

## OCAD University Senate Elections Fall 2018 Student Candidate Profiles

### Faculty of Design

#### **Francis Ho, Graphic Design, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

Francis Ho is a third year graphic design student who has become active within OCAD's community this past year. Through things such as the Peer Mentor program, participating in the Design Round table and becoming one of the team leaders at Chiaroscuro magazine she has shown leadership, problem solving, and communication skills that she can translate to being a contributing design representative of Senate.

#### **Marta Bielak, Advertising, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

Marta Bielak is a hardworking and outgoing 3rd year Advertising student looking to further her connection with the OCADU community. Whether it is with her faculty, classmates, or with staff at Alumni Relations, Marta is always looking to bridge the gap between student and professional practice. As senator, Marta will work to hone in on each of the unique talents of her fellow students as recognized leaders of creativity within Toronto.

### Faculty of Art

#### **Chris Leithead, Cross-Disciplinary Art: Life Studies, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

Chris Leithead is a mature student in the Life Studies at OCAD U. As someone with work experience in bureaucratic settings, and well as board membership outside of OCAD U, he offers the right kind of experience to represent the needs and concerns of fellow students to the Senate regarding academic affairs.

#### **Kais Padamshi, Drawing and Painting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

One of the first initiatives that brought me to my passion of advocating for better quality of education on behalf of students was producing a podcast "How To Survive The Art World" where three gallery directors that came to OCAD to deliver an informative seminar on navigating the Arts as an upcoming to professional artist. My name is Kais Padamshi and I am a Third Year Drawing and Painting Student. From a student perspective, on going conversation with my colleagues and through other inquiries, my main goal which is both a professional and personal shifts me to a role advocating for education that seeks to employ practical based teachings that help transition students to their desired career aspirations. It is also important to note the integration of anti-

oppressive and decolonization methods in both an educational and non educational context. This integration of anti oppressive and decolonization methods allows our students who come from diverse backgrounds to be able to fully access their own potential and that of their education. In a professional context, being the Academic Affairs Director, it is a necessary component to be an active member of the University's Senate Committee. To be able to advocate on behalf of OCADU Students and their educational experience and to effectively communicate all academic initiatives and policies that directly impact student's quality of education while maintaining the anti-oppressive and decolonization integrity. Being apart of the Senate committee will allow me to be able to achieve this goal of being able to liaise between Faculty and Students. Advocating on behalf of students but also gaining perspective and supporting Faculty initiatives that work in favor of enhancing the academic experience of students. To be part of this committee is to go in with empathy for both sides, the students and the faculty and how each collective's work and contribution helps to facilitate a stronger educational and community based environment.