



**OCAD UNIVERSITY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF SENATE
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024; 3:15PM – 5:30PM
HYBRID; ROOM 322, 230 RICHMOND STREET WEST**

Present: Julian Goss (Chair); Caroline Langill (Vice-Chair); Michelle Astrug; Kevin Bae; Angela Bains; Sean Baker; Amanda Boulos; Maggie Broda; Ross Bullen; Chen Cao; Peter Coppin; Jim Drobnick; Susan Ferguson; Stephen Foster; Simon Glass; Spencer J. Harrison; Simone Jones; Ian Keteku; 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; Nicholas Pye; Lauchlan Reid; Ana Serrano; Nancy Snow; Vladimir Spicanovic; Sarita Srivastava; Suzanne Stein; Derek Sullivan; Anna Trần; Sarah Trantum; Tommy Tso; Annie Tung

Regrets: Parantap Bhatt; Deanne Fisher; Katherine Kiloh; Barbara Rauch; Jaime Watt; Alia Weston

In Attendance: Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary; David Wagschal, Associate Senate Secretary; Adam Tindale; Jutta Treviranus; and other members of the OCAD University community.

1. Remarks from the Chair

The meeting was opened with a Land Acknowledgement. The chair noted that the January, February and March meetings of Senate would be held online only. Members were encouraged to attend the Financial Basics training session scheduled for December 2, 2024.

2. Senate Agenda for November 25, 2024

Motion to approve the Senate agenda for November 25, 2024, moved by Spencer J. Harrison, seconded by Simon Glass.

Motion carried.

3. Senate Minutes from October 28, 2024

Motion to approve the Senate minutes from October 28, 2024, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Spencer J. Harrison.

Motion carried.

4. Consent Agenda Information Items

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

It was clarified that the Israel-Palestine Working Group is an administrative working group that manages student issues related to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Motion carried.

5. Information Update from the President and Vice-Chancellor

The President updated Senate members on the financial sustainability challenges facing the post-secondary sector. It was emphasized that the University's multi-year forecast, which will be presented to faculty and staff in December, has changed significantly, and that the community will need to engage collectively in creative, transformative design work to address the growing structural deficit. Recent advocacy efforts in the sector were highlighted, including those of a coalition of the four leading Canadian art & design universities. It was noted that the province has not yet distributed the Provincial Attestation Letters (PALs), which determine each institution's maximum international enrolment, and that efforts are being made to ensure the University receives a fair and reasonable allotment.

Discussion

It was confirmed that ideas to address the University's financial challenges can be sent via email to the Vice-President, Academic and Provost, the Vice-Provost, Students and International, or the Vice-President, Finance and Administration. It was requested that further efforts be made to communicate to community stakeholders the ongoing work of the administration to address financial sustainability.

6. Student Matters

Student Senate members requested an update on the Academic Integrity Working Group and inquired about student contributions to this group's work. In response, it was noted that the group's meetings are expected to resume in January, and that there are two student positions on the group, one of which is currently vacant. It was also confirmed that the mandate of the group is quite broad, and that it encompasses both policy and procedural review, as well as efforts to address emerging issues related to Generative AI.

Student Senate members also inquired about initiatives or resources that are being implemented to bridge academic learning and professional practice. In response, it was emphasized that most undergraduate programs run dedicated professional practices courses, and attention was also drawn to the experiential learning opportunities offered through the RBC Centre for Emerging Artists & Designers (CEAD) and several recent initiatives to hold classes in professional contexts and align class material with specific industries.

7. Senate Research Committee (SRC)

7.1. Strategic Research Plan 2024-2029

Motion to approve the OCAD University Strategic Research Plan 2024-2029, moved by Caroline Langill, seconded by Stephen Foster.

An overview of the plan was presented, and the consultation and development processes described. The exceptional growth of research at the University over the past several years was highlighted. It was emphasized that the plan has been framed

as a living document, which will be updated with dynamic content via embedded weblinks.

