OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE
MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2018; 3:15 – 6:15PM

Present: b.h. Yael (Chair); Gillian Siddall (Vice-Chair); Laurelle Jno Baptiste; Catherine Black; Annette Blum; Nicole Collins; Maya Desai; Bonnie Devine; Sara Diamond; Beverly Dywan; Susan Ferguson; Deanne Fisher; Nick Goso; Roderick Grant; Kate Hartman; Bruce Hinds; Richard Hunt; Akash Inbakumar; Colette Laliberté; Caroline Langili; Francis LeBouthillier; Bogdan Luca; Robert Luke; Ashok Mathur; Wrik Mead; Eric Nay; Lewis Nicholson; Maria Belén Ordóñez; Elisabeth Paradis; Jill Patrick; Charles Reeve; Robert Ridgway; Kate Sellen; Amy Swartz (via teleconference); Evan Tapper; Marie-Josée Therrien; Dori Tunstall; Ann Urban; Natalie Waldburger

Regrets: Lillian Allen; Salah Bachir; Heather Coffey; Judith Doyle; Claude Galipeau; Martha Ladly; Min Sook Lee; Laura Millard; Michelle Miller; Gayle Nicoll; James Olley; Nick Puckett; Ryan Rice; Vladimir Spicanovic; Alia Weston; Sylvia Whitton

Guests: Alan Simms, Vice-President, Finance and Administration (Item 10); Joanne Frisch, Acting Director, Campus Planning and Projects (Item 10); Nick Hooper; Facilities and Studio Services; Stephen Teeple, Primary Principal, Teeple Architects (Item 10); Linda Carreiro, Associate Dean, Faculty of Art (Item 11)

Minutes: Natalie Nanton, Interim Secretary to Senate

1. Welcome and Updates from the Chair
The Chair opened the meeting with an Indigenous land acknowledgement. She spoke of the recent Grassy Narrows panel organized by the David Suzuki Foundation and relayed the call for basic human rights, access, safety and shelter before talks about decolonization can begin. The Chair also recalled resonating discussions at the recent Indigenous Reading group around issues of land and material resources.

Senators were informed of the opening of the nomination period for faculty and student positions on Senate. Members were also reminded that the last scheduled meeting of Senate is on May 23, 2018 and encouraged the efforts of the Deans to receive academic administrative appointments by that meeting.

2. Senate Agenda for April 30, 2018
The Chair reviewed the agenda and called for a motion for decision, noting that Item 6 would be postponed to the next meeting.

Motion to approve the Senate agenda for April 30, 2018 as amended, moved by Sara Diamond, seconded Jill Patrick.

Motion carried, with 37 in favour 0 opposed and 1 abstention.
3. **Minutes from the March 26, 2018 Meeting of Senate**
   The Chair presented the minutes and called for a motion for decision.
   Motion to approve the Senate minutes from March 26, 2018, moved by Bogdan Luca, seconded by Dori Tunstall.
   Motion carried, with 35 in favour, 0 opposed and 3 abstentions.

4. **Consent Agenda Information Items**
   The Chair reviewed the consent agenda items and called for a motion to accept the following: 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) Senate and Senate Committee Dates for 2018/19.
   Motion to accept the consent agenda information items, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded by Bonnie Devine.
   A correction was made regarding Graduate Exhibition dates reported within the President’s report. An update was also provided regarding the IQAP external review of the Drawing and Painting program.
   Motion carried with 36 in favour, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions.

5. **Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor**
   The President highlighted the upcoming 103rd Graduate Exhibition and Chancellor Salah Bachir’s reception at the event. President Diamond also noted the visit to OCAD University of the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs for Canada. Next, the President shared relevant items discussed at the recent Universities Canada’s meeting with Presidents that occurs twice a year. Items included Universities Canada’s newly developed position on diversity and equity, a discussion about academic freedom and freedom of speech, and a panel on truth and reconciliation, which discussed questions like what it means for an institution to decolonize.

6. **COU Academic Colleague Report**
   This item was postponed until the next meeting.

7. **Report from the Provost’s Taskforce on Indigenous Learning**
   From the April 16, 2018 meeting of the taskforce it was reported that a consensus was reached on the taskforce’s terms of reference and a preliminary discussion occurred on developing an Indigenous Senate Committee for which a working group will be established to draft its terms of reference and membership. Reports were received from each of the four working groups of the taskforce on 1) Student Health and Wellness/Support Services (including housing); 2) Composition and Role of AEC within University Governance; 3) Professional Development to Support Integration of Indigenous Ways of Knowing at the University; and 4) Recruitment and Retention. The reports from these working groups will be used to establish recommendations of the taskforce that will be presented to Senate. Lastly, the Senate was informed that two students resigned from the taskforce over frustration regarding university processes and protocols on a number of issues and the work of the taskforce in general.
8. Senate Committee Reports

8.1. Senate Executive Committee

IN-CAMERA SESSION

Commenced at 3:44 p.m.

Motion to move to an in-camera session of Senate, moved by Bogdan Luca, seconded by Ann Urban.

Motion carried, unanimously.

The following item was discussed in camera:

8.1.1. Academic Administrative Appointments

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE

Resumed at 4:02 p.m.

8.1.2. New Continuing Studies Courses

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

Motion to approve the new continuing studies courses, moved by Ann Urban, seconded by Akash Inbakumar.

Evan Tapper reviewed the following three courses for summer 2018 implementation in further detail: CSAP 1N32 Ecommerce Photography Workshop; CSPD 1N17 Drawing Improvisation Recharge Your Creative Impulse; CSSJ 1N05 The Room in the Elephant: Jewish Iconography Studio.

Motion carried, unanimously.

8.2. Senate Academic Policy and Planning Committee (SAPPC)

8.2.1. Information Report from SAPPC

The Chair referred members to the information report, which noted a presentation of the academic plan tracking website and preliminary review of the policy on Integrity in Research and Scholarship.

8.3. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)

8.3.1. Revisions to Policy 1021: Grading

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

Motion to approve revisions to policy 1021: Grading, moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded by Ann Urban.

The Committee Chair explained the main revisions to the policy, namely providing Associate Deans greater authority to reconsider and amend faculty/instructors grades and amending the policy to further clarify course and grading expectations for students, specifically as they relate to AODA standards, interim grades and the saving of student draft and final work. Members were informed of the long review process for this policy including larger discussions around grade distribution and the purpose of a student transcript.

Discussion: Section 9b of the policy was debated in terms of how inconsistent grades would be interpreted within smaller classes, notions of grade distribution
and the experience an Associate Deans brings in reviewing grades. Overall, the Committee Chair emphasized the policy allows for grade anomalies to be discussed rather than automatic grade adjustments. Members were also reminded that grades are connected to the assessment of course learning outcomes. The need to support and possibly mentor sessional instructors and new faculty in general was raised so they gain a sense of grading criteria and expectations at the institution. Discussion ensued regarding the perception of grading biases towards students in small programs with the same instructor, as well as the perception that OCAD University grades are at a tougher level than other institutions. Interest was further expressed in seeing comparative data with other institutions in this regard. Interest in the university moving towards a pass/fail grade system was also mentioned.

Section 3 of the policy regarding having no assignment or exam count for more than 40% of the final grade was discussed as problematic for some studio courses, particularly fourth year thesis where faculty feel constrained to provide grades at frequent times in these year-long courses. Instead providing periodic critical feedback was suggested to be more productive and it was requested this section be reconsidered. The Committee Chair spoke of being engaged in ongoing discussions in terms of philosophy on pedagogy and grading, acknowledging that the comments will be taken under advisement for the next iteration of the policy. It was reiterated however that at present the committee wishes to primarily address the role of the Associate Dean in the policy.

The role of the Associate Dean in section 9c was raised with concern in terms of protecting the agency and rights of a faculty member and potentially violating the Memorandum of Agreement in terms of freedom in teaching. In addition, it was expressed that faculty would not be able to comply with section 1 of the policy regarding AODA requirements since course assignments are often not provided in a timely manner. Discussion ensued regarding past experience of faculty in reviewing and approving grading collectively by faculty/department committees to maintain normative standards. The Chair called the question.

Motion defeated with 4 in favour, 20 opposed, 10 abstentions.
The policy will return to the SASC for further review.

8.3.2. Information Report from SASC
The Chair referred members to the information report, which outlined the committee’s discussion on the parameters surrounding course withdrawals and recommendations from the Learning Management System Advisory Committee which were incorporated in the proposed revisions to policy 1021: Grading. No questions were raised.

8.4. Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)
8.4.1. Information Report from SUSC
The Chair referred members to the information report, which noted the committee’s review, for feedback purposes, of the new program proposal brief for a Dual Credential BDes program in Digital Entertainment (OCAD U) and Diploma
in Video Design and Production (George Brown College); the committee’s approval of the Technology-Enabled Learning Strategy and reports from the committee’s working groups on curriculum review timelines and on priority registration. No questions were raised.

8.5. Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

8.5.1. Minor Program Modification for Criticism and Curatorial Practice

The Chair referred members to the memo and called for a motion for decision. **Motion to approve the revision to the CCP minimum grade entrance average**, moved by Ashok Mathur, seconded by Sara Diamond. The change would reduce the average from A- to B+ to confirm with sector norms of B+, as reflected in an environmental scan of similar programs in Ontario. Motion carried, unanimously.

8.5.2. Information Report from SGSC

Members were referred to the information report, which listed the approved graduate policies that will now be reviewed by the SASC. In addition, it was reported that the SGSC had a preliminary review of the Technology Enabled Learning Strategy, which will return to the committee for approval in May. No questions were raised.

8.6. Senate Quality Assurance Committee (SQAC)

8.6.1. Information Report from SQAC

The Chair referred members to the information report, which reported the committee’s approval of external reviewer nominations for the following new proposed programs: Dual Credential BDes in Digital Entertainment (OCAD U) and Diploma in Video Design and Production (George Brown College) and BFA in Experimental Animation. The committee also reviewed a revised template for IQAP Final Assessment Reports and Implementation Plans. No questions were raised.

9. Academic Plan Implementation: Presentations from the Faculties and Graduate Studies on Interdisciplinary

The Vice-President, Academic and Provost reviewed Principle 5: Interdisciplinarity and Priority 5: Disciplinary Porosity and Cross-Fertilization of the Academic Plan to set the context for the Deans’ presentations of implementation strategies in these areas.

From the Faculty of Art, Associate Dean Linda Carreiro discussed opening pathways so students can navigate between degrees such as through the Drawing Across the Discipline course, the establishment of a “home room” to develop student community and the promotion of cross-faculty dialogue through new program developments like the BFA in Art and Social Change, the BFA in Experimental Animation and a new minor being developed in Art and Public Spaces. The commitment of the Faculty of Art program to interdisciplinary learning and removing barriers such as access to registration and prerequisites was highlighted. In addition, it was reported that the number of cross-appointed faculty to
strengthen the link between program areas across the three faculties has increased.

From the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Dean Caroline Langill emphasized the initiative of opening up prerequisites similar to the Faculty of Art. She discussed how program curriculum is becoming more open, such as the Digital Futures program where more electives have been added. The following new interdisciplinary minors were also highlighted: Sustainability minor, Games and Play minor; and Gender and Sexuality minor. The intention to work with the faculties of art and design to share courses for programs like Digital Futures and Experimental Animation was reported as was the intent to expand STEM offerings particularly in art and design. Lastly, supporting and enhancing programs that specialize in science computation and math such as the Life Studies specialization were also highlighted.

From the Faculty of Design, Dean Dori Tunstall highlighted the use of specializations to build interdisciplinary spaces within curriculum, allowing students to take courses across faculties. One of the strategies discussed was creating student-driven interdisciplinary courses across the faculty facilitated by more industry engagements. Improvements in scheduling flexibility to allow for more interdisciplinary opportunities and refining necessary skills required of design students in the field were noted as areas being addressed.

From Graduate Studies, Dean Ashok Mathur spoke of the multiple avenues and approaches of each of the graduate programs including creating greater flexibility and opening up electives to enhance breadth of education, shared program curriculum between graduate and undergraduate programs, team teaching and collaboration on shared spaces and resources. An example was provided in the growth of the Interdisciplinary Master’s in Art, Media and Design in terms of shared space with the Faculty of Art and it was reported that similar plans would occur with other programs like Digital Futures and Inclusive Design. Lastly, the Indigenous Innovation Fund was highlighted as a way to facilitate new faculty and present faculty to think about graduate education in relation to Indigenous practices in alternative ways in terms of interdisciplinarity.

10. CCC Context and Update
Joanne Frisch, Acting Director, Campus Planning and Projects provided an overview of the Creative City Campus (CCC) projects including those in progress to open in Fall 2018 (George Reid House, Rosalie Sharp Pavilion) and developments in the fabrication studios to be phased in through the summer. Members were reminded of the north side site at 100 McCaul and the collaboration space between the Art Gallery of Ontario and OCAD University, construction of which will begin in Winter 2019.

Discussion: Concern was raised regarding the removal of a third year sculpture studio. In response, the consultation process for the George Reid renovations was highlighted to include Faculty of Art Chairs. Further, it was pointed out that the third year sculpture studio is the only designated sculpture studio whereas some programs did not have any designated thesis space. Overall, it was explained that the institution is moving away from having designated space assigned for each student and instead, within the context of interdisciplinary spaces, creating facilities that support the kind of work students are doing rather than specific spaces dedicated to one area.
11. Integration of Interdisciplinary Knowledge: Methods and Requirements for Delivery
The Chair set the context for continuation of the special topic discussion and spoke of issues of circular delivery, methods, pedagogical approaches and their implication for space use in the context of interdisciplinarity. Members were divided into three breakout groups: Indigenous Knowledge and Decolonization; STEM; and Humanities, Social Sciences and the Role of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Within these groups, members were asked to consider 1) What methods are you using or plan to use to encourage interdisciplinary education? and 2) What do you imagine interdisciplinary spaces to look like? At the end of the session, Alan Simms, Vice-President, Finance and Administration; Joanne Frisch, Acting Director, Campus Planning and Projects; Nick Hooper, Director, Facilities and Studio Services; and Stephen Teeple of Teeple Architects, were invited to comment on the ideas expressed in the various groups. It was noted that the ideas aligned with the feedback heard from both students and faculty in previous CCC engagement sessions provided more in depth understanding that will inform initial thinking regarding plans. The challenge of creating interdisciplinary collaborative space was highlighted and key questions recognized such as what bring disciplines together and what draws people into a space.

12. Other Business
With regard to studio space, the request for open access to studios in the summer was raised. The Vice-President, Finance and Administration stated that in working with the Vice-Provost, Students and International, a pilot project is underway to give access to some students over the summer as a soft launch. A separate issue was raised regard the need to have clear policy and protocol for handling student complaints. It was stated that the Associate Deans have already begun a conversation around this issue. Lastly, for information, members were informed of the initiative to have an Indigenous lecture series to provide deeper engagement to students and faculty on Indigenous pedagogy and research and that funding is being sought to realize this project.

13. Adjournment
Motion to adjourn, moved by Akash Inbakumar, seconded by Richard Hunt.
Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.