POSITION PROFILE
EXTERNAL MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OCAD UNIVERSITY

OCAD University (OCAD U) invites expressions of interest for the voluntary position(s) of External Member of the Board of Governors to be elected by the Board of Governors for a three-year term upon successful completion of the recruitment and election process.

OCAD UNIVERSITY

OCAD University is Canada’s largest university for art and design. First established in 1876, OCAD U now delivers art and design education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Today, OCAD U students enjoy a one-of-a-kind learning/teaching environment that combines a dynamic and experiential, studio-based learning experience with a solid theoretical and liberal education. OCAD U’s thirteen current undergraduate program majors, its interdisciplinary minors, its Digital Futures program and its Indigenous Visual Culture program lead to a Bachelor of Fine Art (BFA), a Bachelor of Design (BDes) or a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree. OCAD U currently offers six graduate programs that result in the Master of Fine Arts (MFA), Master of Design (MDes) or the Master of Arts (MA) degree with plans to offer the PhD within the next five years and to expand and consolidate its masters-level offerings.

In June 2012, the OCAD University’s Board of Governors approved the new strategic plan, Advancing Excellence at OCAD University for the Age of Imagination, 2012-2017. This strategic plan outlines the university’s goals and aspirations moving forward, and focuses on four key strategic priorities. These will grow the opportunities for and quality of student experience; the university’s recognition as a research and thought leader; its reputation as an art, design and policy leader and community builder; and the enterprise needed to support these ambitions.

OCAD U signed a Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) with Ontario’s Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) in May 2014. The SMA focuses on particular areas of specialization as outlined in the MTCU’s Differentiation Policy Framework. OCAD U’s SMA charts the university’s path with MTCU moving forward over the next three years, supporting its vision, mission and mandate while helping build undergraduate and graduate enrolment growth.

OCAD U has an annual operating budget of about $60 million excluding research project and capital funding, and is currently expanding its campus with the future creation of key centres for design education and research.
Over the last decade since becoming a university, OCAD U has increased its research revenue significantly and established internal capacity and recognition by Tri-council and other funding agencies. The Canada Research Chairs program has recently awarded OCAD U with three Chair allocations, one Tier 1 Chair and two Tier 2 Chairs.

Please consult the website at www.ocadu.ca for more information on all these exciting developments, as well as details about programs and the history of OCAD U.

THE POSITION AND MANDATE

The Ontario College of Art & Design University Act, 2002, (amended 2010) states that “the Board of Governors is responsible for governing and managing the affairs of the university and has the necessary powers to do so”. 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.

As part of this 27-member Board, the External Member of the Board of Governors will be an engaged Board Member who will help oversee OCAD U’s vision, mission and the implementation of its strategic plan, Advancing Excellence at OCAD University for the Age of Imagination, 2012-2017 and Strategic Mandate Agreement.

The voluntary position of External Member of the Board of Governors is to be elected by the Board of Governors for a three-year term upon successful completion of the recruitment and election process. The position is eligible for re-election for one additional three-year term, for a maximum term of six consecutive years.

THE CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

The successful candidate(s) will be established corporate directors with a strong commitment to OCAD University’s mission, vision and values and located in the Greater Toronto Area or southern Ontario area. He or she will be a Canadian citizen or resident of Canada.

The Board of Governors will use its skills matrix in evaluating the best fit candidates. Current skills priorities sought by the Board based on this skills matrix and other identified important skills and experience are as follows:

- expertise in /knowledge of research;
- expertise in /knowledge of federal advocacy;
• expertise in/knowledge of health care (research or industry);
• expertise in/knowledge of internationalization;
• academic post-secondary knowledge;
• expertise in /knowledge of facilities and urban/property development;
• expertise in fundraising (proven track record in raising funds);
• expertise in /knowledge of information and communications technology (ICT)/digital
• cultural knowledge (arts, design); and
• being a practising artist and/or designer.

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

Candidates are required to attend a majority of Board of Governors’ meetings over a 12-month period.

OCAD U encourages applications from women, Indigenous people, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and persons of all sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Executive Committee, in its nominating role, will begin considering potential candidates as soon as possible and will continue until the position(s) is(are) successfully filled. A letter of introduction and expression of interest, and a curriculum vitae should be submitted electronically, in confidence, to:

Carole Beaulieu
Associate Vice-President, University Relations/Secretary to the Board of Governors
OCAD University
cbeaulieu@ocadu.ca