issue forward and will take steps to ensure that this process is clarified.

- Question from Karl Abian (CANSSU): In the By-laws, asked why there are only two of the program streams represented [at Council] as well as the Curriculum Committee. Understands that there was an annual rotation system between the three unions, but would like to understand the reasoning why only two can serve at a time, and not all three?
- Markus advised that it is a long-standing tradition at UC that pre-dates his tenure as Principal but that can be investigated. By-laws need to be reviewed periodically and thinks the last one was done in 2019 and it be approaching time to review again.
- Comments from Kristina Co: Thanked the representatives from the Health Studies Student Union for their participation in the discussion today and expressed that they made some very important points. She also expressed some disappointment that these speakers were interrupted, and she noticed that some “admin staff were smirking and making faces as if not taking these points seriously” which she found disappointing.
- Markus responded he is very much in favour of and was very pleased to see a very robust student consultation in Council. Student representatives are an important part of council and their input is always appreciated now, and going forward. He advised that it would not be appropriate for council members to disrespect student voices on council.
- Sobhneek Hothi had a question for Vice-Principal Gibbs: What does it mean to engage students in these decision-making processes?
- Markus Stock answered that this question should be referred to the Curriculum Committee as this meeting has run over time.
- Sobhneek Hothi, noted that he attended the A&S Curriculum Committee meeting and noted that VP Gibbs asked his colleagues at the A&S Curriculum Committee meeting, “what does it mean to engage students”, because Bob as Chair of the Curriculum Committee should know.
- Bob Gibbs acknowledged that he was at the meeting and that he did ask the question. He said that he does know what student engagement means and felt that the discussion today was extremely helpful. He elaborated on the methods used to communicate and engage students in the process but recognized that there is a need for better modes of communication and engagement.

UC Council Speaker Christina Kramer advised that as the meeting has run well over time, it must now adjourn.

**MEETING ADJOURNED (3:40pm)**