




**MEMORANDUM**

To: Faculty, Staff and Students, University of Toronto Scarborough

CC: Professor Melanie Woodin, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Sciences, UTSG  
Professor Amrita Daniere, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, UTM

From: Professor William Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean 

Date: 21 January 2021

Re: **Academic Administrative Appointment – Interim Vice-Dean Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success**

---

It is with pleasure that I write to inform you that the Agenda Committee of Academic Board has approved the appointment of Professor Jessica Fields as Interim Vice-Dean Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success for a term from January 21, 2021 to June 30, 2021.

Professor Jessica Fields joined UTSC in 2019 as a Professor and Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Health & Society (ICHS) with a cross-appointment to Sociology. She has been the inaugural Chair of the newly formed Department of Health & Society (DHS) since June 2020. Her area of research interests include sexual health education; gender, race, and discourses of sexual health; emotion and affect; ethnography; feminist, intersectional, and queer research; and participatory research and community engagement. She has a strong publication record including her book *“Risky Lessons: Sex Education and Social Inequality”* (Rutgers University Press, 2008) which won the 2009 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award from the American Sociological Association Section on Race, Gender, and Class. Professor Fields has received grants from SSHRC, the Ford Foundation, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Professor Fields, has been instrumental in leading the departmentalization process for ICHS and recently also took on the responsibility as Special Advisor to the VP Dean on the UTSC Transitional Year Programme. Her past administrative experience at San Francisco State University included Graduate Studies Director of Sexuality Studies, Interim Director of the Public Research Institute, and Acting Director of the Center for Research on Gender and Sexuality.

In her short tenure at UTSC, Professor Fields has shown great leadership and is recognized for her balanced, inclusive, and consultative leadership style. She has earned the respect of colleagues in her department and across UTSC for her strong scholarship and deep commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. I am extremely pleased that Professor Fields is willing to serve as Interim Vice-Dean Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success.