



**OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024; 3:15PM – 5:00PM
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; Maggie Broda; Ross Bullen; Chen Cao; Peter Coppin; 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; Suzanne Stein; Anna Trần; Sarah Trantum; Tommy Tso; Annie Tung

Regrets: Jim Drobnick; Nicholas Pye; Barbara Rauch; Derek Sullivan; Jaime Watt; Alia Weston

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

1. Remarks from the Chair

The meeting was opened with a Land Acknowledgement. The Chair welcomed to the Senate membership the newly elected Faculty of Design undergraduate student senator and the recently appointed Board of Governors representative. The chair reminded members of the Financial Basics training session to be held on December 2, 2024.

2. Senate Agenda for October 28, 2024

Motion to approve the Senate agenda for October 28, 2024, moved by Spencer J. Harrison, seconded by Lauchlan Reid.

Motion carried.

3. Senate Minutes from September 23, 2024

Motion to approve the Senate minutes from September 23, 2024, moved by Lauchlan Reid, seconded by Susan Ferguson.

Motion carried.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items

Motion to accept the consent agenda information items, moved by Simon Glass, seconded by Susan Kun.

The Deans were invited to highlight any significant initiatives or priorities in their areas of oversight. The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies emphasized the development of a

new PhD in Creative Practice, work to increase consistency and collaboration among existing graduate programs, and efforts to address the recently-announced restrictions on international student enrolments. The Dean of Design noted initiatives to enhance and develop new partnerships and provided highlights of recent faculty research and professional practice. The Dean of the Faculty of Art emphasized new curricular initiatives, including work to restructure First Year Art and the development of a new program framework for the Faculty's smaller programs. Finally, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science highlighted recent teaching award winners and efforts to better support Tenure and Promotion processes, and also emphasized successes in meeting financial sustainability targets.

Motion carried.

5. Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor

The President updated Senate members on changes to the Board of Governors, highlighting several new Board Members and emphasizing the work of the Governance and Nominating Committee to enhance efforts to recruit a diverse and skilled complement of Board members. It was also noted that the previous Brand and Business Development Committee has been dissolved, and its work incorporated into other committees.

Senate members were then informed that, in response to a government directive earlier this Fall, a draft of a new University mental health policy has been prepared, which is expected to proceed to the Board for approval later this term.

Finally, updates were provided on conversations at Universities Canada and elsewhere in the sector to address the impact of the new federal limitations on international student enrolment.

Discussion

In the discussion that followed, it was confirmed that Indigenous representation on the Board of Governors remains a recruitment priority, and that efforts to create more participatory modes of engagement on the Board have been informed by Indigenous models of governance. It was suggested that Indigenization/decolonization work on the Board could be enhanced by an Indigenous advisory committee.

Efforts to advocate for the post-secondary sector in the broader public sphere were discussed, especially in light of upcoming elections.

Finally, it was confirmed that student consultation has taken place on the new mental health policy through the Student Wellness Centre. It was emphasized that the new policy is primarily a compilation of existing services and practices.

6. Student Matters

No matters were raised by the student Senate members.

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

The Chair referred Senate members to the written report of the October 2-3, 2024 meeting of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleagues. The report highlighted discussions of COU advocacy strategies, the impacts of recent federal and provincial

government decisions, and the ongoing development of a post-secondary accessibility standard.

8. Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC)

8.1. New Policy on the Development and Review of Academic Policies

Motion to approve the new policy on the Development and Review of Academic Policies, moved by Simone Jones, seconded by Simon Glass.

The scope of the policy was outlined, including new policy development, policy revision, policy review, and policy dissemination. It was emphasized that the policy is largely codifying existing practice.

Motion carried.

9. Senate Academic Standards Committee (SASC)

9.1. Annual Report on Academic Misconduct

The report on Academic Misconduct in the 2023/2024 Academic Year was presented. It was noted that cases per Faculty and Program were largely proportional to the number of students taking courses in those areas. The comparatively large number of incidents in the Winter term was highlighted, as was the unusual spike in second-year cases, but it was cautioned that the sample size is too small relative to the overall proportion of the student body to draw firm conclusions from any observed trends. Attention was drawn to the new category of offence “AI-generated assignment”.

Discussion

It was confirmed that the Office of the Registrar does track incidents of academic misconduct for graduate students, and that it is uncommon for no graduate-level offences to be reported.

Several possibilities for the increase in second-year incidents were discussed. It was confirmed that the Office of the Registrar will be investigating this development further and monitoring for any trends moving forward.

It was confirmed that the Working Group on Academic Integrity of the Teaching & Learning Committee is reviewing Policy 1014: Academic Misconduct as part of its work, and that it is expected to bring forward revisions for consideration. Senate members emphasized the need to streamline and clarify the policy’s provisions and procedures, and to focus on prevention. It was also observed that many factors impact rates of student academic misconduct, and that it is important to ensure that students have adequate awareness of relevant regulations.

It was confirmed that the Working Group on Academic Integrity is also addressing academic integrity issues related to generative AI. In response to a query about student engagement in this work, it was clarified that the Working Group has several positions for student representatives and has conducted student focus groups. It was also suggested that one issue for the Working Group to consider is the growing number of incidents of data falsification.

10. 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 Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)
- Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
- Senate Research Committee (SRC)

Highlights of the reports included multi-committee review of the draft Strategic Research Plan and approval of curriculum in the Faculty of Art, the Faculty of Arts & Science and the School of Graduate Studies.

11. Faculty & Curriculum Development Centre and Writing & Learning Centre Update

Senate members were provided with an overview of the recent organizational changes to the Faculty & Curriculum Development Centre (FCDC) and Writing & Learning Centre (WLC). It was explained that the renewal process was initiated in October 2023 and involved extensive consultation with FCDC and WLC staff, academic leadership, the OCAD Student Union (OCADSU), and other academic support units. It was also confirmed that OPSEU Local 576 has been consulted in the process. It was emphasized that the goal of the renewal is to enhance the consistency, visibility and accessibility of the services provided to students and faculty.

The structure of the new integrated unit, the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT), was described. It was explained that it will have three portfolios: Teaching Support and Curriculum Enhancement; Student Writing, Communication and Learning Support; and Curriculum Innovation Initiatives. It was emphasized that expertise in multilingual pedagogies, inclusive and accessible practices, digital learning, and decolonizing and anti-racist education will be embedded and integrated across all three portfolios in order to expand the reach of this expertise to broader audiences. It was also noted that English for Art and Design, the non-credit language pathway for undergraduate students, will be returning to the School of Continuing Studies. Finally, Senate members were informed that the expected implementation date of the renewal is December 2, 2024, and were invited to contact the Director, Teaching & Learning with any further questions or concerns.

Discussion

In the discussion that followed, it was expressed that it will be important to ensure long-term dedicated writing support for graduate students. It was also observed that pedagogical support for learning must be understood holistically to encompass both studio and classroom learning. It was suggested that it would be helpful if the Teaching & Learning Committee had a representative from Studio Facilities.

It was clarified that, while the pre-entry English for Art and Design program will be returning to the School of Continuing Studies, all other English-language supports and services of the WLC will continue as under the previous structure.

Concerns were raised that, without a dedicated staff position, anti-racist and decolonizing pedagogy may become de-emphasized and possibly overshadowed by other priorities such as generative AI. In response, it was clarified that while some new capacity for generative AI has been included in the renewed structure, a new dedicated AI position is not being implemented. It was further noted that the new unit's management team has significant expertise in anti-racism, translingual pedagogy, and decolonization.

It was clarified that the renewal was mandated to be budget neutral, and that as a result no further expansions of the unit's services are being considered at this time.

Finally, it was emphasized that it will be important that students and faculty have means of providing feedback on the changes as they unfold. It was confirmed that ongoing evaluation will be a priority moving forward. It was also noted that the more clearly defined portfolios should assist with accountability and communication with constituencies.

12. Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA4)

Senate members were provided with an update on the development of the next set of Strategic Mandate Agreements between the provincial government and Ontario universities. Details of the current SMA3 agreement, which extends from 2020-2025, were reviewed, with an emphasis on the roll-out of the new performance-based funding goals and metrics. It was explained that information on the next set of agreements is only slowly becoming available, but that it has been confirmed that eight of the previous ten metrics will be maintained, with small revisions. It was also noted that it has been confirmed that funding tied to performance will be limited to 25% of total funding for the first two years, and that performance of international students will no longer be included in the assessments of universities' performance.

Discussion

It was confirmed that conversations will be ongoing with the government on the future of the Skills & Competencies metric, including the development of a sector-wide approach for assessing performance in this category. It was also confirmed that it is likely that universities will have input on the definition of two metrics on research/innovation and student-centeredness, although detailed information is not yet available. It was confirmed that the data for the metrics is gathered through a variety of means, including surveys and Statistics Canada reports.

The consequences of missing performance-based and enrolment-based targets were discussed. It was confirmed that at present the impact of missing a performance-based target is low, although it varies with the weighting of the metric. It was also noted that universities can receive additional funding if they meet targets that other universities miss. For enrolment-based targets, it was explained that the consequences of being out of the enrolment corridor, set in 2019-2020, will become less serious as the percentage of performance-based funding grows.

Motion to extend the duration of the meeting by 10 minutes, moved by Simone Jones, seconded by Kathy Kiloh.

Motion carried.

13. Other Business

Concerns were expressed that changes to the workload structure of some thesis courses are adversely impacting student learning, and disproportionately impacting I-BPOC faculty. In response, it was noted that the thesis model of these courses has changed to support more independent student learning and that these concerns should be directed to the appropriate academic administrator. In response to a query about whether restricted funds could be diverted to support additional teaching workloads, it was confirmed that restricted funds at the University can only be used for the purposes for which they are designated.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Lauchlan Reid, seconded by Suzanne Stein.

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm.

[Originally signed]

Julian Goss, Senate Chair

[Originally signed]

Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary