

May 20, 2021

Ana Serrano, President & Vice-Chancellor, OCADU
Office of the President, OCAD University
100 McCaul St, Toronto, ON M5T 1W1

Dear President Serrano:

It is with deep regret that we read about the restructuring of the OCAD University Library. We were dismayed to hear about the elimination of six permanent positions and the dismissal of four experienced, essential, and highly qualified Librarians.

We acknowledge that universities are struggling within the current economic climate and the devastating effects of the pandemic; however, restructuring should not be undertaken without meaningful and collegial consultation, which includes all of the relevant people involved. Unfortunately, it appears that this very disturbing reorganization was undertaken without any acknowledgement of the expertise and commitment that contributed to the success of the library.

Senior librarians who engage with students and faculty, who undertake research projects involving Indigenous Studies, Covid-19 and its impacts, and online learning are an integral part of the University and the Library. The removal of these librarians and the abrupt end to their incredible work will significantly impact the future of the library and the university as a whole.

We urge you to reverse your decision and immediately reinstate Daniel Payne, Marta Chudolinska, Victoria Sigurdson and Alex Homanchuk.

Sincerely,



Gautam Das, President
Lakehead University Faculty Association

Cc:

Caroline Langill, Vice President and Provost Academic, OCADU, clangill@ocadu.ca

Jamie Watt, Chair, OCAD University Board of Governors, jwatt@navltd.com

Tony White, University Librarian, twhite@ocadu.ca

Min Sook Lee, President, OCAD Faculty Association, minsooklee@faculty.ocadu.ca

Chris Thompson, President, OPSEU Local 576, cthompson@ocadu.ca