

RYERSON FACULTY ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING

May 2, 2019 – 12:30 p.m.
International Room, ILC

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

1. President's Opening Remarks

Welcome to the May 2019 RFA General Meeting.

The agenda is before you, but let me make a few opening remarks before we celebrate our colleagues.

First – If you have not noticed, we are under attack by the Ontario Government.

Within the last eight months, the Government of Ontario has initiated several attacks to diminish and threaten Universities and the role of faculty members within the University sector.

1. On August 30 2018, the Government issued a news release that requires all Universities to implement a Free Speech policy and threatens to reduce operating grant funding if the policy does not comply with its expectations.
2. In January the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities announced a 10% reduction in tuition fees. The result to Ryerson is a budget reduction of 4%, approved by Ryerson's Board of Governors on April 29.
3. In April, the Government introduced legislation as part of the budget, which will allow the Minister to "*limit the ability of postsecondary education employees to simultaneously collect full-time salaries and pension benefits*". Canadian law requires pensions to be taken at age 71, the Ontario government will require professors to reduce their workload or retire. This feels like mandatory retirement at 71. This is clearly age discrimination.
4. On April 4th the Deputy Minister of Treasury Board Secretariat (TBS) invited all Faculty Associations to discuss "*legislated caps on allowable compensation increases in collective bargaining or imposed in binding arbitrations.*" The TBS consultation is scheduled for tomorrow, May 3rd.
5. In the April 11th budget, the Government introduced the concept of Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) metrics that will impact as much as 60% of University grant funding.

Clearly, RFA members and Ryerson University are under attack by the Government of Ontario. Working with OCUFA and with other unions at Ryerson, the RFA challenges these attacks. We will also challenge the Ryerson Administration to push back on these mean-spirited attempts to diminish faculty members and our University.

Second – Finally, our collective agreement is done (thank you to Ian Sakinofsky and the Negotiating Committee), retro pay and pay increases were processed on April 15th. Soon the

salary anomaly results will be published for 2017-2018, with another round scheduled for 2018-2019.

Third – As you will hear from our treasurer, the RFA finances are in good shape. The RFA receives funds from the Administration to provide benefits for RFA retirees. Within the approved RFA budget, the RFA Exec agreed to increase the annual retiree benefit amount from \$500 to \$1000 starting in January 2019.

Finally – I will always encourage you to get involved in your RFA. We are a self-governing professional association. Nominations for the 2020 negotiations committee close at 4pm today. The committee work begins in September.

2. **Awards/Agenda**

- R. Babin spoke briefly about the RFA Career Achievement Award Winners. He first introduced Myer Siemiatycki.
- M. Siemiatycki accepted the award, spoke briefly, thanked the RFA and especially Jenny Carson whom he's worked closely with.
- R. Babin introduced Lucina Fraser the second RFA Career Achievement Award recipient.
- L. Fraser thanked her colleagues in the Librarian, the Professional Affairs Committee and the RFA.
- R. Babin then introduced Wayne Petrozzi the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.
- W. Petrozzi gave a little speech and thanked the RFA for his award.

3. **Minutes of General Meeting – December 4, 2018**

BIRT the Minutes of December 4, 2018 be approved as circulated (Mason/Barber) – CARRIED

4. **Treasurer's Report** Proposed Budget – Operating, Defence, and Special Funds 2019/2020 – attached.

Motions from the Executive to accompany the budget

- The Executive recommends to the membership approval of the 2019-20 Budget as presented by the Treasurer.

We have been advised by our auditors that in any given fiscal year, the RFA build into the operating budget a surplus (contingency fund) of 10% of operating or roughly \$100,000.

BIRT that the 2019-2020 Budget be approved as presented and that any surplus above \$100,000 in the operating budget for the 2018-19 fiscal year be transferred to the Defence Fund at the end of that fiscal year. - CARRIED

5. **Appointment of Auditor**

BIRT McCann & Roque Chartered Accountants be appointed as the Association's Auditor for the 2018 – 2019 (Schifellite/Francescucci) – CARRIED

6. **Report on Negotiations**

I. Sakinofsky introduced the new Chair, Negotiating – Brian Ceh.

Bargaining is done for the year and the Collective Agreement will be out soon. They are still discussing how to incorporate the Faculty Course Survey Award into the Collective Agreement.

The Collective Agreement is the last thing that would go electronic. There will be some that will be printed. Some members would like to opt out of the paper copy. Once the Collective Agreement is out, the Bargaining Committee term ends and within weeks of that, the Chair of the Bargaining term ends.

I. Sakinofsky talked about some issues that are still outstanding where the new Committee will be moving forward with.

7. **President's closing remarks**

R. Babin brought the list of the Executive/Standing Committees to the membership and encourage members to serve on any of the Committees.

8. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.