



## **Minutes of the Special Board of Governors Meeting Saturday, January 20, 2024**

Minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Governors (Board) of the Ontario College of Art and Design University (OCAD U or the University) held at the Waterfront Campus, 130 Queens Quay East, East Tower 4R and via videoconference at 3:00 p.m. on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

**Present:** Colleen Baldwin, David Belous (Human Resources Committee Chair), David Binet (Investment Committee Chair), Elizabeth Dipchand (Governance and Nominating Committee Chair), Alea Drain, Jules Goss, Mark Hanrahan, Richard Hunt, Abel Juarez, Lanita Layton (Board Chair), Jarret Leaman (Brand and Business Development Committee Chair), Gail Lee (Audit, Finance and Risk Committee Chair), Hillary Marshall, Ernesto Ramirez, Heather Robson, Ana Serrano (President), Lucy Song, and b.h. Yael.

**In Attendance:** Tanya Bowes, Board Secretary & Director, Strategic Planning, Deanne Fisher, Vice-President, Students and International (VPSI), Julie Nantais, Governance and Information/Privacy Officer, and Alan Simms, Vice-President, Finance & Administration (VPFA).

**Regrets:** Dave Forestell, Lalit Guglani, Luciana Gomes Da Silva, Brenda Hogan, Roma Khanna, Kevin Reid-Morris, Mohsen Mortada, Virginia Trieloff, and Jaime Watt.

### **1. Welcome, Constitution of Meeting, and Opening Remarks**

Lanita Layton, Board Chair, welcomed members to the special Board of Governors meeting, which was duly constituted with quorum present.

She acknowledged the ancestral territories of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabeg and the Huron-Wendat, who are the original owners and custodians of the land on which we work, stand and create.

### **2. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

The Board Chair asked for declarations of conflicts of interest from Board members. No conflicts were declared.

### **3. Approval of Special Board Agenda for January 20, 2024**



**On motion made by Hillary Marshall, seconded by Richard Hunt and adopted, it was resolved that the Board of Governors approve the agenda of the January 20, 2024 special meeting, as presented.**

#### **4. Student Housing Matter**

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, the Committee members received a briefing note regarding a proposal for a short-term student housing strategy.

The VPFA informed the Board that the motion was modified to indicate that “up to” 70 beds would be part of the Master Lease agreement. He reviewed the commitment in the University’s six-year Academic and Strategic Plan to “establish student housing,” as well as the terms of the proposal to enter into a master lease agreement with the Parkside Student Residence Group (Parkside) for up to 70 beds – all standard double occupancy units – for FY2024-25 at 111 Carlton Street. The VPFA informed the Board that Parkside requires the University’s commitment to the master lease by February 2024.

The VPSI explained that the student housing panel from the Board retreat provided context on the current housing crisis, in general, and the pressures facing international students, in particular. She added that, in an effort, to ensure international students receive a quality experience in Canada, the federal government has announced plans to introduce a “Recognized Institutions Framework”, which will incentivize institutions to invest in student supports, including housing, in return for prioritized visa approvals.

The Board had a robust discussion and asked questions regarding a longer-term strategy to address the student housing issue; whether there is a renewal option included in the lease; the positioning of Parkside in the student housing market; whether the University could include the administrative costs of the new pilot Student Housing office in the costs of the rent charged by Parkside; the process by which rents are collected through the OCAD U student’s tuition account; the role of Parkside in managing any onsite student issues; the responsibility of the University for any unfilled beds, in particular during the four-month summer period; and how the rates charged by Parkside compare with CampusOne, the University’s previous supplier of student housing, as well as the private rental market.

**On motion made by David Binet, seconded by Ernesto Ramirez and adopted, it was resolved that the Board of Governors approve a one-year Master Lease Agreement for up to 70 beds as well as the associated meal plan program between OCAD University and KH Residence Group with respect to the Parkside Student Residence to a maximum of \$2,054,556 exclusive of HST and commencing September 2024, as presented.**



## 5. Termination

**On motion made by Lucy Song, seconded by Gail Lee and adopted, it was resolved that the Board of Governors terminate the meeting at 3:30 p.m.**

**Next meeting:** Monday, March 4, 2024

*[Original Signed]*

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Lanita Layton, Board Chair

*[Original Signed]*

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Tanya Bowes, Board Secretary