MINUTES OF OCAD UNIVERSITY’S SENATE REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2015, 3:00 – 6:00pm
ROOM 8322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST

Present: Keith Rushton (Chair); Lillian Allen; Tom Barker; Keith Bresnahan; Sara Diamond; Paul Epp; Andrea Fatona; Michelle Forsyth (via teleconference); Richard Fung; Richard Hunt; Simone Jones; Simran Kaur; Sandy Kedey; Caroline Langill; Alexander Manu; Lewis Nicholson; Gayle Nicoll (via teleconference); Elisabeth Paradis; Kiri Piotrowski; Steve Quinlan; Charles Reeve; Ryan Rice; Lenore Richards; Margaux Smith; Peter Sramek; Virginia Trieloff; Dot Tuer; Michèle White; b.h. Yael

(non-voting) Carole Beaulieu; Ian Clarke; Deanne Fisher; Anda Kubis; Claudette Lauzon; Jeffrey Litwin; Jana Macalik; Michael Prokopow; Colleen Reid; Evan Tapper

Regrets: Christine Bovis-Cnossen; Frederick Burbach; Nicole Collins; Catherine Delaney; Judith Doyle; Rosemary Donegan; Jim Drobnick; Simon Glass; Archie Graham; Kate Hartman; Bruce Hinds; Johanna Householder; Anne Jackson; Selmin Kara; Laura Millard; Gerald McMaster; Jill Patrick; Nick Puckett; Helmut Reichenbächer; Alan Simms; Natalie Waldburger

Invited: Nick Hooper, Director, Studio Facilities (Item #8); Emily Rourke, Director of Campaign & Advocacy, OCAD Student Union (Item #8); Louis Toromoreno, Security & Emergency Services (Item #8)

Secretary: Natalie Nanton

1. Welcome and Updates from the Chair
   The Chair informed members that following the request from several Senators, the University management agreed to obtain a second legal opinion regarding the interpretation of the OCAD University Act (2002) pertaining to bicameral governance. In addition, he reported that the Senate Executive Committee approved the recommendation to retain the services of Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP, a law firm with expertise in university governance.

2. Approval of the Agenda
   The Chair reviewed the agenda and called for a motion for approval.
   Motion to approve, moved by Michèle White, seconded by Lillian Allen.
   Motion carried, unanimously.

3. Approval of the Consent Agenda Information Items and Minutes
   The Chair presented the minutes and called for a motion for approval.
   Motion to approve the January 26, 2015 minutes of Senate, moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded by Sandy Kedey.

   A question was also raised about how the recommendations resulting from IQAP cyclical program reviews are implemented. The Senate Secretary (and Coordinator, Academic Governance) explained
the role of the IQAP Final Assessment Reports, which respond to the external reviewer recommendations through an implementation plan. The institution’s goal to link program recommendations to the Strategic Plan was also identified. In addition, it was stated that following the reviews, yearly IQAP annual reports are also required to maintain accountability. **Motion carried**, with 24 in favour, 0 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

The Chair presented the consent agenda information reports from the President and the Vice-President, Academic and called for a motion for approval. **Motion to approve**, moved by Lewis Nicholson, seconded by Richard Fung. **Motion carried**, unanimously.

4. **Information Update from the President**
President Diamond briefly spoke about the importance of metrics at the University and proposed the creation of a quality framework focused on increasing a positive experience for students.

5. **Plan and Timeline for the Academic Plan**
In the Vice-President, Academic’s absence, the Chair referred members to the documentation included in the Senate package and members were invited to send their comments and questions to her. It was then requested that, due to its importance, the plan and timeline for the Academic Plan return to the March meeting of Senate for a more fulsome discussion. In the spirit of Board of Governors and Senate relations, it was also suggested that a Board representative be invited to attend the next meeting of Senate when the Academic Plan will be discussed.

6. **Development Presentation**
Jeffrey Litwin, Chief Campaign Officer and Vice-President, Development gave a presentation on the Ignite Imagination Campaign. He detailed how private funds would be raised, the progress of raised funds to date, how the funds would be used and plans for donor expansion. It was also reported that the development team achieved 50% of the private fundraising goal. Lastly, Jeffrey discussed how funds are used in relation to academic priorities, a list developed in consultation with the faculties and endorsed by the Vice-President, Academic and the President.

7. **Senate Committee Reports**
7.1. **Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC)**
7.1.1. **For Approval: Proposed Revisions to the Composition of Senate**
In the Committee Chair’s absence, the Senate Chair introduced the proposed revisions, endorsed by the Senate Efficiency and Bylaw Working Group and approved by the SAPPC. He then invited the Senate Secretary to detail the changes.

Members were reminded that the current composition of the membership was not in compliance with the OCAD University Act, as the Act does not differentiate between voting and non-voting members to arrive at the maximum allowed number of 60 Senate members. Changes outlined included the elimination of the ex-officio non-voting category, the creation of an appointed category and an additional graduate program director seat. It was also reported that an “In Attendance” list was created to formally invite certain individuals to participate at Senate but who are not considered part of the membership. The new composition was summarized to have 54 members in total with a 2:1 ratio of 36 faculty members to 18 other members (9 ex-officio Senators, 5 appointed Senators and 4 student Senators). Lastly, it was stated that the proposed composition had been confirmed by the
lawyers, Carters Professional Corporation, to be in compliance with the OCAD University Act. The Chair called for a motion for approval.

**Motion to approve**, moved by Simone Jones, seconded by Lillian Allen.

**Discussion**
It was clarified that Associate Deans are not considered within the Faculty Senator category as they are part of management. The total number of Senate members was questioned and it was explained that it allows room for growth while maintaining the required ratio. The Chair also spoke to the importance of having the new membership composition in place in order to proceed with the upcoming Senate elections. He added that the status of current members’ terms of office will be communicated before the next Senate meeting in order to allow time for succession planning. The Chair returned to the motion on the table.

**Motion carried**, unanimously.

**7.2. Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)**

**7.2.1. For Information: Ratified Curriculum Revisions from the Faculty of Art; Faculty of Design; and Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies**

The Committee Chair summarized that the curriculum revisions presented are largely to meet the requirements of Project Chroma. Discussion focused on the change in the pass grade for two English courses in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It was noted that having the higher pass grade of 60% caused confusion for students and it was adjusted to create consistency across the Faculty.

**7.3. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)**

**7.3.1. For Approval: Revisions to Policy 1025: Residency Requirements, Undergraduate**

The Chair invited the University Registrar to present on behalf of the Committee Chair and called for a motion for approval.

**Motion to approve**, moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded by Sara Diamond.

The Registrar noted that both policies had not yet been formally framed into a policy format. She also reported that the committee decided to retain the 50% minimum residency requirement. Although the final 2.5 credits must be completed in residence at the university, if a student is only lacking one course for program completion, they may request a letter of permission from their Dean to obtain it at another accredited university.

**Motion carried**, unanimously.

**7.3.2. For Approval: Revisions to Policy 1034: Admission Requirements, Undergraduate**

The Registrar presented the revised policy and the Chair called for a motion for approval.

**Motion to approve**, moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded by Simone Jones.

The main revision reported was a change in terminology from “mature student” to “non-traditional student” and a revision to its definition that lowers the age from 21 to 20 with the condition that the applicant has been out of the educational system for at least two years in order to be exempt from academic specific requirements. It was stated that students would still need to meet the English language requirements.

**Motion carried**, unanimously.
7.4. **For Discussion: Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the Action Plan**

The Chair reminded members that the ad hoc committee was struck by Senate in order to provide feedback to the President’s renewal plan or “Action Plan”. He thanked the members of the committee and commented on the honest discussions that occurred during the many committee meetings. He explained the committee’s process of reviewing the renewal plan in comparison to the SACCHAS SOAR report (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Results workshop report implemented by the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Administrative Structure in Fall 2013), the Strategic Mandate Agreement and the Strategic Plan. In addition to providing a summary document of their findings, the committee presented a diagram depicting four core pillars of trust, of which each pillar was highlighted under the following titles: improved morale; transparent leadership; inclusive academic planning; and strengthened resource base.

**Discussion:**

Discussion ensued regarding how committee observations in terms of day to day activities would be tracked. President Diamond responded that this had been discussed by the committee and reiterated that a framework could be created as internal metrics to ensure that actions are accomplished, with the student perspective as the main focus. She further commented that a task force can be created to work with the Board and Senate to set goals for internal metrics, to be reviewed annually. In addition, the data collected from IQAP cyclical program reviews was suggested as a resource for measuring the institution’s performance.

The Chair summarized that it has been recommended that the President strike a task force to oversee the implementation of findings and that the ad hoc committee be disbanded since Senate ad hoc committees are formed for a limited term and dissolve upon its presentation of its report. The Chair called for a motion for approval to disband the ad hoc committee.

**Motion to approve the disbanding of the Senate Ad Hoc Committee on the Action Plan,** moved by Elisabeth Paradis, seconded by Paul Epp.

**Motion carried,** unanimously.

President Diamond thanked the members of the committee and highlighted the deep, informative process and the productive level of honesty. She hoped that the calibre of discourse from this committee could be achieved at Senate.

8. **Presentation and Discussion on Work, Learning and Studio Space Priorities**

Undergraduate student Senators Simran Kaur, Margaux Smith, and Kiri Piotrowski, and Emily Rourke from the OCAD Student Union (OCADSU) gave a presentation on student priorities regarding space at the institution. Their presentation focused on more immediately feasible solutions regarding 24-hour access to 100 McCaul. They commented on their review of three years of student consultations and the need to create a shift in OCAD U culture with 24-hour access being the first step. In addition, they voiced the need to bridge the barrier between students and the current operational infrastructure to improve academic success.

It was recognized that the two-week trial period for 24-hour access was not long enough to appropriately measure and therefore Phase 1 of their proposal requested the immediate implementation of 24-hour access to 100 McCaul, including the Sharp Centre and all studios that do not require a monitor. Phase 2 of the proposal recommended the extension of shop and studio hours based on need and extended hours during peak times at mid-terms and finals. It was noted that this
process had already started between studio management and OCADSU with the development of a survey and the creation of working groups to better understand the needs for each specific studio. Lastly, a future goal for Phase 2 of their proposal recommended 24-hour access to the Learning Zone. The student presenters concluded by stressing that these improvements would create a stronger relationship between students and administration and they proposed the following motion for approval:

Be it resolved, that the OCAD University Senate acknowledges that the current lack of studio access is a barrier to academic success for the students of OCAD University. The Senate further resolves to support immediate and strategic steps by implementing relief for students through creating 24 hour access for all unmonitored studios.

As a point of order, the Chair informed members of Senate Bylaw Article 8.8.8 stating that substantive motions shall normally be in writing with due notice to the Senate but motions for which due notice has not been given (Article 8.8.10) could be introduced in other business as a notice of motion or be considered if timeliness is warranted. President Diamond further pointed out that no motion is required since the University administration has already agreed to provide 24-hour access as of Monday, March 2, 2015 and has also been involved in conversations about studio access. She also suggested that it may be best to get full studio access before moving forward with access to some areas versus others. It was further acknowledged that overall, it is critical to recognize the need to prioritize better student access, which in part is related to the budget planning cycle.

Discussion:
Kiri Piotrowski spoke about the goal to evaluate the next six weeks of scheduled extended studio hours to understand where the needs are and hours of use. It was voiced that while the issue of space is complicated, the general Senate consensus supports the spirit of the motion presented, especially with the feeling that students do not have a sense of community due to lack of work space on campus.

On the topic of security needed for 24-hour access at 100 McCaul, Louis Toromoreno clarified that there are no budget-related concerns for security support. In response to discussion about the lack of storage space with increased access, it was reported that the Deans and Program Chairs are working on identifying solutions in different studio areas. Nick Hooper then provided an overview and rationale of the various extended hours that normally occur in the different shops and studios at the end of the semester, including more weekend access to certain labs that did not occur in the past. Furthermore, the Associate Vice-President, Students spoke about a working group that has been formed to start addressing some of the shop issues.

Senators echoed the need for a cultural shift on a larger scale beyond the studio issue in terms of available collective space. The additional list of space priorities provided in the Senate package was also addressed and it was noted that these more simple solutions could be achieved in working with the Associate Vice-President, Students and the Vice-President, Finance and Administration. Lastly, in reference to discussion about the need for extended library access at the University, access to different university libraries across the city such as York and Ryerson, were also identified. The library was also identified as one of the top priorities in the University’s funding campaign.

The Chair recommended that the Senate put forward a motion to endorse the information presented by the students.
Motion to endorse the student presentation on space priorities as they pertain to student work and learning, moved by Michèle White, seconded by Lillian Allen. 

Motion carried, unanimously.

9. Other Business

The Chair spoke of his initiative in organizing a meeting of Senate committee chairs to discuss important priorities that affect each committee and work to improve the chairing practices of meetings in general. He also suggested that each committee chair bring forward an annual report of committee accomplishments, which would help improve the efficiency of Senate. An annual timeline for Senate and committee business was also recommended.

The recent Globe and Mail newspaper article about OCAD University was raised for possible discussion. There was a general consensus to defer any discussion. President Diamond also noted that the University sent a rigorous response to the Globe and Mail, citing the inaccuracies throughout the article.

The Board of Governors representative seat, currently vacant on the Senate membership, was questioned. Carole Beaulieu, Board Secretary, reported that the Board of Governors has been considering a representative and have a new model to propose and plan for this information to come forward at the next Senate meeting.

10. Question and Answer Period

No questions were raised.

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Richard Fung, seconded by Sandy Kedey.

Motion carried, unanimously at 5:04pm.