Summary of Board of Governors’ Elected Student Positions

What is the Board of Governors?

The Board of Governors (Board) is one chamber of the two chamber governance structure at OCAD University that is responsible for governing and managing the affairs of the University. The Board is responsible for the administrative and fiscal matters and the other chamber, the Senate, is responsible for academic matters. Some of the powers of the Board include determining the mission, vision and values of the University, appointing/removing the president, appointing/removing the chancellor, approving the annual university budget, and setting fees/charges for tuition and other services offered by the University. Details of these specific powers are set out in the Ontario College of Art & Design University Act, 2002 (the Act).

Who is the Board of Governors?

The Board of Governors consists of members from the external community, including six individuals appointed by the Ontario government, two elected by the OCAD U Alumni, and nine by the Board itself. There are also eight internal Board members drawn from the OCAD U community, elected by staff, management and students as well as faculty members cross-appointed by the Senate. The President and the Chancellor are ex-officio voting internal members. There are vacancies for one Graduate Student and two Undergraduate Students on the Board.

What are the Student Positions on the Board of Governors?

As part of the 27-member Board, there are current vacancies for:

- one Graduate Student position elected by registered full-time/part-time Graduate Students at OCAD U; and
- two Undergraduate Student position, elected by registered full-time/part-time Undergraduate Students at OCAD U.

Each of these student positions is for a two-year term or as long as the student is a member of that student group. (Each position is eligible for re-election for one additional two-year term as long as the student is still a member of that student group.)

Who is Eligible to be Nominated for a Student Position on the Board of Governors?

To be eligible to be nominated for the Graduate/Undergraduate Student position on the Board, you must:
• Be a registered full-time/part-time Graduate/Undergraduate Student at OCAD University;
• Be a Canadian citizen or a Canadian resident; and
• Be at least 18 years old.

You must complete a nomination form with the name, phone number, email address and original signature of three student nominators and submit it to the Board Secretary, Carole Beaulieu, by 4:30pm on September 11, 2015 along with your current resume and a 100-word summary profile. The 100-word summary profile will briefly explain who you are (including your program of study at OCAD University) and why you want to be a Student Board Governor and may be posted on the Board election webpage to announce qualified candidates, subject to review by the Board Secretary.

Why Be a Student Board Governor?

• Have input on administrative and financial planning matters at OCAD U;
• Represent your student peers to bring that perspective to the Board table;
• Gain experience in a leadership and governance role;
• Participate in major decisions at OCAD U;
• Build bridges between the governing bodies and students at OCAD U;
• Make connections with various representatives of the OCAD U community

What are the Responsibilities of a Student Board Governor?

All members of the Board of Governors must adhere to these guidelines:

• Oversee the vision, mission and the implementation of the strategic plan of the institution adopted by the Board of Governors
• Be informed about the issues facing OCAD U and Ontario universities in general
• Prepare for meetings, seeking clarification of pending issues and any information not provided in the agenda package [distributed about a week in advance of meetings], to enable informed decision making
• Attend Board meetings and meetings of assigned Board committees faithfully, providing regrets in advance if attendance is prevented by some unforeseen occurrence
• Participate actively and openly in discussion, being respectful of the process, fellow members, and differing points of view
• Respect the principle of Board collegiality: an issue may be debated vigorously, but once a decision is made, it is owned by the entire Board
• Review the minutes of all meetings and note any errors or omissions promptly
• Recognize the distinction between the role of the Board to approve policy for the institution and the role of management to develop and implement policy and to oversee the day-to-day operations of the institution
- Recognize that the President or her/his express delegate is the primary spokesperson for management and that the Chair of the Board or her/his express delegate is the primary spokesperson for the Board
- Insist that the Board obtain outside expert advice whenever necessary
- Refrain from voting only when necessary

The Board of Governors meets five times a year (October, December, March, May and June) on a Monday of the month from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. on the OCAD U campus. In addition, it holds a full-day annual general meeting and retreat on a Saturday in November. ([2015/2016 Board of Governors Meeting Schedule](#))

Regular attendance is expected of members the Board may declare a position vacant if a person fails to attend a majority of meetings over any 12-month period.

Student Board Governors may be assigned to one of three Board Committees that have student representation.

**Audit, Finance and Risk Committee**

This Board Committee advises the Board on matters related to the planning, allocation, monitoring and evaluation of all financial resources of the University in keeping with its needs, purposes and strategic objectives, to ensure the appropriate controls and accountabilities exist within the University and are sound as they relate to finance, statutory and regulatory compliance, and financial policy requirements. The Committee also liaises among the external auditors, management, and the Board in its role of overseeing the review of the University’s independent financial statement, pension and other required audits at least annually, and making all necessary recommendations on these matters to the Board. In addition, the Committee will assist the Board in its oversight of the University’s risk management to ensure that appropriate processes are in place to identify, report, and control areas of significant risk to the University, including risk management frameworks, policies and strategies.

This Board Committee meets about five times per year and requires one student member of the Board to be on the Board Committee.

**Human Resources Committee**

This Board Committee deals with policy level issues related to the recruitment, retention and development of University employees and related human resources matters. Other areas of responsibility include policy-level issues regarding health and safety, and diversity and equity.

This Board Committee meets about two times per year and may require one student member of the Board to be on the Board Committee.
Physical Resources & Capital Assets Committee

This Board Committee has responsibility for advising on alignment of capital and information technology infrastructure assets of the University with its strategic objectives, including its academic priorities. The Committee oversees campus planning and development activity with regard to prudent sustainability practices. It makes recommendations to the Board on leasing or acquiring new properties or major assets and the disposition of properties and major capital assets.

This Board Committee meets a few times per year, as needed, and may require one student member of the Board to be on the Board Committee.

For more information on the Board and its Board Committees, please read the OCAD U Board of Governors General By-Law No 1.

KEY DATES

Nomination Period: August 17-September 11, 2015

Student Information Session: Friday, September 11, 2015 12 noon – 1:00 p.m. in Room 330 (3rd Floor Boardroom), 115 McCaul Street (FREE PIZZA!!)

Nomination Deadline: Nominations close at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2015

Candidates Announced: By September 16, 2015

Election Period (Electronic Voting): September 21, 2015 from 12:00 a.m. to September 25, 2015 at 11:59 p.m.

Election Results Announced: September 30, 2015

Still have questions?

Contact Valerie De Souza, Manager, University Governance at 416-977-6000 Ext. 2853.