



MINUTES OF OCAD UNIVERSITY'S SENATE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015, 3:00 – 6:00pm
ROOM 322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST

Present: Keith Rushton (Chair); Lillian Allen; Tom Barker; Christine Bovis-Crossen; Keith Bresnahan; Frederick Burbach; Sara Diamond; Rosemary Donegan; Jim Drobnick; Paul Epp; Andrea Fatona; Michelle Forsyth; Richard Fung; Kate Hartman; Bruce Hinds; Johanna Householder; Richard Hunt; Barbara Anne Jackson; Simon Jones; Simran Kaur; Selmin Kara; Sandy Kedey; Alexander Manu; Lewis Nicholson; Gayle Nicoll; Jill Patrick; Elisabeth Paradis; Kiri Piotrowski (via teleconference); Steve Quinlan; Charles Reeve; Helmut Reichenbächer; Lenore Richards; Margaux Smith; Peter Sramek; b.h. Yael

(non-voting) Ian Clarke; Deanne Fisher; Anda Kubis; Colette Laliberté; Jeffrey Litwin; Jana Macalik; Michael Prokopow; Colleen Reid; Alan Simms; Evan Tapper

Regrets: Carole Beaulieu; Nicole Collins; Catherine Delaney; Judith Doyle; Simon Glass; Archie Graham; Tony Kerr; Caroline Langill; Claudette Lauzon; Gerald McMaster; Laura Millard; Nick Puckett; Ryan Rice; Dot Tuer; Natalie Waldburger; Michèle White; Virginia Trieloff

Invited: Susanne Seinader, Manager, Centre for Students with Disabilities (Item #5.2.1.); Zev Farber, Manager, Centre for Emerging Artists & Designers (Item #8); Carol Roderick, Director, Faculty & Curriculum Development (Item #8); Katherine Roos, Director, Innovation Programs, Imagination Catalyst (Item #8)

1. Welcome and Updates from the Chair

The Senate recognized a minute of silence for victims of the earthquake in Nepal.

The Chair informed members that the final results of the Senate elections for faculty members were announced and are available on the Senate elections webpage. Members were reminded of the upcoming full meeting of the Senate and the Board of Governors on June 18, 2015 and the additional meeting of Senate on June 22, 2015. The Chair also highlighted the COU Academic Colleague vacancy and encouraged those interested to contact the Senate Secretary.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve, moved by Christine Bovis-Crossen, seconded by Elisabeth Paradis.

It was proposed that the agenda be amended to move items #6 and #7 to occur after item #4.

Motion to amend the agenda, moved by Christine Bovis-Crossen, seconded by Simone Jones.

Motion carried, as amended, unanimously.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda Information Items and Minutes

Motion to approve, moved by Christine Bovis-Cnossen, seconded by Richard Hunt.

A typo was noted in the President's report and duly corrected.

Motion carried, with 33 in favour, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

4. Information Update from the President

The Senate was informed that a proposal for the composition of the Presidential Task Force, stemming from the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the Action Plan, will be presented to the Joint Senate/Board of Governors' Liaison Committee on May 7, 2015.

Highlights from the recent Federal and Provincial government budgets were then reported. This included additional funds from the federal budget for the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) in digital research infrastructure; funds to aid aging and brain health initiatives led by the OCAD University partner Baycrest Health Sciences, providing possible opportunities for the MDes Design for Health program; and funding for Mitacs programs. In addition, positive changes to the Canadian Student Loans Program and funding for aboriginal post-secondary scholarships were identified.

Regarding the Provincial Budget, it was reported that while post-secondary education did not feature prominently, there is reassurance from the government of the commitment to fund growth. Funding for online initiatives, investment in major capital expansion, increased assistance under the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and additional investments to youth jobs and campus accelerators were highlighted.

In response to questions, President Diamond clarified that while cuts are being administered to the operating budget affecting BIU weighting, discounting the value of each BIU. Funding for growth though is occurring at the same time. Concern was raised that this scenario makes it difficult to deliver quality education to more students. Suggested strategies raised to improve the situation included working towards a funding formula review, government lobbying, and fundraising initiatives.

