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President of UTAA

FROM: Ms Claire Kennedy
Chair, Committee to Review the Office of the University Ombudsperson

DATE: May 13, 2021

RE: Appointment of Professor Bruce Kidd as University Ombudsperson

I am pleased to advise you that at its meeting on May 13, 2021 the Governing Council approved the appointment of Professor Bruce Kidd as University Ombudsperson, for a three-year term effective July 1, 2021 until June 30, 2024. In addition, the Governing Council approved in principle the [*Report of the Committee to Review the Office of the University Ombudsperson \(2020-21\)*](#).

The [*2020-21 Review of the Office of the University Ombudsperson*](#) involved a comprehensive consultation process which informed its recommendations as well as the recruitment process. The Review Committee found that the Office continues to be a responsive, effective and highly-regarded resource for members of the University community for the impartial resolution of complaints. The recommendations of the Committee were focused on communications and awareness, oversight, and operations. For a full list of the recommendations of the Review Committee please see page 10 of the [*Report*](#).

The candidate profile developed by the Review Committee was broadly outlined as follows: a senior and widely respected individual who will be retired on or before July 1, 2021, as faculty member or senior administrative staff member with academic administrative experience and/or governance experience.

After a targeted search process, the Committee determined that Professor Bruce Kidd was exceptionally well-suited for the position. Professor Kidd has deep and extensive knowledge of

the institution, rooted in his scholarly, administrative and governance experience over a life-long career at the University of Toronto. He embodies the values of the University and has a well-earned reputation for being principled and fair. In his many roles, Professor Kidd has continuously demonstrated a student-centric commitment for success built on fairness and empathy.

Professor Bruce Kidd is a Professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, University of Toronto, and the founding dean of that Faculty (1998-2010). He also served as Vice President and Principal of the University of Toronto Scarborough (2014-2018), Warden of Hart House (2011-2015), Director of the School of Physical and Health Education (1991-1997), and Director of Canadian Studies at University College (1986-1990). In addition, he served as a member of the Governing Council (2016-2018).

He has earned degrees from the University of Toronto (B.A., Political Economy), the University of Chicago (A.M., Education), and York University (M.A. and Ph.D., History), and an honorary doctor of laws from Dalhousie University.

Professor Kidd teaches and writes about the history and political economy of Canadian and international sport and physical activity. He has authored or edited 12 books and hundreds of articles, papers, lectures, plays and film and radio scripts. *The Struggle for Canadian Sport* (University of Toronto Press 1996), which recaptures the efforts of sport leaders in Canada in the period between the First and Second World War, won the Book Prize of the North American Society for Sport History in 1997. His most recent book (co-written with Simon Darnell and Russell Field) is *The History and Politics of Sport for Development* (Palgrave Macmillan 2019). A memoir, *A Runner's Journey*, will be published by University of Toronto Press in September 2021.

Professor Kidd has been a life-long advocate for gender equity, sexual diversity, ethno-cultural diversity and universal accessibility in sports. His research and policy advice have contributed to the development of several institutions in the Canadian sports system. Professor Kidd has also been involved in the Olympic Movement throughout his life – as an athlete (track and field, 1964), journalist (1976), contributor to the arts and culture programs (1976 and 1988) and accredited social scientist (1988 and 2000). He was founding chair of the Olympic Academy of Canada (1983-1993) and is an honorary member of the Canadian Olympic Committee. He is a member of the Athletics Canada Hall of Fame, Athletics Ontario Hall of Fame, Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, the Canadian Olympic Hall of Fame (as both an athlete and a builder), the University of Toronto Sports Hall of Fame and the Toronto Sport Hall of Honour. He was awarded the Canadian Olympic Order, was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Commonwealth Sports Awards Foundation and was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. Most recently he received the Vivek Goel Faculty Citizenship Award for his exemplary, decades-long service to the University of Toronto.

I am delighted that Professor Kidd will be taking on the role of University Ombudsperson. Please join me in congratulating him on his appointment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Emeritus Hodnett for her outstanding service as University Ombudsperson. Professor Emeritus Hodnett was first appointed by the Governing Council for a three-year term from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018, she was subsequently reappointed in 2018 for a one-year term; and again in 2019 for a further two-year term to June 30, 2021. Professor Hodnett has brought a wealth of knowledge, experience and insight to her role as University Ombudsperson. Her legacy will have a lasting impact on the fabric of the institution.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Review Committee for their thoughtful engagement in this important process.