MINUTES OF OCAD UNIVERSITY’S SENATE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2014, 3:00 – 6:00pm
ROOM 8322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST

Present: Keith Rushton (Chair); Lillian Allen; Christine Bovis-Cnossen; Nicole Collins; Sara Diamond; Rosemary Donegan (via teleconference); Jim Drobnick; Paul Epp; Andrea Fatona; Richard Fung; Kate Hartman; Bruce Hinds; Richard Hunt; Anne Jackson; Simone Jones; Selmin Kara; Simran Kaur; Sandy Kedey; Caroline Langill; Laura Millard; Alexander Manu; Gerald McMaster; Lewis Nicholson; Gayle Nicoll; Elisabeth Paradis; Kiri Piotrowski; Jill Patrick; Steve Quinlan; Charles Reeve; Helmut Reichenbächer (via teleconference); Lenore Richards; Ryan Rice; Margaux Smith; Vladimir Spicanovic; Peter Sramek; Virginia Trieloff; Dot Tuer; Natalie Waldburger; bh Yael (non-voting) Carole Beaulieu; Ian Clarke; Deanne Fisher; Anda Kubis; Colette Laliberté; Claudette Lauzon; Jana Macalik; Michael Prokopow; Colleen Reid; Evan Tapper

Regrets: Tom Barker; Keith Bresnahan; Frederick Burbach; Catherine Delaney; Judith Doyle; Michelle Forsyth; Simon Glass; Archie Graham; Tony Kerr; Anda Kubis; Nick Puckett; Alan Simms; Michèle White

Secretary: Natalie Nanton

1. Welcome and Updates from the Chair – Keith Rushton

The Chair welcomed two new student Senators: Simran Kaur and Kiri Piotrowski. He also informed members that Alan Simms, Vice-President, Finance and Administration will return at a future meeting to answer further questions and provide ongoing capital planning updates. Lastly, he reported that the Senate Efficiency and Bylaws Working Group completed the revisions and the revised bylaws will move forward to the Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee for review.

2. Approval of the Agenda

A change in the order of the agenda items was made with the business from Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (Item #6.1), Senate Academic Standards Committee (Item #6.2) and Senate Graduate Studies Committee (Item #6.3) to be addressed immediately following the approval of the consent agenda (Item #3). The Chair called for a motion for approval.

Motion to approve, as amended, moved by Sandy Kedey, seconded by Sara Diamond.
Motion carried, unanimously.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda Information Items

The Chair presented the consent agenda items and called for a motion for approval.

Motion to approve, moved by Simone Jones, seconded by Elisabeth Paradis.
Motion carried, unanimously.
Note: As previously stated in item #2 above, items #6.1, #6.2 and #6.3 were moved up in the agenda and will be followed by the remainder of business starting at item #4.

6. Senate Committees

6.1. Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC)

6.1.1. For Approval:

6.1.1.1. Hansa Language Centre

The Committee Chair presented the Memorandum of Agreement between OCAD University and Hansa Language Centre. She explained that the pathway is for students already studying the English language in Canada and while it would not guarantee their entry into the University, it would waive some of the normal English language proficiency requirements. The Senate Chair called for a motion for approval.

Motion to approve, moved by Christine Bovis-Cnossen, seconded by Simone Jones.
Motion carried, unanimously.

6.2. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)

6.2.1. For Approval:

6.2.1.1. Fall 2014 List of Graduands

The Committee Chair invited the University Registrar to present the list of graduands. The Senate Chair called for a motion for approval.

Motion to approve, moved by Christine Bovis-Cnossen, seconded by Gayle Nicoll.

The University Registrar requested that the motion be amended to add two previously pending students to the Master of Design list, resulting in a total of 12 Master of Design graduands. It was stated that the Senate Executive Committee would take a decision on any further pending students.

Motion carried, as amended, unanimously.

6.3. Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)

6.3.1. For Approval:

6.3.1.1. IQAP New Program Proposal: MDes in Design for Health

The Committee Chair reported that the committee reviewed and discussed the proposal and are now recommending it to Senate for approval. The Senate Chair called for a motion for approval.

Motion to approve, moved by Helmut Reichenbächer, seconded by Sara Diamond.

The Committee Chair invited Gayle Nicoll, Dean, Faculty of Design to speak further to the program. Gayle informed members that Design for Health is the first new Master’s program to go through the IQAP process. She reviewed the next steps in the approval process, explaining that it will be submitted to the Audit,
Finance and Risk Committee and then to the Board of Governors before being submitted to the Quality Council and a parallel process to MTCU to request funding for the program. Gayle informed members of the uniqueness of the program in North America and spoke about the recommendations received from the external review in June 2014. Advertising for the program and a recruitment cycle was stated to begin next fall with the program offered in September 2016.

**Discussion:**
President Diamond congratulated Gayle and her team and commented on the broad level of consultation, involvement of an advisory committee, the effective responses to the external reviewers, and overall the high interest for the program. She also highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the program for which future connections and interactions could be made with existing graduate programs.

**Motion carried**, with 37 in favour, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

4. **Information Updates from the President**
President Diamond spoke about the recent Universities Art Association of Canada (UAAC) conference and congratulated Professor Charles Reeve and Dean Caroline Langill for organizing the event. She then highlighted some important items in her report concerning the Association of Independent Colleges of Art and Design (AICAD) meeting including the issue of sexual harassment and violence on American campuses and the leveraging of legislation to enable post-secondary institutions to play a role in these situations. In relation, she suggested that OCAD University’s policies and practices could be refreshed in comparison. Lastly, President Diamond reminded members of the Board of Governors retreat on Saturday, November 1, 2014 and the Board’s extended invitation to all Senators. She explained that it is an opportunity to talk about the roles of the Board and Senate and begin to clarify jurisdictions through a facilitated and moderated conversation. She noted that legal counsel will provide the framework and expressed that the session will be the start of a continuing dialogue between the Board and Senate. President Diamond then invited questions.

**Discussion:**
Concern was raised over the bicameral discussion session to occur at the Board’s retreat. Members cited the late notice in the invitation and the lack of Senate input in the agenda. President Diamond acknowledged the late invitation but pointed out that the agenda is neutral and was constructed to remain open-ended. It was further recommended by Senators that the Chairs of both governing bodies jointly create an agenda for future events of this nature. President Diamond then informed members that a meeting of the joint Senate/Board of Governors’ Liaison Committee will occur on November 27, 2014 once the new Board executive is in place.

Concern was also expressed about the perception created if only a few Senators were to attend the November 1st event. It was further suggested that those attending act as delegates of Senate and report back accordingly, while others supported a later meeting of the Senate and Board to ensure fulsome discussion. Discussion ensued regarding the idea of a full meeting of Senate and the Board. Meetings were suggested to occur at the beginning and end of term to discuss common issues, which would in turn help shape the functioning of the joint Senate/Board of Governors’ Liaison Committee.
Caution was expressed with regards to lawyers interpreting the Act without proper Senate representation. President Diamond emphasized that there would be no decision making at the discussion session and that it would not have any impact on legal practices of the institution. Instead, she highlighted that the discussion will start a conversation of what is working and what can be improved.

5. **Report from the COU Academic Colleague**
   COU Academic Colleague, Michael Prokopow spoke further to his report, highlighting the allocation of graduate seats, the perception of job potential for graduates coming out of certain degree programs and the Ministry’s willingness to shift funding around annual cycles. He further stated that the Ministry is aware of the rush created to fill seats near the deadline in order to not lose funding and is open to a conversation with the COU to mitigate this problem.

6. **Senate Committees**
   6.4. Senate Continuing Studies Committee (SCSC) – Charles Reeve
   6.4.1. For Information
   6.4.1.1. **New Approved Course**
   The Committee Chair presented the new approved course CSLH 1N18: Drones, Surveillance and Contemporary Art and invited questions on course content to be directed to Evan Tapper, Manager, Office of Continuing Studies.

