MINUTES OF OCAD UNIVERSITY’S SENATE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014, 3:00 – 6:00pm
ROOM 8322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST

Present: Keith Rushton (Chair); Lillian Allen; Keith Bresnahan; Frederick Burbach; Nicole Collins; Sara Diamond (via teleconference); Rosemary Donegan; Jim Drobnick; Paul Epp; Andrea Fatona; Richard Fung; Kate Hartman; Bruce Hinds; Richard Hunt; Anne Jackson; Selmin Kara; Sandy Kedey; Caroline Langill; Laura Millard; Alexander Manu; Gerald McMaster; Lewis Nicholson; Gayle Nicoll; Elisabeth Paradis; Kiri Piotrowski; Nick Puckett; Steve Quinlan; Charles Reeve; Helmut Reichenbächer; Ryan Rice; Lenore Richards; Margaux Smith; Vladimir Spicanovic; Peter Sramek; Dot Tuer; Natalie Waldburger; bh Yael

(non-voting) Carole Beaulieu; Deanne Fisher; Anda Kubis; Colette Laliberté; Claudette Lauzon; Jeffrey Litwin; Jana Macalik; Michael Prokopow; Colleen Reid; Alan Simms; Evan Tapper

Regrets: Tom Barker; Christine Bovis-Cnossen; Ian Clarke; Catherine Delaney; Judith Doyle; Michelle Forsyth; Simone Jones; Simon Glass; Archie Graham; Simran Kaur; Tony Kerr; Jill Patrick; Virginia Trieloff; Michèle White

Secretary: Natalie Nanton

1. Welcome and Updates from the Chair
The Chair welcomed Dr. Jeffrey Litwin, Chief Campaign Officer and Vice-President, Development, to the Senate membership as an ex-officio non-voting member, replacing Jill Birch. He then spoke about reviving the past Senate initiative for special topic discussions and invited members to submit ideas to the Senate Secretary. The Chair also informed members that he will be instituting biannual meetings of all Senate Committee Chairs in order to discuss strategic planning, process for Senate business, address challenges and improve communication. Members were also encouraged to conserve paper within the Senate and Senate Committee meetings and that only a limited number of hardcopies would be available at future meetings. Lastly, the Chair reminded Senators of the need to review the consent agenda in advance so appropriate questions can be answered at the table.

2. Approval of the Agenda
The Chair reviewed the agenda and called for a motion for approval.
Motion to approve, moved by Helmut Reichenbächer, seconded by Steve Quinlan.
Motion carried, unanimously.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda Information Items and Minutes
The Chair first called for motion for approval of the minutes.
Motion to approve, moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded by Sara Diamond.
Motion carried, with 35 in favour, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions.

The Chair then called for a motion for approval for the remainder of the consent agenda items.
Motion to approve, moved by Lewis Nicholson, seconded by Caroline Langill.

Discussion:
Regarding the President’s information report, details were requested about the timeline for receiving the $3 million gift from Rosalie and Isadore Sharp and the $2 million gift from the Delaney Family Foundation. Discussion ensued regarding the status of debt incurred building the Sharp Centre. President Diamond noted that the institution will continue to raise money for the full cost of renovations. She also offered to provide Senate with a breakdown of where various gifts and donations have been allocated.

The Acting Vice-President, Academic clarified the definition and purpose of adjunct professors stemming from the Vice-President, Academic information report. It was recommended that further details on specific adjunct professors be deferred to when the Vice-President, Academic is in attendance.

The recent announcement of extended open hours for 100 McCaul Street was applauded for its benefit to students. The Acting Vice-President, Academic addressed concerns relating to the health and safety of this pilot, summarizing that both potential health and cultural issues are under discussion and will continue within a full evaluation of the initiative. Relating to this event, a request by students for extended library hours was reported. The Senate was informed that this would require an increase in resources, which had not been budgeted. The Associate Vice-President, Students added that patterns of use and major safety concerns will be monitored to ensure that only students are in the building during the extended hours. She welcomed further feedback.

More space for students to work during the day was requested, such as a provision for desks in the Great Hall, as was used in the “Long Night Against Procrastination” event. This example was used to identify an immediate and easy way to address the lack of student work space around campus.

Lastly, Senators were informed that the studio campus in Florence had been relocated with the assistance of Faculty of Art Associate Dean, Anda Kubis and Contemporary Painting and Print Media Associate Chair, Jennie Suddick.

Motion carried, unanimously.

4. Information Update from the President
President Diamond offered an apology to Senators Charles Reeve and Frederick Burbach for the harsh tone used to address them at the September 29, 2014 Senate meeting. She emphasized the importance collegial behaviour, which she encouraged all Senators to practice. The apology was accepted with thanks from both Senators.

5. Senate Committee Reports:
5.1. Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC)
5.1.1. For Approval: Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague Selection Policy
It was explained that a policy for the selection process for a Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague had not yet been created. The timeline and Senate procedure for approving the nomination for this position was reviewed.
The Chair called for a motion for approval.

Motion to approve, moved by Gayle Nicoll, seconded by Vladimir Spicanovic.
Motion carried, unanimously.

5.1.2. For Approval: Revised “Professor Emerita/Emeritus” and “Associate Professor Emerita/Emeritus” Status Policy
The main policy revisions were reviewed to include the change in governance approval as well as Latin genders in the interest of inclusivity.
The Chair called for a motion for approval.

Motion to approve, moved by Gayle Nicoll, seconded by Sandy Kedey.
Motion carried, unanimously.

5.2. Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)
5.2.1. For Approval: Specialization in Interior Design (IQAP Major Modification to the BDes Environmental Design program)
Motion to approve, moved by Gayle, seconded by Vladimir Spicanovic.

Colleen Reid, Associate Dean, Faculty of Design introduced the Interior Design specialization, explaining that specific Interior Design curriculum will be recorded on students’ transcripts, in order to satisfy the requirements of the Council of Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). She further explained that the Ontario accrediting body, ARIDO (Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario), is now requiring programs to be CIDA accredited as well by 2017 and that the introduction of this specialization is part of that process. She spoke about the critical need for the CIDA designation, since about 50% of students in the Environmental Design program enter with the goal of becoming registered Interior Designers. Details of the proposal were further reviewed, including the nature of the thesis, qualifications of current faculty members, as well as the budgeted fees associated with the accreditation process.

Discussion:
The required liberal studies course, VISD 3B32: History of Furniture, was discussed within the larger debate of the trend to make liberal studies courses mandatory within programs rather than giving students the option of these courses as breadth. In addition, priority registration for Environmental Design students into these types of liberal studies courses was noted as a concern and perceived to be limiting course availability for other students. It was pointed out that this issue relates to enrolment and can be solved with additional course sections. It was suggested that the similar course VISD 3B36: History and Theory of Interiors could be added to the specialization program guide as an alternative to VISD 3B32: History of Furniture.

The challenge of balancing core curriculum and trying to fulfill the appropriate liberal studies requirements of CIDA was further discussed. Overall, the importance of the accreditation was explained as fundamental to maintaining the Environmental Design program. Enrolment in the specialization and timelines for the CIDA accreditation were also discussed.

Since becoming a degree granting university, it was noted that there has been a shift in how liberal studies courses are positioned. Furthermore, a much broader university-wide question was raised regarding what constitutes core program requirements and the double role of liberal studies courses as both breadth and mandatory or core program
requirements. Members acknowledged this as a very important cross-Faculty conversation that needs to occur. Discussion ensued regarding other types of possible accreditation for OCAD University programs.

Motion carried, unanimously.

5.2.2. For Information: Ratified New and Revised Curriculum
The ratified list of curricular changes for the Faculties of Art, Design and Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies were presented for information.

5.3. Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SUSC)
5.3.1. For Information: Ratified New and Revised Curriculum
The list of approved new electives in Graduate Studies programs were presented for information.

5.3.2. For Information: Establishment of a Working Group on Recognition of Achievement in Graduate Studies
It was reported that the working group will be looking at recognizing exceptional standing in Graduate Studies based on practices in other Ontario universities. The Committee Chair noted that recommendations from this group will be brought forward.

5.3.3. For Information: Course Titles Shortened
A list of shorter titles for Graduate Studies courses, as required by the new ERP system, was presented.

5.4. Senate Continuing Studies Committee (SCSC)
5.4.1. For Information: New Approved Courses
Two new approved courses were presented: CSAP 1N27 Portrait Photography and CSPD 1N14 Abstract Painting: Texture & Surface, to be implemented in spring 2015.

The process of proposing a course in Continuing Studies was questioned. The Committee Chair explained that course ideas are developed both within the Office of Continuing Studies as well as proposed by faculty or others in the community before being vetted by the committee.

5.5. Joint Board of Governors/Senate Liaison Committee
5.5.1. For Information: Committee Report
Committee Chair, President Diamond provided details of the meeting held on November 27, 2014. She outlined the discussion on the committee composition and terms of reference within both bylaws; the committee’s agreed upon shared goal to benefit OCAD University and its students; and the need to provide a forum for clear communication and improve governance practices of both bodies. President Diamond reported that the Board Chair designate spoke about the value of a closer relationship and conveyed the same strong sentiment from the Board Chair who was unable to attend the meeting. She referenced the Chair of Senate’s remarks on the history and role of the Joint Liaison Committee, established to address the need for collaboration and for financial planning to be informed by academic plans and programming. President Diamond also spoke of the comprehensive discussion that occurred around the value of scorecards and work plans. In addition, she emphasized the Joint Liaison Committee’s aim to focus on collaborative discussions.
regarding high priority needs of the University and their agreement to have quarterly committee meetings.

President Diamond recalled the lengthy conversation regarding space and challenges in predicting future requirements for studio-based learning. The need for core principles for capital planning was also recognized as well as ensuring that resources are allocated within the Academic Plan. Lastly, she informed Senators of the committee discussion about the importance of morale at the University and the difficulty in quantifying this, as well as similar discussions on trust and transparency occurring within the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the Action Plan.

Senators were informed that Joint Liaison Committee members received the facilitator’s report from the November 1, 2014 Board Retreat’s bicameral governance discussion and the PowerPoint prepared by the lawyers on the jurisdictional authority of the governing bodies. It was also reported that in the near future there would be a full Board and Senate facilitated meeting to review the legislation that governs the University and its implications to ensure common agreement and understanding. It was noted that the spring Joint Board of Governors/Senate Liaison Committee meeting will focus on capital planning and budget forecasting.

6. Capital Planning Update and Q & A Period
The Vice-President, Finance and Administration presented an update focused on space challenges, strategy and the plans for different spaces. He reviewed space challenges in terms of both needs and issues for delivering a positive student experience and advancing the University’s mission. He noted that there are currently eleven working groups dedicated to the space related issues. He emphasized “making things happen now” based on what the institution already has and being financially prudent in how space issues are approached. A review of different projects in 115 McCaul Street, 230/240 Richmond Street West and studio thesis space to replace the loss of 52 and 60 McCaul Street was presented.

Discussion:
It was suggested that there be greater student involvement to determine financial priorities around space. The Vice-President, Finance and Administration spoke about the creation of a template document to solicit more feedback from the student body. Financial details were requested with regard to the cost of leasing 230/240 Richmond Street and the nature of the ownership for that space. The cost of the facade planned for 115 McCaul Street was debated and it was argued that money should be focused on other space and capital priorities for students. The issue was acknowledged and it was stated that the plan is to engage all participants in the process. The Vice-President, Finance and Administration further expressed the importance of the building and its facade for OCAD University’s brand. A student senator offered to run a survey to see if students would be interested in having the development of the facade of 115 McCaul as a priority. The Vice-President, Finance and Administration welcomed the idea but made it clear that the facade is not taking money away from other student spaces. Debate ensued regarding available finances, space priorities and the nature and strategies behind the facade for 115 McCaul as contributing to the school’s identity. Questions also arose around the debt level for the university. The long term capital debt level was identified as $35 million and it was made clear that this was not the university’s operating debt.

Discussion then focused on the strategies around the re-location of the various galleries at OCAD University and the importance of showcasing a student centered space at 115 McCaul.
space at 49 McCaul Street was also discussed. It was acknowledged that this space was not being considered within the space working groups. Members were informed of how this space is funded and if used for purposes other than research, different kinds of funding would need to be explored. The Associate Vice-President, Research and Dean, Graduate Studies offered to obtain more information on the user statistics. It was also pointed out that there is a need to understand the use of labs by researchers and student researchers. Lastly, increasing projections for enrolment numbers was flagged as an underlining concern contributing to overall space issues.

The Chair invited members to send further comments or concerns to the Senate Secretary to be directed to the Vice-President, Finance and Administration. Community and stakeholder input were stressed in this regard.

7. Other Business

The Associate Vice-President, Research and Dean, Graduate Studies shared further information on the research portfolio, stating that last year they administered over 220 Research Assistantship contracts to both undergraduate and graduate students and paid over half a million dollars to students through these contracts.

8. Questions and Answer Period

No questions were raised.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Richard Hunt, seconded by Lillian Allen. Motion carried, unanimously at 5:38pm.