



**OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2018; 3:15PM – 6:15PM**

**Present:** b.h. Yael (Chair); Caroline Langill (Vice-Chair); Debbie Adams; Jason Baerg; Ian Clarke; Heather Coffey; Sara Diamond; Panya Clark Espinal; Beverly Dywan; Susan Ferguson; Deanne Fisher; Simon Glass; Kate Hartman; Bruce Hinds; Francis Ho; Kathy Kiloh; Colette Laliberté; June Lawrason; Francis LeBouthillier; JJ Lee; Min Sook Lee; Chris Leithead; Robert Luke; Michele Mastroeni; Ashok Mathur; Michelle Miller; Eric Nay; Gaye Nicoll; Elisabeth Paradis; Jill Patrick; Nick Puckett; Charles Reeve; Lauchie Reid; Angelika Seeschaaf-Veres; Ilene Sova; Vladimir Spicanovic; Evan Tapper; Dori Tunstall; Alia Weston; Sylvia Whitton; Ryan Whyte

**Regrets:** Lillian Allen; Salah Bachir; Annette Blum; Maya Desai; Bonnie Devine; Judith Doyle; Richard Fung; Claude Galipeau; Roderick Grant; Nick Goso; Martha Ladly; Wrik Mead; Kate Sellen

**Minutes:** Natalie Nanton, Secretary to Senate

**Call to order: 3:22 p.m.**

**1. Welcome and Updates from the Chair**

The Chair welcomed Caroline Langill, Interim Vice-President, Academic and Provost to the Senate in her role as Senate Vice-Chair and acknowledged new and returning senators, guests and the Senate secretariat. Furthermore, the Chair informed the members of the recent Senate elections, resulting in the election of faculty members Kathy Kiloh and Beverly Dywan and student members Francis Ho, Chris Leithead and Panya Clark Espinal. Members were made aware of remaining vacancies at both the faculty and student levels. The following new senators, elected from the spring general elections were also welcomed: JJ. Lee; Richard Fung; Jason Baerg; Debbie Adams; Kate Sellen; Lauchie Reid; June Lawrason; Ilene Sova; Angelika Seeschaaf Veres; Ryan Whyte; and Michele Mastroeni.

The Chair opened the meeting with an Indigenous land acknowledgement and spoke of the Academic Plan principle of decolonization and the number of related initiatives that address changes for transformation including curriculum. She also referenced student responses to readings from her recent Contemporary Issues class concerning the acknowledgment of colonialism, racism and reconciliation. In addition, the Chair spoke about the recommendations for the Provost's Taskforce on Indigenous Learning, which will formally come forward to the Senate for information in October.

Members were then encouraged to think about future Senate leadership, as it is b.h. Yael's last year as Chair of Senate. The Senate was also made aware of the continuation of the

Senate Chair reports to address academic and administrative challenges. The importance of the Joint Senate-Board of Governors' Liaison Committee was also highlighted and senators were encouraged to bring forward agenda items in advance of those meetings. The Senate membership was then reminded of the use of Bourinot's rules of order in order to facilitate Senate meeting proceedings and the need to exercise collegiality during Senate meetings.

Lastly, members were reminded that all new and revised curriculum to be implemented in the 2019-2020 academic year should be completed in time for approval at the November 29, 2018 Senate meeting.

**2. Senate Agenda for September 24, 2018**

**Motion to approve** the Senate agenda for September 24, 2018, moved by Vladimir Spicanovic, seconded by Sylvia Whitton.

**Motion carried**, unanimously.

**3. Minutes from the May 23, 2018 Meeting of Senate**

**Motion to approve** the minutes from the May 23, 2018 meeting of Senate, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded Sara Diamond.

**Motion carried**, with 20 in favour, 0 opposed and 18 abstentions.

**4. Consent Agenda Information Items**

**Motion to accept** the consent agenda information items, moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded Alia Weston.

**Motion carried**, with 36 in favour, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions.

**5. Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor**

Following the topic of decolonization, President Diamond informed senators of Dr. Marie Wilson's talk as part of the President's Speakers Series on November 7, 2018. Dr. Wilson is an award-winning Indigenous Journalist and Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. President Diamond then focused on providing updates on the provincial government in terms of post-secondary education in the university sector and provided an overview of the current freedom of speech conversation.

President Diamond first spoke of the work of the OCAD University's Government Relations team in terms of understanding the strategy of all three levels of government, policy initiatives and building a different kind of advocacy with the new government. She provided her observations including perspectives and information gained from the Council of Ontario Universities, meetings with the deputy minister of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and in conversation with university's Board Chair. Furthermore, members were informed that the government is currently focused on delivering on election promises versus undertaking deep engagement with stakeholder groups. In addition, general efficiencies in delivery of services were described as a focus including how institutions may be more efficient through university collaborations, accountability and producing graduates that are job ready with skills to move directly into the labour market. President Diamond stated that commitments from the previous years in terms of the Strategic Mandate Agreement are still intact with funding. Funding for Indigenous students and learning however was stated to be under review. Members were also informed that there are no across the board cuts but

instead the government is doing an analysis by sector and therefore the university sector must be very involved in making a clear argument for its importance. Areas of government interest include detailed tracking of alumni success in the labour market, experiential learning, anecdotal evidence, cost saving efficiencies and partnerships. Members were also reminded that the new government has frozen executive compensation in the broader public sector and created a policy initiative around freedom of expression.

In response to a query about the future of OSAP, President Diamond stated that it remains unclear and there is no current direction on tuition but the new government promises accessibility to services and education. Discussion ensued regarding how the government interprets accountability in relation to alignment with greater cost efficiency. Student success was also discussed as an example of performance metrics the government is interested in. The Centre for Emerging Artists and Designers (CEAD) was referenced as recently keeping track of individual student success with the graduating class of 2018, in addition to the role of Alumni Affairs. The importance of aggregating student success stories was emphasized.

President Diamond referenced her information report to speak about the government's directive requiring colleges and universities to implement a "free speech policy" and report annually on their progress to the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO). She reported on the university's statement on Freedom on Expression, approved by the Board of Governors Executive Committee, which speaks to the universities strong policies that have already been adopted and frames the university's freedom of expression practices. Furthermore, the policies in place protect freedom of expression but also do not support inappropriate behaviours in the exercise of freedom of expression. Members were informed that the university's statement is currently undergoing legal advice to see if it needs to change in any way to become a policy and that other universities are also currently working with their existing policies.

An example of aggressive conservative free speech in post-secondary institutions in the United States and resulting repercussions for faculty was raised in relation to this discussion. In response, President Diamond highlighted the different context that American universities function within, as they are far less unionized than Canadian institutions. HEQCO's current position within the university and college sector and its relationship with the government was also discussed. President Diamond stated that while legislation has given HEQCO oversight ability with regard to the free speech policy directive, it is unknown how much agency they will have in the future.

## **6. 2018 Spring and Summer Term Grades**

The Chair referred members to the grade report, compiled by the University Registrar.

**Motion to approve** the 2018 Spring and Summer term grades, moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded by Dori Tunstall.

**Motion carried**, unanimously.

## **7. Senate Committee Reports**

### **7.1. Senate Executive Committee**

#### IN CAMERA SESSION

*Commenced 4:26 p.m.*

**Motion to move** to an *in camera* session of Senate, moved by Heather Coffey, seconded by Beverly Dywan.

**Motion carried**, unanimously.

The following items were discussed *in camera*:

**7.1.1. Recommendation for Faculty Representative(s) on Board of Governors**

Professor Charles Reeve was reappointed as faculty senator representative to the Board of Governors for an additional two-year term.

**7.1.2. Conferral of Emeritus Status**

The honorary designation of Professor Emeritus was approved to be conferred upon Professor Steve Quinlan from the Faculty of Design.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE

*Resumed at 4:36 p.m.*

**7.1.3. New Continuing Studies Course**

**Motion to approve** the new Continuing Studies course as presented, moved by Evan Tapper, seconded by Angelika Seeschaaf-Veres.

The following course CSSI N206: Intermediate Mould Making Studio: Digital Fabrication and Materials, was presented for approval. It was noted that the course is being offered in response to student demand and that it will be offered during the summer term so to not conflict with the use of studio space and equipment during the fall/winter term semesters.

**Motion carried**, unanimously.

**7.1.4. List of Special Discussion Topics**

The Chair referred to the list of Senate special discussion topics, which were assigned tentative dates. Members were invited to add additional topics to the list. Decolonization was recommended as an important topic for Senate discussion in the boarder context of indigeneity.

**7.2. Senate Academic Policy and Planning Committee**

**7.2.1. Information Report from SAPPCC**

The Chair referred members to the information report. The Committee Chair highlighted the task of the SAPPCC to track the implementation of the Academic Plan and noted that decolonization is a high priority for the committee. The Committee Chair also presented the slate of senate committee memberships, recommended by the Senate Annual Nominating Committee and noted existing student vacancies. Senators were asked to encourage student participation on those committees open to the general student body.

**7.3. Senate Academic Standards Committee**

**7.3.1. List of Fall 2018 Graduands**

The Chair referred members to the updated list of graduands circulated at the table.

**Motion to approve** the that 86 students be graduated effective September 24, 2018, moved by Dori Tunstall, seconded by Vladimir Spicanovic.  
**Motion carried**, unanimously.

### **7.3.2. Information Report from SASC**

The Chair referred members to the information report, which noted the review of policies 1016: Postgraduate Certificate Program and 2001: Special Students. No questions were raised.