Discussion

Concerns were raised that the document does not sufficiently address elements of the Scarborough Charter relating to the support of Black research and researchers. In response, references to the Scarborough Charter and the University's adherence to Anti-Black Racism and Black Inclusion were highlighted, and it was emphasized that more detailed information on these initiatives will be conveyed through the embedded links, as the document develops.

It was observed that the document would be strengthened by further reference to community engagement. It was also noted that Strategic Foresight & Innovation is not mentioned. In response to the latter, it was confirmed that the subject matter of strategic foresight is referred to twice in the document, but that specific programs have not been named explicitly, since the intention is to capture broad areas of research.

The consultation process with Indigenous faculty was reviewed. It was requested that the document be brought to a future meeting of the Indigenous Education Council (IEC).

It was observed that the idea of updating the document via weblinks will provide opportunities for continuous assessment of the University's progress in meeting the plan's goals. It was suggested that further discussion take place on how to measure progress in meeting these goals.

Finally, it was observed that more direct consultation with the academic program units would strengthen the document as it evolves.

Motion carried.

8. Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee (SUSC)

8.1. IQAP Criticism & Curatorial Practice (CRCP) Major Modification

Motion to approve the Criticism and Curatorial Practice Major Modification, as presented, moved by Simone Jones, seconded by Michelle Astrug.

Highlights of the proposed revisions were outlined, including the move to direct entry admissions, the expansion of options for students to customize their programs, and the enhancement of synergies with other Faculty of Arts & Science (FAS) programs. It was emphasized that the changes, taking place in the context of the administrative move of CRCP to FAS, aim to open the program to a wider range of criticism and curating practices, encompassing design, performance, film, and digital curation. Further, it was emphasized that the changes will set the foundation for future program development in areas with direct vocational impact.

Discussion

It was confirmed that the revisions are not contingent upon the success of a proposed double-credit pilot, CRCP 3XXX: Curatorial Practice, and that the proposed major modification could be implemented with the older version of the course if necessary. It

was further noted that the FAS double-credit pilots are undergoing an evaluation process, and more discussion on their viability is anticipated.

Motion carried.

8.2. Laptop Program Changes for 2025/2026

Motion to approve the laptop program changes for 2025/2026, moved by Susan Kun, seconded by Vladimir Spicanovic.

It was noted that, since the document was circulated, the Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee has approved a further amendment to the laptop program changes for 2025/2026, specifically the addition of Dragonframe software to the proposed course EXAN 1XXX: Animation Techniques Playground.

Motion carried, as amended.

9. Senate Academic Policy & Planning Committee (SAPPC)

9.1. Annual Report on Research Ethics Board

The highlights of the report were outlined, including the number and type of applications, the recent transition to a new Research Ethics Board (REB) chair, and the need to make REB resources more consistently available and accessible to the community. It was emphasized that the REB is seeking to reframe the research ethics review process as a means of enriching and supporting research, and it was also noted that a key priority remains finding new ways to support applicants well in advance of their final application submission. Attention was drawn to the ongoing work of the Special Advisor to the Provost, Indigenous Initiatives, to review how Indigenous research projects can be appropriately reviewed. Finally, the research of several REB members on the intersection of REB practices and research creation was highlighted.

Discussion

It was suggested that, given ongoing difficulties in assuring Indigenous representation on the REB, the Indigenous Education Council (IEC) might be able to assist with reviewing Indigenous-related ethics approvals.

Several Senate members commended the report's recommendation to establish closer relationships with the School of Graduate Studies (SGS), and also affirmed the report's emphasis on offering graduate students support in advance of application submissions. It was suggested that faculty supervisors should participate in pre-submission meetings.

It was observed that at present faculty research and student research are often structurally compartmentalized, but that research and research commercialization would benefit from greater integration. It was also suggested that the ROMEO system could be updated to indicate further options aside from student-led or faculty-led. It was confirmed that updates to the ROMEO research management system are anticipated in the near future.

