

**RYERSON FACULTY ASSOCIATION**

**MINUTES**

ILC Room 212

November 15, 2016

**ATTENDANCE:**

<i>Office</i>	<i>Officer</i>	<i>Yes/No/Regrets</i>
President	Peter Danziger	Yes
Vice President Internal	Kileen Tucker Scott	Yes
Vice President External	Rahul Sapra	Yes
Treasurer	Carmen Schifellite	Yes
Secretary	David Naranjit	Yes
Health & Safety Officer	Habiba Bougherara	Yes
Chair, Grievance	Ron Babin	Yes
Chair, Negotiating	Ian Sakinofsky	Yes
Chair, Professional Affairs	Lin Dong	Regrets
Chair, Equity Issues	Tariq Amin-Khan	Yes
Member at Large	Amina Jamal	Yes
Member at Large	Anthony Francescucci	Yes
Staff	André Foucault	Yes
Staff	Agnes Paje	Yes

1. Order/Establishment of Quorum  
Meeting began with quorum at 10:10 AM
2. Approval of Agenda  
Motion to adopt Agenda (Tucker Scott/Bougherara) Carried.
3. Approval of Minutes  
November 1, 2016 (Tucker Scott/Jamal) Carried.
4. Reports
  - a) Treasurer (Schifellite)  
The Executive received the variance report for September.
  - b) Vice President External (Sapra)

Whereas Faculty at University of Manitoba have been on strike since November 1st and remain on strike and;

Whereas the RFA has provided a cheque for \$1,000 in support of their action as per the standing policy on donations;

BIRT the Executive approve a further \$1,000 to be sent to MUFA in support of their job action. (Sapra/Tucker Scott) Carried.

c) Vice-President Internal (Tucker Scott)

i. Reps Council:

The Executive received a report from the reps council meeting. Executive Members of the Executive were encouraged to attend Reps' Council.

A discussion of the Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) arose. The Executive agreed that it is important for the administration to provide a process through which faculty members can provide meaningful input in the formulation of this very important document.

BIRT the RFA Executive will send an open letter to the President of the University and the Chair of the Board of Governors expressing their concern at the lack of an appropriate process for the development of the University's SMA, including the importance of academic oversight of the substance of the SMAs. (Tucker Scott/Francescucci) Carried.

The letter is attached.

ii. CDC Meeting

The Agenda for the upcoming CDC meeting, on November 22 was discussed.

d) Equity (Amin-Khan)

The Gender Equity Issues Event at Social Justice Week was very successful.

e) Negotiation (Sakinofsky)

The contract language is now finalized. The Workload committees are moving ahead in the 13 effected departments.

5. Adjournment (1:00pm)



## Ryerson Faculty Association

November 23, 2016

Dear Dr. Lachemi,

As I am sure you are aware that the University will be required to submit a Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) sometime early next year, probably by late March. The RFA has brought up this issue several times and I am writing to you today to encourage you to seek input from faculty members and to enable a process through which faculty members can provide meaningful input in the formulation of this very important document.

As you know, due to the tight timelines imposed by the government, the last SMA was developed in a hurried manner, with very little time for consultation and input from faculty and I am concerned that this could happen again. Ryerson has a bicameral process, but the development of the last SMA was done unilaterally by the administration. It is important that the academic side gets a meaningful say in the development of the upcoming SMA. We are further concerned that many of the programs developed through the previous SMAs have had very little academic oversight. Programs such as zone learning, the introduction of Professional Masters Programs/Diplomas, Curriculum-Changes, the steep escalation in the number of online courses, and several other important areas, have not been widely discussed with the academic side of the house, despite this being their purview. Furthermore, we are deeply concerned about the introduction of "Metrics" in the previous SMAs, which was done with almost no consultation. Appropriate, timely and transparent consultation with faculty members is an important part in the development of the SMA.

I am aware that there was a presentation about SMAs at Senate, which, although delayed, is a good start. I am also aware and encouraged by the fact that there has been a request, through the Chairs, for departments to provide input into this process by developing strategic direction for their departments. I hope that this presages a true dialogue with faculty on this process and a commitment to engage with the academic bodies of the University on these important issues.

Yours,

Peter Danziger,  
President, Ryerson Faculty Association