

**MEMORANDUM DCD #28, 2021-22**

To: Chairs, University of Toronto Scarborough  
Cc: Chairs' Assistants, Departmental Business Officers, Undergraduate Coordinators & Departmental Assistants  
Susan Shi, Manager Academic Finance, Office of the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean  
From: Professor Katherine R. Larson, Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning, & Undergraduate Programs  
Date: 7 February 2022  
Re: **Pedagogies of Inclusive Excellence (PIE) Fund**  
Note: For broad distribution

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Dear Chairs,

As discussed at the 4 February Joint Chairs & Academic Directors (CAD) meeting, I am very happy to announce that funding has been confirmed to support the development of inclusive pedagogies and curriculum, and to support the goals of the curriculum review. This dedicated **Pedagogies of Inclusive Excellence (PIE) Fund** will be one of three pillars contributing to transformative teaching and learning at U of T Scarborough (UTSC), alongside enhanced and expanded funding for experiential learning initiatives and teaching enhancement grants coordinated by the Centre for Teaching & Learning. The commitment from U of T Scarborough that anchors PIE and related funding enhancements amounts to \$1.36 million in base funding.

**Direct Funds to Departments**

As a part of the PIE initiative, funds will be flowed each year directly to academic departments beginning in Winter 2022 to support curricular and pedagogical development advancing the goals of the curriculum review. Allocations will provide at least \$20K per year to departments, with amounts scaled based on department size (factoring in FTE and FCE). This direct funding is intended to minimize the need for small-scale grant applications and to support departmental work that is helping to advance equity-based, holistic, accessible, anti-racist, and anti-colonial pedagogies and curricular development and anchor Indigenous knowledges and knowledge systems, Black knowledges, racialized perspectives, and international and intercultural perspectives across disciplines and programs.

The PIE funds will appear as a dedicated departmental budget line, and can be used to support a range of activities that connect to the goals of the curriculum review, including the following:

- Direct support for faculty developing new course clusters or programs, or undertaking significant revision of existing curriculum;
- Facilitated departmental retreats to create space for discipline-based conversations and to discuss curriculum mapping;
- Professional development opportunities (e.g., educational workshops, reading groups, or related resources);
- Departmental projects, events, and pilot initiatives;
- Opportunities for students that contribute to departmental curricular and pedagogical renewal or related projects (e.g., work study, on-campus co-op positions, or research assistantships).

The initial installment of funds for the current fiscal year will flow this month to support work underway this term. Any funds not used by April 2022 will be pulled back. The next installment of funds will flow in May 2022, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

If departments have questions about eligible projects or initiatives, please reach out directly to Professor Katherine R. Larson, Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning, & Undergraduate Programs [vdundergrad.utsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:vdundergrad.utsc@utoronto.ca). For further information - UTSC Campus Curriculum Review - [Terms of Reference](#).

Departments will be expected to provide an annual update summarizing their use of PIE funding. The Office of the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean will take steps to make this update as straightforward and paperwork-free as possible. While updates may be narrative-based, departments are also welcome to make use of creative formats, including visual, story-based, or artistic elements. The goal is ultimately for these reports to contribute to cross-departmental learning, as well as helping to track accountability for the curriculum review. More details will be shared later this term as the Working Circle prepares to release its report and recommendations. The funding structure will be reviewed on a tri-annual basis, and unused funds will be pulled back at the end of each fiscal year.

### **Application-Based Projects**

As noted at the CAD meeting, another portion of the PIE fund will be application-based to support larger, cross-disciplinary projects and pilot initiatives advancing the goals of the curriculum review and bridging the campus and broader community (e.g., speaker series; visiting artists, community members, and scholars; land-based learning opportunities). A call for 2022-23 projects will go out in early Spring.

In the meantime, if you have projects underway this term that align with the goals of the curriculum review and that you would like to consider for support, please send a brief proposal and a budget to [vdundergrad.utsc@utoronto.ca](mailto:vdundergrad.utsc@utoronto.ca) as soon as possible. Any unspent funds for projects approved this term will be pulled back by April 2022.

I hope that the **Pedagogies of Inclusive Excellence (PIE) Fund** will help to support the excellent work already underway in your departments and provide a valuable foundation for future pedagogical and curricular initiatives that help to advance the goals of the curriculum review.

Further details about the enhanced funding structures for Experiential Learning and the Centre for Teaching & Learning's Teaching Enhancement Grants, the two other pillars of U of T Scarborough's Transformative Teaching and Learning Funds and which will be launching for the 2022-23 academic year, will be shared later this term.

Warm wishes,



### **Katherine R. Larson**

Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs  
University of Toronto Scarborough