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Cc:

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28 May 2021

**MSVUFA Letter of Support for the Ontario College of Art and Design University
(OCADU) Librarians**

Dear President Serrano,

On behalf of the members of the Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association (MSVUFA) – which include full-time faculty, librarians, and lab instructors – we are writing to express our shock and dismay at the termination of four OCADU senior librarians: Daniel Payne, Marta Chudolinska, Victoria Sigurdson, and Alex Homanchuk.

Librarians play a crucial, and often unsung, role in the core functioning of universities. The termination of four experienced professional librarians at OCADU Library amounts to a loss of over 70 years of collective wisdom, experience, and institutional memory. How can a workplace, particularly an institution of higher learning, be effectively reorganized without the support of its most knowledgeable workers?

More concerning than the abruptness of these terminations is that the proposed departmental restructuring has been done under the guise of decolonization, with the aim of “flattening hierarchies and promoting peer-to-peer environment” (OCADU’s Statement on Library Reorganization, 14 May 2021). This is an alarming misuse of the concept of decolonization

and an egregious example of top-down hierarchical management. The lack of consultation with the campus community regarding the restructuring of OCADU Library is not collegial governance; it is bad governance.

We urge you reinstate the librarians whose positions have been terminated, and we urge you to commit to the collegial and equitable management of the workplace, not just for the Librarians but also for all workers at OCADU.

On behalf of the MSVUFA Executive and MSVUFA Membership,



Dr. Diane Piccitto (she/her)
President, MSVUFA
Faculty, MSVU



Sandra Sawchuk (she/her)
Vice-President Elect, MSVUFA
Librarian, MSVU

MSVU is in K'jipuktuk, part of Mi'kma'ki, the unceded and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq.

We stand in solidarity with Black Lives Matter and all those acting to oppose and dismantle systemic racism of all forms. We denounce police brutality and violence, especially that which targets Black and Indigenous peoples.