

RYERSON FACULTY ASSOCIATION
Council of Department/School Representatives' Meeting

Thursday, October 27, 2011
4:30 p.m. - Light Supper, Meeting will start at 5:15 p.m.
ILC, International Room

Present

Shadi Farshadfar
Seyed Hashemi
Yaser Dahman
Arnold Yuan
Marcus Santos
Jesmen Mendoza
Graham Hudson
Rachel Berman
Beth Swart
Meredith Schwartz
Tae Hart
Nicole Neverson

Richard Chisik
Vincenzo Caponi
Sarah Henstra
Osmud Rahman
Kinga Zawada
Wayne Forsythe
John Morgan
Richard Wade
Elaine Santa Mina
Catherine Beauchemin
Janice Kuo
Heather Rollwagen

Rupa Banerjee
Ursula Trescases
Joanne McNeish
Garnet Ord
Vincent Chan
Seth Dworkin
Nadya Burton
Diane Pirner
Yvonne Yuan
Tuna Baskoy
Hong Yu

Regrets

Cheryl Atkinson
Jane Hao
Esther Ignagni
Reza Sedaghat
Lev Kirischian
Vadim Geurkov
Aparna Sundar
Gordon Pon

Jennifer Burwell
Natalia Gilewicz
Gerda Cammaer
Linying Dong
Marsha Barber
Mary Sharpe
Gregory Levey
Cynthia Ashperger

Stephen Swales
Lila Pine
Farid Shirazi
Catherine Dowling
Naomi Eichenlaub
Linda Cooper
Charles Zamaria

RFA Executives and Staff

Anver Saloojee
Agnes Paje

Andre Focault
Peter Danziger

Jason Lisi (Chair)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm

1. Approval of Agenda
 - Motion to adopt Agenda as amended (Vincent/Rupa) Adopted
2. Opening remarks and announcements
 - Anver spoke to the Council regarding the death of Maureen Sims, and the Council honoured a moment of silence
 - A survey was taken to see how many reps were new and how many we're returning. A good contingency of Reps are new.

3. Open Discussion about the role and expectations of the Reps
 - A review of pertinent points of RFA By Law Number 1 Article 11
 - Report at the Reps' Council meetings for discussion issues arising in Schools/Departments/Faculties
 - Report Back to Schools/Departments/Faculties issues discussed at Reps' Council (make sure you have a standing item on your School/Dept. meeting agendas for your report)
 - Discussions regarding the Committee's role in the Health and Safety Committee, as well as the Political Action Committee, were noted.
 - The Chair invited Reps to put their names forward if they wish to serve on this committee during the break
 - Feedback from Reps about expectations and goals – what do you want the Rep's Council to be? What should the role of a rep be?
 - A question was raised about the role of a Rep as point of contact for members with a potential issue/concern that could lead to a grievance
 - The role was discussed in more detail
 - It was agreed upon that a general session regarding the grievance process would be beneficial. The Chair will attempt to arrange this session for the November meeting
4. Report from the Bargaining Committee
 - Peter Danziger introduced himself, and the other members of the negotiating committee that were not able to be present
 - Key areas of the Collective Agreement and negotiations were mentioned
 - It was mentioned that several universities have settled recently, but the average settlements are around the 1.5% range
 - There were discussions regarding the pension plan, and the potential that it could go into deficit in the near future. This issue is being looked at carefully.
 - It is hopeful that we will have a negotiated settlement, but just in case dates for mediation are scheduled in december, and arbitration dates for some time in January (pending membership approval)
 - The issue of arbitration was discussed in more detail with respect to the processes that are involved and result from arbitration
 - A significant discussion on sabbaticals and some of the issues concerning approvals, sabbatical reports, and paid activities done during Sabatical leaves
5. New Business
 - An issue regarding the extension of deadlines by administration was discussed. It was suggested that it might make sense to change the due dates of some applications as they seem to be pushed back anyway, and they conflict with the timing for some grants such as NSERC and SSHRC
 - The issue of the late release of timetables and exam schedules was raised and discussed in some detail.

- Concerns over issues like caps on class sizes and TA support allocation were raised. It was suggested that departmental teaching standards would be a good way to address these issues.
- The issue of teaching standards in general was raised. Future discussions about teaching standards might be warranted

Action Item: Reps are to email the Chair with agenda item ideas for the November and December meetings as soon as they can.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2011