OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2017

Present: b.h. Yael (Chair); Catherine Black; Nicole Collins; Maya Desai; Bonnie Devine; Sara Diamond; Judith Doyle; Beverly Dywan; Susan Ferguson; Deanne Fisher; Roderick Grant; Kate Hartman; Bruce Hinds; Richard Hunt; Martha Ladly; Colette Laliberté; Caroline Langill; Francis LeBouthillier; Bogdan Luca; Robert Luke; Wrik Mead; Laura Millard; Michelle Miller; Eric Nay; Lewis Nicholson; Gayle Nicoll; Michael Prokopow; Charles Reeve; Barbara Rauch; John Semple; Gillian Siddall; Vladimir Spicanovic; Amy Swartz; Evan Tapper; Marie-Josée Therrien; Dori Tunstall; Ann Urban; Sylvia Whitton

Regrets: Salah Bachir; Heather Coffey; Veronika Ivanova; Min Sook Lee; James Olley; Maria Belén Ordóñez; Elisabeth Paradis; Jill Patrick; Nick Puckett; Ryan Rice; Dot Tuer; Natalie Waldburger; Alia Weston

Minutes: Natalie Nanton

1. Welcome and Updates from the Chair
The Chair opened the meeting with an Indigenous land acknowledgement. Members were first informed that the proposed BFA program in Creative Writing was approved to commence by the Quality Council. The Senate was then reminded of Senate Secretary, Hillary Barron’s departure from OCAD University. The Chair expressed gratitude for Hillary’s years of contribution and informed Senators to be in touch with Natalie Nanton and herself moving forward. The Senate was also reminded of nominations being accepted until November 13, 2017 for the upcoming Senate Chair election. Lastly, the Chair updated members on the actions stemming from her report, noting meetings with the Assistant Registrar, Scheduling, the Provost and members of the academic administration to discuss issues around scheduling. Meetings with Faculty of Design program chairs to discuss enrolment concerns and a meeting with the graduate program directors were also highlighted.

2. Senate Agenda for October 30, 2017
The Chair presented the agenda and called for a motion for decision.
Motion to approve the Senate agenda for October 30, 2017, moved by Sara Diamond, seconded by Charles Reeve.
Motion carried, unanimously.

3. Minutes from the September 25, 2017 Meeting of Senate
The Chair presented the minutes and called for a motion for decision.
Motion to approve the Senate meeting minutes from September 25, 2017, moved by Colette Laliberté, seconded Dori Tunstall.
Motion carried, with 35 in favour, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items
The Chair referred members to the consent agenda information items and called for a motion to accept.
Motion to accept the consent agenda information items, moved by Bogdan Luca, seconded by Sylvia Whitton.

Stemming from the President’s information report to Senate, a summary of the findings regarding recruitment was requested from the brand research and awareness study conducted by Ipsos and recently presented to the Board of Governors. President Diamond highlighted specific aspects of the research including the positioning of OCAD University amongst its competitors in the GTA. She further suggested that the research firm, along with Marketing and Communications and the Vice-Provost, Students and International could bring forward key findings to Senate in the future. President Diamond also responded to questions regarding the administrative structure of the OCAD University Galleries system and provided information about the institution’s permanent collection.

The OCAD University booth at Art Toronto (Canada’s international art fair) was referred to by a senator with regards to available funds for students to participate in the future. The Dean, Faculty of Art acknowledged the concern, noting that discussions were underway with the Chief Campaign and Development Officer. It was requested that the Dean provide Senate with an update on the matter at a future meeting. Motion carried, with 36 in favour, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

5. Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor
The President spoke of her work at the federal level, together with the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, to convince the Government of Canada to adopt design strategy and policies for the country. Furthermore, she spoke of working in collaboration with nine other universities across the country as well as design industry representatives to establish a design policy for Canada that will enable the government to adopt design thinking practices and procurement policies favouring Canadian design and designers and to establish design methodology to solve challenges in the country such as sustainability and social inclusion. She elaborated on the need for federal granting agencies to expand research creation funding to include design policy and the implications of such policy for jobs for students and faculty professional practice.

Next senators were informed that Great Gulf developers would be taking over the Mirvish+Gehry Toronto project in the downtown arts and entertainment district. President Diamond highlighted the company’s values on sustainability in urban planning and eagerness to partner with OCAD University on this venture. She spoke further to OCAD University’s use of space in the development, confirming that the Mirvish gallery will open in the building as planned and that OCAD University will still receive 25,000 square feet of space under section 37 of Ontario’s Planning Act.

6. Aboriginal Education Council Co-Chair Report
Professor Bonnie Devine reviewed the establishment and role of the Aboriginal Education Council (AEC), as well as initiatives and strategies to provide guidance on the development and implementation of Indigenous culture and programming at OCAD University. She informed members of the provincial mandate and that the council, with national membership, was constituted at OCAD University before this requirement. Professor Devine
reported on the AEC’s recent meeting on September 18, 2017 where key topics were addressed including the role of the AEC within the institution in terms of its interaction with university governance, the Academic Plan, task forces and other working groups. Key priorities of the council were noted to include research; decolonization and indigenization efforts and reform across campus; and the resource of the Indigenous Visual Culture Office.

Professor Devine discussed the benefits as well as challenges with having a national AEC membership and the need to think of other ways in which they can meet more regularly. It was noted that the engagement and structure of the AEC would be further discussed at the upcoming Joint Senate and Board of Governors Liaison Committee. Lastly, she spoke about a report from the Indigenous Student Association, emphasizing to Senate that the process of bringing new knowledge into the university requires support and education on all levels in order to avoid negative repercussions to the Indigenous student body.

7. **Draft Strategic Research Plan for Consultation**

The Vice-President, Research and Innovation provided an overview of the importance and purpose of Strategic Research Plan (SRP) and noted that it is guided by the Strategic Mandate Agreement and Academic Plan. The consultation schedule for the plan was outlined with the goal of having it approved at the November Senate meeting. In addition to the consultation session at this meeting, members were encouraged to provide feedback directly to the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, or to any member of the Research Committee, or to attend additional consultation sessions. The Chair invited members to provide feedback.

Members suggested a stronger relationship in the document to the priorities of the Academic Plan including the sustainability of research, scholarship of teaching and learning, as well as a focus and integration of Indigenous learning and cultural inquiries. It was suggested that the SRP address structural challenges in terms of the time it takes for faculty to mobilize research alongside their other responsibilities. In addition, the development of a structure that will engage graduate students in the research process was requested such as working with faculty in a research lab or on a grant that is relevant to their thesis work. For both students and faculty, resource allocations were highlighted as a need for professional development. More concrete institutional strategies were requested around faculty support in their initial stages of research, improving support around grant writing and advertisement of relevant granting agencies as well as developing institutional templates and metrics. It was also recommended that research be focused on digital learning strategies to support the classroom rather than an emphasis on the studio lab environment.

The framework of the plan was discussed at length with reference made to other models such as Boyers four models of scholarship. President Diamond further suggested that the framework of the plan be organized around research themes of the university and that a report be accompanied by a separate implementation plan. She reminded members that SRPs are usually concise documents used for external use and are accompanied by an internal document focused on supporting research, which would address much of the feedback provided. Moreover, it was recommended that both a core document and an implementation plan be brought to Senate for approval.
8. Senate Committee Reports

8.1. Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

IN CAMERA SESSION
Commenced at 4:43 p.m.

Motion to move to an in camera session of Senate, moved by Charles Reeve, seconded by John Semple.
Motion carried, unanimously.

The following business was discussed in camera:

8.1.1. Faculty Senator Board of Governors Appointee

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE
Resumed at 4:51 p.m.

8.2. Senate Academic Policy and Planning Committee (SAPPC)

8.2.1. Information Report from SAPPC

The Chair referred to the information report, which noted the committee’s review of the Letter of Intent (LOI) for a Dual Credential BDEs in Digital Entertainment (OCAD University)/Diploma in Video Design and Production (George Brown College), as well as their review of a reporting template for the implementation of the Academic Plan.

Concern about the new proposed program was brought forward from the Integrated Media (INTM) program faculty regarding the lack of consultation in the process. Issues raised included equitable access to facilities and equipment for students within and outside the program, capacity of existing facilities and equipment for INTM, and potential competition between the two programs. The Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies acknowledged the significance of the concerns and welcomed a meeting to discuss them further. She also summarized the ongoing process of consultations that occur at the LOI stage.

8.3. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)

8.3.1. Revisions to Policy #1004: Academic Standing, Undergraduate

The Chair referred members to the business report and called for a motion for decision.

Motion to approve, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded by Sylvia Whitton.

The committee chair reminded members that the policy was withdrawn at the previous meeting due to outstanding concerns. In response, the committee first stated that the SASC felt it redundant to reference policy 3002: Student Academic Appeals, since that policy allows students to appeal most academic policies. She also reported on the committee’s decision to wait to include non-academic workshops alongside academic skills training to first see if there is a broader need. It was further noted that academic performance is the trigger to investigate if other issues are affecting performance. Significant resource implications were also cited in relation to additional workshops. Other measures
in place were highlighted to respond to non-academic performance including the petitions process and the letter students on probation receive from Student Advising that list resources. In conclusion, the committee noted only one further revision to the policy: to remove the word “mandatory” when describing academic skills training so not to infer a punitive connotation.

Members thanked the committee for doing a thorough review of the policy. As a point of clarification, it was stated that policy 3002: Student Academic Appeals, only accounts for appeals under three policies, all of which make reference to it. **Motion carried, unanimously.**

**8.3.2. Revisions to Policy #1006: Prior Learning Assessment, Undergraduate**
The Chair referred members to the policy and called for a motion for decision. **Motion to approve, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded by Michael Prokopow.** Members were reminded that the policy describes the process for learning obtained outside and prior to admission and the proposed revision ensures that a student who fails an OCAD University course may not subsequently request a transfer credit for the same course. **Motion carried with 36 in favour, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.**

It was suggested that in the future the SASC consider prior learning assessment in relation to the academic plan, specifically with regard to Indigenous learning as some universities recognize Indigenous practices in relation to transfer credits.

**8.4. Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)**

**8.4.1. Revised Curriculum from the Faculty of Art**
The Chair referred members to the business report and called for a motion for decision. **Motion to approve, moved by Colette Laliberté, seconded by Bogdan Luca.** An overview of revisions to the course DRPT 2003: Exploring Drawing Processes were presented. **Motion carried, unanimously.**

**8.4.2. Information Report from SUSC**
The Senate was informed of the committee’s approval of the following Letter of Intents: Dual Credential BDes in Digital Entertainment (OCAD University)/Dip. in Video Design and Production (George Brown College); new minor in Games and Play; and a new minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies, all lead from the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Members were also made aware of curricular errors for the courses: PRNT 4901 Thesis: Research and GART 1035 Site & Intervention: SCIN. Lastly, a proposal for the creation of four new discipline areas in the form of course codes was highlighted and noted to still be under discussion in terms of feasibility from a logistic and administrative perspective.

**8.5. Senate Quality Assurance Committee (SQAC)**
8.5.1. Final Assessment Reports and Implementation Plans for Cyclical Program Reviews (IQAP)

The committee chair reminded members that these reports are the last stage of the IQAP cyclical program review process, synthesizing the self-study brief process, outlining the recommendations of the reviewers and providing an implementation plan of actions and outcomes.

8.5.1.1. BDES Environmental Design

The Chair referred members to the report and called for a motion for decision.

**Motion to approve**, moved by Gillian Siddall, seconded by Vladimir Spicanovic.

President Diamond commended the strong and positive report and discussion ensued regarding further details around the “hard skills” recommended to be introduced earlier in the program.

**Motion carried**, unanimously.

8.5.1.2. MFA Criticism and Curatorial Practice

The Chair referred members to the report and called for a motion for decision.

**Motion to approve**, moved by Gillian Siddall, seconded by Nicole Collins.

More detail was requested regarding other measures to realize the recommendation regarding space aside from the Creative City Campus project. In response, opportunities within the existing campus space were suggested to be investigated with the Vice-President, Finance and Administration, the Provost and the Deans in terms of transition plans. Opportunities were also cited with the Great Gulf project in particular for this program. Senate involvement to ensure the recommendations are implemented was emphasized and the mechanism for accountability and communication to stakeholders was explained by way of the IQAP annual reports, which are reviewed at Senate.

**Motion carried**, unanimously.

8.5.1.3. MDEs Strategic Foresight and Innovation

The Chair referred members to the report and called for a motion for decision.

**Motion to approve**, moved by Gillian Siddall, seconded Sara Diamond.

It was suggested that the significant change to the provision of stipends for thesis and major research paper advising be reflected in the implementation plan as an issue to resolve in terms of its impact on this program. In response, members were informed that discussions around this issue were already occurring with the graduate program director. Debate ensued as to whether an amendment to the plan should identify a recommendation for the program to address the issue. The argument was made however that because these changes per the Memorandum of Agreement occurred after the period of review, it should not need to be...
captured within the report and in effect is applicable to all graduate programs. Instead it was suggested that this larger issue continue to be addressed outside of the program review process and that the Senate be kept informed on the matter. 

**Motion carried** with 30 in favour, 0 opposed and 7 abstentions.

9. **Update on the Administrative Restructuring of the Health and Wellness Centre**

The Vice-Provost, Students and International provided an overview of the status of the administrative restructure. She reminded members that a review of the Centre for Students with Disabilities was requested by the OCAD Student Union in January as there were significant concerns about how students were being served by that unit. She reported that an extensive review and survey was conducted for all students registered in the Centre and stakeholders and that an environmental scan was performed, all to discover primary challenges. The list of primary challenges included the volume of registered students as well as the complexity of situations such as multiple disabilities being recognized or those episodic in nature.

Members were informed that as a result of the study, the Centre for Students with Disabilities and the Health and Wellness Centre have been merged, sharing a similar model with many universities across the country. The Vice-Provost reviewed the advantages of this model in terms of leverage of resources by cross-training staff and noted that the model was still being worked through. She then reviewed a lengthy list of concerns that are being addressed in the process. Senators were invited to add to the list of concerns. The Chair noted that a forthcoming report would allow time for further discussion.

10. **Farewell Remarks from the Chair of the Board of Governors**

The Chair thanked the Board Chair Dr. John Semple for his participation on Senate and the Board of Governors. The Board Chair thanked members for the opportunity to participate on Senate and commended their commitment to the university through the impressive depth of discussion on issues.

11. **Other Business**

Clarity on the Indigenous cluster hiring plan, discussed at the September Senate meeting, was requested. The Provost reviewed the plans noting that the approach is still in the process of being finalized with the OCAD Faculty Association (OCADFA). Lastly, the formal assessment period was raised as a concern in terms of the mechanisms for how it is being implemented. In addition, the last day to withdraw from courses was raised in relation to the last date of some classes. The Chair recommended that these issues be raised at the Senate Academic Standards Committee.

12. **Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn**, moved by Laura Millard, seconded by Amy Swartz.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.**