

RYERSON FACULTY ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING

May 5, 2020 – 12:00 p.m.
Zoom Video Conference

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

1) President's Opening Remarks

R. Babin welcomed everyone to the meeting. He began with acknowledgement that here in Toronto we are in the Dish with One Spoon Territory. This is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and the Haudenosaunee that bound them to share this territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations, and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. We all eat out of the Dish, all of us that share this territory, with only one spoon.

R. Babin commented, these are certainly unprecedented times for our health and our economy, for individuals and families, for our Ryerson community and for our society.

The RFA has met regularly with the VPFA in April to work out the details of emergency changes to normal practices, required by the Covid-19 pandemic. You will see these changes in announcements from the VPFA.

In the discussions, two principles guide us:

First, Covid-19 is a temporary emergency that will end. As one very clear example, Emergency Remote Teaching is not the norm for us going forward.

Second, the RFA will protect the rights of faculty members, as defined in our collective agreement, although we will be flexible to accommodate the temporary emergency that we all face.

Although the Covid-19 emergency affects all of us, Ryerson is still a good place to be a faculty member.

For example, Ryerson is hiring new faculty members; have low reliance on fees from international students; have a balanced budget for next year with minimal reductions; we expect strong local student enrollment for Fall 2020. Of course, there is always room for improvement, but relative to other institutions, Ryerson is in good shape.

Similarly, the RFA is in good shape. The RFA constantly holds the Administration accountable for the wellbeing of our University, through Grievances (which are at an all-time high level) and through Negotiations, which have just begun. The RFA has a solid financial base to support our activities, which can be seen in the budget presentation. The RFA Executive team has extraordinary depth of experience and strength of commitment. Our

colleagues at OCUFA (Ontario) and of CAUT (Canada) regard the RFA a leader, with good reason.

What we do not know yet, is Ryerson's plan for teaching in September. In the RFA's regular conversations with President Lachemi he indicated that by mid to late May the University must decide how to structure the Fall semester in light of Covid-19. The teaching schedule will be posted in July, resulting from whatever model the Administration adopts in May. Ryerson will align its model with other universities and colleges, although we know that Ryerson has a higher proportion of hands-on teaching, such as labs, practicums, internships, studios, etc. The RFA will monitor how the University stages the return to work in the Fall so that we are assured that the safety of our members and their families will be protected.

R. Babin stated, "this is my last General Meeting as RFA President, in September I return to teaching and research. It has been a pleasure to serve you over the last five years as an RFA Executive. My term as President ends at the end of this meeting and Ian Sakinofsky will become president. His experience as an RFA executive over many years will be helpful in his time as RFA president."

Although the COVID-19 emergency and related government actions will continue to challenge the University, you can depend on your RFA for support. The Faculty Association is in great shape, for all at Ryerson.

2) Minutes of the December 5, 2019 General Meeting

BIRT the Minutes of the December 5, 2019 be approved as – (Barber/Danziger) - CARRIED

3) Treasurer's Report

Proposed Budgets – Operating, Defence and Special Funds 2020/2021 – attached.

Motions from the Executive to accompany the budget

- The Executive recommends to the membership approval of the 2020-21 Budget as presented by the Treasurer
- **BIRT** the membership approves the 2020-21 Budget (Quigley/Scotfield) - CARRIED

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. Therefore the Executive recommends to the membership:

- **BIRT** any surplus above \$100,000 in the operating budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year be transferred to the Defence Fund at the end of that fiscal year. (Hubbard/Reed) - CARRIED

4) Appointment of Auditor

BIRT McCann & Roque Chartered Accountants be appointed as the Association's Auditor for 2020-2021 (Scotfield/Bougherara) - CARRIED

5) Request for Destruction of Ballots

BIRT the following ballots be destroyed:

Member at Large – February 2020 - (Quigley/Reed) - CARRIED

6) By-Law Change to 10.1 (a), 10.2 (b), 14.1 (b), 14.1 (g) and 10.7 (d)

BIRT the RFA By-Law be revised as follows:

- *Add in 10.1 (a): “and Indigenous faculty representative elected by the Indigenous Faculty Council (see 11.C)”*
- *10.2(b) will also have the mention of the “Indigenous faculty representative”*
- *Add in 14.1(b) (exceptions): “10.1(a) – Indigenous faculty representative”*
- *Add 14.1(g) “the elected nominee of the Indigenous Faculty Council (see 11.C) will be endorsed by RFA members through their ballot”*
- *Revive 10.7D “The President is and ex-officio but non-voting members of the Indigenous Faculty Council.” - (Bougherara/Lavallee) - CARRIED*

7) Negotiating Report

B. Ceh discussed upcoming steps for the bargaining process. There will be updates to the membership during the process sent via email and posted on the RFA’s website

– www.rfanet.ca periodically. _

8) Other Business – COVID-19 Discussion

Members discussed various issues regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

9) President’s closing remark

R. Babin thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Adjournment--The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.