



**MEMORANDUM**

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students, Department of Arts, Culture & Media  
From: Professor William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean  
Date: 08 July 2022  
Re: **Academic Administrative Appointment - Interim Chair, Department of Arts, Culture & Media**  
Note: For broad distribution

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'WAG', located to the right of the 'From' line.

I am grateful that Professor Thy Phu has agreed to serve as Interim Chair of the Department of Arts, Culture & Media from 1 July 2022 to 31 August 2022. This is to replace the current Chair, Professor Barry Freeman, who has decided to step down on 30 June 2022. A full Chair search will be launched shortly. I thank Professor Freeman for his inspired and dedicated service as Chair over the past four years. It has been a pleasure to work with him as he has helped shape the department with considerable faculty renewal and creative programming. I wish him well as he returns to his first loves of teaching and research.

Professor Thy Phu has recently served in the capacity as Acting Chair in the Department of Arts, Culture & Media. She is an experienced leader on campus currently serving as Associate Chair of Research, and Program Director of Media Studies and New Media Studies. She also has a solid service record in a wide range of committees across the tri-campus.

Professor Phu is a Distinguished Professor of Race, Diaspora and Visual Justice at the University of Toronto Scarborough. She holds a PhD in English Literature from the University of California, Berkeley and has held a Mellon postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto. Prior to joining the University of Toronto Scarborough, Professor Phu was based at Western University, where for more than a decade, she taught courses on visual studies, cultural theory, and Asian North American culture. She is a member of the College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists at the Royal Society of Canada. She has also held prestigious appointments as Whitney Bicentennial Visiting Associate Professor at Yale University and Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore. Her research and public humanities practice examine the intersections between media studies, diaspora and migration, vision and justice, and is author of two monographs, *Picturing Model Citizens: Civility in Asian American Visual Culture* and *Warring Visions: Vietnam and Photography*. She is also Director and Principal Investigator of The Family Camera Network, a SSHRC-funded collaborative research project.

I thank Professor Phu for her willingness to take on the responsibility as Interim Chair of the Department of Arts, Culture & Media. I, along with the decanal team, look forward to working with her in this role.