Roles and Responsibilities of the Senate and Senators

Senate:

The Senate is responsible for the establishment and regulation of academic policy, standards and procedures at OCAD University. In particular, the Senate is in charge of all matters pertaining to OCAD University’s academic resources, academic programming, academic strategic planning, student affairs and any other such matters relating to academic issues. Membership on the Senate consists predominantly of senior faculty but also includes student representation and members of the academic administration.

Why Be A Student Senator?:

- Have your input on academic planning matters at the University
- Represent your student peers to bring that perspective to the Senate table
- Gain experience in a leadership and governance role
- Build bridges between faculty and students
- Make connections with faculty and the broader university community

Senate’s Responsibilities Include:

- Determining and regulating educational policy
- Making recommendations to change or terminate programs and courses of study, schools, faculties, departments
- Determining the standards of admission to the University and the qualifications for degrees, diplomas and certificates
- Determining curricula for all programs and courses of study

Senate Activities Include:

- Approval of articulation agreements between colleges and OCAD University
- Approval all new or revised academic policies
- Conferral of honorary degrees and the title of Professor Emeritus/Emerita
- Approval new programs, specializations and minors
- Approval of undergraduate and graduate grades and graduands
- Approval of the University’s Academic Plan
- Discussion of pertinent educational issues affecting OCAD University, the student experience and art and design education in general
Senators are expected to:

- Attend and be well-prepared for Senate and Senate Committee meetings and vote on resolutions that come before the Senate

- Engage in discussion with thoughtful consideration while exercising civility, collegiality and decorum

- Maintain confidentiality of all confidential information as designated by in camera sessions of Senate and meetings of Senate Committees, disclosing only when appropriate

- Communicate with your Faculty or constituency about pertinent issues raised at Senate

- Act in the best interests of the University, trying to foresee probable consequences of each proposed course of action

- Be knowledgeable of the OCAD University Senate By-Laws including the jurisdiction and function of the Senate

- Understand and respect the distinction between the role and responsibilities of the Senate and the Board of Governors

- Participate in Senate Committees and working groups as opportunities arise and scheduling permits