Background

OCAD University established an Aboriginal Education Council in 2008 as part of the Aboriginal Postsecondary Education Training Action Plan funded by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The council exists “to ensure that Aboriginal people are consistently and regularly engaged in decision making within the institution.” (Aboriginal Postsecondary Education and Training Policy Framework, p. 40). This council is now referred to as the Indigenous Education Council.

The Indigenous Education Council (IEC) is comprised of a group of volunteer members representing the interests and concerns of the Indigenous community whom support Indigenous driven and focused art and design education. The council meets no less than three times a year to provide guidance and support to meet the needs of the Indigenous community by identifying and articulating priorities for programs and services intended to enhance the successful recruitment, admission, retention, graduation and employability of Indigenous learners.

Mandate

The IEC identifies and strengthens collaboration and partnerships with Indigenous communities, government bodies and other associations to promote and advance access, retention and degree completion for Indigenous learners. The IEC will ensure OCAD University responds to and implements contemporary interests and opportunities.

The IEC is recognized as the principal advisory body, which has an effective role in decision making on issues with respect to Indigenous post-secondary education at OCAD University. Furthermore, the IEC provides knowledge and guidance with respect to programs, services and supports, curriculum development, and areas of research, scholarship and key institutional initiatives, which include the Academic Plan, Strategic Research Plan, Strategic Directions and the Strategic Mandate Agreement.

The IEC has a university-wide mandate to promote, guide and oversee the implementation of Principle 1, Decolonization and Priority 1, Indigenous Learning: Nothing About Us Without Us from OCAD University’s 2017-2022 Academic Plan: Transforming Student Experience:

“In responding to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, OCAD U is committed to adopting the 13 Principles on Indigenous Education outlined by Universities Canada as a critical link to redress the intergenerational and ongoing legacy of the residential school system, as well as to adhere to the recommendations in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, The Journey Forward: Ontario’s Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples (Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation) and the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. OCAD U will work in tandem
with our Indigenous Education Council, our Indigenous Student Association and with all faculty and staff across the university to support the process to decolonize the institution and to recognize, acknowledge, implement and vitalize Indigenous visual culture."
(Priority 1)

Furthermore, the Indigenous Education Council supports and oversees OCAD University’s efforts to realize the recommendations from the Provost’s Taskforce on Indigenous Learning, to be “inclusive of Indigenous knowledge, provide Indigenous students with an environment where they can succeed and thrive and support Indigenous faculty and staff” as stated in the Academic Plan.

Responsibilities

1. Foster an environment where Indigenous values are acknowledged and respected.

2. Support the university in implementing recommendations generated by the Provost’s Task Force on Indigenous Learning.

3. Adopt and realize Universities Canada’s 13 Principles on Indigenous Education, including resources and supports for Indigenous students, Indigenization of the curriculum and Indigenous education leadership.

4. Implement and respond to the relevant Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

5. Develop an Indigenous Strategic Plan that will guide the adoption of best practices for providing support and ensuring cultural safety for Indigenous students, staff and faculty, including recommendations on curricular reform and research to include Indigenous knowledges, Indigenous histories, Indigenous art and design, decolonizing traditional western histories of art and design, pedagogy and modalities of learning.

6. Advocate, support and advise on creating opportunities for all members of the university community to increase their understanding of Indigenous history, arts and culture, the interrelations between Indigenous peoples and historic and contemporary Canada in order to recognize changes that may be needed.

7. Support and advise on increasing the number of Indigenous staff and faculty members across the institution, including the sustainability, retention and mentorship of Indigenous hires.

8. Engage in institutional and environmental research to identify and remove barriers to increase access to art and design degree programs for Indigenous students.

9. Assist in enhancing support services for Indigenous students through programs and services to enrich the overall student experience, and promote students well-being and
academic success. This must include mentorship, access to Elders, counseling and the
development and promotion of scholarship, bursaries and awards.

10. Consult and advise, as appropriate, the review and revision of the criteria for tenure,
promotion and merit to be inclusive of Indigenous ways of knowing, research and
creative practices, pedagogical techniques and alternative ways of fulfilling service
obligations.

11. Starting with a focus on Toronto and southern Ontario communities, continue to develop
partnerships, shared and joint programming and credit transfer and articulation
agreements with Indigenous supported/focused organizations, secondary/post-
secondary institutions and Indigenous communities.

12. Advise on the education and delivery of significant land acknowledgements and
community protocols at OCAD University – governance, public presentation, etc.

Membership

The Indigenous Education Council members will include First Nations, Métis and Inuit
representatives from Indigenous organizations, Indigenous communities, Elders, Indigenous
students and institutional representatives.

Indigenous members (including members of the Indigenous faculty and staff of the university)
will constitute more than half of the council.

Voting members:

Indigenous community members:
- Two (2) Co-Chairs: one (1) internal member representing OCAD University and one (1)
  external member representing the community at-large
- One (1) Elder; not subject to fixed term agreements
- Five (5) members selected from local community organizations with at least one (1)
  member each representing a First Nations, Métis and Inuit organization
- Up to five (5) members from Ontario Indigenous communities
- Up to three (3) community members at large which the council believes will add to the
  expertise and knowledge of the council
- Three (3) national/out of province members

OCAD University community members
- One (1) Indigenous Student
- One (1) Indigenous Student Association Co-President
- Two (2) Indigenous permanent staff members
- Two (2) Indigenous tenure/tenure track faculty members
- Manager, Indigenous Student Centre
- Chair, Indigenous Visual Culture Program
Non-Voting Members:

OCAD University community members:
- President
- Vice-President, Academic & Provost
- Vice-Provost, Students and International
- Chair of Senate
- Board Secretary & Director, Strategic Planning
- Two (2) Deans (FoA, FoD, FoLASSIS, Graduate Studies)

OCAD University invited guests:
- Indigenous members of the Board of Governors
- Director, Office of Diversity, Equity & Sustainability Initiatives
- Director, Student Health, Wellness & Conflict Resolution
- Director, Marketing and Communications
- Director, Teaching and Learning
- Director, Student Recruitment
- Manager, Undergraduate Admissions
- All other Deans
- All other Indigenous Faculty/Staff
- All other Executive Team members

Leadership

The IEC will have two Co-Chairs, a university Co-Chair and a community Co-Chair; both shall be elected by members of the IEC and both shall identify as Indigenous. The Co-Chairs shall serve two-year terms as a minimum commitment, which can be renewable once.

Model

The IEC reports to the Vice-President, Academic and Provost and the President. It is supported by the Office of the Vice-President, Academic and Provost. As a decision-making body, the recommendations of the IEC will be taken forward by senior decision-makers through their direct involvement with the council and by reporting into the University’s Senate and Board of Governors.

Terms of Office

All members, including its Co-Chairs, will serve for a two-year term, once renewable. Upon renewal, members will have the option to return for a one-year term or a two-year term. Terms will begin on July 1 and end on June 30.

Meetings

The IEC will meet at OCAD University no less than (3) times per academic year. All remote members will be invited and reimbursed to attend one meeting in person per academic year. Meetings of the IEC will be open. Guests may participate in the discussions at the invitation of the council. Subcommittees or working groups may be established, as needed, at the discretion
of the Co-Chairs and can be drawn broadly from the community and from within the institution and will not be limited to IEC members.

**Attendance**
All members are expected to attend meetings and participate regularly.

**Quorum**
A quorum is one-half the total membership plus one (1).

**Decision-Making**
Decisions are made by consensus of the voting members in attendance. In the event that the council cannot arrive at a consensus, the Co-Chairs can table a decision or the decision can be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the entire membership.

**Amendments to Terms of Reference**
Amendments to the Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually and amended by a consensus of the voting membership in consultation with the Vice-President, Academic and Provost and President and Vice-Chancellor of the University.