



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
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FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION



OISE Library Student Advisory Committee (OLSAC) Annual Report 2022-2023

Prepared by:
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Summary

List of Members

- Abigail Fisher
- Arva Ezzi
- Barbara Leitem
- Bayan Akbik
- Cherie Daniel
- Dhuha Chaudhry (Secretary)
- Emily Dobrich (Chair)
- Emily Walton Doris
- Helen Chatburn
- Huda Salha
- Lu Wang
- Maia Wells
- Maryam Yousefipournigjeh
- Noah Khan
- Rutwa Engineer
- Shiye Zhou
- Yoonsuh Lee

OISE Library Staff

- Jenaya Webb (OISE Library Director, Ex Officio)
- Emily Hector (Liaison Librarian, Education)
- Jason Meghie (Access Services Generalist)

Meetings

Five meetings were held over the course of the 2022-2023 academic year:

- Meeting 1: Tuesday November 1, 5:15pm - 6:30pm, Zoom
- Meeting 2: Wednesday December 5, 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Zoom

- Meeting 3: Wednesday February 5, 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Zoom
- Meeting 4: Tuesday March 3, 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Zoom
- Meeting 5: Wednesday April 5, 5:00pm - 6:00pm, Zoom

Achieved Tasks

- Good collaboration and discussion resulted in a diversity of ideas on various initiatives, which was a significant accomplishment for this year's committee.
- Smooth program running, regular meetings, good communication in minutes and of library events were also overall achievements the committee would like to recognize.

OISE Library Book Club: OISE Page Turners

- A working group was formed, and the working group met separately to organize the book club meetings
- Successfully held one book club meeting on Zoom on February 21st, 2023
- We discussed themes from "Is Everyone Really Equal?" by Özlem Sensoy & Robin J. DiAngelo.
- Gave away OISE "Swag" (gift bag) to one Book Club attendee

OISE Library Sustainability Initiatives

- Jenaya Webb and Nicole Slattery, intern at the OISE Library, were members of the OISE's Climate Action Advisory Committee, which advises the Dean on climate action initiatives, and shared updates at OLSAC meetings on OISE Library Sustainability Initiatives.
- Nicole Slattery - looked at strategic planning docs that university libraries have been putting out to position themselves on environmental and sustainability-related initiatives to support climate action in their institutions.
- [ESE Research Guide](#) - Nicole Slattery, intern at the OISE Library, prepared an ESE Research Guide titled: *Environmental and Sustainability Education*. The guide will cover research and practical applications and aims to reach students and researchers across departments and programs.

OISE Seed Library

- The OISE Library's Seed Library was stocked.

- It is located on the ground floor of the library for faculty, students, and staff.

OISE Student-Parent Family Meet Up

- Two sessions held:
 - Pilot session held in November – 6 kids attended
 - January session – 11 kids attended
- Activities included: Craft to build snowman and read aloud story time

Therapy Dog Visit

- Funding was received to have a therapy dog visit from the St. Jones ambulance therapy dog program in April (to be hosted in 2024)
- This initiative was very positively received

Unstudy Space

- Unstudy space was organized near the service desk in the library with colouring, puzzles, etc.

Recommendations

Recommendations for Projects

A. Practice for the Committee

- In-person meetings with more “get-to-know-each-other” games
- Organize more subgroups to really get tasks off the ground
- Ask each student member of OLSAC to be a part of at least one initiative/project/event. One of the ways we can do this is by setting the ideal number of OLSAC members who are needed for each initiative/project/event, which will help the members better identify where they can help out

B. Projects / Incentives

- An incentive to spread the news of Zotero (i.e. the Zotero library trainings only worked for those who were willing to learn from the training session)
- Organize more seminars for upper-year students

- Organize family-inclusive projects that provide opportunities for UofT students' families to explore our libraries
- Brainstorm more creative ways to get people to use the library (i.e. one of our members met two OISE students who have never used the library before)
- Helping students who do everything digitally benefit from OISE digital resources
- Actively promote the Seed Library to OISE and UofT community using creative and effective ways (i.e. social media, posters, etc.)
- Reach out to the OISE community more, in terms of hearing from OISE students for any ideas or suggestions. Since OLSAC is comprised of students from many different programs and departments, finding ways for OLSAC members to be the bridge between students from their department/programs and OLSAC will further help improve what OISE library can offer to our OISE community

Recommendations for Committee Meetings/Administration

A. Number of Meetings

- Increase the number of meetings held (bi-weekly or monthly is suggested, with the first meeting starting from September)
- Form the committee and start the meetings earlier in the school year
- If having monthly meetings, possibly planning them to take place at the end of each month (starting from September), to allow the committee to meet seven times instead of five times

B. Meeting Format & Time

- Possibly include one or more in-person meetings to help the committee come more alive and encourage active participation among its members
- Start the school year with a casual, get-to-know meeting/hangout to help the committee build a stronger sense of community
- Hold meetings in hybrid or online format. A meeting room in the library or in the OISE building can be used to accommodate hybrid meetings
- Possibly provide meeting recordings for members who cannot be present at the meeting, in addition to the meeting minutes
- Have meetings earlier in the day if possible (i.e. before 2 P.M.)
- Communicate the meeting times at the time of OLSAC applications to provide a clearer idea of time commitment to members, helping members discern if it is realistic for them to commit

C. Leadership & Membership

- Establish the leadership of the committee to ensure continuity of membership
- Send out the call for new committee members in early September with the first meeting taking place in September as well

Recommendations for Engagement

- For our first and last meetings we can consider having food, snacks, and drinks to create a welcoming environment
- Hold more events in person in the OISE library
- Collaborate with other groups and clubs across the University of Toronto and OISE
- Create more subcommittees for specific projects
- Allow for space in the library for students to engage with the blueprints of the 5th floor garden
- Advertise our events, such as book club, better and more regularly