10. Senate Committee Information Reports

The Chair referred members to the consolidated Senate Committee Information Report which included reports from the following committees:

- 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)
- Academic Disruption Response Committee (ADRC)

Highlights of the reports included review and approval of the Strategic Research Plan 2024-2029 (SRP), approval of curriculum in the Faculty of Art, the Faculty of Design, the Faculty of Arts & Science and the School of Graduate Studies, discussion of the School of Graduate Studies Degree Requirement Policy, and a report of the annual meeting of the Academic Disruption Response Committee (ADRC).

11. Strategic Academic Discussion: OCAD University Generative AI Principles

Senate members were informed that the OCAD U AI Advisory Panel, co-chaired by Jutta Treviranus and Adam Tindale, has been meeting over the past year to identify and consider opportunities and threats posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) to the University and creative sector. With reference to the circulated draft document “OCAD University AI Principles”, it was explained that, as part of its mandate to make recommendations for policy and practice, the Panel is working to articulate a mission and vision to guide the University’s engagement with new AI technologies and to aid in the University’s responses to new situations as they arise. It was noted that at least two areas have yet to be addressed in the draft document: issues relating to consent, agency, transparency and embedded power structures challenged by AI; and issues relating to the value of process in learning and creative processes. An example was provided of a recent case where further guidance of the type provided in the Principles would have helped guide University decision making.

The work of the AI Advisory Panel in addressing the University’s contributions to the global conversation was then described, particularly regarding concerns around digital eugenics and statistical discrimination, and how art and design research might offer unique insights on these topics.

Discussion

The Senate Chair expressed gratitude to the AI Advisory Panel members for their work both within the institution and in national and international contexts. It was clarified that it is anticipated that the final OCAD U AI Principles document will be made available to all community members, and may also be public-facing.

It was observed that another issue that remains to be addressed in the document is the administrative use of AI within the institution.

It was noted that all levels of government are currently making significant investments into AI, and are actively seeking faculty expertise in this area. Faculty members were encouraged to contact the Office of the President if they are interested in developing AI-related curriculum for external partners.

A representative of IT Services confirmed that the University is proactively seeking to foster engagement with AI in ways that respect equity, privacy and security. It was noted, as an example, that IT Services will be enabling pilots in the new year of AI class agents using the open-source Cogniti software, which has been designed by educators and which honours principles of equity and privacy.

A discussion took place on the tendency of AI to homogenize outputs, with the result that the original and creative voice of students or practitioners can be difficult to discern. It was also observed that generative AI, as effectively a past-pattern replicator, has the potential to amplify barriers for voices that are neither average nor typical. At the same time, it was recognized that AI can provide valuable assistance to students for whom English is not a first language.

Several Senate members confirmed the value of a “general principles” document in providing flexible guidance for instructors as they navigate the use of AI in a variety of contexts. It was observed that principles will be especially valuable for initiating dialogue with students about the potentials and threats of the new technology. It was observed, however, that a formal policy may still eventually be necessary. It was also suggested that students might benefit from a more accessible version of the current text.

It was confirmed that the Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) would be able to assist faculty in engaging with students in dialogue around AI. It was noted, however, that more resources and time will be necessary for faculty to unpack the principles in the document and apply them in their courses. It was observed that the challenge AI poses to conventional curriculum is significant, particularly in how it invites a reassessment of the value of predictive, standardized production.

Finally, Senate members were encouraged to attend the ongoing community of practice and workshops hosted by the CLT and IT Services, and to reach out to the co-chairs of the AI Advisory Panel with any further questions or comments.

12. Other Business

No other business was raised.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn, moved by Spencer J. Harrison, seconded by Diane Mikhael.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

[Originally signed]

Julian Goss, Senate Chair

[Originally signed]

Natalie Nanton, Senate Secretary