5. Update on Budget Consultations

The Vice-President, Finance and Administration presented an update on 2015/16 budget process. He spoke about the challenging gap between total revenues and expenditures and reviewed the multi-year financial forecast, focusing on key principles to deliver a balanced budget. It was noted that details of a budgetary remedial action plan, recommended by the Consolidated Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC), will be presented at the Joint Senate/Board of Governors' Liaison Committee, so all members will have an opportunity to discuss the overall framework. Further, it was stated that the budget process will be informed by the Strategic Plan and new Academic Plan.

Concern was raised by Senators regarding the lack of student and faculty members included in the composition of the CBAC. The Vice-President, Finance and Administration explained that the budget is concerned with broader planning objectives where significant engagement across the institution has occurred. He also emphasized the mandated core principles of the budget committee including the protection of the student learning experience and maintaining academic excellence. A further suggestion was made to have the new student working group that is focused on space involved in the budget process. The Vice-President, Finance and Administration acknowledged that engagement with stakeholders, including students and faculty, will continue to increase and emphasized the open and transparent system that is being established. Clarification was presented regarding past budget cuts at a time when the institution was also receiving sources of revenue.

The Chair then encouraged members to contact with the following Senate representatives on the Joint Senate/Board of Governors' Liaison Committee in order to continue the dialogue: faculty members Lewis Nicholson, Simone Jones, Ryan Rice and graduate student Barbara Anne Jackson.

6. Update on Capital Planning

The Vice President, Finance and Administration spoke about the new Centre for Experiential Learning (115 McCaul Street) as well as the loss of 52 and 60 McCaul Street, reporting that an interim solution is being reviewed to see if thesis space could be incorporated into parts of 115 McCaul Street. An update on 230 and 240 Richmond Street was provided, with emphasis on optimizing space absorption and financial return while mitigating risk. The long term projects of 100 and 113 McCaul Street were also highlighted with the intent to revitalize studio and gathering spaces, as well as strengthening the library system. Other long term projects reported on included the waterfront collaboration and the Princess of Wales Visual Arts Centre (Mirvish/Gehry). The nearer term projects of Onsite [at] OCAD U at 199 Richmond Street to be completed in 2016 and artist residences at 210 Simcoe Street to be available in September 2015 were also discussed. Lastly, the Student Experience Working Group (SEWG) was reported as being in the preliminary planning stages.

A member of Senate recommended that a specific type of academic space be identified for the Senate audience in future updates, such as space used for instruction, critique, studio, etc. Discussion then focused on how the interior and exterior of 115 McCaul Street would be used and the decision process involved. In addition, a suggestion was voiced for the Student Gallery to also be housed at 115 McCaul Street in order to maximize its exposure. The progress and history of joint ventures at 230 and 240 Richmond Street was discussed.

7. Senate Committee Reports:

7.1. Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

The Chair called for a motion to move to an *in camera* session of Senate to discuss the following items:

7.1.1. For Approval: 2015 Professor Emeritus Appointment

7.1.2. For Approval: 2015/16 Academic Administrative Appointments

7.1.3. For Information: Second Legal Opinion

Motion to move in camera, moved by Christine Bovis-Crossen, seconded by Sara Diamond.

Senate members were reminded of protocol for positioning the items in camera and further discussed the nature of their confidentiality.

Motion carried, with 20 in favour, 1 opposed and 9 abstentions.

IN CAMERA SESSION

Commenced 4:33pm

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE

Commenced at 5:03pm

7.1.4. For Approval: 2015/16 Senate and Committee Meeting Dates

Motion to approve, moved by Christine Bovis-Crossen, seconded by Gayle Nicoll.

Motion carried, with 32 in favour, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions.

7.2. Senate Academic Policy and Planning Committee (SAPPC)

7.2.1. For Approval: Policy on Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Committee Chair informed the Senate of the consultation process in the development of the new policy, including the approval of the Teaching and Learning Committee, feedback obtained from the Office of Diversity, Equity and Sustainability Initiatives (ODESI), and the unanimous approval from the SAPPC.

Motion to approve, moved by Christine Bovis-Crossen, seconded by Elisabeth Paradis.

The Manager, Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD), provided an overview of the policy explaining the extensive review of policies at other Ontario universities, the current Ontario Human Rights Commission policy and guidelines, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) legislation and input received from colleagues at other institutions. Members were also informed of a communication strategy to be developed including faculty meetings and the dissemination of information through the CSD website, the Campus Life newsletter and the internal newsletter for faculty and staff.

Concerns were addressed by faculty senators regarding an increase experienced in the number of students required to accommodate, particularly with issues on how to handle absenteeism. The need for continuous consultation between faculty, the CSD, and student advisors in order to arrive at appropriate resolutions was stressed. Debate ensued regarding the CSD's primary responsibility to determine academic accommodations, especially with regard to maintaining a consistency in responses amongst instructors. Furthermore, a request for Associate Deans to play a role in the process was argued. Questions were also raised about the appeals process included in the policy and possible infringement on intellectual property in terms of the rights of the instructor. The right for students to be accommodated in having equal access to meet the learning outcomes of the program was emphasized but Senators were also reminded of the consultation and negotiation that should occur between the student, instructor and the CSD. Other concerns expressed by Senators included increased faculty workload to meet student accommodations and the need for the policy to be accompanied by more specificity. The Committee Chair suggested that a working group could be formed to work towards an implementation strategy.

Motion to table for further discussion to address concerns expressed, moved by Johanna Householder, seconded by Simone Jones.

Motion carried, with 28 in favour, 3 opposed, 3 abstentions.

7.2.2. For Approval: Articulation Agreement between Six Nations Polytechnic Indigenous Visual Culture Certificate Program¹ and OCAD U Indigenous Visual Culture Program

The Committee Chair spoke to the nature of the unique agreement as Six Nations Polytechnic is not a provincially recognized institution. She summarized that the agreement would provide the opportunity for Six Nations Polytechnic students to articulate to the second, third and fourth year of the BFA Indigenous Visual Culture program after

¹ The name of the Six Nations Polytechnic program changed from Indigenous Visual Culture Certificate Program to Indigenous Visual Arts Certificate Program

completing first year at their home institution. Recognition was given to the collaborative initiative of each Faculty in contributing to the development of the agreement.

Motion to approve, moved by Christine Bovis-Crossen, seconded by Simone Jones.
Motion carried, unanimously.

7.2.3. For Approval: Articulation Agreements and Transfer Pathways Policy

Motion to approve, moved by Christine Bovis-Crossen, seconded by Elisabeth Paradis. It was explained that the new policy framework presented allows the articulation agreement with Six Nations Polytechnic to function, enabling students to register in OCAD University courses while they are still at their present institution.

Motion carried, unanimously.

7.3. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)

For matters of timeliness, the agenda item concerning the Faculty of Design's overall core course average was presented as the last agenda item to be reviewed at the Senate meeting.

7.3.1. For Approval: Removal of the Faculty Design Overall Core Course Average Requirement

Motion to approve, moved by Christine Bovis-Crossen, seconded by Simone Jones. The additional 65% overall core average was argued to be providing unnecessary complications for senior students and preventing some from graduating. It was highlighted that those that fail to achieve the 65% average often need to repeat fourth year core courses and achieve an unrealistic high average. It was emphasized that the proposal focuses on establishing a new assessment value and clarification of the associated learning outcomes rather than suggesting any decrease in standards. Discussions about the possibility of a general studies degree was also raised as a future item to be debated as a way to accommodate students who do not meet the requirements of other programs.

Motion carried, with 10 in favour, 6 opposed and 10 abstentions.

All remaining items were tabled until the next meeting of Senate due to time restraints.

8. Adjournment

Motion to approve, moved by Christine Bovis-Crossen, seconded by Rosemary Donegan.
Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.