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Ana Serrano, President & Vice-Chancellor, OCADU
Office of the President, OCAD University
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May 21, 2021

Dear President Ana Serrano,

On behalf of the Archives Association of Ontario (AAO), I am writing to you to express my disappointment at OCADU Administration's decision to eliminate librarian positions. We stand with our colleagues in libraries who are strongly urging you to reinstate these positions.

As a network representing over 350 archival institutions and information professionals, the AAO recognizes that libraries and professional librarians are the core of any significant post-secondary institution, and we acknowledge the value that academic librarians – like archivists – serve in supporting students and faculty in their research.

Many members of the AAO work in academic libraries, and many more of our members have attended conferences or engaged in workshops with the senior academic librarians whose positions are being eliminated. While we understand the need to restructure and adapt to meet new curriculum, research, and technological requirements, we strongly believe that by cutting these positions, OCADU will damage student experience and achievement, hinder faculty research, and essentially sever OCADU's ability to engage, learn, and share with the professional library and archival associations that drive innovation and change within academic libraries.

The AAO strongly urges you to reconsider your decision to eliminate positions affecting OCAD librarians. We stand by and echo the demands of the OCAD Faculty Association and encourage the administration of OCAD U to take the following steps:

- Reinstatement of the four academic librarians and cessation of all plans to restructure until there has been a thorough review of best practices and community needs
- Involvement of OCADU librarians, faculty, and students in any major library reorganization
- Investment in OCADU's Library and resources
- Demonstration that OCADU supports and upholds the academic principles of collegial decision-making and mutual respect

Respectfully,

Krista McCracken
President, Archives Association of Ontario