

## Update from the UTS Board of Directors

As the school year comes to a close, the Board of Directors would like to provide you with an update.

First and foremost, thanks to the many people who have contacted us with ideas, offers of support, comments and questions. It is wonderful to see that we have such a committed group of alumni, families, staff and friends. Your overwhelming support for UTS is one of the many things that sets us apart from other schools, and we welcome your involvement and participation.

As you know, the University of Toronto has determined that it will need our existing space in the future and has turned down our proposal to develop and renovate the building at 371 Bloor Street West. After careful consideration and discussion, the Board has decided the best strategy moving forward is to take the existing learning from our work on the proposal and focus on developing a plan for a new site and building.

We believe that this presents a tremendous opportunity for UTS to design a purpose-built space and institution - a new home for our students and our community and a new era for UTS. It's key for us to remember that it's what is inside UTS that defines us and separates us from others - a dynamic group of able students who thrive in a student-centred culture of academic, artistic and athletic excellence, supported by terrific teachers. It is the friendships, the learning and the legacy, that make us special and allow us to deliver a transformative learning experience. This will remain true in our current building and in any building we may occupy in the future. We will now focus on locating and designing a forward-looking, innovative, sustainable and functional home for our future. To accomplish this, we have formed two new Board committees and have started a "conversation" with community leaders.

### New Committees are hard at work

The Board has designated two working committees – the Affiliation Committee and the Site Selection Committee. The Affiliation Committee will work with the University on our relationship moving forward. Our partnership with U of T remains strong and is important, no matter where we are located. U of T has offered to assist us in our relocation efforts and we are committed to continuing our positive, mutually beneficial relationship today and in the future. Members of the Affiliation Committee are Board Directors David Rounthwaite '65 (Chair), Andrew DalGLISH (Parent), Susy Opler '79 (Parent), and Don Schmitt '70, as well as David Allan '78 and ex officio members Board Chair Bob Lord '58 and the Principal.

The Site Selection Committee will identify a suitable location for a new facility to meet our future needs. Our work on the 371 Bloor Street proposal helped us define what was required in a facility to support our program and vision. Continuing that work, the Committee is establishing specific principles and criteria to guide the site selection. Site Selection Committee Members are Directors Peter Neilson '71 and Don Schmitt '70 (Co-Chairs), Josh Fullan (Teacher), Tong Hahn (Parent), Stephen Moranis (Parent), Peter Ortvad '67 and ex officio members Board Chair Bob Lord '58 and the Principal.

## Community Leader Night

Recently, the Board and Administration met with UTS community leaders – including students, teachers, alumni, parents and past principals - to discuss issues and priorities moving forward. Board Chair Bob Lord provided an update on our approach and announced the two new Board Committees. Director and architect Don Schmitt, a key member of the Building Committee that developed the 371 Bloor proposal, shared some of our starting principles and priorities. They included:

- Facilities and physical space to fully support our programs;
- A continuing priority for strong, sustainable bursaries to support accessibility and our merit-based admissions;
- Retaining the UTS name and brand;
- An accessible central location, key to maintaining the urban environment that is essential to the culture of our school;
- A sustainable facility that is efficient, cost-effective and an environmental leader;
- Support for technology and interconnectedness, both internally and outside of UTS; and
- Partnerships with U of T and other professional learning communities, local and international.

We also had an opportunity to hear thoughts, questions, concerns and suggestions from our community leaders. It was a great evening full of positive energy and excitement about the future. We will be continuing these “conversations” in the months ahead and look forward to hearing from many more of you.

## New Board Members

We are delighted to announce that two new directors have joined our Board.

### Jim Gracie

Jim Gracie is a branding and marketing executive and a parent of two current UTS students with more than 20 years of international business experience in the general management of branded products businesses. His expertise covers a wide range of categories including consumer packaged goods, automotive products, wines and spirits, and fresh foods, working for such high profile brands as Perrier, Campbell’s Soup and Gallo wines, just to name a few. Jim earned his BSc and MBA at the University of Toronto. Currently Vice President, Marketing and Business Development, Quality Meat Packers, Jim is responsible for the growth of branded and retail business and the strategic growth program for the company. Jim has served on a number of boards, including the Canadian Aquaculture Industry, Salmon of the Americas and Ontario Multi Material Recycling. The Board will greatly benefit from Jim’s extensive experience in branding and marketing.



### **Peter Neilson '71**

Peter Neilson is a UTS alumnus (Class of 1971). He is immediate Past President of the UTS Alumni Association (UTSAA) and currently serves as a director on the UTSAA Board. Peter holds an LLB from University of Toronto and a BA from Brown University. He practices Real Estate, Corporate-Commercial Law at Shibley Righton. Peter is co-chair of the UTS Site Search Committee and his expert knowledge of real estate law and his long-standing involvement with and support for UTS will be invaluable to us.

### **Committed to Keeping you Informed**

Thank you again for your valuable feedback and also for your offers to participate on committees and for sharing ideas on new sites. We are committed to keeping you informed as we move through the process.

UTS stands for excellence in providing a merit-based education for exceptional students. With your help and continued commitment we remain focused on ensuring UTS is the preferred school of choice for high achieving students and highly skilled teachers for the next 100 years and beyond.

Sincerely,

UTS Board of Directors