



Memorandum

Date: August 31, 2017

To: Council of Chairs, Principals and Academic Directors
Coalition of Arts and Science Directors

From: David Cameron, Dean

Cc: Joshua Barker, Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Amrita Daniere, Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean, UTM
William Gough, Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean, UTSC

Re: Appointment of Vice- and Associate Deans

I am delighted to announce the following appointments in the Dean's Office:

Professor Dwayne Benjamin has been appointed as Vice-Dean, Graduate Education, for a term beginning September 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2022. Professor Benjamin joined the University of Toronto's Department of Economics in 1989 as an Assistant Professor, after receiving his PhD and MA from Princeton University, and his BSc from the University of Toronto (Victoria College). He became an Associate Professor in 1995 and was promoted to Professor in 2000.

He is an empirical microeconomist with research interests that focus on the interactions between households and markets, especially labour markets, and the resulting distribution of economic wellbeing. In the development sphere, his work includes studies of labour and land market performance in Indonesia, China, and Vietnam. In the Canadian context, he studied labour market outcomes of immigrants, the impact of minimum wages, and the impact of public pensions on retirement decisions. More recently, his development-related research has concentrated on trends and determinants of inequality in Vietnam, while his current Canadian-oriented research studies household savings.

For his early work, he was awarded the Polanyi prize in 1992. He has also been awarded five SSHRC grants during his time at U of T and a National Service Foundations (NSF) grant as a co-investigator on, "The Economics of Land Rights, Efficiency and Resource Degradation in China" (1999-2000). His numerous articles have been published in the *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Economic Journal* and the *Journal of Public Economics*. Professor Benjamin was the Managing Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Economics* in 2005-2008, and also served as Associate Editor from 2003-2014 with *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. In addition to authoring and co-authoring 11 book chapters, he is also the co-author of *Labour Market Economics*, the leading labour economics textbook in Canada. He is currently involved in the supervision of three PhD students, and has been supervisor or co-supervisor of more than twenty completed PhD dissertations.

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Professor Benjamin's relevant administrative experience is in various arenas. He was the Graduate Director and Associate Chair of the Department of Economics from 2003-2006, as well as the Associate Chair (Undergraduate) from 2010-15. He has served on the Academic Board as well as numerous Faculty Committees. He is currently the Chair of the Department of Economics.

Professor Alana Boland has agreed to serve as the Associate Dean, Teaching and Learning, from September 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. Professor Boland completed her undergraduate degree in Physics at Reed College and MA in China Studies at the University of Washington. She received her PhD in Geography from the University of Washington in 2001. She was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto in 2002, and became an Associate Professor in 2008.

Her research focuses on environmental governance in Chinese cities, infrastructure and the technopolitics of water, and the environmental narratives associated with China's growing economy and changing role on the global stage. She has published on a range of related topics, including China's urban water supply, public participation in sustainable communities, global food security, and the history of wastewater systems linking city and countryside in China's early socialist period. She is on the editorial boards of the journals *Urban Geography* and *Geography Compass*, and was a research fellow at the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing University Institute for International Research (2004, 2009). She received a Faculty of Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Award in 2007.

Professor Boland served as Associate Chair, Undergraduate in the Department of Geography and Planning (2010-2016). She has also served on Faculty-wide committees related to teaching and learning, curriculum planning, and student experience.

Professor Melanie Woodin has been appointed Associate Dean, Undergraduate Issues and Academic Planning for the period beginning January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2022. Professor Woodin received her BSc and MSc from the University of Toronto and her PhD in neuroscience from the University of Calgary. She conducted a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of California Berkeley from 2001-2003. She was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell & Systems Biology in 2004, granted tenure in 2010 and promoted to Full Professor in 2017.

Her research is focused on understanding how the brain balances neuronal activity, with a specific focus on synaptic inhibition. She uses a combination of electrophysiology, biochemical, imaging, and proteomic approaches to discover the functional role of inhibitory synaptic transmission and plasticity in behaviour, including learning and memory. She has extensive experience participating in and leading multi-laboratory collaborative projects both across the University campus and internationally. Professor Woodin is a Board member of the Canadian Association of Neuroscience, International Brain Research Organization US/Canada Regional Committee, and the past President of the Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association. She serves as a Scientific Officer for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Neuroscience Project Grant panel, and previously as a reviewing committee member for NSERC Research Tools and Infrastructure grants.

Professor Woodin has strong academic administrative experience with undergraduate education, having served as the Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies and the Chair of the Undergraduate Affairs Committee for the Department of Cell & Systems Biology. She is a member of the Centre for Biological Timing and Cognition Executive Council and the Collaborative Program in Neuroscience Academic Program Committee. She has served as Director of the Human Biology Program since 2015.

Please join me in welcoming Professors Benjamin, Boland and Woodin to these important roles in the Dean's Office.