



**OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025; 3:15PM – 5:20PM
HYBRID - ROOM 322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST**

Present: Julian Goss (Chair); Caroline Langill (Vice-Chair); Michelle Astrug; Kevin Bae; Parantap Bhatt; Maggie Broda; Ross Bullen; Chen Cao; Jim Drobnick; Susan Ferguson; Deanne Fisher; Stephen Foster; Simon Glass; Simone Jones; Ian Keteku; Susan Kun; Fidelia Lam; Francis LeBouthillier; Ashok Mathur; Isabel Meirelles; Diane Mikhael; Angus Mok; Jennifer-Amy Murphy; Eric Nay; Tannis Nielsen; Lesley-Ann Noel; Suharu Ogawa; Ben Peto; Nancy Snow; Vladimir Spicanovic; Sarita Srivastava; Sarah Trantum; Annie Tung

Regrets: Angela Bains; Sean Baker; Philippe Blanchard; Amanda Boulos; Peter Coppin; Spencer J. Harrison; Katherine Kiloh; Neal Prabhu; Nicholas Pye; Barbara Rauch; Lauchlan Reid; Ana Serrano; Derek Sullivan; Anna Trần; Jaime Watt

In Attendance: Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary; Adam Tindale, Co-Chair, AI Advisory Panel; David Wagschal, Associate Senate Secretary; and other members of the OCAD University community.

1. Remarks from the Chair

The meeting was opened with a Land Acknowledgement. The Chair reminded members that Senate elections for permanent faculty concluded at the beginning of the month and that results are available on the Senate Elections SharePoint site. The Chair also highlighted the strong attendance at the recent Full Senate-Board of Governors Session and thanked members for their participation.

2. Senate Agenda for April 28, 2025

Motion to approve the Senate agenda for April 28, 2025, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Paranthap Bhatt.

Motion carried.

3. Senate Minutes from March 31, 2025

Motion to approve the Senate minutes from March 31, 2025, moved by Nancy Snow, seconded by Isabel Meirelles.

Motion carried.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items

Motion to accept the consent agenda information items, moved by Vladimir Spicanovic, seconded by Jennifer-Amy Murphy.

It was noted that, following revisions to the Senate By-Laws in 2024 that reduced the direct oversight of Senate over some business of the School of Continuing Studies (SCS), a report will now be received annually from SCS to keep the Senate informed of not-for-credit curriculum development.

Motion carried.

5. Information Update from the President and Vice Chancellor

The President was unable to attend the meeting. The Vice-President, Academic and Provost highlighted the productive conversations at the April 14, 2025 Full Senate-Board of Governors Session. It was noted that the session was focused on discussing the current circumstances of the University and how the Strategic Considerations could be deployed to guide and shape the University's response. The Senate Chair provided a summary of the observations made during the sessions, including the advantages of the University's small size and organizational structure; the need to articulate more clearly process timelines and objectives; the importance of discerning what processes and practices are intrinsic and essential to the identity of the University; and the need to enhance the flow of information throughout the institution.

Discussion

Senate members who had participated in the session noted the value of discussing these matters with Board of Governors members and expressed the hope that opportunities to continue the discussion would be arranged in the future. The importance of clearly communicating timelines and objectives of plans to address the current financial challenges was reiterated. It was also remarked that in any future session it would be helpful to ensure that discussion points and questions are circulated in advance. Finally, it was expressed that the University must continue, even in the face of financial pressures, to foreground its responsibility to graduate responsible citizens and to sustain its commitments to justice, anti-racism and the Academic & Strategic Plan priorities.

6. Report from the Indigenous Education Council

The Chair referred Senate members to the written report of the April 1, 2025 meeting of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC). The report highlighted consultation on a Pass/Fail undergraduate grading policy currently being developed by the Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC) and also noted ongoing discussions related to Indigenous self-identification.

No questions were raised.

7. Student Matters

Student Senate members invited Senators to continue the conversation from the last meeting on how students can be involved directly in co-creating and testing innovative models of art and design education through centering student agency, embracing experimentation, and advancing systemic change. In particular, Senate members were asked to consider what co-creation is and is not, and what concrete steps could be taken to engage undergraduate students in curricular co-creation between now and September.

Discussion

Senate members offered several reflections, noting that co-creation must entail active engagement with students in the initial, generative stages of course outline development and not only afterwards through course evaluations. It was also emphasized that co-creation must entail an extensive process of engagement that cannot be reduced to one or two points of consultation.

When asked to consider short definitions of “co-creation”, Senators suggested that “creating with, not for” and “co-editing” would be two good possibilities. It was also observed that there are numerous opportunities to engage students in co-creation while a course is underway, for example through collaborative adjustment to assignments. It was suggested that instructors should proactively ask students to identify further opportunities for co-creation as a course unfolds.

8. Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

Motion to move in camera, moved by Parantap Bhatt, seconded by Simon Glass.

Motion carried.

IN CAMERA SESSION OF SENATE:

Commenced at 4:16 p.m.

