


MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff, and Students, University of Toronto Scarborough
From: Professor William A. Gough, Vice-Principal Academic & Dean 
Date: 12 April 2024
Re: **Academic Administrative Appointment - Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs (VDTLUP)**
Note: For broad distribution

I am pleased to inform you that the Agenda Committee of the Academic Board has approved the extension of Professor Katherine R. Larson's current appointment as Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs for an additional year, from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Katherine Larson (she/her) is a Professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto Scarborough and the current Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs since July 1, 2020 (on leave in 2023-24). She earned her PhD in English Literature with a collaborative specialization in Women's and Gender Studies from the University of Toronto, along with Master's degrees in Women's Studies and in English Literature, both from the University of Oxford where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar. Following the completion of her PhD, she joined the University of Toronto Scarborough as Assistant Professor in 2007, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2012, and to Professor in 2019.

Professor Larson's research and teaching focus on feminist practices, 16th- and 17th-century literature and culture, women's writing, gender and language, rhetoric and embodiment, and music and song. Her most recent book, "The Matter of Song in Early Modern England: Texts in and of the Air" (Oxford University Press, 2019), integrates her training as a singer through an open access online companion recording. She has received support for her work from the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), the Connaught Foundation, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Bodleian Library, the Renaissance Society of America, and the Jackman Humanities Institute. A member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, & Scientists, Professor Larson has also been honored with the John Charles Polanyi Prize for Literature.

As an academic administrator, Professor Larson has been actively engaged in initiatives promoting equity and addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, with a particular focus on curriculum and pedagogy. She established and served as convenor of the Working Circle, a group of faculty, librarians, staff, students, and community members that collectively led the Campus Curriculum Review at the University of Toronto Scarborough. This collaborative effort is reflected in the 2022 report, "Recommended Actions, Learnings, and Next Steps". She spearheaded the development and launch of the Pedagogies of Inclusive Excellence (PIE) fund framework advancing equity-based, holistic, accessible, anti-racist, and anti-colonial pedagogies and curricular development. Professor Larson has also played a pivotal role in responding to the pandemic and in post-pandemic recovery and planning, including a project that piloted auto-tracking cameras (nicknamed AuRA) in classrooms to better support faculty in making recording files accessible to students. Prior to her appointment as Vice-Dean, Professor Larson was Chair of the Department of English, where she also has served as Associate Chair and Program Supervisor.

I thank Professor Katherine Larson for her willingness to continue as Vice-Dean Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs for another year. Her dedication to the University of Toronto Scarborough and her multifaceted contributions continue to shape the educational landscape at the University of Toronto.