OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
OCTOBER 29, 2018; 3:15PM – 6:15PM

Present: b.h. Yael (Chair); Caroline Langill (Vice-Chair); Debbie Adams; Jason Baerg; Ian Clarke; Maya Desai; Bonnie Devine; Sara Diamond; Judith Doyle; Beverly Dywan; Panya Clark Espinal; Susan Ferguson; Deanne Fisher; Richard Fung (via teleconference); Simon Glass; Nick Goso; Kate Hartman; Bruce Hinds; Janice Ho; Kathy Kiloh; Martha Lady; Colette Laliberté; June Lawrason; Francis LeBouthillier; JJ Lee; Michele Mastroeni; Ashok Mathur; Wrik Mead; Michelle Miller; Eric Nay; Gayle Nicoll; Elisabeth Paradis; Jill Patrick; Charles Reeve; Lauchie Reid; Angelika Seeschlauf-Veres; Ilene Sova; Kate Sellen; Vladimir Spicanovic; Evan Tapper; Dori Tunstall; Sylvia Whitton; Ryan Whyte

Regrets: Lillian Allen; Salah Bachir; Annette Blum; Heather Coffey; Claude Galipeau; Roderick Grant; Min Sook Lee; Chris Leithead; Robert Luke; Nick Puckett; Alia Weston

Invited: Heather Robson, Acting Director, Research Services (Item 8); Sean Baker, Manager, Student Recruitment (Item 9)

Minutes: Natalie Nanton, Secretary to Senate

1. Welcome and Updates from the Chair
   The Chair opened the meeting with an Indigenous land acknowledgment. She spoke of the contradiction of this acknowledgement in both being a reminder of not having sprung from this land, and at the same time of the grounding aspects of this repetition. It is a reminder that First Nations took care of the land, the land took care of them. We must think about and act in defense of this land, and the recent UN report on climate change is a reminder. The Chair referenced various Indigenous speaker series presently occurring including the recent talk by Howard Munroe on Indigenous Systems Design. Members were also reminded of the upcoming meeting of the Indigenous and Decolonial Learning and Reading Group, one of many opportunities to engage.

   The Senate was informed of the undergraduate and graduate curriculum for approval in November. The need to respect the vetting process through the curriculum and senate committees was stressed, while noting that Senators should also feel free to raise concerns if something needs to be flagged. The Chair also spoke about her meetings with the academic administrative leadership stating that her report about arising issues will be presented in January. Members were made aware of the cancellation of the October Joint Senate-Board of Governors’ Liaison Committee meeting. They were also updated on the discussion raised at the last Senate meeting concerning the Scholars at Risk initiative,
which is being addressed through the Senate Executive Committee. Lastly, the Senate was informed of Luke Parnell’s installation: The Laxgiik Convocation Robe, and associated print sale at the Ada Slaight Gallery. Proceeds from the prints sold will be donated to the Printmaking, Publications, Sculpture/Installation and Indigenous Visual Culture programs. In addition, members were encouraged to attend the Global Experience Project talk, featuring Maria Theresa Alvarez artist in residence, occurring after the Senate meeting.

2. Senate Agenda for October 29, 2018
Motion to approve the Senate agenda for October 29, 2018, moved by Sara Diamond, seconded by Dori Tunstall.
Motion carried, unanimously.

3. Minutes from the September 24, 2018 Meeting of Senate
Motion to approve the Senate minutes from the September 24, 2018, moved by Sylvia Whitton, seconded Dori Tunstall.
Motion carried, with 35 in favour, 0 opposed and 6 abstentions.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items
Motion to accept the consent agenda information items, moved by Bonnie Devine, seconded by Elisabeth Paradis.
A correction was made to the Vice-President, Academic and Provost’s information report to note that the LOI for Art and Public Spaces is not approved by Senate but rather reported for information.
Motion carried, unanimously.

5. Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor
President Diamond spoke about the Executive Team’s support of the university’s Sustainability Policy and thanked the Office of Diversity, Equity and Sustainability Initiatives, and other staff and faculty who worked on the policy. She noted that it would be valuable to have a conversation about the policy at Senate. Members were also informed of the upcoming President’s Speakers Series on November 7, 2018 featuring Marie Wilson, a commissioner on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

President Diamond discussed the university’s preparation for the municipal elections and post elections to ensure strong relationships with the city. She also spoke about recent events at the provincial level with respect to the government’s decision to withdraw funding for three university campus expansions. In relation, members were informed that OCAD U’s ongoing funding for capital projects is being tracked and that President Diamond remains in conversation at various levels with the province as well as with the Board Chair who has been helpful in these dialogues. Comments were expressed by members regarding the government’s defunding of projects as a perceived rollback of liberal government policies and the potential for other initiatives to be cancelled.

Lastly, members were made aware of the university’s strong working relationship with the Toronto Public Library system and the ongoing discussions of how access to their significant collections can be made available to OCAD U students, staff and faculty. It was noted that work in this area has already begun on a smaller scale through the Office of Continuing
6. Recommendations from the Provost’s Taskforce on Indigenous Learning

The work of this taskforce led by former Vice-President, Academic and Provost, Gillian Siddall, alongside co-Chair Bonnie Devine and the large committee of faculty, staff and students was commended by Interim Vice-President, Academic and Provost, Caroline Langill. She noted the good representation of initiatives addressed in the numerous recommendations and stated that several are still pending or in process as they represent a significant structural change at the university. Co-Chairs Caroline Langill and Bonnie Devine reviewed each of the recommendations, which fall under the categories of: student supports; governance; professional development to support integration of Indigenous ways of knowing at the university; recruitment and retention; and integration of Indigenous knowledges and research practice.

President Diamond spoke to the work of the Strategic Research Plan in relation, and its strong focus on thinking about a broader Indigenous research agenda across the university. It was noted that the significant amount of Indigenous research at the university requires support in its aggregation. Members were also informed of the Creative City Campus conversations around a new Indigenous centre focused on students and a centre focused on Indigenous creation and practice. Discussion ensued regarding the difficulty of offering affordable housing on campus and the housing options that currently exist for students.

Members were informed of the significant investments already made to the INVC Student Centre, outside of the additional funding from MTCU. As well, it was noted that one of the focus areas for the Ignite Imagination campaign is support for Indigenous activities. The taskforce recommendation for the Board of Governors to receive cultural competency training was also reported as scheduled. Members then commented on the importance of the recommendation to create a Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives position and for the restructuring of the Aboriginal Education Council (AEC) to include regional members but also retain national representatives specific to the institutions’ art and design context.

Further details were discussed about Indigenous representation on Senate committees. Work in this area was reported to be occurring through the Senate Academic Policy and Planning Committee. It was noted however that the work of the AEC is being prioritized as well as bringing in Elders to guide these important governance processes. Overall the sensitive process to arrive at the recommendations was acknowledged and it was stated that caution and continuous consultation would be exercised as the institution moves forward towards implementation.

7. Senate Committee Reports

7.1. Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

IN CAMERA SESSION
Commenced at 4:07 p.m.

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

The following items were approved in camera:

7.1.1. Recommendation for Faculty Representative(s) on Board of Governors
Professor Lillian Allen was appointed as faculty senator representative to the Board of Governors for a two-year term, effective January 2019.

7.1.2. Recommendation for COU Academic Colleague and Alternate
Dr. Vladimir Spicanovic was reappointed as COU Academic Colleague for a one-year term, effective October 2018.

Dr. Dori Tunstall was appointed as the alternate COU Academic Colleague for a three-year term, effective October 2018.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE:
Resumed at 4:12 p.m.

7.2. Senate Academic Policy and Planning Committee (SAPPC)
7.2.1. Information Report from SAPPC
The Chair referred members to the information report, which enclosed the Research Ethics Board annual report and relevant forms. No questions were raised.

7.3. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)
7.3.1. Revisions to Policy 2001: Special Students
The revisions to the policy were outlined to include a clarification of language around credit limits and the addition of a category of special students that deals specifically with OCAD U alumni. Furthermore, while the policy already restricted special students to a maximum of 2.5 credit lifetime total, it did not specify the limit for alumni which has been in practice a 7.5 credit lifetime total since alumni are eligible to complete postsecondary certificates (not approved programs) from 3.0-5.0 credits, per policy 1016.

Questions were raised regarding why there is a limitation on lifetime credits with regard to lifelong learning. The committee explained that their scope of investigation was particularly focused on the misalignment of credits and it was expressed that if special students are taking more than the number of credit limits, they should technically be registered student.

A larger conversation emerged regarding continuous education and pathways into learning for specific demographics. It was recognized that this strategy discussion is beyond the purview of the SASC at this time and those particular issues could be returned to at a later date in conversation with Vice-Provost, Students and International, the Chief Marketing Officer, and the Executive Team before returning to Senate.

Motion to approve the revisions to policy 2001: Special Students, moved Ryan Whyte, seconded by Angelika Seeschaaf-Veres.
Motion carried, unanimously.

7.3.2. Revisions to Policy 1016: Postgraduate Certificate Programs
The policy revisions were stated to align with changes to policy 2001 regarding lifetime credit limits for those returning to complete a postgraduate certificate program. Modification was also made to the requirements and language to reflect different nomenclature around electives.

Motion to approve the revisions to policy 1016: Postgraduate Certificate programs, moved by Ryan Whyte, seconded by Angelika Seeschaaf-Veres. Motion carried, unanimously.

7.4. Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)

7.4.1. Information Report from SUSC
The Chair referred members to the information report, which included the committee’s approval of the Letter of Intent for a new proposed minor in Art and Public Spaces. No questions were raised.

7.5. Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

7.5.1. Curriculum Revisions from IAMD
Motion to approve the curriculum revisions, as presented, to the Interdisciplinary Master’s program in Art, Media and Design (IAMD), moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded by Martha Ladly.

The course and program level revisions were described to be part of an across the board critical look at the Graduate Studies credit model to examine if there is an excess number of credits and try to reduce them. Secondly, changes were made for consistency as a number of courses are at a 0.5 credit weighting for students but workload assigned to instructors teaching are representative of a 1.0 credit weighting. Rationale for the minor program modification of reducing the total credits of the program form 10 to 9 credits was detailed. Lastly it was pointed out that there are no financial implications with this change as most of the university’s graduate programs are not calculated per credit. Motion carried, unanimously.

7.5.2. Information Report from SGSC
The Chair referred members to the information report, which noted ongoing work on graduate polices. No questions were raised.

7.6. Senate Quality Assurance Committee (SQAC)

7.6.1. Information Report from SQAC
The Chair referred members to the information report, which outlined a discussion regarding the review of the institutions minors, consistency in terminology used in quality assurance processes and a revision to the cyclical program review schedule. No questions were raised.

8. Special Discussion Topic: Strategic Research Plan
Members of the Research Committee, Glen Lowry, Judith Doyle and Heather Robson were
invited to present. The purpose, history, and consultation process of the Strategic Research Plan (SRP) was outlined including its specific external purpose in relation to Tri-Council research funding, the Canada Research Chairs and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, which all work to support research at the institution. The Chair invited feedback and discussion.

Members were reminded that the SRP is not an operational plan but instead sets a framework for key strategies. The SRP was commended for reflecting the university within each theme and for its connection to the Academic Plan. Members discussed the way Indigenous research and knowledges were captured in the document. The consultation session with Indigenous faculty was referenced and the way Indigenous issues have been threaded throughout the plan was viewed to be strong, positive and progressive. It was questioned whether there had been a discussion on how the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) are allocated with regard to diversity and equity. It was noted that this discussion could be taken up at the Research Committee since the SRP was created prior to the announcement of an additional CRC for the institution.

9. Special Discussion Topic: Enrolment Planning, Recruitment and Analytics
The Chair invited Vice-Provost, Students and International, Deanne Fisher to lead the discussion as well as highlight strategies moving forward. Deanne first spoke of the need to grow enrolment to reach a viable size, emphasizing growth as one of the main strategies for the institution in terms of a revenue source. She also spoke of the original strategy for the university to start a graduate school which helped to segment the market. Members were informed of increases that have been made in the marketing budget, the pool of candidates and the recent modernization of recruitment and admission tools such as Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool to keep in touch with potential students and digital portfolio assessment for admissions.

Strategies for enrolment in new undergraduate programs and existing programs were summarized and the increase in international enrolment at the graduate level was highlighted as helping to offset the decline in the domestic enrolments or registrations. Assistance for international students in the areas of tuition, on campus employment and writing and learning support were also identified. The Senate was also informed of the lower than anticipated undergraduate domestic enrolment and related challenges such as the lack of automatic scholarships, housing costs, financial issues, parental influences, failure to meet language and academic requirements and visa issues for international students. New and ongoing initiatives discussed to aid in recruitment included expanded outreach and exploring community connections; developing a mature student and transfer market; diversifying the international student market; creating bridging opportunities and foundation programs to help students better prepare. While predictive analytics were noted as being improved, it was emphasized that the university’s best recruitment tool is the story of its own graduates. The Chair invited discussion.

Details were provided on the relationship OCAD University has with several independent residences which students are using for housing and the idea of the university purchasing a couple floors for housing was discussed. To increase enrolment revenue, continuing education for baby boomers was raised as an initiative but it was noted that this
demographic is already being targeted through Continuing Studies.

With regard to retention and recruitment, faculty involvement was strongly suggested such as for providing feedback on how first generation students could be better supported as well as providing qualitative data from events like the Look Inside open house where all stakeholders could debrief together to improve communication and actions moving forward. Sean Baker, Manager, Student Recruitment spoke further to the ongoing strategies around outreach, community development and awareness both within and outside the city. He also invited faculty to participate in the related advisory working group.

Data on what is happening around enrolment in colleges was suggested. The opportunity to promote a skills-based applied learning in addition to a university education at OCAD University was emphasized. President Diamond noted that research has been done in this area in terms of competition and part of it is within the messaging and communication. Furthermore, members were informed that working groups have been established to better understand markets and strategies. The role of graduate program directors was highlighted in terms of being activated around recruitment for their programs and it was suggested that deeper engagement from faculty in the undergraduate program likewise occur.

Other areas that could help improve recruitment and retention that were discussed included diversifying faculty, particularly in the black community, as it is important for both students and parents to see this reflection in terms of potential careers. In addition effective tuition remissions such as the Jay Treaty were suggested. It was explained that the Jay Treaty, a historical treaty that allows for movement between the US and Canada, which functioned in a work capacity, can now be applied to students enabling them to pay domestic fees.

The work of the Office of Admissions and Recruitment Office around Indigenous recruitment was detailed over the last several years as this was raised as an area that needs significant strengthening. The Senate also discussed the increase in the international market in universities in the Maritime provinces. Members were made aware however, of their very different international strategy which includes recruiting as a consortium and their lower tuition rates.

In general, an emphasis on advertising transferable skills and highlighting alumni working both within and outside of the art sector was recommended to be spotlighted in the recruitment process. Discussion ensued regarding students who wish to pursue art education and recent conversations around future joint degrees for art and design students who are interested in this area. Members concluded the discussion recapping challenges affecting student enrolment as well as initiatives that will make a positive impact such as the Ontario Post-Secondary Access and Inclusion Program (OPAIP), currently in its early stages and designed to improve access to, and retention in post-secondary education for first generation student populations. Lastly, the Senate reviewed important deadlines in the recruitment cycle including those that are fixed and those that are more flexible.

10. Other Business
No other business was raised.
11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded by Wrik Mead.

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

[Originally signed]      [Originally signed]
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b.h. Yael, Senate Chair     Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary