OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
FEBRUARY 27, 2017; 3:00PM – 6:00PM
ROOM 322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST

Present: Sylvia Whitton (Interim Chair); Annette Blum; Heather Coffey; Nicole Collins; Maya Desai; Sara Diamond; Andrea Fatona; Deanne Fisher; Kate Hartman; Johanna Householder; Richard Hunt; Martha Ladly; Colette Laliberté; Caroline Langill; Dorie Millerson; Martha Muszycka-Jones; Lewis Nicholson; James Olley; Maria-Belén Ordóñez; Elisabeth Paradis; Jill Patrick; Michael Prokopow; Nick Puckett; Charles Reeve; Ryan Rice; Carol Roderick; Felipe Sarmiento; Gillian Siddall; Vladimir Spicanovic; Amy Swartz; Evan Tapper; Marie-Josée Therrien; Dori Tunstall; Natalie Waldburger; Ryan Whyte

Regrets: Catherine Delaney; Sylvia Evans; Simon Glass; David Griffin; Lynne Heller; Bruce Hinds; Camille Isaacs; Selmin Kara; Justin Platnar; Nicholas Pye; Barbara Rauch; John Semple; Jennie Suddick; Ann Urban; Emma Westecott

Guests: Tori Maas, Executive Director, Academic Affairs, OCADSU; Liz Aston, Executive Director, Operations, OCADSU; Nicholas Smith, Finance Manager, OCADSU; Alan Simms, Vice-President, Finance and Administration

Minutes: Hillary Barron

Call to order 3:07 p.m.

1. Welcome and Updates from the Interim Chair
The Chair acknowledged the ancestral and traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe and the Huron-Wendat, who are the original owners and custodians of the land on which the University stands on.

The Chair informed members that Robert Lear was elected in the recent by-election to fill a vacant Faculty of Design faculty seat. She then congratulated Senate on the approval of the Academic Plan at the last meeting, reminding senators that the decision was unanimous and that unanimity should be exercised in moving forward to develop unit plans and thereby achieve the goals of the plan.

2. Senate Agenda for February 27, 2017
The Chair reviewed the agenda and called for a motion for decision.
Motion to approve the Senate agenda for February 27, 2017, moved by Johanna Householder, seconded by Martha Ladly.
Motion carried, unanimously.

3. Minutes from the January 30, 2017 Meeting of Senate
   The Chair presented the minutes and called for a motion for decision.
   Motion to approve the Senate meeting minutes from January 30, 2017, moved by Sara Diamond, seconded by Carol Roderick.
   Under section 9.1.1. in the minutes it was stated that the lowering of the minimum final grade for transfer credit was incorrectly coupled with more flexibility of transfers from one OCAD University program to another when in fact internal transfers require a different minimum final grade.
   Motion carried, as amended, unanimously.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items
   The Chair presented the consent agenda and called for a motion to accept the consent agenda items.
   Motion to accept, moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded by Richard Hunt.
   Further information was requested regarding the research awards detailed in the Vice-President, Research and Innovation’s information report. President Diamond provided an explanation of the awards for post-doctoral fellows and their work within the university’s lab and research environment. Discussion ensued regarding the need to capture awards from all faculty areas and to exercise more engagement in this area. Lastly, an update was requested regarding job postings for Program Chairs in the Faculty of Art. The Dean, Faculty of Art provided an update and timeline for this process.
   Motion carried, unanimously.

5. Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor
   President Diamond provided an update on the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) process and framework including the series of negotiation meetings with the government. She also explained how the upcoming budget announcement will further delineate the availability for money in certain areas. It was reported that the key elements of the SMA will be presented to Senate in March with measurable components of the Academic Plan to be incorporated. The five areas of the SMA were also outlined as follows: Student Experience; Innovation in Teaching & Learning Excellence; Access & Equity; Research Excellence & Impact; and Innovation, Economic Development & Community Engagement. President Diamond explained that these priorities are occurring within a differentiation framework. Furthermore, she discussed the difference between system wide metrics and institutionally defined metrics, explaining that while faculty at OCAD University have phenomenal outputs they do not fit within traditional research metrics. In this regard, she indicated some strategies as a way forward.

   President Diamond also spoke about the process of multi-year financial forecasting and challenges that are ahead regarding the operating budget. She spoke of the need to establish new revenue streams and to obtain appropriate funding per undergraduate and potentially graduate students. She highlighted achievements that place the university in a good position such as the hiring of new faculty, an updated technological infrastructure, ongoing growth in research creation, and more space with increased capital funding.
6. Senate Committee Reports

6.1. Senate Academic Policy and Planning Committee (SAPPC)

6.1.1. Information Report from the SAPPC

The Chair referred members to the information report. It was highlighted that the committee approved in principle the inclusion of sessionals on Senate, the details to be determined. The SAPPC will continue the discussion at its next meeting and hopes to bring forward recommendations for revisions to the Senate Bylaws at the next meeting of Senate.

6.2. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)

6.2.1. Revisions to Policy 1013: Graduation Approval Process

The Chair invited the Committee Chair to present the revisions and called for a motion for decision.

Motion to approve the revisions to policy 1013: Graduation Approval Process, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded by Vladimir Spicanovic.

The main revisions were summarized as authorizing the Dean in place of the Vice-President Academic and Provost to determine if a non-graduating student may participate in convocation ceremonies; providing an additional time when credentials may be awarded and having the date of Senate approval recorded on the diplomas; and lastly distinguishing the graduation approval and diploma conferral processes as separate from the convocation process.

It was confirmed that the policy applies to both undergraduate and graduate students and that students have to submit their intent to graduate in the fall to be considered. In addition, it was clarified that the 0.5 credit elective referred to in the policy is inclusive of liberal studies breath requirements.

Motion carried, unanimously.

6.2.2. Revisions to Policy 3002: Student Academic Appeals

The Chair invited the Committee Chair to present the revisions and called for a motion for decision.

Motion to approve the revisions to policy 3002: Student Academic Appeals, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded by Martha Ladly.

It was explained that policy 1014: Academic Misconduct refers students to this policy but in its current version, it is made clear that misconduct appeals are not dealt with. In addition to correcting this contradiction, the composition of the Senate Student Appeals Committee was removed and instead reference is made to the Senate By-Laws where membership is determined. Members were also made aware that the committee is discussing more substantial revisions to the policy and therefore it may return to Senate.

Motion carried, unanimously.

6.3. Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)

6.3.1. Information Report from the SUSC

The Chair referred members to the information report, which outlined ongoing work on guidelines for special topics courses and an accessible assignment
template as well as preliminary discussions around best practices for curriculum in relation to the Academic Plan.

6.4. Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
6.4.1. Information Report from the SGSC
The Chair referred members to the information report, which outlined ongoing discussions regarding a proposal for undergraduate equivalences to graduate 5000 level courses. In addition, the establishment of two working groups were reported in order to review and update several graduate studies policies.

7. Presentation from Members of OCAD SU Executive: Summary of “Money Matters” Survey to Students
Tori Maas, OCADSU Executive Director, Academic Affairs reported on the university’s recent shift from charging a flat fee to charging compound interest on outstanding student fees. She expressed that students should not be penalized in this way and as a result the Student Union developed a survey to obtain an understanding of student finances, the findings of which were compiled into the OCAD Student Union Money Matters Summary Report. Highlights from this survey were shared, specifically mapping the links between student finances and student experience. A series of recommendations to help alleviate the student financial situation were also communicated to the Senate. The Chair then invited the President, Vice-President, Students and International and Vice-President, Finance and Administration to first respond to the presentation.

President Diamond acknowledged the importance of the data collected and spoke about the role of OCAD University’s development team in securing bursaries and the need to further develop student food programs as well as the challenges of living in the city of Toronto in terms of affordability. The Vice-President, Students and International commented that the report is an important reality check for the university, acknowledging the responsibility for addressing certain issues as they relate to her role. She noted that a number of the recommendations are tangible while some of the issues are more systematic and broader than OCAD University. Furthermore, she spoke about OCAD University’s early pilot of the new OSAP and the province’s promotion for low-income families, which is anticipated to have a positive impact on a large portion of OCAD University’s student population. It was also reported that there has been a 93% increase in scholarship and bursary awards as a result of the Ignite Imagination campaign. Lastly, the Vice-President, Finance and Administration explained that the Board of Governors approved the move towards compound interest payments last year as a one-year pilot project, which will be reviewed at an upcoming Board meeting. It was stated that the shift was done to provide a more equitable approach to late fees and it was clarified that the university does not profit from it.

Discussion: Discussion ensued regarding ideas around expanding food services across campus as well as improving emergency aid and awareness of these and other services through Financial Aid such as financial literacy programs for both undergraduate and graduate students. Members were reminded that the Money Matters survey accounts for 10% of the student population and it was suggested that a broader survey be administered, including capturing more graduate students, to further inform this important issue.
8. **COU Academic Colleague Report**
   It was reported that the recent meeting, held on February 16 and 17, 2017, was informed by the highly skilled workforce report as well as ongoing developments with the SMA. Furthermore, it was highlighted that students across the sector are struggling to articulate the skills learned at university that are expected by employers. From this finding, members were informed of the in depth conversation regarding the role of co-curricular transcripts as a different way to report skills and competency. The selected readings that will inform this discussion were recommended to be shared with senators. Lastly, members were made aware that the COU Academic Colleagues will present on the topic of Indigenous learning to Executive Heads at the next meeting on April 5 and 6, 2017.

   **Discussion:** Members expressed interest in a more fulsome conversation on this topic recognizing that as educators, there needs to be responsibility for the outcome of the education provided to students. In relation, it was suggested that a working group be created consisting of different program areas to inform the Centre for Emerging Artists and Designers on skills that would be needed within each discipline. Members were reminded, however, that experiential learning is one of the priorities of the Academic Plan and faculties are already working to develop unit plans and striking associated cross-faculty working groups in this area. An experiential learning page on OCAD University’s website was also suggested to be created in order to list the available opportunities for students in one place. In addition, building a stronger alumni network before students leave the university was stressed in order to capitalize on what tends to be the best individuals to offer experiential learning opportunities and who also act as models of the post-graduate experience.

9. **Other Business**
   The university’s admission process was raised for discussion regarding a shift to digital submissions in place of in person interviews. It was clarified that digital submissions have been provided as a preference to students for several years with only one Faculty moving to a digital submissions only process this year. Debate ensued regarding the significance of digital submissions in terms of exercising neutrality versus in person interviews in terms of valuable engagement with potential students. Hybrid solutions were discussed as well as other methods for engagement with potential students through various recruitment activities. The Chair recommended that this discussion be brought to the Senate Executive Committee.

10. **Adjournment**
    The meeting adjourned at 5:38pm.