



**OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024; 3:15PM – 6:15PM
HYBRID; ROOM 322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST**

Present: Julian Goss (Chair); Caroline Langill (Vice-Chair); Michelle Astrug; Kevin Bae; Angela Bains; Sean Baker; Parantap Bhatt; Amanda Boulos; Ross Bullen; Chen Cao; Peter Coppin; Susan Ferguson; Deanne Fisher; Stephen Foster; Simon Glass; Simone Jones; Ian Keteku; Katherine Kiloh; Susan Kun; Fidelia Lam; Francis LeBouthillier; Ashok Mathur; Isabel Meirelles; Angus Mok; Jennifer-Amy Murphy; Eric Nay; Tannis Nielsen; Lesley-Ann Noel; Suharu Ogawa; Ben Peto; Neal Prabhu; Nicholas Pye; Lauchlan Reid; Ana Serrano; Nancy Snow; Vladimir Spicanovic; Sarita Srivastava; Suzanne Stein; Derek Sullivan; Tommy Tso; Annie Tung; Michelle Wyndham-West; Alia Weston

Regrets: Jim Drobnick; Spencer J. Harrison; Diane Mikhael; Barbara Rauch; Sarah Trantum; Jaime Watt

In Attendance: Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary; David Wagschal, Associate Senate Secretary; and other members of the OCAD U community.

The business meeting was preceded by the annual Senate orientation for new and returning Senators.

1. Remarks from the Chair

The meeting was opened with a Land Acknowledgement. The Chair recognized that September 30 is Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and encouraged Senate members to attend events at the University and in their communities. The Chair welcomed new and returning members.

2. Senate Agenda for September 23, 2024

Motion to approve the Senate agenda for September 23, 2024, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Vladimir Spicanovic.

Motion carried.

3. Senate Minutes from May 22, 2024

Motion to approve the Senate minutes from May 22, 2024, moved by Parantap Bhatt, seconded by Kathy Kiloh.

Motion carried.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items

Motion to accept the consent agenda information items, moved by Simone Jones, seconded by Simon Glass.

Motion carried.

5. Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor

The President updated Senate members on the recent announcement by the Federal Government to further restrict the number of international post-secondary students by 10% and to expand the restrictions to include graduate students and students already studying in Canada. It was noted that these changes are expected to impact the University's enrolment and multi-year financial forecasts. It was confirmed that further information would be shared with the community as it becomes available.

6. 2024 Spring and Summer Term Grades

Senate members were referred to the circulated memo.

Motion to approve the 2024 Spring and Summer Term Grades, moved by Caroline Langill, seconded by Nancy Snow.

Motion carried.

Senator members were updated on recent enhancements to the Canvas Learning Management System. These were noted to include new warnings for missing grades, better statistics tools, changes to the grade-submission process, and new reports to ensure students receive 20% of their final grade by the deadlines indicated in the grading policies. It was suggested that faculty encourage their students to use the "What-If" functionality, which can project a final mark based on material already graded.

Discussion

It was observed that the current deadline for the 20% grade regulation is now very late in the semester. It was requested that this deadline be revisited in the grading policies. It was suggested that ideally students should receive 20% of their final grade by the fourth or fifth week in the term.

It was confirmed that email communications on the enhancements to Canvas will be circulated to faculty, and that the relevant Knowledgebase articles would also be updated.

A discussion took place on the analytics available through Canvas to monitor students' engagement, and whether students are aware of these capabilities. It was noted that it is important that students have a clear understanding of what data is collected and for what purposes.

7. Report from the Indigenous Education Council (IEC)

The Chair referred Senate members to the written report from the May 24, 2024 meeting of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC). The report emphasized the recent review of the IEC's terms of reference and provided updates on discussions regarding Indigenous self-identification.

Discussion

It was confirmed that the IEC will be continuing to consider ways that OCAD U can adhere to the Universities Canada Thirteen Principles on Indigenous Education. With reference to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, members were reminded of the institution's decision, in consultation with the IEC, to not hold classes on this day. Clarification was also provided on how that date is handled in the school calendar and it was confirmed that communications were sent to all instructors who teach Monday classes.

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

The Chair referred Senate members to the written report of the August 13-14, 2024 meetings of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleagues. The report highlighted discussion of changes in international enrolment, new developments in credentials, challenges related to leadership stability and continuity, and trends in government funding.

Discussion

It was confirmed that colleges in Ontario are reporting significant operational surpluses, while universities have been posting deficits.

Attention was drawn to the discussion of the slow progress on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action for post-secondary institutions. The suggestion was highlighted that universities consider further bi-lateral relationship-building with existing self-governing Indigenous educational institutions.

9. Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC)

9.1. Revisions to the COU Academic Colleague Selection Policy

Motion to approve the revisions to the Council of Ontario Universities Academic Colleague Selection Policy, moved by Caroline Langill, seconded by Ana Serrano. It was emphasized that the principal revision, clarifying that Academic Colleagues do not have to be currently serving on Senate, will align the policy with the updated Council of Ontario Universities (COU) by-laws. Further clarifications to the eligible faculty members, which include members of the academic leadership, were also highlighted.

Motion carried.

10. Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

Motion to move in camera, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Lauchlan Reid.

Motion carried.

IN CAMERA SESSION OF SENATE:

Commenced at 5:22 p.m.

10.1. Recommendation for COU Academic Colleague Alternate

The Senate approved Eric Nay as the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague Alternate.

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

The Senate approved Neal Prabhu and Nancy Snow as the faculty Senator representatives to the Board of Governors.

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING OF SENATE:

Resumed at 5:26 p.m.

11. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)

11.1. 2024 Fall Graduands

Senate members were referred to the screened memo. It was noted that the memo should read “fall graduation” in place of “winter graduation”.

Motion to approve the 135 Fall graduands, moved by Emma Westecott, seconded by Parantap Bhatt.

Motion carried.

12. Senate Quality Assurance Committee (SQAC)

12.1. Revisions to the IQAP Policy

Motion to approve the revisions to the Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Policy, moved by Jennifer-Amy Murphey, seconded by Susan Kun.

The principal revisions were highlighted, specifically the addition of the option for graduate-level cyclical program review and new program proposal site visits to be held remotely, in alignment with a recent change to the provincial Quality Assurance Framework; and the revision that that final approval of external reviewers will now lie with the Provost instead of the Senate Quality Assurance Committee (SQAC), to streamline the approval process.

Discussion

It was clarified that this revision would not change the current process for vetting external reviewers’ arm’s length status.

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

Highlights of the reports included the annual slate of Senate Committee memberships; changes in the Cyclical Program Review scheduled for graduate programs; and the approval of curricular revisions in the Faculty of Art and a Special Topics course in the School of Graduate Studies.

14. Strategic Academic Discussion Topics

The Chair requested feedback on possible topics for strategic academic discussions at future Senate meetings. Topics suggested in last year’s Senate Feedback Survey were noted, including the future shape of the art & design university, implications of artificial intelligence for teaching, share-backs of successful teaching strategies, the impact of Board

of Governor decisions on academic matters, and the further development of sustainability initiatives in the curriculum.

Discussion

Senate members confirmed the importance of holding ongoing generative conversations on academic matters. It was suggested that such conversations could employ multiple workshop methodologies, and could also include reflexive consideration of how the University discusses big-picture questions.

Further topics for discussion were raised, including decolonization efforts in both curriculum and governance; the possibility of bringing ongoing intra-program discussions to the broader table; and specific curriculum and research initiatives that could expand or enhance the University's partnerships, research profile, and commercialization efforts.

It was confirmed that further written suggestions should be forwarded to the Senate Chair or Senate Secretary.

Finally, it was clarified that these discussions would take place only when there is at least 20 minutes or more available on the Senate agenda, to ensure adequate time for robust discussion.

15. Other Business

No other business was raised.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Angus Mok.

Meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.

[Originally signed]

Julian Goss, Senate Chair

[Originally signed]

Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary