



**FOR RECOMMENDATION**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** UTM Campus Council

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**DATE:** September 27 , 2017 for October 4, 2017

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Establishment of an Extra Departmental Unit C (EDU: C) - Centre for Urban Environments (CUE)

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Section 5.8.1 of the Campus Affairs Committee (CAC) terms of reference outlines the responsibility of the CAC in the establishment, disestablishment or restructuring of Academic Units. Proposals for Extra-Departmental Units are considered and recommended for approval, pursuant to the *Guidelines for Administrative Functions and Protocols for Extra-Departmental Units (EDU)*.

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. Campus Affairs Committee [For Recommendation] (September 14, 2017)
2. **Campus Council [For Approval] (October 4, 2017)**
3. Executive Committee [For Confirmation] (October 12, 2017)

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

No previous action has been taken.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

This is a proposal to establish an Extra-Departmental Unit (EDU): C – Centre for Urban Environments (CUE) to be housed at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), effective January 1, 2018. An EDU:C is a multi-disciplinary and/ or multi-departmental research and/ or academic unit with a defined research domain in a particular area of academic work. It exists to foster research and scholarly interest in the area, but does not register students.

The Centre for Urban Environments will address urban environmental challenges by supporting research, collaborations, training, teaching and outreach missions in this area. This will be accomplished by bringing together faculty and organizations in diverse units across all three campuses at UofT, and by assisting with the development of new courses, experiential learning opportunities, and academic programs. At UTM, CUE will be well placed to achieve this given the campus' unique location in the Greater Toronto Area with dedicated green space and surrounding conservation areas. CUE will also be the only Centre at UTM to bring together urban studies and environmental issues.

The Centre will build on existing strengths at UTM. In particular, UTM's depth and breadth of talent in urban environmental studies among faculty in the Departments of Anthropology, Biology, Geography, and Political Science. This talent, combined with the unique location of our campus, make UTM the natural location to host CUE. As CUE grows, it will naturally foster collaborations across UofT as a whole in additional areas such as architecture, chemical and physical sciences, forestry, management, economics, psychology, and sociology.

Collaborations between the natural and social sciences at UofT and with external agencies in our community will facilitate CUE's research, education, and outreach objectives. CUE collaborations will involve the supervision of post-doctoral researchers and graduate students; support of program offerings in urban environment studies; development of local and international research opportunities through field courses, internships, and the existing Research Opportunity Program (ROP); offering of public seminars; and involvement on local advisory boards and citizen science projects.

CUE will also align very well with the strategic goals of UofT and UTM. With its focus on collaborative leadership in urban environmental research and training of students and staff to address real-world urban environmental problems, CUE addresses UofT's Three Priorities (i.e. leveraging our urban location to the benefit of the University and the City; strengthening international collaborations; and re-imagining and reinventing undergraduate education). In addition, CUE also complements the principles identified in our UTM Vision Statement. Through our collaborative research and training initiatives, CUE will create exceptional educational experiences inside and outside the classroom; pursue path-breaking research within and beyond our classically defined disciplines; and strive toward the betterment of society through outreach with government and non-government organizations.

Faculty participants will be drawn primarily from the UTM Departments of Anthropology, Biology, Geography, and Political Science as well as the Master of Science in Sustainability Management (MScSM) Program at the onset. Additional tri-campus participation will involve faculty from the Departments of Biological Sciences (UTSC), Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (St. George), and the Munk School of Global Affairs (St. George). All faculty in CUE will be tenure or teaching stream non-budgetary cross-appointments. There will also be external community participants from government (City of Mississauga, City of Toronto, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry), non-government organizations (Riverwood Conservancy, Toronto Region Conservation Authority, etc.), and industry.

Wide consultation was sought during the development of CUE. Faculty from the Departments of Anthropology, Biology, Geography, and Political Science at UTM as well as the Munk School of Global Affairs at UofT St. George and the MScSM Program at UTM were involved in the development of this proposal. In addition, Directors of EDUs and Programs with an overlapping focus were consulted. All feedback received was addressed and incorporated into the final proposal.

The CUE Director will report to the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, UTM on academic and budgetary matters.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no net implications for the campus' operating budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Be it Resolved,

THAT, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee,

THAT the proposed establishment of the Centre for Urban Environments (CUE) as an Extra Departmental Unit C (EDU:C), dated April 2, 2017, be approved, effective January 1, 2018.

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**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

Item Proposal for a New EDU:C Centre for Urban Environments (CUE)

# Proposal for a New EDU:C Centre for Urban Environments (CUE)

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July 12, 2017

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## 1. Statement of purpose

This is a proposal for the creation of a new EDU:C - The Centre for Urban Environments (CUE). CUE will be hosted at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) with tri-campus involvement by faculty, students and staff. UTM will be the lead division for CUE and assume the active administrative and budgetary responsibilities for CUE. A list of participating faculty is provided in Appendix A (Faculty List).

The proposed start date of CUE is January 1, 2018.

## 2. Academic Rationale

CUE will address urban environmental challenges by supporting research, collaborations, training, teaching and outreach missions in this area. This will be accomplished by bringing together faculty and organizations in diverse units across all three campuses at UofT, and by assisting with the development of new courses, experiential learning opportunities, and academic programs. At UTM, CUE will be well placed to achieve this given the campus' unique location in the Greater Toronto Area with dedicated green space and surrounding conservation areas. CUE will also be the only Centre at UTM to bring together urban studies and environmental issues.

*Background:* We are living in a time of unprecedented urbanization, where more than half of the world's human population now resides in urban areas. Here we use "urban" to refer to any permanent human settlement and "city" in the broadest sense to include large metropolitan centres, suburbs, towns or villages. Urban areas comprise an increasing proportion of Earth's land surface. Locally, urbanization dramatically alters the physical, biological and social environments we live in. For example, features of urban living such as buildings and roads, waste and pollution, intensive resource use, and the introduction of invasive species, reconfigure human-environment interactions and have wide-ranging effects on the natural environment. On a global scale, urbanization is altering biogeochemical cycles and cities are central drivers of climate change. These impacts of urbanization are the product of historical and contemporary changes in the dynamic relationship between humans and the environment; indeed, it is now widely recognized that with global urbanization we have entered a new geological epoch – the Anthropocene. At the same time, urban living offers economies of scale for resource use and increased economic productivity and social equity. Many cities are policy leaders on climate change and some have recently embraced incorporating natural processes or "green infrastructure" in urban planning and design, such as using wetlands rather than levees to buffer cities from flooding as a way to create more sustainable places to live.

A cross-disciplinary EDU:C that focuses on urban environmental issues at the intersection of natural and social sciences has the potential to be at the forefront of addressing some of the most important challenges of our time. To meet these challenges, we propose to create the Centre for Urban Environments – CUE. Some of the important questions CUE researchers will tackle include:

*What are the characteristics of historic and contemporary urban human-environment interactions (e.g., socio-ecological, urban ecology, human ecology, reconciliation ecology)? Why do they vary from place to place? And how can these relationships be altered to develop urban ecosystems that provide services for the human and non-human organisms that inhabit and rely upon them?*

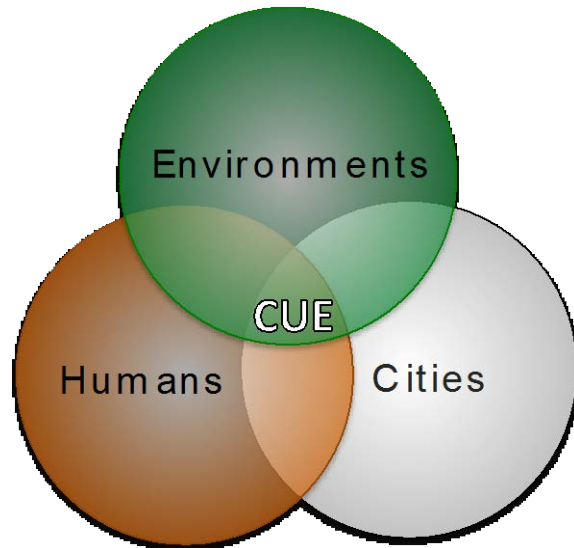
*Can we conserve rare species, restore endangered habitats and maintain stable ecosystems to provide beneficial services within urban areas?*

*Can organisms adapt to persist and continue to provide beneficial ecosystem services within urban areas?*

*How can we support governmental and non-governmental sectors working towards social and environmental resilience of urban areas?*

These are just a few of the important questions CUE researchers will tackle and they represent issues at the leading edge of urban environmental research. Addressing these types of problems to build a modern understanding of urban environments requires cross-disciplinary collaborative research on the dynamic interplay between cities, environments, and humans.

