


MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students, Department of Language Studies
From: Professor William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean 
Date: 26 June 2024
Re: **Academic Administrative Appointment - Chair, Department of Language Studies**
Note: For broad distribution

I am pleased to inform you that the Agenda Committee of the Academic Board has approved the appointment of Professor Sébastien Drouin as Chair of the Department of Language Studies from 1 September 2024 to 30 June 2028.

Sébastien Drouin (he/him) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Language Studies at U of T Scarborough and holds a graduate appointment in the Department of French at the St. George campus. Professor Drouin earned his PhD in French Literature and Early Modern History from the Université Laval and the Université de Versailles /Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines following an MA in Literature from the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. Prior to joining U of T Scarborough as Assistant Professor in 2013, Professor Drouin completed postdoctoral fellowships at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris, the Gotha Research Centre of the University of Erfurt, as well as at the University of Stuttgart. He was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2019.

Professor Drouin is committed to his discipline, the department, and our campus. He is a specialist of 18th century French Literature and an Early Modern French Literature historian. His research interests are interdisciplinary and bridge literature and philosophy, literature and religion, and literature and the visual arts. He is a highly regarded scholar with an impressive publication record including numerous monographs, book chapters, articles, critical editions, and edited journals. His expertise is widely recognized with several book reviews, conference presentations, and invited lectures. His research is supported by grants from the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the French Institute of Advanced Studies, and the Jackman Humanities Institute.

Professor Drouin brings valuable administrative experience to this role, having served most recently as Interim Chair for the Department of Language Studies, and previously as Associate Chair for French. He has a solid service record on various committees in the Graduate Department of French and as Assistant Editor of the U of T Quarterly (2014-2023). He is a strong advocate of the department with a deep understanding of its programs, the strengths and aspirations of its faculty, staff, and students.

I am delighted that Professor Drouin is willing to undertake this important leadership responsibility as Chair of the Department of Language Studies. His leadership qualities, research excellence, and dedication to the department and campus priorities are commendable and will be crucial as the unit continues to grow. I am confident that the department will be in very capable hands.

I am grateful to the Advisory Committee for their contributions over the course of this search. The input from faculty, staff, and students is greatly appreciated. I also want to thank Professor Juvénal Ndayiragije for his leadership as Interim Chair over the past couple of months and acknowledge his steadfast commitment to the department.

Please join me in congratulating Professor Sébastien Drouin on this appointment.