



**OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026; 3:15PM – 6:15PM
HYBRID – ROOM 322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST**

Present: Julian Goss (Chair); Sandra Gabriele (Vice-Chair); Angela Bains; Sean Baker; Parantap Bhatt; Philippe Blanchard; Maggie Broda; 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; 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: Claire Brunet; Jim Drobnick; Simone Jones; JJ Lee; Prakriti Pratijit; 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. Senate members were reminded that voting for Faculty At-Large candidates in the annual general Senate elections has begun and will conclude on April 6, 2026. The Chair provided an overview of the Joint Full Senate-Board Session held on March 23, 2026, highlighting the suggestion that in future the session be held earlier in the year.

2. Senate Agenda for March 30, 2026

Motion to approve the Senate agenda for February 23, 2026, moved by Helmut Reichenbächer, seconded by Simon Glass.

It was requested that discussion take place in Other Business on how the Full Senate-Board sessions could be designed to be more responsive to concerns of faculty Senators. The Chair noted that this issue could also be fruitfully discussed in the planned strategic conversation around Senate discussions.

Motion carried.

3. Senate Minutes from February 23, 2026

Motion to approve the Senate minutes from February 23, 2026, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Cindy Poremba.

It was confirmed with reference to the minutes of Item 4: Consent Agenda that further details on the University's financial situation would be provided in the present meeting's update on the Institutional Response to the Deloitte Report (Item 12). It was also confirmed that the deferred Item 10: Discussion on Senate Discussion would be taken up at a future meeting.
Motion carried.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items

Motion to accept the consent agenda information items, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Cindy Poremba.

With reference to the temporary suspension of admissions to the Design for Health (DHEA) program, concerns were raised about the availability of personnel and financial resources to support the program. In response, it was clarified that admissions to the program have been temporarily suspended to allow time for the program to be restructured for future growth and enhanced alignment with faculty expertise and student interests. Training practices for Canada Research Chair Recruitment and Nominations Committee members were reviewed, and it was confirmed that unconscious bias training is a mandatory part of members' preparation. It was observed that the word "decolonization" was used very rarely in the current Senate materials. It was also observed that "studio" appears to be displaced in some communications by "practice-based". In response to the latter, it was clarified that "practice-based" is understood as a more inclusive term. Finally, it was clarified that the newly-renamed Human Rights and Equity Office (HREO) has been integrated into People & Culture to facilitate record-keeping and training initiatives, and that the new office is as arm's length from the administration as the previous Office for Diversity, Equity and Sustainability Initiatives (ODESI).

Motion carried.

5. Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor

The President indicated that they would defer their remarks until Item 12: Institutional Response to Deloitte Efficiency and Accountability Fund Report (EAF Report) Status Update.

6. Student Matters

No student matters were raised.

7. Indigenous OCAD

An update was provided on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Working Group. It was emphasized that the newly-convened group has been in discussions with leaders across the University to enable wider and more accountable community engagement with reconciliation throughout the year. Senate members were also informed that the planned discussion of the 2018 Provost's Taskforce on Indigenous Learning has been deferred to a future meeting.

8. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)

8.1. Rescission of Policy 3.3: Graduate Studies Registration

8.2. Rescission of Policy 3.8: Graduate Studies Awarding of the Degree

8.3. Rescission of Policy 3.9: Graduate Studies Appeals Process

8.4. Rescission of Policy 3.13: Graduate Studies Human Subjects Ethics Review

8.5. Revision to Policy 2.14: Grade Appeals – Undergraduate

A presentation was provided on the proposed rescissions of Policies 3.3, 3.8, 3.9, 3.13 and the accompanying revisions to Policy 2.14. It was confirmed that, subject to the approval of the proposed revisions to expand the scope of Policy 2.14 to include graduate students, all provisions in the policies proposed for rescission will be covered by other policies.

Motion to rescind Policy 3.3: Graduate Studies Registration, moved by Ian Clarke, seconded by Maria-Belén Ordóñez.

Motion carried.

Motion to rescind Policy 3.8 Graduate Studies Awarding of Degree, moved by Amish Morrell, seconded by Susan Ferguson.

Motion carried.

Motion to rescind Policy 3.9 Graduate Studies Appeals Process, moved by Maria-Belén Ordóñez, seconded by Helmut Reichenbacher.

Motion carried.

Motion to rescind Policy 3.13 Graduate Studies Human Subjects Ethics Review, moved by Ian Clarke, seconded by Amish Morrell.

It was confirmed that a student communication plan would be developed to ensure that students are not confused or misled about REB requirements by the rescinding of this policy.

Motion carried.

Motion to approve the revisions to Policy 2.14: Graduate Appeals – Undergraduate, as presented, moved by Parantap Bhatt, seconded by Ben Peto.

Motion carried.

8.6. Revision to the Academic Calendar Principles

Motion to approve the revisions to the Academic Calendar Principles, moved by Sandra Gabriele, seconded by Helmut Reichenbacher.

The proposed updates were outlined, including both technical updates to terminology and term start dates as well as a revision to allow the scheduling of final assessments on weekends. It was emphasized that weekend assessments will allow more time for grading, ensure students receive their final marks in a timely manner, and bring the University into alignment with sector practice in Ontario. It was confirmed that existing scheduling rules around the frequency of final assessment would continue to apply to weekend examinations and that students would be able to request religious accommodations as per established procedures.

Discussion

It was confirmed that academic leadership was consulted on this change. It was noted that weekend assessments may pose special challenges for those with childcare responsibilities, and it was observed that this is particularly concerning given the gendered nature of childcare. In response, it was confirmed that accommodations for faculty or students could be sought through the normal channels.

It was clarified that final assessment scheduling rules apply to critiques as well as other types of final assessment. It was also confirmed that thesis defences could be scheduled on weekends, subject to the availability of external examiners. Finally, it was confirmed that measures will be taken to ensure that the normal facility supports are available for assessments on weekends.

Motion carried.

9. Senate Academic Policy and Planning Committee (SAPPC)

9.1. Minor Revisions to the Senate By-Laws

Motion to approve the minor revisions to the Senate By-Laws, as presented, moved by Susan Ferguson, seconded by Sandra Gabriele.

The proposed revisions were outlined. It was emphasized that the most notable change is the revision to the Terms of Reference of the Board of Governors Liaison Committee (BGLC), which have been revised to align with new Terms of Reference of the corresponding committee of the Board of Governors.

Discussion

A discussion took place on the importance of ensuring frequent and effective communication between the Board of Governors and Senate, and how the BGLC might be more effectively engaged in this work. It was suggested that a clause be added to specify that the full Board-Senate sessions take place more than once a year. In response, it was noted that the current wording allows for more than one session.

Motion carried.

10. Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

10.1. Senate and Senate Committee Dates 2026-2027

Senate members were referred to the circulated Senate and Senate Committee dates for academic year 2026-2027. No questions were raised.

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 Chair highlighted the evaluation of two double-credit pilot courses at SUSC; the ongoing review of revisions to Policy 1.1 Academic Misconduct at SASC; and an extensive report from SGSC that provided updates on the PhD in Creative Practice, discussion and links to draft major modification proposals, and an overview of the temporary suspension of admissions to Design for Health (DHEA).

Discussion

Further description of the double-credit evaluation process at SUSC was provided, and it was confirmed that additional evaluations will take place in the coming year. It was also confirmed that the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CLT) is developing a standardized pilot process to facilitate the evaluation of future curricular innovations. It was clarified that reductions to faculty workload in thesis courses in the Faculty of Art were not part of the double-credit pilot, but were part of a separate process of harmonizing faculty thesis workloads across the University. It was confirmed that the CLT would be available to assist with the evaluation of these changes. It was noted that the double-credit pilot project summary report shared with SUSC would be circulated to Senate members, and that a fuller discussion of the matter could be scheduled at a future Senate meeting.

The rationale for the temporary suspension of admissions to Design for Health (DHEA) was reviewed, and it was again emphasized that this suspension will give the program time to rebuild a stronger cohort and ensure the best possible student experience. It was clarified that, in alignment with sector practice, there is no requirement that temporary suspensions of admission be submitted to Senate for approval. In contrast, it was explained, permanent suspensions and closures of a program come forward to Senate as major modifications for decision, as per the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Policy.

12. Institutional Response to Deloitte Efficiency and Accountability Fund Report (EAF Report) Status Update

A presentation was provided to update Senate members on the status of the three elements of the University's strategy for ensuring financial sustainability: pursuing government revenue advocacy; developing a new Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) plan; and developing institutional strengths amidst constraints, including responding to the Deloitte Efficiency and Accountability Fund Report recommendations. It was emphasized that progress in all three elements will be necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of the institution.

It was underlined that the provincial government's funding announcement in February was the result of several years of advocacy work to right-size the funding model given the University's specialized studio orientation and its unique importance in Canada's post-secondary ecosystem. It was confirmed that details of the funding announcement are still under a provincial embargo.

The broad shape of the new SEM plan was outlined, including the primary goal of returning the University to its optimum enrolment of 4100 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students. It was explained that the plan is still under active development as data analysis takes place around student demographics, conversion and retention, and additional clarity is sought on external factors, such as the final funding formula and visa restrictions. It was emphasized that market research will also be sought to help clarify the alignment of existing and new program development with student aspirations and demand.

Finally, consultations and next steps in addressing the academic-side Deloitte recommendations and other financial optimizations were outlined. It was emphasized that conversations to date have revealed that significant work is already underway across the institution, although in some cases greater coordination, support and visibility will need to be

brought to these initiatives. It was underscored that this work is proceeding not simply as a financial efficiency exercise, but with a broader vision of how to maintain long-term institutional quality and value, including through new strategic investments.

Discussion

It was clarified that the government funding announced in February is not expected to cover the University's structural budget deficit, and that progress in the other two prongs of the University three-pronged strategy will still be necessary. It was noted that the embargo on the details of the February funding announcement is expected to be lifted later this spring, when it is anticipated that more information will be shared with the community through town-halls, including the draft annual operating budget assumptions. It was confirmed that additional information on administration-side efficiencies is also expected to be shared at that time.

It was confirmed that the new SEM plan will take into account the metrics used in the performance-based funding of the Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMAs).

It was observed that trust and openness in decision-making will be important as further efficiencies are sought, to ensure that cuts are not made in ways that adversely impact the student experience and program quality. It was also suggested that previous deficit mitigation strategies employed at the University should be researched and brought forward for further discussion

13. Senate Academic Policy & Planning (SAPPC) – In Camera

Motion to move in camera, moved by Simon Glass, seconded by Ian Clarke.

Motion carried.

IN CAMERA SESSION OF SENATE:

Commenced at 5:59 p.m.

13.1. SAPPC Working Group

This item was presented for information.

14. Senate Executive Committee (SEC) – In Camera

14.1. Recommendation for Academic Administrative Appointment

The Senate approved an academic administrative appointment which is embargoed pending approval by the Board of Governors.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE:

Resumed at 6:35 p.m. During the in camera session the Senate approved a motion to extend the meeting by fifteen minutes.

15. Other Business

Due to lack of time, Other Business items were deferred.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Simon Glass.
Meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm.

[Originally signed]

Julian Goss, Senate Chair

[Originally signed]

Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary