OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
April 29, 2019; 3:15PM – 6:15PM

Present: b.h. Yael (Chair); Caroline Langill (Vice Chair); Debbie Adams; Annette Blum; Ian Clarke; Maya Desai; Sara Diamond; Beverly Dywan; Panya Clark Espinal; Susan Ferguson; Deanne Fisher; Richard Fung; Simon Glass; Kate Hartman; Francis Ho; Bruce Hinds; Colette Laliberté; June Lawrason; Francis Lebouthillier; JJ Lee; Surendra Lowati; Robert Luke; Michele Mastroeni; Ashok Mathur; Michelle Miller; Gayle Nicoll; Elisabeth Paradis; Jill Patrick; Nick Puckett; Charles Reeve; Lauchie Reid; Martin Shewchuk; Ilene Sova; Vladimir Spicanovic; Evan Tapper; Dori Tunstall; Angelika Seeschaaf Veres; Ryan Whyte

Regrets: Lillian Allen; Salah Bachir; Jason Baerg; Heather Coffey; Nick Goso; Kathy Kiloh; Martha Ladly; Min Sook Lee; Chris Leithead; Wrik Mead; Eric Nay; Luke Painter; Kate Sellen; Alia Weston; Sylvia Whitton

Invited: Alan Simms, Vice-President, Finance and Administration (Item 6); Cary DiPietro, Senior Educational Developer (Curriculum), Faculty & Curriculum Development Centre (Items 8, 9, 10); Nadia McLaren, Educational Developer (Indigenous Learning), Faculty & Curriculum Development Centre (Items 8, 9).

Minutes: Natalie Nanton, Secretary of Senate

Call to order: 3:19 p.m.

1. Welcome and Updates from the Chair
The Chair opened the meeting with an Indigenous land acknowledgement and spoke about the consideration of land acknowledgements as more than just a statement. The importance of situating oneself when acknowledging the land was also expressed along with resources, events or other sources of learning in this area. Furthermore, reference was made to the many learning opportunities at OCAD University over the past couple of years, especially in light of the Academic Plan, including learning from Elders, films, book discussions and from new professors in the community. In this regard she acknowledged the work of the Faculty & Curriculum Development Centre, the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies and the other faculties, and the Offices of the Provost and President. To continue the agenda of decolonization, the Chair expressed that more steps will be required, that there is no prescribed or definitive path, but that these steps of inquiry and acknowledgement are part of an ongoing process leading to possible definitions of decolonization.

It was acknowledged that the institution is on territory that is part of Treaty 13 and before that, the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement of the First Nations
to peaceably share, care for and preserve resources and game and one of the first and longest lasting participatory democracies in the world. She related this agreement to how one might grapple with the legacy of what a democratic institution of learning requires. In light of the recent government cuts, the Chair challenged the Senators to consider what a participatory democracy may look like and to exercise their voices in the political sphere.

The Chair concluded with the following announcements and reminders:
- Knowledge Givers Speaker Series with faculty member Melanie Hope presenting on *Haudenosaunee Epistemology and Pedagogy* on April 30, 2019;
- Financial information session for Senators on May 8, 2019;
- Special meeting of Senate on June 13, 2019 to discuss a number of academic appointments;
- Nomination period for the Senate general elections opening on April 30, 2019.

Lastly, Dr. Vladimir Spicanovic, Dean, Faculty of Art was acknowledged by the Senate for his contributions in serving as the Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague. Recommendations for the next Academic Colleague will be discussed at the May Senate meeting.

2. Senate Agenda for April 29, 2019
Motion to approve the Senate agenda for April 29, 2019, moved by Sara Diamond, seconded Charles Reeve.
Motion carried, unanimously.

3. Minutes from the March 25, 2019 Meeting of Senate
Motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2019 meeting of Senate, moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded Lauchie Reid.
The Chair reminded members that Senate is not the place to address concerns around the OCAD Faculty Association (OCADFA) and encouraged faculty to take their concerns directly to OCADFA. Furthermore, in relation to the previous Senate meeting, it was noted that a forum is being planned for the fall to provide information on the Respectful Work & Learning Environment Policy, the Memorandum of Agreement and management rights.
Motion carried, with 27 in favour, 0 opposed and 8 abstentions.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items
Motion to accept the consent agenda information items, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded by Bruce Hinds.
The Chair outlined the items as follows a) Report from the President and Vice-Chancellor; b) Report from the Vice-President, Academic and Provost; c) Report from the Vice-President, Research and Innovation; d) Report from the Board of Governors; e) Report from the COU Academic Colleague; f) Senate and Senate Committee Dates 2019-2020.

A report on tangible outcomes of fundraising efforts was requested. Members were informed that this report could be made available before the end of the academic year. In relation, with the government’s withdrawal of $20 million from the Creative City Campus project, questions were raised on how the expansion will continue. President Diamond expanded on this in the information update in the next item.
Motion carried, with 34 in favour, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.
5. **Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor**

President Diamond summarized that the provincial government rescinded $20 million from the total grant of $27 million to fund the Creative City Campus (CCC) project, an action that was expressed as precedent-setting since the project is already in progress. In addition, members were informed that before the announcement, the Board Chair along with OCAD U management were active politically to ensure this money would be retained. President Diamond stated that she would continue to work with the Deputy Minister to obtain clarity on the situation and will continue to press for money to be returned to the institution. Further, she stated she will work at the political level and with members of larger constituency groups in order to push back on this decision. In addition, members were informed that the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) continues to be engaged in monitoring the government’s actions and has recently become more active such as in developing metrics of competencies that will be affected by the impact of the government’s cuts.

In terms of moving forward, President Diamond noted that the next phase of the CCC project, the fabrication studios, would be discussed at the May Board meeting. She also stated that it is the view of management to move forward on the project despite the withdrawn funds and noted the help of a major donor and the continued work of the Development office to expand the donor base with regard to the larger capital campaign.

6. **Financial Update: Budget**

Alan Simms, Vice-President, Finance and Administration (VP, F&A) reviewed the basics of what the budget is comprised of and provided the context of the items that inform the 2019/20 operating budget such as the domestic and international undergraduate and graduate FTEs and the net income/loss ratio. Major impacts to the budget that occurred between the March 2018 multi-year forecast (MYF) and now were reviewed. Core allocation assumptions that feature in the 2019/20 operating budget were also reviewed, as were the strategies for the budget response plan for the accumulated deficit. The VP, F&A explained why it is challenging for OCAD university and other institutions to address the tuition reduction in terms of revenues driven by enrolment, expenditures driven by compensation and the need for revenue diversification. He then reviewed OCAD University’s possible budget response plan initiatives in terms of expenditure savings, government action, donations, and asset leverage. Lastly, next steps were outlined for the Financial Transparency Working Group and discussion was invited.

A question was raised regarding the priorities for hiring in order to maintain the quality and reputation of the university. The Vice-President, Academic and Provost stated that the university is committed to maintaining program quality, that no hiring freeze will occur with faculty, and that the hiring deferral currently presented in the 2019/20 budget is related to administration. Furthermore, it was clarified that despite unanticipated budget cuts, more tenure track hires were made last year and this year in comparison to other universities.

Revenue generation through OCAD U CO was discussed and it was highlighted to not only be program-related but also to now include a space rental license as an additional revenue stream. Also in relation to the budget, the process of class section reduction was discussed in terms of how decisions are made with a step-by-step example provided from the Faculty of Design. Maintaining quality of teaching and delivery was emphasized during this process.
In relation to reducing class sections, Senators were informed that student enrolment has significantly decreased between 2013 and 2017 and at the same time faculty resources have been increasing in this time.

The Chair concluded the discussion by reviewing the types of questions that Senators have raised to be addressed in the financial information session on May 8, 2019. Both the Chair and VP, F&A encouraged more questions to be submitted in advance of this meeting.

7. Senate Committee Reports
7.1. Senate Executive Committee
   IN CAMRERA SESSION:
   Commenced at 4:27 p.m.

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

   The following items were discussed in camera:

   7.1.1. Recommendation for New Senate Chair
   7.1.2. Academic Administrative Appointments
   7.1.3. Update on Senate Chair Report

   REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE:
   Resumed at 5:03 p.m.

7.2. Senate Academic Policy and Planning Committee
   7.2.1. Information Report from SAPPC
   The Chair referred members to the information report, which noted the approval of the Wholistic Approach to Curriculum, the Indigenous Learning Outcomes and Experiential Learning Strategy and Framework. The committee was also provided with the revised Graduate Degree-Level Expectations for information.

7.3. Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)
   7.3.1. Digital Futures Laptop Program Changes
   Motion to approve changes to the Digital Futures Laptop Program, moved by Colette Laliberté, seconded by Nick Puckett.
   The addition of Cycling ’74 Max software in 2019-20 for the Digital Futures undergraduate program was explained to address specific requirements and learning outcomes. It was noted that the software is currently used in the Integrated Media program as well.
   Motion carried, unanimously.

   7.3.2. Curriculum Approval Timelines
   Motion to approve the revised curriculum approval timelines, moved by Colette Laliberté, seconded by Sara Diamond.
It was explained that the proposed timeline is to reduce the flow of curriculum, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, that is brought forward in the Fall term. Course elements were reviewed and the rationale for the deadlines for what were defined as level 1 and 2 minor modifications and level 1 and 2 major modifications were explained.

Concern was expressed regarding level 2 major modifications in terms of delaying implementation for two years for changes such as studio time in a program. It was clarified that the definition of major modifications is dependent on how the institution defines “significant” and therefore the example raised may not be applicable. It was also noted that some definitions such as “core courses”, referenced in some of the examples, might not be consistent across different faculties.

At the same time, it was explained that when revisions to curriculum at this level are made, extensive consultations have to occur ahead of time to address potential impacts such as with courses in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences & School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Assessment was also raised with regard to how a decision like increased studio may impact use of space for other programs. Members further discussed whether the new implementation timeline would affect the need to be more responsive and agile due to the budget cuts.

Given the debate, it was suggested that an amendment could be made to add a clause for exceptional circumstances. It was also suggested that the proposal be treated as a guideline so that programs Chairs and Graduate Program Directors can regulate their own curricular business. Finally, it was recommended that the timelines be approved without level 2 major modifications for undergraduate programs.

**Motion to amend** the proposal to remove the inclusion of level 2 major modifications for undergraduate programs at this time, moved by Colette Laliberté, seconded by Nick Puckett.

*Motion carried*, unanimously.

The Chair then returned to the original motion, as amended, for a vote. **Motion carried** with 32 in favour, 0 opposed and 4 abstentions.

7.3.3. **Information Report from SUSC**

The Chair referred members to the information report, which noted the committee’s approval of the Wholistic Approach to Curriculum and the Indigenous Learning Outcomes. It also received a presentation on data related to students’ perception of libraries.

7.4. Senate Graduate Studies Committee

7.4.1. **Information Report from SGSC**

The Chair referred to the information report, which noted the committee’s review
of a new special topic course and future revisions of graduate studies policies.

8. **Wholistic Approach to Curriculum**
   The Director, Faculty & Curriculum Development Centre/Writing & Learning Centre reminded members that the approach emerged directly from goals in the Academic Plan. She reviewed the consultation process and engagement with the community. More specifically the rationale for including a medicine wheel in the approach was discussed and engagement with the broader community was highlighted, including workshops where the curriculum approach was unpacked with each Faculty area. Extensive consultation with committees, Elders and Indigenous community leaders was also discussed.
   **Motion to approve**, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded JJ Lee.
   **Motion carried**, unanimously.

9. **Indigenous Learning Outcomes**
   It was explained that the Indigenous Learning Outcomes (ILOs) are comprised of explicit statements on Indigenous knowledge that will help to support curriculum at the program and course levels. Members were informed that ILOs have been developed at a number of other universities and colleges to support curriculum development and at OCAD University they are will be treated more broadly as an expression of Indigenous learning. The process for developing the ILOs was reviewed and the working group of Indigenous faculty members including Melanie Hope, Gerald McMaster, Peter Morin, and Ryan Rice were acknowledged for their contributions. The nature of the ILOs and how they differ from typical learning outcomes was explained including being open and active rather than specific and prescriptive. The Chair then invited discussion.

   The rationale for not including specific reference to art and design in the ILOs was discussed and it was explained that it was felt that they should be left open and understood in a broader context in order to focus on and support Indigenous knowledges. Furthermore, they were described as overarching learning outcomes to which specific disciplines can be applied.

   It was suggested that a broader discussion occur on how programs and faculties can navigate these learning outcomes to consistently implement them.
   **Motion to approve** the Indigenous Learning Outcomes, moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded by Dori Tunstall.
   **Motion carried**, unanimously.

10. **Revised Undergraduate and Graduate Degree-Level Expectations**
    This item was postponed to the May meeting due to time.

11. **Other Business**
    The Senate agreed to make an institutional response to the government’s decision to cancel $20 million of funding by expressing the following **motion** that:
    The OCAD University Senate strongly opposes the decision of the provincial government to cut $20 million from the Creative City Campus with the understanding that this initiative continues to be in the best interest of its students, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded by Vladimir Spicanovic.
Furthermore, it was decided that a letter be written by the Chair of Senate on behalf of Senate to the Premier and Deputy Minister of the same affect. In relation, an announcement was made about the May 1, 2019 protests against the Ford government across numerous cities in the province. **Motion carried,** unanimously.

Lastly, the level of work and caliber of OCAD U students exhibiting at GradEx 104 was commended and members were encouraged to attend and support students at the opening night.

12. Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn,** moved by Panya Clark Espinal, seconded by Beverly Dywan. **Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.**

[Originally signed] [Originally signed]

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b.h. Yael, Senate Chair     Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary