

RYERSON FACULTY ASSOCIATION
Meeting of Council of Department/School Representatives

Monday, October 6, 2014

International Room, ILC

MINUTES

Guests

Jane Schmidt (Library)
Trina Grover (Library)

Present

Rahul Sapra (Acting Chair)	Jonathan Rollins	Seth Dworkin
Peter Danziger	Peter Kedron	Habiba Bougherara
André Foucault	Rich Adams	Corrine Hart
Jason Lisi	John Morgan	Annette Bailey
Ian Sakinofsky	Richard Wade	Vladislav Toronov
Seyed Hashemi	Rupa Banerjee	Matthew Flisfeder
Joanna Holt	Aziz Guergachi	Carolyn Meyer
Tammy Landau	Marsha Barber	Alexandra Fiocco
Angela Valeo	Jamin Pelkey	Frances Gunn
Amy Peng	Val Lem	Charles Zamaria
Vadim Geurkov	Jane Schmidt	Julie Tomiak
Lev Krischian	Jean-Paul Pascal	Christopher Powell
Miriam Anderson	Leila Farah	

Regrets

Kileen Tucker Scott (Chair)	Thomas Barbiero	Nadya Burton
Paul Floerke	Kaamran Raahemifar	Meredith Schwartz
Bryan Koivisto	Henry Navarro Delgado	Cynthia Ashperger
Khandaker Anwar Hossain	Stephen Swales	Stephanie Cassin
Andriy Miranskyy	Gerda Cammaer	Sharon Paton
Esther Ignagni	Taymoore Balbaa	

Staff

Agnes Paje Stacy Stanley

Minutes

1. Order/Establishment of Quorum
 - Meeting began at 5:20 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda (Seth Dworkin/Habiba Bougherara) - Adopted.
3. Approval of minutes from April 10, 2014 (Alexandra Fiocco/Peter Kedron) - Adopted.
4. Opening remarks and announcements
 - The next Reps' Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 in the International Room, ILC from 4:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.
 - Peter Danziger thanked everyone for attending the meeting and welcomed all new Reps' Council members.
 - Members of the Negotiating Committee will be attending the next Reps' Council meeting.
 - The Negotiating Committee will be meeting with all departments/schools to gather data for the negotiations process.
5. Brief overview of Reps' Council
 - Reps' Council members represent their department/school to the RFA and represent the RFA at their department/school.
 - All Reps' Council members are asked to review the RFA bylaw, ARTICLE 11: REPRESENTATIVE COUNCILS. The bylaw lays out Reps' Council members' responsibilities.
6. Updates:
 - President's Update – Peter Danziger
 - The government has moved ahead with its Differentiation agenda through the Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMA). Universities have been asked to identify their areas of specialty (differentiation) and future government funding will follow in these areas. Initially, it seems that Ryerson has been a winner in this process, with all of our unfunded graduate positions now being funded. However, it remains to be seen what the price is to be paid. The current SMA was approved last March and runs until 2017.
 - Alongside the SMA, we have had the development of the new Academic Plan which was adopted by Senate at its June meeting. The Academic Plan runs until 2019 and will likely shape much of our development over the coming years. Again, much will depend on how future administrations choose to interpret these provisions.
 - The University administration is entering a period of change. Sheldon Levy will be leaving next June after ten years as President of the University. The search committee for his successor has been created and has been working. We await the announcement of his successor with some interest.
 - Chair Grievance – Jason Lisi
 - Ryerson University appointed Saeed Zolfaghari as Interim Vice-Provost, Faculty Affairs on August 1, 2014.
 - The VPFA Search Committee hopes to have a full-time VPFA appointed by January, 2015.
 - The Grievance Committee continues to work on issues regarding:
 - Tenure decisions
 - Increasing class sizes
 - Faculty members being forced to teach after 6 p.m.
 - Ryerson University's increasing budget cuts

- Ryerson University's failure to hire new RFA faculty members once a RFA position becomes vacant

7. New Business

- Formation of Political Action Committee
 - The Political Action Committee is a five-member subcommittee of the Reps' Council.
 - Responsibilities of the Political Action Committee (Excerpt from the RFA Bylaw):

- 11.A.5(d) -The Political Action Committee shall
- (i) solicit, from the Committee membership, the Association membership, and the Representatives' Council, concerns that might properly be addressed by Representatives' Council;
 - (ii) develop a Committee agenda by prioritizing the issues and concerns brought forward by Committee members and/or referred to the Committee by other Association bodies; and
 - (iii) work to develop an appropriate Association response for consideration by the Representatives' Council and possible referral to the appropriate decision-making body of the Association; and
 - (iv) through collaboration with individual Members and with other committees of the Association, assist in mobilising the Association membership in support of such specific Association goals as may, from time to time, be determined by the Representatives' Council in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Motion: To begin nominations for the Political Action Committee (Marsha Barber/Habiba Bougherara) Carried.

- Updated from Librarians:
 - The non-renewal of the direct borrowing plan with Robarts Library. Explanation of the history and rationale for the suspension of Robarts Library agreement with the University of Toronto:
 - The University of Toronto charged a flat rate of \$90,000 which worked out to over \$400 per card. Whereas, individuals pay \$310 per card. The cost has been increasing, while usage has been decreasing. Taking into account the number of faculty members who use Robarts library, the yearly usage fees of \$90,000 is disproportionately high.
 - About 40% of materials borrowed from the Robarts library are available at Ryerson University's Library.
 - Ryerson Library is already underfunded and is facing increasing pressures due to budget cuts.

8. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 in the International Room, ILC from 4:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.