## **7.4. Senate Quality Assurance Committee**

### **7.4.1. Revisions to the IQAP Policy**

The Chair referred members to the memo, which enclosed a summary of IQAP policy revisions and the revisions tracked within the IQAP policy document. The Committee Chair explained that the revisions were made in response to the Quality Council's feedback of the Senate-approved revisions submitted for policy re-ratification. The revisions were summarized as detail-oriented with some elements related to process. Changes to the policy that were highlighted include the clarification that the internal response document as part of the cyclical review process require a separate response from the Dean to ensure autonomy from the program review team. In addition, a process was outlined for approving new collaborative and joint programs and some of the degree definitions were clarified.

**Motion to approve** the revisions to the IQAP policy as presented, moved by Vladimir Spicanovic, seconded by Dori Tunstall.

It was pointed out that the language "core and non-core", stated to be removed from the document, still remained in certain sections of the policy and therefore should be deleted.

**Motion carried**, as amended, unanimously.

Members were also informed that the university is undergoing an institutional quality assurance audit by the Audit Committee of the Quality Council this winter, which will involve the engagement of faculty, academic leadership and senate committees. It was emphasized that the audit is focused on the institution's processes and policy rather than the content of its programs.

## **7.5. Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee**

### **7.5.1. Information Report from SUSC**

The Chair referred members to the information report, which noted a discussion of a proposal to revise approval timelines for curriculum and a preliminary discussion on the implementation of Academic Plan goals pertaining to the SUSC. No questions were raised.

## **7.6. Senate Graduate Studies Committee**

### **7.6.1. Information Report from SGSC**

The Chair referred members to the information report, which noted revisions to policy 6002: Graduate Faculty and preliminary discussion of upcoming curriculum changes and proposed changes to the name of the Office of Graduate Studies.

No questions were raised.

**8. Implementation Update: Presidential Taskforce on Underrepresentation of Racialized and Indigenous Faculty and Staff**

President Diamond provided an implementation updated through a PowerPoint presentation and reminded members of the taskforce's report, available on the OCAD University website. The update included a review of the objectives of the taskforce, its action plan and recommendations. President Diamond detailed the three parts of the implementation plan in terms of actions to be implemented immediately such as special program hiring and training for hiring committees; short term goals such as hiring an employment equity administrator, an Indigenous services administrator, and reviewing collective agreements; and actions to be implemented within ten years to ensure that faculty and staff complement is reflective of the student population. Lastly, she stated that the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation will be overseen by the Employment and Educational Equity Committee (EEEC).

Cultural competency training was raised as an opportunity that should continue to be made available including at the third and fourth levels to support the institutions principle of decolonization. In relation, members were informed of the upcoming anti-racism and anti-oppression training organized by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Sustainability Initiatives (ODESI). The training was highlighted as a way of continuing the conversation around decolonization and equipping individuals with the tools to understand and self-reflect on the colonized environment. With regard to transparency, information was requested on how Indigenous and racialized faculty are supported in the faculty grievance process through the OCAD Faculty Association (OCADFA) and ODESI. Members were made aware of an annual report currently being undertaken by ODESI on related themes arising at the university. Furthermore, the Chair stated that ODESI have been requested to present the report at Senate.

It was expressed that there needs to be acknowledgement that Indigenous needs and issues are very different from those of people of colour and therefore the institution should be careful and sensitive to how both groups are packaged together with regard to addressing inequities. Other opinions expressed cautioned that while these racialized communities' issues need to be articulated separately, there is also some confluence between the two groups and they should not be positioned to compete against each other.

**9. Other Business**

An update was requested on faculty hiring plans. The Vice-President, Academic and Provost first provided an update on the hiring committee for the Dean search in the Faculty of Art and then informed members of the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for the Deans to submit their faculty hiring plans for review. President Diamond also reported that she will be chairing the hiring committee for the Dean search in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Scholars at Risk, an international network of higher education institutions that work to protect academics in areas of the world where they are at risk, was raised for discussion.

The organization, which helps bring at risk scholars to safe locations was stated to be a topic of recent numerous discussions including at Massey College in Toronto, especially as the organization has started to focus on at risk graduate students. It was explained that students are more easily extricated by governments due to the visa process. The work of this organization was said to align with the OCAD University's priorities and as such it was proposed that the institution be involved. The Chair stated that she would investigate the appropriate area where this proposed involvement could be best addressed.

Lastly, members were reminded of the Indigenous and Decolonial Learning and Reading Group organized by faculty members Amish Morrell, Adam Tindale and Michelle Miller. The group meets on the last Thursday of every month from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in room 512, 113 McCaul. The group sets out to discuss contemporary Indigenous issues with the objective to increase cultural competency, Indigenous knowledge, and decolonial teaching initiatives, amongst other items. Members were made aware of this month's reading, available on the group's Canvas site.

#### **10. Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn**, moved by Heather Coffey, seconded by JJ Lee.

**Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.**

*[Originally signed]*

---

b.h. Yael, Senate Chair

*[Originally signed]*

---

Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary