



**OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026; 3:15PM – 6:15PM
HYBRID – ROOM 322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST**

Present: Julian Goss (Chair); Sandra Gabriele (Vice-Chair); Angela Bains; Sean Baker; Tairone Bastien; Parantap Bhatt; Philippe Blanchard; Claire Brunet; Ross Bullen; Sophia Chaudhary; Ian Clarke; Nicholas Di Genova; Susan Ferguson; Deanne Fisher; Sugandha Gaur; Melissa General; Simon Glass; Kate Hartman; Molly Hill; Richard Hunt; Alison Judd; Leena Karim; Ian Keteku; Susan Kun; Michael Lee Poy; Nina Leo; Jana Macalik; Michele Mastroeni; Ashok Mathur; Michelle Miller; Peter Morin; Amish Morrell; Tannis Nielsen; Lesley-Ann Noel; James Olley; Ben Peto; Barbara Rauch; Charles Reeve; Peter Scott; Ana Serrano; Anna Stielau; Amy Swartz; Adam Tindale; Amy Wong; b.h. Yael

Regrets: Maggie Broda; Kestin Cornwall; Spencer J. Harrison; JJ Lee; Maria-Belén Ordóñez; Cindy Poremba; Nicholas Pye; Helmut Reichenbacher; Jaime Watt

In Attendance: Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary; David Wagschal, Associate Senate Secretary; Laura Wood, Executive Director, Institutional Analysis & Budget Planning; and other members of the OCAD University community.

1. Remarks from the Chair

The meeting was opened with a Land Acknowledgement. The Chair introduced Senate members by their constituencies and roles. Senate members were reminded that no classes will be held on September 30, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day. An overview was provided of the new asynchronous Senate orientation.

The Chair reviewed the purpose of Senate governance, the place of discussions within Senate procedures, and the role of the chair in facilitating Senate business. It was emphasized that substantive discussion items are normally brought forward through the established agenda-setting process, and that Other Business is intended for brief notifications of possible future business.

In the discussion that followed, a Senate member raised the possibility of developing alternative means for raising agenda items as part of a broader effort to decolonize governance.

2. Senate Agenda for September 28, 2026

Motion to approve the Senate agenda for September 28, 2026, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Jana Macalik.

Motion carried.

3. Senate Minutes from June 22, 2026

Motion to approve the Senate minutes from June 22, 2026, moved by Parantap Bhatt, seconded by Philippe Blanchard.

Motion carried.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items

Motion to accept the consent agenda information items, moved by Parantap Bhatt, seconded by Philippe Blanchard.

It was clarified that the Institutional Scorecard, presented quarterly to the Board of Governors, can be requested by Senate members from the Board Secretariat. It was confirmed that a report on the progress of the Academic & Strategic Plan is slated to come forward to Senate in the spring.

Motion carried.

5. Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor

The President provided an overview of ongoing events, many related to the 150th Anniversary of the University, including initiatives from the Faculty of Design and Faculty of Art, the recent successful launch of the Canada Pavilion at the Gwangju Biennale, and the Art Creates Change speakers' series. It was noted that a comprehensive update on plans for the 150th Anniversary year will be provided at the next Senate meeting, following the official community launch on October 20, 2026.

6. Indigenous OCAD

The Chair noted that this standing item encompasses regular reporting from the Indigenous Education Council (IEC), along with other topics related to Indigenous academic matters.

An overview was then provided of events planned for the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day on September 30, 2026. A related talk on the history of the Mohawk Institute, given the week before by the Haudenosaunee scholar Rick Hill, was highlighted.

Senate members were also informed that work is ongoing to develop an Indigenous Curriculum Specialist role within the Centre for Learning & Teaching (CLT). It was explained that this role will lead a review of the current Indigenous Learning Outcomes (ILOs).

It was noted that the Director, Indigenous Initiatives has recently been invited to join the National Indigenous University Senior Leaders' Association (NIUSLA). It was observed that OCAD University will be the first art and design institution to be represented in the association.

Finally, concerns were raised about the growth of residential school denialism across Canada, as recently witnessed in Kamloops, BC.

7. 2026 Spring and Summer Term Grades

Motion to approve the 2026 Spring and Summer Term Grades, moved by Charles Reeve, seconded by Richard Hunt.

Motion carried.

8. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)

8.1. 2026 Fall Graduands

A memo from the Office of the Registrar was screened.

Motion to approve the 100 Fall graduands, moved by Parantap Bhatt, seconded by Philippe Blanchard.

Motion carried.

9. Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

Motion to move in camera, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Charles Reeve.

Motion carried.

IN CAMERA SESSION OF SENATE:

Commenced at 4:27 p.m.

9.1. Recommendation for Academic Administrative Appointments

The Senate approved the following academic appointments:

- Appointment of Wrik Mead as Interim Chair of Experimental Animation in the Faculty of Art (September to December 2026)
- Appointment of Veronika Szkudlarek as Interim Chair of Experimental Animation in the Faculty of Art (January to June 2027)

9.2. Recommendation for Faculty Senator Appointees to the Board of Governors

The Senate approved Kate Hartman and Helmut Reichenbacher as Faculty Senator Appointees to the Board of Governors.

9.3. Recommendation for COU Academic Colleague

The Senate approved Jana Macalik as OCAD University's Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE:

Resumed at 4:36 p.m.

10. Senate Academic Policy, Planning and Quality Assurance Committee (SAPPQAC)

10.1. Policy 10.7: Appointment and Reappointment of Chairs, Graduate Program Directors and Positions of Equivalent Levels

Motion to approve the proposed revisions to Policy 10.7 Appointment and Reappointment of Chairs, Graduate Program Directors and Positions of Equivalent Levels, moved by Charles Reeve, seconded by Susan Ferguson.

A brief overview of the changes was provided, including the interpretation of section 4.1.19. It was emphasized that the changes will streamline appointment timelines. It was noted that, following Senate approval, the changes will proceed to the Board of Governors for final decision.

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 and Quality Assurance Committee (SAPPQAC)
- Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)
- Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)
- Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
- Senate Research Committee (SRC)

The Chair drew attention to the annual slate of Senate Committee memberships, included as an appendix to the SAPPQAC report, and to ongoing discussion of revisions to Policy 1.1: Academic Misconduct at SASC.

No questions were raised.

12. Update on the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA4)

A presentation was provided on the current Strategic Mandate Agreement Four (SMA4), which is in place from 2025-2030. It was noted that the SMA4 is not yet finalized, but that a final draft is expected later this fall. The eight performance metrics were then reviewed, along with historical data on the University's performance in each, and their weightings for the coming year. It was emphasized that the weighting is determined by the University within parameters set by the Ministry for Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence, and Security (MCURES). It was noted that key differences from the SMA3 include a greater proportion of funding tied to performance, the reduction of metrics from ten to eight, the decision to measure performance based on only domestic student data, and efforts to combine all performance-related funding into one agreement. Attention was drawn to the definition of the metrics, which were provided in the circulated material.

Discussion

It was confirmed that performance metric targets for next year will be reported at the next update. It was emphasized that the data used in the metrics is lagged by several years, so current efforts to improve performance will not immediately impact results.

Senate members discussed ideas for increasing response rates to the Ministry's graduation employment survey, as well as possibilities for ensuring that this metric appropriately captures the employment outputs of OCAD University graduates. It was emphasized that the University continues to have conversations with the Ministry about the suitability of the SMA metrics for art and design institutions, given the University's emphasis on experiential learning or concepts such as the social return on investment. It was cautioned, however, that individual universities have little leeway in defining these metrics, since they are applied across the sector.

It was confirmed that the final dollar figures associated with performance funding are pending confirmation of total funding from the Ministry and are expected later this fall.

13. Academic Structure Update

The Vice-President, Academic and Provost provided a presentation on the status and progress of the Academic Structure Review. The presentation outlined the consultations and surveys that have been conducted to date, along with the challenges and tasks that have

been identified. It was emphasized that addressing structural issues is preliminary to addressing curricular re-alignment/student experience and workplace culture, since progress on these latter presupposes structural clarity and an established leadership. The lenses and criteria for decision-making were outlined, including Enable Conditions (what the structure must make possible), Design Conditions (what the structure must do), and the University's seven Strategic Considerations. The role of Senate in decision-making was reviewed. It was noted that Senate's purview extends to the academic structure itself, but not to the labour implications of a new structure. Ongoing work to develop and test prototypes and formulate a theory of change was then described, along with plans for a round of community conversations in the late fall. Finally, the governance timeline was reviewed, with the tentative target date for Senate decision set in February 2027, although it was noted that this timeline would be extended if required.

Discussion

It was confirmed that the theory of change will be released to the community along with the prototypes. It was also confirmed that a broad sense of the relative financial savings of each prototype will be provided. It was requested that the prototypes be accompanied by faculty complement data.

It was observed that this work will serve as an opportunity to further consider decolonization. The importance of consultation with Indigenous community members was underlined. It was also suggested that the consultation pathway should be clearly documented, to facilitate community consent.

It was expressed that it will be important to develop clear criteria to measure the impact on academic quality of each prototype. In response, it was confirmed that the Strategic Considerations and Enable/Design Conditions include criteria in these areas, although it was noted that any curricular revisions, and their evaluation, will take place after the development of the academic structure. A Senate member also observed that it will be important to further develop means for accurately gauging the success of our students.

Finally, it was observed that interconnectivity within the academic structure will be an important point of discussion moving forward, and a Senate member suggested that arts and science will play an important role in this area.

14. Other Business

No other business was raised.

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Richard Hunt, seconded by Ana Serrano.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Approved as a true and accurate record

Senate Chair, Jules Goss

Senate Secretary, Natalie Nanton

(Electronic attestation)