8.1. Academic Administrative Appointments

The Senate approved the following academic administrative appointments:

- Shea Chang, Chair of the Illustration Program, Faculty of Design
- Suzanne Morrisette, Interim Chair of the Indigenous Visual Culture Program, Faculty of Arts & Science
- Ali Qadeer, Chair of the Graphic Design Program, Faculty of Design

An additional appointment is embargoed pending approval by the Board of Governors.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE:

Resumed at 4:26 p.m.

9. Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC)

9.1. Minor Revisions to the Senate By-Laws

Senate members were informed that it had been stated in error on the cover memo that the Director, Centre for Emerging Artists & Designers would be removed from the membership of the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC). Similarly, it was clarified that the Advisor, Strategic Sustainability should not be listed as added to the TLC membership in either the memo or the revised By-Laws.

Motion to approve the revisions to the Senate By-Laws, as amended, moved by Deanne Fisher, seconded by Parantap Bhatt.

The proposed changes were outlined. Highlighted revisions included the addition of good academic standing as a requirement for Student Senators' membership; the addition of the Director, Teaching and Learning to the Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC) and Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC) membership; the addition of studio facilities representation to the Senate Graduate

Studies Committee (SGSC) and the Teaching & Learning Committee (TLC); the removal of mandatory attendance for certain seats on the Senate Student Appeals Committee (SSAC); the addition of the Research Ethics Board (REB) Chair and provisions for greater flexibility in the number of Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) on the Senate Research Committee (SRC) membership; several staff member changes to the TLC membership flowing from the creation of the Centre for Learning & Teaching (CLT); and revisions to the TLC Terms of Reference to make them clearer and more closely aligned with those of other Senate committees.

Discussion

It was clarified that the revised By-Laws would come into effect at the beginning of the next Senate session.

Motion carried.

10. Senate Academic Standards Committee

10.1. Revisions to Policy 2.14: Grade Appeals - Undergraduate

Motion to approve the revisions to Policy 2.14: Grade Appeals – Undergraduate, moved by Simon Glass, seconded by Isabel Meirelles.

A presentation was provided that outlined the proposed revisions and their rationale. It was emphasized that the new language is intended to manage expectations around timelines, and particularly to make explicit that launching a grade appeal does not exempt students from deadlines related to graduation eligibility, academic standing, or registration in the next term.

Motion carried.

11. Senate Committee Information Reports

The Chair referred members to the consolidated Senate Committee Information Report which included reports from the following committees:

- Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC)
- Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)
- Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
- Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)
- Senate Research Committee (SRC)

The Senate Chair highlighted continued discussions of the proposed Pass/Fail undergraduate grading policy; approval of sustainability course tagging in the online course catalogue as a permanent process; and discussion of the new proposed PhD program in Creative Practice.

12. Strategic Academic Discussion: Update on Generative AI Statement

Senate members were referred to the revised “OCAD University AI Principles” document. It was explained that, since last presented to Senate, several paragraphs have been added to further clarify the scope and limitations of artificial intelligence and to expand discussion of the technology’s uses in teaching and learning. Several other editorial changes and a new list of contributors were noted.

Discussion

Senate members commended the document for its approach and content. Concerns were raised, however, that further work needs to be done in developing practical resources and supports for faculty as they encounter and engage with AI in classroom settings. It was suggested that the development of a formal policy may be desirable to assist faculty in identifying acceptable uses, and it was emphasized that sessional faculty would particularly benefit from clear guidelines. It was also suggested that an additional paragraph could be added that identifies some of the current challenges, along with opportunities, of the new technology. The importance was raised of developing contingency plans over the next year, to address immediate arising issues.

In response, it was confirmed that the AI Principles document will form the basis for the development of additional supports and resources, which are expected to be built out and made available to the community in an online repository. It was further noted that several pilots have been developing innovative approaches to building critical AI literacy into courses and assignment design, and that the results of these pilots will be disseminated to the community over the next several months. Available workshops were also highlighted, along with plans to develop student-facing resources. It was confirmed that the revisions to Policy 1.1: Academic Misconduct which are slated for Senate review in May have also been designed to address immediate concerns of faculty. Finally, it was confirmed that the AI Advisory Panel will soon be working to develop a series of classroom guidelines to provide a wider variety of templates for faculty use.

Concerns were raised that decolonization of AI needs to become a central priority, particularly in terms of protecting Indigenous intellectual property. It was suggested that an additional paragraph on AI and ethics would be welcome.

It was observed that, in addition to policy development, further thought needs to be given about how to productively interact with students on this issue, since at present students are often afraid to even ask about the acceptable uses of AI.

Finally, it was noted that, moving forward, the University will need to grapple in equal measure with both the challenges and the affordances of AI, given the importance of ensuring that OCAD U students graduate with sufficient AI literacy.

13. Other Business

No other business was raised.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Isabel Meirelles, seconded by Parantap Bhatt.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 pm.

[Originally signed]

Julian Goss, Senate Chair

[Originally signed]

Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary