

# Ryerson Faculty Association

## MINUTES

January 14, 2014  
London/Paris Room, ILC

### ATTENDANCE:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Officer</i>	<i>Yes/No/Regrets</i>
President	Anver Saloojee	Regrets
Vice President Internal	Kileen Tucker-Scott	Yes
Vice President External	Franklyn Prescod	Yes
Treasurer	Bozena Todorow	Regrets
Secretary	David Naranjit	Yes
Chair, Grievance	Jason Lisi	Regrets
Chair, Negotiating	Peter Danziger	Yes
Chair, Professional Affairs	Lin Dong	Yes
Chair, Equity Issues	Jennifer Clarke	Yes
Health & Safety Officer	Chun-Yip Hon	Regrets
Member at Large	Amina Jamal	Regrets
Staff	André Foucault	Regrets
Staff	Agnes Paje	Yes

#### 1. Order/Establishment of Quorum

Announcement of resignation – Tuna Baskoy has announced that he is stepping down from his position as Member at Large.

Meeting began with Quorum at 10:00 AM with Peter Danziger acting as Chair in Anver Saloojee's absence.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to adopt Agenda (Tucker-Scott/Prescod)  
Adopted.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: BIRT the Minutes of November 19, 2013 be adopted  
(Naranjit/Tucker-Scott) Adopted.

4. Matters Arising/Old Business:

➤ RFA Elections Committee

Pursuant to the By-laws 14.3(i), on the recommendation of the elections committee the executive establishes the following rules for the purpose of conveying a platform for the upcoming elections. (Tucker-Scott/Prescod).

Candidates will be given the opportunity to present their platform to RFA members via RFA-Announce. The rationale for using RFA-Announce for this purpose is that not all RFA members subscribe to RFANet. Note that the use of RFA-Announce to distribute a platform does not exclude candidates from using RFANet for the same purpose.

The deadline for candidates to electronically submit their platform is Monday January 27, 2014 at 9:00 am. Submissions should be sent to the Chair, Elections Committee ([fprescod@ryerson.ca](mailto:fprescod@ryerson.ca)).

Platforms received by this deadline will be combined, in alphabetical order by candidate last name, in a single email, that will be distributed via RFA-Announce no later than 4:00 pm Monday January 27, 2014.

Submission of platforms for release on RFA-Announce are permitted after the 9:00 am deadline on January 27, with the understanding that these submissions will not be included in the initial combined communication, but rather sent out as a separate communication as soon as is reasonably possible.

Please note that RFANet usage policy applies to communications sent out via RFA-Announce and RFANet with regards to the election.

➤ Statement on Service (Tucker-Scott)

➤ Statement on Faculty Course Surveys (Danziger)

The representatives' council in its December 9, 2013 meeting requested that the Executive develop a statement on online and paper based Faculty Course Surveys. The executive proposes that the following message about Faculty Course surveys be sent to the membership:

As you are probably well aware Ryerson operates two Faculty course survey systems, one online and one paper based in-class. If you are tenured faculty member you will have recently received, or are about to receive a request asking whether you wish to participate in the paper based Faculty course survey.

While we continue to encourage faculty members to encourage their students to participate in the online version, the response rates have typically been about half that of the paper based in-class version (25% - 30% vs 50% - 60%). These low response rates can lead to low sample sizes, a few bad marks from a few disgruntled students can seriously skew your scores. Interestingly the response rates for the paper version have fallen somewhat (from the 60 percent range to the 50 percent range) since the introduction of the online surveys, though there is no direct evidence of a causal relation.

The RFA continues to have serious reservations about the online process. In particular, the sample is self-selecting and students who are failing or have a particular issue may be more likely to respond. Online respondents may never have attended a class, with the in-class you know they have attended at least one. There is anecdotal evidence that students occasionally mix up their instructors. Several years ago, together with the administration, we conducted an analysis of those professors who had opted for both procedures and found that there was a statistically significant difference between the averages of the two, with the online version being lower, which would tend to corroborate such concerns.

These surveys are used in evaluations of your teaching for tenure and promotion. So while the RFA continues to encourage students to participate in the online survey, we encourage faculty to also conduct the paper based survey where they have the option.

## 5. New Business

- Policy 45 (Tucker-Scott)
- Representation  
Whereas there has been an increase in demand for RFA representation and this has resulted in an increase in the workload of the VP Internal who is responsible for coordinating and undertaking representation:

BIRT The VP Internal receive a one semester one course release for Winter 2014 in order to coordinate and undertake representation.  
(Prescod/Clarke)

- Strategic Mandate Agreement (Danziger)  
The University submitted its Strategic Mandate Agreement to the government on December 20 as required. There was a “Town Hall” meeting on December 16, with a presentation given by President Levy. The government imposed timelines where very tight and allowed almost

no time for consultations. Nevertheless, this is potentially an extremely important document for the future of Ryerson. Government representatives will be visiting Ryerson this month to discuss the submission with President Levy.

## 6. Reports

### a) Assessment of General Membership Meeting

### b) Ratification vote (Danziger)

The proposed amendment to the collective agreement passed ratification and results, including a breakdown of votes has been sent out to the membership.

### c) Report on CAUT (Danziger)

Of particular concern is Bill C-377, which is a federal private members bill that has been around for some time. It has the support of the Conservative government and is likely to become Law. This bill would impose stringent reporting conditions on unions and associations. Audited financial statements would have to be posted on a public government website and would become part of the public domain and under government scrutiny. This is an unprecedented attack on our rights and freedoms. Unions and associations are responsible to their members, not to the government. When this Bill was sent to Senate for review they indicated that it was highly flawed, likely illegal and/or unconstitutional, and sent it back to parliament for substantial revision. Parliament refused any revision and has sent it back to the Senate for final approval.

### d) Grievance Update: (Lisi/Foucault)

No Report.

### e) Treasurer's Report (Todorow)

#### ➤ Variance Report

The Variance Report will be presented at the next executive meeting.

### f) Vice President External (Prescod)

### g) Vice-President Internal (Tucker-Scott)

#### ➤ Reps Council:

The next Reps council meeting on will be Thursday January 16.

#### ➤ CDC

h) Report on Update Meetings

- Update Meeting with the Administration (Danziger/Tucker-Scott)
- Meeting with the President (Danziger)

i) Human Resources Committee

- Discussion on future hiring

j) Health & Safety (Hon)

k) Secretary (Naranjit)

l) Equity (Clarke)

m) Communication Platform

n) Professional Affairs (Dong)

- Assessment of New Member Orientation Forum
- Discussion of the possibility of implementing an online application for RFA awards

o) Member At Large (Jamal)

p) Member At Large

7. Report: President (Danziger)

8. Adjournment: 1:00 PM