


MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff & Students, University of Toronto Scarborough
Cc: Professor Melanie Woodin, Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science, University of Toronto
Professor Amrita Daniere, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, University of Toronto Mississauga
From: Professor William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, University of Toronto Scarborough 
Date: 19 May 2021
Re: **Academic Administrative Appointment - Vice-Dean Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success, University of Toronto Scarborough**

It is with great pleasure that I write to inform you that the Agenda Committee of Academic Board has approved the appointment of Professor Jessica Fields as Vice-Dean Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success (VDFAES) for a four-year term from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025.

Professor Fields has been in the role of Interim VDFAES at the University of Toronto Scarborough for six months, since January 2021. She has shown great leadership in the decanal portfolio, and in her short tenure at U of T Scarborough, is recognized for her ability to lead with confidence and authority while maintaining a transparent and open communication style. She has earned the respect of her colleagues in the Department of Health & Society, and across U of T Scarborough for her strong scholarship and deep commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. She came to U of T Scarborough from San Francisco State University with considerable administrative experience in her various leadership roles. Upon her arrival she was instrumental in leading the departmentalization process, and was the inaugural Chair of the newly formed Department of Health & Society. At that time, Professor Fields was also appointed as Special Advisor to the VP Dean on the Transitional Year Programme and has continued to oversee that initiative while in her Interim role as VDFAES.

Professor Fields received her PhD in Sociology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 2001. She joined San Francisco State University as an Assistant Professor in 2001, received tenure in 2007, and was promoted to Professor in 2015. In 2019, she joined U of T Scarborough as the Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Health & Society and was cross-appointed to the Department of Sociology. Her research focuses on 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.

I am very pleased that Professor Fields is willing to continue in the role of Vice-Dean Faculty Affairs, Equity & Success, and am confident that the unit will continue to expand and prosper in her capable hands. I want to take the opportunity to thank the advisory search committee for its service in this important process. The participation of members of the committee and the input of all faculty, staff, and students is greatly appreciated.