Urban areas are the product of historic and contemporary interactions between humans and their environment, which ultimately shapes the social, infrastructural and environmental conditions of cities. Recently, natural and social scientists have started to consider approaches to building livable, resilient urban areas, with many cities actively looking to enhance biodiversity and ecological processes to address pressing environmental, social, and economic problems. An existing hurdle to understanding urban environmental issues is the traditionally deep division between the natural and social sciences. CUE will merge these disciplines through collaborative research, training, education and outreach (see *Objectives*), to address fundamental gaps in our knowledge about human-environmental interactions in urban settings.



*CUE will take a cross-disciplinary approach to understanding the interplay between cities, environments and humans*

The University of Toronto (U of T) has great strengths in urban studies (see *Distinctiveness*), and UTM in particular has a depth and breadth of talent among its faculty in urban environmental studies. This talent, combined with the suburban location of UTM within the Greater Toronto Area, and the surrounding green space and conservation lands, make UTM the natural choice to host a tri-campus Centre for Urban Environments. CUE has the potential to solve common problems at the intersection of anthropology, architecture, biology, chemical and physical sciences, geography, management and economics, political science, psychology, and sociology. With support from the University, CUE could become a leader in research, training, education, outreach and guiding governmental policy as it relates to urban environmental issues.

*Vision Statement:* The Centre for Urban Environments strives to be a leader in interdisciplinary research, education and outreach on historical and contemporary urban environmental issues.

*Objectives:* To achieve CUE's vision, the Centre will take a cross-disciplinary approach that combines the natural and social sciences to achieve five specific objectives. These objectives

relate to: i) research, ii) collaborations, iii) education, iv) scholarly connections, and v) public outreach. We elaborate on each objective below.

i) Research – A central objective of CUE is to foster collaboration among faculty, students and staff across traditionally disparate disciplines. These collaborations are expected to include collaborative research, training and partnership grants from international (e.g., NSF, Human Frontiers Science Program, New Phytologist Trust), federal (e.g., NSERC CREATE, SSHRC Partnership Grants), and provincial sources (e.g. Genome Ontario, OMNR), as well as collaborations with industry, local governments and non-governmental agencies (see *Collaborations*). The Centre can also foster collaborative supervision of post-doctoral researchers and graduate students. A major benefit of CUE is that it will help UTM grow in a strategic direction by increasing our international profile, allowing us to attract leading researchers who will pursue path-breaking inquiry and innovation in this area. To this end, CUE could be the focal point for a new cluster hire of faculty across departments.

ii) Collaborations – The Centre will promote collaborations between CUE faculty and associations outside of the University. These will include industry, government, conservation agencies and non-governmental agencies. These collaborations are expected to facilitate the research, education and outreach objectives of CUE. Collaborations that involve the training of students could further help connect students to employers. CUE will also explore providing consulting services for government agencies and industry. This objective will be achieved through collaborative grants, an annual symposium, the involvement of external patrons on the advisory board (see *Administrative Structure*), and through our educational and outreach initiatives.

iii) Education – CUE will play a role in U of T's larger objective of reinventing education to meet the needs of students in a world that is increasingly urbanized. We will develop strategies to build interdisciplinary teaching and training at the undergraduate and graduate levels. CUE will also support program offerings in urban environment studies, such as a potential minor in Urban Environmental Studies within the existing Program of the Environment. CUE will emphasize active and experiential learning on urban environmental issues through a variety of mechanisms. These include local and international research opportunities available for undergraduate students through the existing Research Opportunity Program. We will also investigate creating new field courses and internship opportunities.

4) Scholarly Connections – The Centre seeks to provide a nexus for building scholarly connections between departments and disciplines. This will be achieved through interdepartmental CUE research seminars that will feature internationally respected scholars. CUE will hold workshops and symposia on topics related to urban environment issues. CUE members will form working groups that will plan and implement strategies to achieve the objectives and vision of CUE. Many of these events will be coupled with social events that will allow faculty, students, post-doctoral researchers and affiliated CUE associations to meet one another and discuss research and educational opportunities of mutual interest, which will further facilitate our research and educational goals.

