



**To:** Faculty and Staff, University of Toronto Mississauga  
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**From:** Professor Meric Gertler, President  
Professor Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President and Provost

**Date:** May 14, 2020

**Re:** **Appointment of Professor Alexandra Gillespie as Vice-President,  
University of Toronto and Principal, University of Toronto  
Mississauga**

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We are pleased to announce that the Governing Council has approved the appointment of Professor Alexandra Gillespie as Vice-President, University of Toronto and Principal, University of Toronto Mississauga, effective July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2025 (including six months of administrative leave).

Professor Gillespie is currently Chair of the Department of English and Drama at UTM. As Chair, she has championed innovative approaches to research and pedagogy, made equity, diversity, and inclusion central to her mandate, and strengthened community among students, staff, and faculty. Professor Gillespie brings to her new role a clear sense of UTM's current direction and a compelling vision for the next five years. She is widely recognized as an exceptional scholar, a dynamic, creative, and inspirational leader, and someone who is deeply committed to the advancement and well-being of others.

Professor Gillespie joined UTM as an Assistant Professor in 2004. In 2010, she won UTM's Award for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence in recognition of her outstanding work in the classroom and as a mentor to student researchers. Professor Gillespie's early experience as a management consultant in New Zealand's education sector provided her with a strong foundation for her administrative work at U of T. At UTM, she has been Associate Chair and

Undergraduate Director of English in the Department of English and Drama, and she is currently a Vice-Presidential Special Advisor in Research. In 2016, with the support of the Jackman Humanities Institute, she launched the tricampus [Digital Humanities Network](#) which she directed for three years. Professor Gillespie is also Principal Investigator of U of T's new Institutional Strategic Initiative on Global Book Science.

Professor Gillespie is a renowned humanities scholar with a deep understanding of U of T's strengths across a broad range of disciplines. Her interdisciplinary work in medieval literary studies and book history has given her extensive experience building international scholarly networks and fundraising for major research initiatives. Her 2006 book, *Print Culture and the Medieval Author*, showed that premodern ideas about authorship shaped Western printing technologies. Her forthcoming monograph, *Chaucer's Books*, explores the literary history and philosophy of the book sciences. Professor Gillespie is lead author on over 40 articles and book chapters; she has directed projects to digitize medieval manuscripts, edited several major collections, and is regularly invited to present her research around the world. Her leadership has helped put U of T at the global forefront of cross-cutting research into the medieval past. Since 2015, her Old Books New Science Lab has received over \$2.5 million CAD in funding, much of this in partnership with U of T Libraries. In their current project on [The Book and the Silk Roads](#), Professor Gillespie's team and their partners use non-destructive analytic techniques—such as microCT, infrared and Raman spectroscopy, and peptide mass fingerprinting—to show the development of early book technologies at distant but connected premodern sites, from Dunhuang and Peshawar to Kairouan and Lindisfarne.

Professor Gillespie was recently a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at UCLA. She has previously held the Bradley-Maxwell Junior Research Fellowship at Balliol College, Oxford; the Munby Fellowship at Cambridge University Library; and Keck and Farfel Fellowships at the Henry E. Huntington Library in California. Professor Gillespie holds a DPhil and MSt in English from the University of Oxford, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar after completing her BA (Hons) in English at Victoria University of Wellington.

We very much look forward to Professor Gillespie's joining the vice-presidential team.

We would like, finally, to thank the members of the Advisory Committee for their unwavering commitment to this critical process and for their thoughtful advice and guidance.