Condolence Motion

Moved by: Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam
Seconded by: Councillor Pam McConnell

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Wendy Coburn on June 19, 2015.

As a tireless champion of students and faculty at OCAD University and a fierce advocate for social change and thoughtful action, Wendy was an accomplished and celebrated artist and devoted arts educator.

Her multi-disciplinary work in photography, sculpture, installation and video engages a range of concerns such as popular culture, mental health, gender, whiteness, nationhood and the role of images in mediating cultural difference. This extensive body of work has been exhibited at international and national galleries and festivals.

As a professor at OCAD University Wendy mentored faculty and students alike and was deeply loved and respected. Wendy supported and taught her colleagues how to navigate the world of teaching and administration with beauty, grace, humour, integrity and intelligence.

Wendy’s early years as Assistant Dean are linked to a period of transition from the era of diploma to university degree granting for OCAD University. She worked on initial documents for degree granting status and went on to fine tune curriculum through program reviews and course development. She also helped lead the Faculty of Art through the campus redevelopment and the impact of a double cohort during a period of dwindling resources and administrative restructure.

Wendy’s contribution to OCAD University and the art world were great and she will be deeply missed. The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Wendy Coburn.

July 7, 2015