5) Outreach – An important objective of CUE is to provide a bridge between the University and the public to share information on urban environmental issues. This will be achieved via public lectures, involvement on local advisory boards and citizen science projects.

*University and Divisional Strategic Goals:* The proposed Centre provides a strong complement to the strategic goals of U of T and UTM. The President of the University articulated three priorities for the University of Toronto: i) leveraging our urban location to the benefit of the university and the city; ii) strengthening international collaborations; iii) re-imagining and reinventing undergraduate education. CUE is perfectly aligned with these priorities by focusing on urban environmental research, seeking to become a collaborative leader on this topic, and training students and staff to address real-world urban environmental problems.

CUE's objectives also support UTM's Vision Statement. Specifically, CUE seeks to: i) be an internationally recognized leader in research on urban environmental issues; ii) to train and educate a new generation of Canadian and global citizens; and iii) implement the knowledge we gain to improve the well-being of the communities around us through local and international collaboration. Moreover, CUE will contribute to UTM's identity of embracing our urban community, promoting creativity and innovation among our faculty and students, communicating our knowledge with associates and the public, and helping to develop sustainable strategies for building cities.

*Distinctiveness:* CUE will be unique at the University of Toronto in its focus on urban environmental issues at the intersection of natural and social sciences. There are several existing EDUs related to urban studies, environmental science or global change, but research and training at the nexus of these disciplines is lacking and represents an opportunity for collaboration and innovation at U of T. CUE will complement but not strongly overlap with the following EDUs:

School of the Environment (EDU:B), Faculty of Arts and Science –

Description: “Serves as a focal point to help to direct students, faculty and the outside community to environmental initiatives across the three campuses of the university.

The School offers an undergraduate B.A. program in environmental studies and a B.Sc. program in environment and science, with exciting programs under development.”

Centre for Global Change Science (EDU:C), Faculty of Arts and Science –

Description: “The University of Toronto Centre for Global Change Science serves as the University's focal point for scientific research and education on [human-induced global environmental change].”

Global Cities Institute (EDU:C), Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design -

Description: “The Global Cities Institute is created at the University of Toronto in the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design to build on the strengths of a rapidly expanding global network of scholars, city leaders, design and planning professionals, key international organizations, foundations and industry innovators dedicated to securing a better future for cities.”

Urban Studies Program, Innis College -



Description: “[The Urban Studies Program] aims to provide students with a multitude of lenses through which to observe, interpret and understand urban life.”

School of Cities (in development) -

Proposed focus: “The proposed School of Cities is a pan-university initiative being considered as an opportunity to bring together the more than 170 urbanists on faculty from across the university to work collectively on some of our city-region’s greatest challenges, as well as consider how to help shape global conversations about cities. It is expected to include three main pillars focused on: research, academic programming and external engagement in thought leadership. By developing solutions and training future experts and decision-makers through the study of real-world-tested policies and practices, an underlying aim of proposed School of Cities is to make cities more sustainable, productive and equitable for 21st-century urban citizens.”

CUE will have few direct parallels locally and globally. The closest existing initiatives lie outside of Canada. For example, Tokyo Metropolitan University has an entire Faculty of Urban Environmental Science (<http://www.tmu.ac.jp/english/academics/faculty/ues.html>), which although larger and more comprehensive than the proposed CUE, could be an important source of ideas and collaboration. Similarly, the State University of New York in Syracuse (<http://www.esf.edu>) has an undergraduate program in urban environmental science which could be a source for comparison and future collaboration. Outside of these two programs, the related but more focused research area of “urban ecology” has more global representation, including a society and several centres. These include the world-leading Long-Term Ecological Research Network projects (LTERs) in the urban centres of Baltimore (<https://lternet.edu/sites/bes>) and Phoenix (<https://sustainability.asu.edu/caplter>). Additional societies and centres include:

Society for Urban Ecology – Salzburg, Austria (Mandate: advancing urban ecology research)

The Australian Research Centre for Urban Ecology – University of Melbourne, Australia

Centre for Urban Ecology – Fordham University, NY, USA

Centre for Urban Ecology – Humber College, Toronto (Mandate: public outreach)

National Park Service Center for Urban Ecology – Washington, DC, USA (Mandate: advising the park service on urban issues)

China Center for Urban Ecology–Beijing, China (Mandate: collaborating with Soc. Urban Ecol.)

Hixon Centre of Urban Ecology–Yale University, USA (Mandate: Research and advising)

### 3. Consultation

The development of this proposal has involved a long consultative process with many departments, faculty and administrators across campuses. Initial discussions with administrators at the University of Toronto Mississauga began in the summer of 2015. Prof. Marc Johnson subsequently drafted a vision statement in December 2015, which provided a starting point for detailed discussions between individual faculty, departments and administrators at the UTM and St. George campuses. Administrators consulted included Principals (Deep Saini and Ulli Krull), and the Dean of UTM (Amrita Daniere), as well as Chairs from Anthropology (Heather Miller and Dave Smith), Biology (Angela Lange and Bryan Stewart), Geography (Kathi Wilson), and Political Science (Edward Schatz). We consulted with the President’s Advisor on Urban Engagement (Shauna Brail), the Dean of Arts and Sciences’ advisor on urban issues (Matti Siemiatycki), and the President’s Advisor on the Environment, Climate Change and

Sustainability (John Robinson). Following this consultative process, an open (i.e., all faculty were invited to attend) round-table meeting was held on October 31, 2016, and was attended by 12 individuals from Anthropology, Biology, Geography and Political Science. This meeting focused on the following questions: What would you like to gain from being a member of CUE? What do you think CUE should try to achieve in the short, medium and long-term? How would you like the Centre to be viewed by outside colleagues?

Following this meeting a working group was formed to provide a synthesis of the first round-table meeting and to draft a proposal. The group was comprised of individuals from four UTM departments (Anthropology - Gary Crawford; Biology - Marc Johnson, Shannon McCauley; Geography - Tenley Conway, Barb Murck; Political Science - Andrea Olive) and one member of the Munk School of Global Affairs and the School of the Environment (John Robinson). The draft proposal was then brought back to the larger community in two further round-table meetings in January 2017, before being sent to the Dean. The Dean requested further revisions to the text and budget, which were completed in March, 2017. The proposal was also sent to the Provost's office for review, comment and revision, which was completed in early-April, 2017.

The draft proposal was also sent to the Directors of several EDUs for comment if there was potential overlap. For example, we sent the draft proposal to: individuals involved in the School of Cities proposal (e.g., Prof. Joshua Barker, Prof. Shauna Brail); the Director of the School of the Environment (Prof. Kim Strong); the Director of the Centre for Global Change Science (Prof. Dick Peltier); the Director of the Global Cities Institute (Prof. Patricia McCarney); the Director of the Centre for Real Estate and Urban Economics (Prof. William Strange); as well as several faculty interested in urban environmental issues at UTSC (Prof. Marc Cadotte, Prof. Roberta Fulthorpe, Prof. Nick Mandrak, Prof. Scott MacIvor). When individuals responded to my emails about the proposal they either expressed enthusiasm for potential synergy and collaboration (e.g., School of Cities, School of the Environment), or they indicated that the objectives of CUE were too far removed from their initiatives to be relevant to them.

This process of broad and deep consultation ensured that this proposal represents a collective vision of the faculty that will form the core members of CUE.

#### **4. Participation**

CUE will be housed at UTM where it will draw its membership primarily from Anthropology, Biology, Geography and Political Science. Faculty from any department or discipline (Humanities, Natural Sciences or Social Sciences) can participate. CUE will also draw on faculty from across the three campuses. Our initial efforts have focused on building the core UTM membership, and following the governance process we will work to broaden our membership to include all interested faculty across the campuses. External industrial collaborations, governmental and non-governmental agencies will also have the capacity to participate in CUE through joint grants, collaborative research, training and education efforts with CUE faculty (see *Objectives*). Individuals who have expressed a desire to be affiliated with CUE are listed in Appendix A.

#### **5. Collaborations**

CUE and its members have existing collaborations with or are in the process of building associations with the following governmental, non-governmental and industry organizations:

Government

City of Mississauga

City of Toronto

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Non-Government Organization

The Riverwood Conservancy

Credit Valley Conservation Authority

Toronto Region Conservation Authority

Industry

Dougan and Associates – Ecological Consulting and Design

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Amec, Foster, Wheeler environmental consulting

Aerobiology Research Laboratories

**6. Administrative Structure**

The Director and an advisory board will lead the operation and direction of CUE. The Vice-Principal Academic and Dean of UTM will appoint the Director. It is the Director's responsibility to direct all facets of the proposed EDU including the centre's operation, policies, CUE membership and events, establishment of external collaborations, administering the budget, and coordinating the administrative oversight with the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean of UTM. The Director of CUE will appoint the advisory board in consultation with departmental Chairs and the Dean. The advisory board will consist of four CUE affiliated faculty members from different departments, one graduate student, and up to three external representatives from governmental, industrial and non-governmental agencies.

The Vice-Principal Academic & Dean and the CUE Director will meet semi-annually to review the centre's progress in relation to the above stated objectives in the areas of research, collaborations, education, scholarly connections, and outreach. The effectiveness of current resources as well as development of new collaborations (within UTM and externally) will also be considered.

In addition, the Director will be responsible for providing annual reports and a detailed review of the centre's operations and activities. The annual report will be distributed to the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean of UTM and to CUE's membership. A full review of CUE's activities, membership and collaborations will be reviewed every five to seven years, with the first review to take place in 2022.

**7. Budget**

The proposed Centre for Urban Environments is an EDU:C and as such, the Director is not appointed under the Policy on Academic Administrative Appointments. As a consequence an EDU:C may not administer research funds or enter directly and on its own authority into commitments / agreements / contracts. All monies and research funding will flow through the Dean's Office in line with the Faculty's normal practice. Any research contracts or agreements similarly require approval and the signature of the Dean.

The projected budget is specifically designed to achieve CUE's short-term objectives and long-term vision of being a leader in research, training, education and outreach related to urban environmental issues. The annual operating budget has been approved by the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean and includes funds for a 50% FTE administrative staff to support the daily operation of the CUE; post-doctoral researchers that will facilitate cross-disciplinary research within CUE; the development of internships and capstone research projects; a seminar series; networking events; and the Director's stipend.

### 8. Appendix A – Faculty List

The following is a list of CUE’s membership. As an EDU:C, CUE will only hold non-budgetary cross-appointments of tenure and teaching stream faculty.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Primary Appointment</b>
Spencer Barrett	Professor	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (St George)
Laurel Besco	Assistant Professor	Geography (UTM)
Katharina Braeutigam	Assistant Professor	Biology (UTM)
Ron Buliung	Professor	Geography (UTM)
Marc Cadotte	Associate Professor	Biological Sciences (UTSC)
Tenley Conway	Associate Professor	Geography (UTM)
Gary Crawford	Professor	Anthropology (UTM)
Tim Duval	Assistant Professor	Geography (UTM)
Marie-Josée Fortin	Professor	Ecology & Evolutionary Biology (St George)
Monika Havelka	Associate Professor, Teaching Stream	Geography (UTM)
Yuhong He	Associate Professor	Geography (UTM)
Sanja Hinic-Frlog	Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream	Biology (UTM)
Sara Hughes	Assistant Professor	Political Science (UTM)
Marc Johnson	Associate Professor	Biology (UTM)
Shashi Kant	Professor	Faculty of Forestry (St George)
Peter Kotanen	Associate Professor	Biology (UTM)
Scott MacIvor	Assistant Professor	Biological Sciences (UTSC)
Nicholas Mandrak	Associate Professor	Biological Sciences (UTSC)
Shannon McCauley	Assistant Professor	Biology (UTM)
Bailey McMeans	Assistant Professor	Biology (UTM)
Heather Miller	Associate Professor	Anthropology (UTM)
Andrea Muehlebach	Associate Professor	Anthropology (UTM)
Barb Murck	Associate Professor, Teaching Stream	Geography (UTM)
Rob Ness	Assistant Professor	Biology (UTM)
Andrea Olive	Assistant Professor	Political Science (UTM)
John Ratcliffe	Assistant Professor	Biology (UTM)
Christoph Richter	Associate Professor, Teaching Stream	Biology (UTM)
John Robinson	Professor	Munk School of Global Affairs (St George)
Steven Short	Associate Professor	Biology (UTM)
David Smith	Associate Professor	Anthropology (UTM)
Helene Wagner	Associate Professor	Biology (UTM)
Alan Walks	Associate Professor	Geography (UTM)
Kathi Wilson	Professor	Geography (UTM)