

ADDENDA TO COUNCIL DOCUMENTATION FOR FEB 26, 2020

- **MLA Program Report**
 - **Diversity and Equity Committee Report**
 - **Research Committee Report**
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MLA Program Report

Program Director

Liat Margolis, Associate Professor

Curriculum Development and Special Courses

Most recent curriculum development efforts focus on the following five areas:

1. **Merging technical and conceptual design** – A new MLA “Comprehensive” Studio (# 4) in Winter term, led by Prof. Behnaz Assadi and Francesco Martire with emphasis on design resolution from site scale to the detail to strengthen the link between conceptual and technical methods and competencies and integrate landscape ecology, hydrology and advanced visual communication knowledge and techniques. This curricular change addresses the Accreditation Self-Assessment Strategic Plans and Accreditation Review recommendations.
2. **Merging Ecology and Urban Forestry, Visualization and Computation** – A new version of the Intermediate Visual Communications course, co-taught by Forestry Prof. Danijela Puric-Mladenovic and Sessional Instructor and Senior Landscape Architect with Hargreaves Associates Matt Perotto. The curriculum focuses on merging GIS, Landscape Ecology and Scenario Modeling.
3. **Enhancing Applied Science Knowledge & Exploring crossovers between Landscape and Forestry** – Prof. Danijela Puric Mladenovic is teaching the Landscape Ecology course.
4. **Increasing Content on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Elective:** “Climate Climacteric”, offered by Fadi Masoud.
5. **Increasing Post-Colonial history, theory, knowledges and practices.** This is undertaken in the following course:
 - a. History-Theory stream: **LAN1031-32** (From 1980 to the past) taught by Georges Farhat), and **LAN2037** (From 1980 to now), taught by Jane Wolf
 - b. Two electives: “**Worldviews = Nature(s), Environment(s), and Landscape(s)**”, offered by Georges Farhat, and “**Indigenous Perspectives on Landscape Architecture**” offered by Sessional Instructor, Doug Anderson (Métis, Naadmaagit Ki Group).

- c. Design Studio 2, led by Liat Margolis and Elise Shelley. Through the studio and with additional grant funding from the School of Cities, we have developed a series of workshops for our MLA students and faculty, one of which is open to the broader Daniels Community:
1. The Kairos Blanket Exercise, led by Trina Moyan (Nehiyaw Nation)
 2. Pre-settlement Forest Cover in Southern Ontario lecture by Forestry-Landscape Prof. Daniela Puric Mladenovic
 3. First Story Toronto, led by led by Trina Moyan (Nehiyaw Nation)
 4. **[Feb 10, 6-7:30pm, room 200 open to the public]** Anishinaabe Botanical Teachings, Dr. Wendy Makoons Geniuz, Director of American Indian studies and Assistant Professor of foreign languages at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, *Our Knowledge Is Not Primitive: Decolonizing Botanical Anishinaabe Teachings* (Syracuse University Press), editor of *Plants Have So Much to Give Us, All We Have to Do Is Ask: Anishinaabe Botanical Teachings* (University of Minnesota Press),
 5. Grant Fahlgren (Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation), PFS Studio, CSLA Reconciliation Advisor Commtee: University Campus planning & TRC Calls to Action.
 6. Elder Whabagoon (Ojibway, Lac Seul First Nation, Loon Clan), Anishinaabe ceremony / teachings.

Evening Lectures – Main Hall

1. **January 16, Thomas Wolz**, Principle of Nelson Byrd *Woltz* Landscape Architects
2. **March 12, Teresa Gali Izard** is the 2020 Michael Hough/Ontario Association of Landscape Architects Visiting Critic. She is Principle of Agricultura Agronomia, based in Spain, and newly appointed MLA Director at ETH Zurich. Her research focuses on the interface between landscape architecture and agronomy, regenerative design and biodiversity.
Gal Izard will join us for two days (March 11-12) to engage with students through design critiques and conversations, and also engaged with the MLA Fac to discuss potential intersections between our MLA program and the ETH.

Student-Professional Networking Event

January 28, 2019: 75% of our MLA students interacted with 29 firms and government agencies. Many thanks to ORSS and Advancement Office for organizing the event.

Research Committee Report

Chair/Program Director

Liat Margolis, Associate Dean – Research

GRANTS/CONTRACTS

The following is a summary of research activity by the Daniels Faculty for the year May 2017 – April 2018, May 2018 – April 2019 and May 2019 – January 27, 2020:

	17/18	18/19	19/20
Total Proposals Submitted	20	21	21
Successful Grant Proposals	11	12	5
Unsuccessful Grant Proposals	8	9	2
Grant Proposals Pending Notification			12
Research Contracts	1		2

Summary of above Grants/Contracts by Sponsor:

Sponsor	Count	Successful	Unsuccessful	Pending
Alburn University	1			1
City of Kitchener	1	1		
City of Toronto	2	2		
Colleges & Institutes Canada	1			1
Genome Canada	1			1
Invasive Species Centre	1			1
MITACS (Math of Info Tech & Science)	2	1		1
Natural Resources Canada	1			1
Natural Sciences & Engineering	4	1	1	2
Nature Conservancy	1			1
New Frontiers in Research Fund	1		1	
Research and Innovation (ON), Min	2			2
Social Sciences & Humanities	3	2		1

Since the last report (November 4, 2019), 4 grants were awarded as follows:

Liat Margolis

- City of Toronto (Community Planting & Stewardship Grants) – “Nikibii Dawadinna Giigwag” - \$100,000

Danijela Puric-Mladenovic

- City of Kitchener – “Modeling and mapping biomass and carbon density for Kitchener’s natural areas” - \$9,000
- City of Toronto – “Developing a restoration monitoring database for the City of Toronto” - \$10,000

Mason White

- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Connection) – “Contested Circumpolar” - \$44,424

Centre for Research & Innovation Support (CRIS).

A joint endeavour between VPRI, U of T Libraries (UTL) and the Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO), CRIS will serve as a visible hub and tri-campus connector where faculty can learn about, and easily access the many existing services, training, research tools and expertise offered across the university. CRIS is intended to increase the effectiveness and visibility of research and innovation supports by collaborating with central units and academic divisions to identify gaps and develop services and resources for emerging needs and to ensure programming is current, complementary and supportive and, to provide centralized access / training for research and innovation information and analytics tools. By creating a one-stop resource hub, including a website and physical location at the Gerstein Library, CRIS will be integrated with existing services providing a common online registration process to help support successful and competitive research that attracts funding and garners public recognition. CRIS will have dedicated meeting rooms, and a flexible teaching / training space to support the mentorship and leadership of research initiatives, including how to build and navigate cross-disciplinary and cross-divisional collaborations.

Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI)

Christine Allen has been appointed the University of Toronto’s first-ever associate vice-president and vice-provost, strategic initiatives (AVPVP SI). Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI) are large-scale, cross-divisional initiatives that support interdisciplinary teams of University of Toronto researchers and partners to address grand challenges and pursue bold ideas that require true collaboration and the integration of various disciplinary research approaches. The institutional goal for these initiatives is to improve our capacity to seed, develop, implement and support cross-divisional, interdisciplinary, excellence-driven initiatives. Working with university-wide and divisional units, the ISI portfolio provides support and/or expertise in areas such as research leadership, enabling interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches, budget and finance, human resources, proposal development, fellowship models, and organization of events and public engagements, to eliminate duplication of these efforts at a smaller scale within individual initiatives. Along with these supports, in consultation with divisional leadership, the ISI portfolio can also provide funds to match divisional or external commitments:

- ***ISI Seed Support***
Seed support will be provided to allow researchers to explore a new research idea with the potential to meet the ISI criteria. ISI support can include any combination of:
 - organization of activities that initiate and foster cross-divisional and interdisciplinary collaborations (e.g. workshops, roundtables);
 - funding; and
 - support and guidance on the development of proposals to secure internal/external funding.

In the interest of ensuring a transparent and inclusive process, lead investigators and/or units will be encouraged to work with the AVPVP SI to organize a workshop and/or roundtable to assemble key faculty working in the relevant area(s) from all three campuses. To secure Seed Support, faculty members and/or units should contact the AVPVP SI team to discuss the potential initiative.

