



**OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025; 3:15PM – 5:40PM
ONLINE**

Present: Julian Goss (Chair); Caroline Langill (Vice-Chair); Michelle Astrug; Kevin Bae; Angela Bains; Sean Baker; Parantap Bhatt; Philippe Blanchard; Amanda Boulos; Maggie Broda; Ross Bullen; Chen Cao; Peter Coppin; Jim Drobnick; Susan Ferguson; Deanne Fisher; Stephen Foster; Simon Glass; Spencer J. Harrison; Simone Jones; Ian Keteku; Katherine Kiloh; 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; Neal Prabhu; Lauchlan Reid; Ana Serrano; Nancy Snow; Vladimir Spicanovic; Sarita Srivastava; Derek Sullivan; Anna Tràn; Sarah Tranum; Annie Tung

Regrets: Nicholas Pye; Barbara Rauch; Jaime Watt

In Attendance: Camille Isaacs; Kathy Moscou; 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. The Chair reminded Senate members that new faculty Senate members had been invited to meet with the Senate Chair and Senate Secretary to discuss their experiences on Senate. It was reported that several Senate members had participated in this process. Members were also informed that a call for nominations for Senate Chair would be circulated shortly. The eligibility criteria for Senate Chair were reviewed.

2. Senate Agenda for January 27, 2025

Motion to approve the Senate agenda for January 27, 2025, moved by Katherine Kiloh, seconded by Simone Jones.

Motion carried.

3. Senate Minutes from November 25, 2024

Motion to approve the Senate minutes from November 25, 2024, moved by Francis LeBouthillier, seconded by Susan Kun.

Motion carried.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items

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

Motion carried.

5. Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor

The President described efforts taking place at the University to address the significant financial challenges facing the sector. It was reported, for example, that the recent Board of Governors retreat had been dedicated to the question of financial sustainability and had hosted the Presidents of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) and Colleges Ontario, who provided a comprehensive overview of the financial state of the sector. It was emphasized that moving forward the OCAD U community will need to work collectively to develop new ideas to ensure that the University can continue to offer high-quality arts and design education in a financially sustainable manner. Members were further informed that the University will be employing strategic foresight and design thinking to develop a set of tools to assist in analyzing and optimizing solutions. It was confirmed that these tools will be shared in the near future with the Board of Governors Liaison Committee (BGLC) and the Academic Leadership team. Finally, it was reported that the University's multi-year financial forecast has been revised following the recent OCAD Faculty Association (OCADFA) arbitration award.

Discussion

It was confirmed that it may be possible to modify some internal University deadlines to accommodate the timely implementation of curricular innovations. It was also confirmed that the work that has taken place at the University since the 2020 external third-party review has put the institution in a better position to address the current structural deficit than would otherwise be the case.

6. Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague Report

The Chair referred Senate members to the written report of the November 19-20, 2024 meeting of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleagues. The report highlighted work undertaken by the Academic Colleagues to develop persuasive narratives to communicate the value of universities to students, parents, businesses and the community at large.

Discussion

Members discussed several possibilities for enhancing public awareness of the issues facing the sector.

7. Report from the Indigenous Education Council (IEC)

The Chair referred Senate members to the written report of the November 21, 2024 meeting of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC). The report highlighted updates on the possible development of a dedicated Indigenous student residence; discussion of recent increases in Indigenous student enrolment; and a review of the IEC's priorities for the coming year, including the finalizing of the Indigenous self-identification process.

8. Student Matters

Student Senate members emphasized the importance of ensuring that students are able to participate actively and meaningfully in conversations on financial sustainability. It was observed that students can bring to these discussions a diverse range of life experiences and skills, including creativity, problem solving, community building, and discipline-bridging. Senate members were then asked to reflect on the question: "How might we engage students—leveraging their diversity, creative and lived experiences—to address financial

uncertainty, foster OCAD U's agility, and deliver a high-quality educational experience?" Senate members were encouraged to consider what further questions this query might prompt for them.

Discussion

Senate members offered several reflections on the question, asking how existing forums for student voices might be expanded and amplified, and how students might participate in the co-design of new curricular innovations. New roles for students on the Curriculum Research & Development Committee (CRDC) were also noted.

A discussion then took place on ways to ensure that students are informed of the current financial challenges in both an effective and productive way. It was emphasized that students need to be well-informed of the context and rationale of any significant curricular or delivery changes.

9. 2024 Fall Term Grades

Motion to approve the 2024 undergraduate and graduate fall term grades, moved by Katherine Kiloh, seconded by Vladimir Spicanovic.

Motion carried.

10. Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

Motion to move in camera, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Nancy Snow.

Motion carried.

IN CAMERA SESSION OF SENATE:

Commenced at 4:02 p.m.

10.1. Academic Administrative Appointments

The Senate approved the following administrative appointments:

- Re-appointment of Catherine Black as Chair of the Creative Writing (CRWR) program in the Faculty of Arts & Science
- Re-appointment of Sarita Srivastava as Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science

10.2. Recommendation for Emerit Status

The Senate approved the conferral of Emerit status on Associate Professor Sylvia Whitton.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE:

Resumed at 4:13 p.m.

11. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)

11.1. 2025 Winter Graduands

Motion to approve the 53 Winter graduands, moved by Philippe Blanchard, seconded by Annie Tung.

Motion carried.

11.2. Revisions to Policy 1.8: Graduate Approval Process and Convocation

Motion to approve the revisions to Policy 1.8: Graduate Approval Process and Convocation, moved by Spencer J. Harrison, seconded by Katherine Kiloh.

A presentation was provided that outlined the proposed revisions, including changes to student name conventions on parchments and convocation programs and the removal of the exception that has allowed students who have 0.5 elective credits outstanding to attend convocation. It was emphasized that the changes would be first implemented in 2026, to ensure sufficient time to communicate the removal of the 0.5 exception to graduating students.

Discussion

The Senate Academic Standards Committee was commended for proposing changes to the naming conventions that strongly enhance inclusivity, particularly for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

It was confirmed that students may already request name changes on their parchments and the graduation program, as per the proposed revisions, since these revisions are aligning the policy with practices already in effect. It was also confirmed that students are not charged for name-change requests.

The importance of developing a robust student-facing communication plan for the removal of the 0.5 exception was reiterated.

Motion carried.

12. Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC)

12.1. Revisions to the Policy on Academic Disruption

Motion to approve the revisions to the Policy on Academic Disruption, moved by Simon Glass, seconded by Spencer J. Harrison.

It was explained that the policy has been updated to ensure that disruptions in the Spring/Summer term can be correctly categorized as long-term, given the condensed class schedules during this term. Several other minor editorial changes were noted.

Motion carried.

13. 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 Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)
- Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
- Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)
- Senate Research Committee (SRC)

Highlights of the reports included an overview of the recent Board of Governors Liaison Subcommittee meeting; continued consultation on the Graduate Degree Requirements policy;

and approval of curriculum in the Faculty of Art, Faculty of Design, Faculty of Arts & Science and the School of Graduate Studies.

14. Strategic Academic Discussion: Update on the Scarborough Charter Report and Key Recommendations

The co-chairs of the Scarborough Charter Strategic Planning Committee provided a presentation on the committee's draft recommendations. The presentation began by providing an overview of the background and purpose of the Scarborough Charter, the Charter's principles, and the broader context of anti-Black racism. It then described unit and faculty surveys undertaken by the Planning Committee to gain data to inform the proposed recommendations, before outlining draft recommendations under each of the four Scarborough Charter principles: Black Flourishing, Inclusive Excellence, Mutuality, and Accountability. Finally, next steps were proposed which emphasized the accountability of all members of the OCAD University community in achieving the Scarborough Charter goals.

Discussion

It was observed that there are substantial similarities between the experiences of Indigenous and Black people under colonial regimes, and Senators were encouraged to stand in solidarity with these communities.

The Vice-President, Academic and Provost thanked the members of the Planning Committee for their work, and noted that once the final report is submitted planning will take place to determine the appropriate units and means for carrying forward the recommendations.

Senators commended several aspects of the report, including the development of a merit-based scholarship; the cultivation of connections with elementary and secondary school boards; and the establishment of a scorecard to track progress. The hope was expressed that another Black cluster hire could be completed in the near future. It was also suggested that further consideration should be given to how both digital and physical spaces could be more inclusive for Black students and faculty, and how existing scholarship and bursaries could be made more visible. The importance of ongoing student engagement with the recommendations was highlighted, and it was confirmed that students had been involved on the Planning Committee in formulating the recommendations.

It was observed that the present recommendations represent only the beginning of this work, and that further recommendations and ideas will likely emerge from within the community as engagement with the Charter deepens.

Finally, a discussion took place on the ways that the Centre for Learning & Teaching (CLT) could support the recommendations, for example through supports for research on black-focused pedagogy or through the development of teaching and learning resources.

15. Other Business

Senators were informed of two upcoming events hosted by the Faculty of Design: a rapid-design charette on affordable housing at the Waterfront, February 20-24, 2025, and a book talk by Cheryl D. Holmes Miller on February 26, 2025 that forms part of the Faculty of Design Black History Month activities.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Spencer J. Harrison, seconded by Simone Jones.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.

[Originally signed]

Julian Goss, Senate Chair

[Originally signed]

Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary