



OCAD UNIVERSITY
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To: OCAD University Faculty and Staff

From: Michel Frappier, Chair, OCAD University Board of Governors

Date: February 15, 2015

Re: February 14, 2015 Globe and Mail article

Dear Colleagues:

On Saturday, February 14, the Globe and Mail published an article examining the evolution of OCAD University. Although we concur that OCAD U faces funding, space and sectoral change issues, the article fails to acknowledge and appreciate the great strides our university has made in its development and growth.

With creativity comes dissenting points of view, and there is an abundance of creativity at OCAD University. Organizations must be dynamic and move ahead or risk becoming an anachronism. For 138 years, OCAD U has kept pace and evolved. Change is not easy but it is the way forward for creative institutions like OCAD University as it is with our peers in Canada and around the world.

Here are some OCAD University facts:

- OCAD University is a proud independent art and design institution. We have experienced dynamic growth in our curriculum and infrastructure since we became a university in 2002. These changes led to enrolment growth, expanded offerings in art, design and digital media and the addition of graduate programs.
- We are committed to providing our students an exceptional experience. Learning at OCAD University remains grounded in the studio. OCAD University provides students with a mix of professional and technical skills, analytical and critical skills and contextual knowledge needed in the contemporary, global world. Students choose OCAD University for precisely this mix of experience.
- OCAD University has increased our faculty-driven sponsored practice-based research revenue tenfold, with support from Tri-council and other funding agencies as well as industry and foundations. In the last seven years, OCAD University has secured over \$35 million of public and private applied research and innovation initiatives that have built global-standard research laboratories with cutting-edge equipment and technology, employing students and young entrepreneurs on collaborative research.
- OCAD University's transformation has strengthened opportunities for our students by helping them develop marketable skills through curricular and co-curricular activity, incubate new businesses, create jobs and contribute to Ontario's economy. The total direct and indirect economic impact of OCAD U from institutional spending, student expenditures, increased graduate outcomes and induced spending is \$257.6 million per year.



- OCAD University values a diverse faculty base. Since becoming a university we have attracted a wide range of more than 600 faculty members who offer a fantastic learning experience for students. OCAD University has chosen to integrate faculty who are primarily practitioners, including those without graduate degrees, faculty with professional degrees and theorists with doctoral degrees, some of whom are also practitioners.
- We have many partners in industry, the healthcare and post-secondary sector, including George Brown College and the University of Toronto. These partnerships strengthen our institution and diversify the offerings for our students.
- OCAD University has managed its financial resources well in a constrained environment without funding for the university transition and we continue to advocate for this public investment.
- Our future capital expansion, whether at 115 McCaul St. or 230 Richmond St. West, is focused on ensuring a quality teaching and learning environment, an excellent student experience and is based on a solid financial strategy.
- The Senate is a key contributor to bi-cameral governance at OCAD University and I understand that last fall's vote of non-confidence was in relation to the Presidential Renewal Process and the reflection of bi-cameralism within the process. As Board Chair, I commit to working closely with the Senate and the President to improve our shared governance system.
- The University is in full compliance with Ontario's Broader Public Service Compensation Restraint Act – which includes salary freezes on the salaries of the President and the VPs which she imposed beginning in 2008.

As Chair of OCAD University's Board of Governors, I am working with Chancellor Kiki Delaney, and with leaders inside and outside the university to ensure that an accurate picture of our accomplishments as well as our challenges is presented. Join us in speaking up for OCAD University, and celebrating our success as we continue to work together to address our challenges and to strengthen the school for the benefit of our current and future students.

Regards,

Michel Frappier
Chair, Board of Governors
OCAD University