6.5. **Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the Action Plan – Keith Rushton**
   6.5.1. For Information
   6.5.1.1. **Progress Report**
   The Chair provided an overview of the report. He noted that two meetings had already occurred and that members are comparing the President’s Action Plan with SACHAAS SOAR Workshop report. He further explained that members have assigned tasks to look at various items to address including relationships between the Senate and the Board. Lastly, the Chair noted that the committee will provide an update of when the work of the committee will be completed.

7. **Presentation on the National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE) – Deanne Fisher**
   Deanne Fisher, Associate Vice-President, Students introduced the 2014 NSSE report explaining that it is administered to first and final year students every three years. She informed members that the results were obtained in August and much of the data is still being examined. Deanne reviewed the survey methodology and outlined the following NSSE engagement indicators: Academic Challenge; Learning with Peers; Experiences with Faculty; and Campus Environment. The following NSSE high-impact practices were also presented and expanded on: Learning Community; Service Learning; Research with a Faculty Member; Internship or Field Experience; Study Abroad; Culminating Senior Experience. Lastly, the data concerning Obstacles to Academic Progress was discussed in detail. Questions were then invited.

**Discussion:**
Data concerning academic advising, course availability and scheduling was questioned in relation to changes in administrative structure in the Faculty of Art. Further, it was requested that the data be separated into Faculty areas. Budgetary constraints resulting in courses being put into rotation was also mentioned as having an impact on student pathways. Teaching styles and critiques were also discussed.
In examining the survey data in response to student difficulties associated with a disability or chronic health condition, Deanne noted the decline in fourth year, explaining that it may account for students either being able to manage their condition or those students are no longer at the University. She highlighted this example as a challenge in interpreting the data. Further discussion ensued regarding possible ethical ways to track these types of students through the survey for better data analysis.

The issue of space and the high number of evening classes was raised as a possible correlation to the availability of courses and scheduling. It was also suggested to obtain the student perception regarding space. A question in the survey on academic performance was discussed in more detail in terms of how it was interpreted by students and that the data may be misleading from those students with language challenges. Academic advising was also discussed with regard to the quality of information from the Student Advising Centre compared to the Faculty offices. The lack of a university residence was also raised as a major issue that may be impacting some of the results. President Diamond spoke about various strategies to obtain residences, and noted that the Vice-President, Finance and Administration is aware of the issue. In addition, it was noted that the same questions being raised at the table have been raised before through the Student Union.

Deanne informed members that her Senate presentation is just an overview and that she will have a more focused presentation in the future as well as an action plan. It was recommended that specific department challenges such as with space, scheduling, and finance with regard to building a sense of community be investigated further. President Diamond also pointed out that scheduling for studio learning needs to be analyzed further with regard to the demographics of students and their access to studios in the evening. Course and instructor feedback surveys administered through the Faculty and Curriculum Development Centre were also highlighted as providing important information.

Questions around diversity were raised with respect to the relationship between a student’s experience and diverse faculty engagement, and how it impacts curriculum and career outlook, such as how indigenous students are empowered by indigenous faculty. Deanne noted that she could investigate this further. A workshop at the recent University Art Association Conference (UAAC) was also referenced with respect to discussions around diversity in terms of access to faculty, curriculum, space and resources for the development of student groups. It was suggested that there be more direct questions on student engagement around this topic.

8. **Other Business**

Caroline Langill, Dean, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies, read a statement to Senate regarding the Honours BA program in Critical and Visual Culture, in response to the recent Globe and Mail article and how it reported a negative characterization of the program. She spoke at length about the program’s approval and its significant and positive transformation of the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

9. **Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn**, moved by Lenore Richards, seconded by Simone Jones.

**Motion carried**, unanimously at 4:59 pm.