OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2025; 3:15PM – 5:40PM
HYBRID – ROOM 322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST

Present:	Julian Goss (Chair); Sandra Gabriele (Vice-Chair); Parantap Bhatt; Philippe Blanchard; Maggie Broda; Claire Brunet; Amanda Boulos; Ross Bullen; Sophia Chaudhary; Ian Clarke; Peter Coppin; Maya Desai; Melissa General; Nicholas Di Genova; Susan Ferguson; Deanne Fisher; Simon Glass; Bentley Jarvis; Minjeong Ju; Tredegar Kennedy; Ian Keteku; Katherine Kiloh; Susan Kun; Fidelia Lam; Ashok Mathur; Riley Midroni; Michelle Miller; Angus Mok; Peter Morin; Amish Morrell; Suzanne Morrissette; Tannis Nielsen; Lesley-Ann Noel; Suharu Ogawa; James Olley; Maria-Belén Ordóñez; Ben Peto; Cindy Poremba; Neal Prabhu; Prakriti Pratijit; Helmut Reichenbächer; Angelika Seeschaaf-Veres; Ana Serrano; Nancy Snow; Vladimir Spicanovic; Sarita Srivastava; Suzanne Stein; Amy Swartz; Annie Tung; Emma Westecott; b.h. Yael
Regrets:	Angela Bains; Sean Baker; Jim Drobnick; Simone Jones; JJ Lee; Jaime Watt
In Attendance:	Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary; 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.

2. **Senate Agenda for November 24, 2025**
    Motion to approve the Senate agenda for November 24, 2025, moved by Nancy Snow, seconded by Helmut Reichenbächer.
    A discussion took place on the possibility of extending the time allotted to Other Business to allow for broader discussion of any concerns raised. A Senator expressed that some faculty members are not feeling sufficiently heard in the institution, and concerns were also raised about the cancelling of the previous Senate meeting. In response, it was stated that procedurally it is not appropriate to add time to Other Business in anticipation of an issue that was otherwise not specified. Furthermore, it was noted that Other Business is primarily intended as a space for Senate members to briefly raise items arising, which are then directed to the appropriate committee for further development, or vetted by the Senate Executive Committee for dedicated discussion at the Senate table. It was also reiterated that there were no business items ready to come forward to the October meeting. Senators were also invited to raise any specific concerns or agenda items directly with the Chair of Senate or Senate Secretary so that they can be addressed appropriately.
    Motion carried.

3. **Senate Minutes from September 29, 2025**
    Motion to approve the Senate minutes from September 29, 2025, moved by Ana Serrano, seconded by Emma Westecott.
    Motion carried.

4. **Consent Agenda Information Items**
    Motion to accept the consent agenda information items, moved by Helmut Reichenbächer, seconded by Vladimir Spicanovic.
    It was confirmed that an Interim Director, Finance has been hired. The sources of funding and function of the Cultural Policy Hub and Democracy Xchange were also discussed.

    The Deans of the undergraduate Faculties and the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) then provided brief highlights of their current priorities. These were noted to include building research and industry connections; developing a new interdisciplinary program in the Faculty of Art; building financial transparency around cost of delivery initiatives; enhancing intra-Faculty collegiality, communication and inclusiveness; expanding research grants and publishing; further developing plans and initiatives to address financial sustainability; and, in SGS, completing the curricular revisions required for the new Graduate Degree Requirement policy and completing the proposal for a new PhD in Creative Practice.

    Enrolment numbers were raised briefly, and it was requested that further enrolment information be provided at an upcoming meeting.
    Motion carried.

5. **Information Update from the President and Vice Chancellor**
    The President provided background information on the third-party efficiency review being undertaken by Deloitte. It was emphasized that the review is being funded by the provincial Efficiency and Accountability Fund (EAF). It was confirmed that the report and a draft implementation plan would be reviewed for approval in principle by the Board in December, although it was emphasized that the draft implementation plan is not intended as a fixed roadmap but instead as a set of opportunities that can be prioritized or implemented by the institution as per future consultations and governance decisions. It was confirmed that it is expected that more information about the draft implementation plan will be shared in January.

    Discussion
    It was clarified that the role of the Provost's Curriculum Research & Development Committee (CRDC) and Cost of Delivery (COD) Working Group in assessing the Deloitte recommendations is still under consideration. It was confirmed that the Provost will be working to prioritize the proposed opportunities according to both how they might address financial sustainability and how they might help preserve and maintain the reputation of the University.

    It was suggested that it would be helpful if the Deloitte report and draft implementation plan were reviewed by Senate in advance of submission to the Board. In response, it was reiterated that the December Board review is for approval in principle, and that the Senate will have opportunities to participate in the assessment and prioritization of the recommendations.

6. **Student Matters**

   A student Senator highlighted the need to increase opportunities for community building, particularly through the development of more inclusive, program-wide events. It was emphasized that such program-level events afford important opportunities for collaboration and mentorship.

   Discussion

   Senate members affirmed the importance of community-building events in the educational experience and shared strategies employed in their programs to foster student community. Ongoing challenges were noted, including funding and low student attendance.

   It was suggested that a student survey should be conducted to gather more specific ideas on how to develop effective community-building opportunities. The role of existing student clubs and associations in building community was also highlighted, and it was suggested that efforts should be made to further resource and support these organizations.

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

   7.1. **Annual Report on Academic Misconduct**

   The Report on Academic Misconduct for 2024/2025 was presented for information. The principal findings of the report were reviewed. It was cautioned that the number of instances of academic misconduct is statistically very low, and therefore any observed trends should be treated with caution.

   Discussion

   Concerns were raised that, despite the introduction of the category of non-culpable offenses in 2016, the rate of underreporting is still likely high. It was also observed that the widespread but illicit use of AI in large courses can make reporting and processing of academic misconduct cases virtually impossible, given the number of cases involved. In response, it was noted that a working group on Policy 1.1: Academic Misconduct is considering both concerns, and it was noted that a new online system is expected to streamline the reporting process. Senate members were further informed that the Centre for Learning & Teaching (CLT) has recently hired an Academic Integrity Specialist to provide additional support in this area.

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

   8.1. **Laptop Program Changes for 2026-27**

   The proposed revisions were briefly outlined.
   Motion to approve the undergraduate laptop program changes, as presented, moved by Sandra Gabriele, seconded by Parantap Bhatt.
   Motion carried.

9. **Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)**

   9.1. **Implementation Date Revision to the Graduate Degree Requirements Policy**

   Motion to approve the revision to the implementation date of the Graduate Degree Requirements Policy to Fall 2027, moved by Vladimir Spicanovic, seconded by Ana Serrano.

It was explained that the proposed date change will provide more time for the implementation of the new graduate degree requirements and will have no major financial implications. It was suggested that, in a future revision, the addition of a row specifying the number of core required courses would enhance the clarity of the policy.
Motion carried.

10. Senate Quality Assurance Committee (SQAC)

10.1. MFA Criticism and Curatorial Practice IQAP Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan

Motion to approve the MFA Criticism and Curatorial Practice IQAP Final Assessment Report and Implementation Plan, moved by Parantap Bhatt, seconded by Angelika Seeschaaf-Veres.

It was confirmed that, at present, courses in the program are delivered in person. It was also clarified that while Major Modifications do not necessarily automatically follow a Cyclical Program Review, they are a common outcome of the process.
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 Executive Committee (SEC)
- Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC)
- Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)
- Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)
- Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
- Senate Quality Assurance Committee (SQAC)
- Senate Research Committee (SRC)
- Academic Disruption Response Committee (ADRC)

The chair highlighted preliminary discussions regarding the proposal to consolidate the SAPPC and SQAC Senate committees; approved minor modifications in the Faculty of Art and Faculty of Arts & Science; the approval of Letter of Intents for Major Modifications to all graduate programs; and a status update on the PhD in Creative Practice proposal.

Discussion
Concerns were raised that in the past more discussion of curricular proposals took place at the Senate table. It was also asked how Senate Committee compositions might be revised such that all committees have a majority of faculty members. In response, it was explained that since 2022 Senate has received IQAP Minor Modifications for information, although Senator members are welcome to raise concerns about any of the enclosed material. It was further clarified that Senate still receives all IQAP Major Modifications and New Program Proposals for approval.

Regarding committee compositions, it was explained that a proposal for these changes would be submitted through the SAPPC, under whose purview Senate By-Law revision falls.

With reference to the proposed consolidation of the SAPPC and SQAC committees, concerns were raised about potential workload implications as well as the maintenance of the core function of both committees. In response, it was clarified that the combination of the committees is expected to create workload efficiencies, and it was also noted that at present the workload of SQAC is comparatively light, since its work is confined mostly to oversight of the Cyclical Program Review (CPR) IQAP process. It was also emphasized that the consideration of this idea is in early stages, and more detail would be forthcoming as to how the mandates of the committees might be combined.

It was noted that one element of the approved curriculum submitted for information from SUSC appeared to be missing. It was confirmed that the Senate Secretariat would verify and recirculate as necessary.

Finally, it was clarified that the ADRC is convened once a year to review its mandate, which is to provide guidance in the event of an academic disruption. Members were further informed that this year the committee discussed possible scenarios for a cyber-attack, an example of a potential academic disruption.

12. **Academic Strategic Discussion: Undergraduate and Graduate Synergies**
The Chair explained that this discussion topic had been suggested by a faculty Senate member and complements ongoing discussions taking place in the School of Graduate Studies (SGS). The Dean, SGS, then provided a historical overview of graduate studies at the University, noting that the issue of enhancing undergraduate and graduate student synergies has arisen in the context of the current implementation of the new Graduate Degree Requirement Policy. Senate members were asked for reflections on how the relationship between undergraduate and graduate studies might be strengthened.

Discussion
Senate members raised numerous ideas which included enhancing the use of shared spaces, expanding graduate students' teaching of undergraduate students, expanding the mutual access of graduate and undergraduate students to each other's courses, streamlining pathways from undergraduate to graduate study, and building closer administrative connections between graduate and undergraduate programs. Some specific examples included allowing graduate students to use more spacious undergraduate critique rooms, for example those used by Drawing & Painting (DRPT) students; engaging graduate Criticism & Curatorial (CCP) students in the curation of undergraduate exhibitions; expanding graduate student teaching beyond Teaching Assistant work to include teaching workshops on specific topics or skill; and revisiting the academic leadership structures to more closely connect the undergraduate programs with the graduate programs, for example by administering Graduate Program Director appointment processes within the Faculties instead of within SGS.

A further discussion took place on potential benefits of expanding graduate students' access to lower-level undergraduate courses as well as on related budgetary considerations. Auditing and workshops were raised as other possible ways of expanding graduate access to undergraduate-level skills training.

It was noted that a copy of all the suggestions from the fulsome discussion would be forwarded to Senate members.

13. Other Business

Several Senate members informed Senate that two informal meetings of faculty Senators had taken place recently. It was noted that one idea that has emerged from these meetings is a proposal to revise the Senate By-Laws to better reflect the institution's commitments to reconciliation.

The representativeness and membership of this informal caucus was then discussed, along with the ways that it might productively interact with the formal decision-making bodies of the University.

Motion to extend the meeting by ten minutes, moved by Emma Westecott, seconded by Parantap Bhatt.
Motion carried.

It was clarified that this informal caucus has several purposes, including allowing for discussion of ideas that might fall outside of the purview of Senate, serving as a means of building community among faculty members from different Faculties, and enhancing communication among the Senators who sit on the various Senate Committees. It was emphasized that the intention of the meetings is to assist in developing solutions to the challenges the University is facing.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Parantap Bhatt, seconded by Helmut Reichenbächer.
Meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

[Originally signed]   *[Originally signed]*

_____   _____
Julian Goss, Senate Chair   Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary