


MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students, Department of Language Studies
From: Professor William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean 
Date: 19 June 2024
Re: **Academic Administrative Appointment - Interim Chair, Department of Language Studies**
Note: For broad distribution

I am writing to inform you that Professor Juvénal Ndayiragije has agreed to serve as Interim Chair of the Department of Language Studies from 1 July 2024 to 31 August 2024 while the search for a new Chair is nearing its conclusion.

Professor Juvénal Ndayiragije (he/him) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Language Studies and Special Advisor on Black Faculty Success at the University of Toronto Scarborough. He holds an MA and a PhD degree in Linguistics from the Université du Québec à Montréal. Professor Ndayiragije's research focuses on the role of formal features in the syntax of natural languages and parametric variation. It involves extensive fieldwork on various non-related and less-studied languages. The focus of his current work is on endangered languages.

Professor Ndayiragije's work is supported by grants from the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), International Development Research Centre Canada (IDRC), and from various University of Toronto funding initiatives. He has an extensive presentation and publication record including two co-edited books, *Traits et Interfaces* (2000), and *Ergativity: Emerging Issues* (2006), and journal articles in *Linguistic Inquiry* (MIT Press), the premier journal in theoretical linguistics. He is a member of various Linguistics Associations (Canadian, American, South African, and East African) and consultant on the African Anaphora Project with Rutgers University.

Prior to his appointment as Special Advisor on Black Faculty Success, Professor Ndayiragije led the Centre for French & Linguistics since July 2019, initially as the Director, where he played an instrumental role as the Centre went through governance and departmentalization. He continued as Chair of the Department of Language Studies until August 2023 where he successfully led the development of new academic programs and spearheaded various curriculum innovations. As Special Advisor, Professor Ndayiragije provides counsel and advice to the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, Vice-Deans, and Associate Deans, focusing on the recruitment and retention of Black faculty and postdoctoral fellows. He also provides related support to our Global Learning initiatives, particularly in Africa.

I thank Professor Ndayiragije for his willingness to serve in this leadership capacity as Interim Chair along with his appointment as Special Advisor. His dedication to his discipline, department, and our campus is admirable. I also want to thank Professor Corinne Beauquis for her leadership as Interim Chair over the past several months and acknowledge her steadfast commitment to the department.