- ***ISI Development & Launch Funding*** (\$25,000-\$225,000/year for 3-5 years)
ISI Development & Launch Funding supports the launch and implementation of an ISI, moving from a vision to proof of concept and enabling the development of long-term research and scholarship collaborations. Divisional (may include unit funding in multi-departmental academic

divisions) and/or external support is required to match ISI funding (support may be cash or in-kind).

Securing Development & Launch Funding requires the submission of a brief proposal for consideration by the Strategic Initiatives (SI) Working Group. Research leads for the initiative will be asked to present their proposal to the SI Working Group.

- *ISI Opportunity Matching Funding* (\$250,000-\$2M/year for up to 5 years)
ISI Opportunity Matching Funding advances an ISI beyond initial implementation and development at a stage when significant external funding is expected. Additional supports will be made available for the development and scale-up of priority ISIs to this level. Resources can be made available and/or hired to work with the academic lead(s) to develop a compelling business/academic plan. Relief/buyout for the time of faculty and/or staff members who are contributing to the development of the initiative may also be available with their division's approval.

Proposals for Opportunity Matching Funding should include a core of top tier scholars with authentic and demonstrated global leadership and excellence in the proposed area(s) of research and should describe a plan to secure follow-on funding (e.g. from government, philanthropic donors, industry, or community partners) to support sustainability and growth.

Securing Opportunity Matching Funding requires the submission of a proposal for consideration. Research leads for the initiative will be asked to present their proposal to the SI Working Group.

Diversity and Equity Committee Report

Meetings

The Committee has not met since our last Faculty Council report. This is to provide updates on work undertaken in response to our meeting of November 7, 2019.

Supporting Indigenous Culture

The Dean's Office has approved ongoing funding of \$1,000 per term to support Indigenous programming at the Daniels Faculty. The committee will be meeting with Shannon Simpson, Director of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives, on February 10 to ask her guidance about how to begin this work. The committee will also be convening in early March for an Indigenous cultural competency training session with John Crutch, one of U of T's Cultural Competency Training Officers. The training session will be open to other members of the faculty and staff; an announcement will be posted as soon as the session is scheduled.

The Committee thanks the Dean's Office for supporting this endeavour.

Best Practices Research

The Committee Chair and Secretary continue to work with a research assistant to document and compare practices related to diversity and equity at other divisions at the University of Toronto and to peer institutions in architecture, design, visual arts, and forestry.

One of the key interim findings is that a number of comparable faculties (and other divisions within the University of Toronto) have created full-time managerial positions related to diversity and equity. A recent example is the Harvard Graduate School of Design, which has announced its inaugural Assistant Dean, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging. In addition, the Yale School of Forestry has an Assistant Dean of Community and Inclusion; and OCAD has a Director of Diversity, Equity and Sustainability Initiatives; U of T's Faculty of Medicine has an Associate Dean of Inclusion and Diversity; UTM has a Director, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; UTS has an Executive Director, Equity Diversity and Inclusion.

On this topic, the Committee appreciates the appointment of Anupreet Sandhu as the faculty's Academic Human Resources Officer and asks whether her portfolio will include issues of diversity and equity.

The Committee thanks the Dean's Office for supporting our research assistant.

Curriculum Study

Following the example of other University of Toronto divisions working to assess course content with respect to diversity and equity, the Diversity and Equity Committee will be continuing its survey of Daniels full-time and sessional faculty members.

Building on themes identified in the committee's 2017-2018 survey, the Committee Chair and Secretary will re-circulate its survey later this term to capture a snapshot of the 2019-2020 curriculum. The goal of this work is to provide a springboard for ongoing discussion.

Support for Searches

The Committee continues to support the Dean's Office in the implementation of best search practices recommended by the Provost's Office.

To reinforce and extend this ongoing effort, the Committee has recommended:

- That the Dean's Office report statistical information related to the diversity of the applicant pools, long lists, short lists, and selected candidates to Faculty Council to the extent permitted by University of Toronto policies

The Committee will forward the document “Strategies for Recruiting and Excellent & Diverse Faculty Complement,” prepared by the Office of the Vice Provost, Faculty and Academic Life, to all search committee members. In addition, the Committee will request updated information from the CAO on the existing diversity of the faculty complement.

The Committee has communicated its concern for diversity in relation to the Dean's Search to the Provost's Office.