

RYERSON FACULTY ASSOCIATION

GENERAL MEETING

May 7, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference

MINUTES

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

1) President's Opening Remarks

I. Sakinofsky 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.

I. Sakinofsky asked members to vote on By-Law Change to 9.2(c)

Whereas it is desirable for the Executive Committee to be able to invite non-members to General Membership Meetings to provide information to members or otherwise further the goals of the RFA,

BIRT a new article, 9.2(c) be added, as follows:

9.2(c) Notwithstanding Article 9.2(a) of this Bylaw, the Executive Committee may invite one or more persons who are not Members or staff to attend all or part of a particular General Membership Meeting. – CARRIED

I. Sakinofsky commented on the following points

- Faculty in the School of Fashion posted a photo of a Ryerson University donor with Donald Trump, with a comment, on the school's (@ryersonfashion) Instagram page. The Administration ordered the post be removed immediately and replaced. This is censorship and the RFA will be working with faculty from the School of Fashion on how to address this violation of their academic freedom.
- Navitas is a private company which recruits and trains international students. Ryerson University has entered into a contract with Navitas that the RFA considers a violation of the Collective Agreement and are in the process of grieving this matter.
- The Faculty Course Survey Working Group has been working with the VPFA's office and making progress in developing a formative faculty course survey.
- The RFA encourages members to attend the consultation sessions on the proposal for a Ryerson medical school. Attending these consultation sessions will provide members with information that may be helpful in the future.
- The Administration has not committed to the Fall 2021 semester being remote. They will make an announcement on June 9, 2021 regarding the return to campus.

2) **Minutes - December 8, 2020 General Meeting**

BIRT the Minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting be approved as – (Hart/McWilliams) – CARRIED

3) **RFA Awards**

I. Sakinofsky presented the 2021 RFA awards.

The RFA congratulates the following recipients:

RFA Ryersonian of the Year – Rahul Sapra

RFA Career Achievement Award – Farrokh Janabi-Sharifi and Alan Sears

4) **THE CHALLENGE(S) FACING UNIVERSITIES AND PARTICULARLY FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS** – Brenda Austin-Smith, President, Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)

B. Austin-Smith commented on various challenges Universities and Faculty Associations are facing. Some key points discussed were:

- Provincial Governments passing laws that weaponize tuition and in some cases allows universities to set differential tuition rates.
- A lack of core funding provided by the Federal Government.
- Universities signing on with private companies such as Navitas which exploits international students and their parents.
- The financial crisis and faculty, staff and program reductions at Laurentian University.

5) **Treasurer's Report**

Anthony Francescucci presented the Proposed Budgets – Operating, Defence and Reserved Funds 2021/2022

Motions from the Executive to accompany the budget

a) **BIRT** Executive recommends to the membership approval of the 2021-22 Budget as presented by the Treasurer. (Francescucci/Bougherara) – 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:

b) **BIRT** any surplus above \$100,000 in the operating budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year be transferred to the Defence Fund at the end of that fiscal year. (Francescucci/Power) – CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

c) **BIRT** the accounting firm of McCann & Roque be re-appointed as RFA external auditors for the fiscal year 2021-2022. (Francescucci/Power) – CARRIED

6) **By-Law Change to**

Whereas the RFA submitted a grievance regarding the payment of dues by associate members to arbitration,

And whereas, the RFA's position was affirmed in the arbitration,

And whereas, the arbitrator also found that the Collective Agreement could not compel associate membership in the RFA for academics who took on administrative positions, and that further this required an amendment to the RFA Bylaw,

BIRT, article 8.2(a) be amended from:

8.2(a) All full-time faculty members, professional librarians and professional counsellors employed by the University and holding positions in the administration above Chair/Director of a teaching Department/School or who accept appointment to administrative positions in the non- academic administration, shall be associate members of the Association while they are so employed.

to:

8.2(a) All full-time faculty members, professional librarians and professional counsellors employed by the University and holding positions in the administration above Chair/Director of a teaching Department/School or who accept appointment to administrative positions in the non- academic administration, will not be regular members, and will normally elect to be associate members of the Association while they are so employed. Failure to elect to be an associate member, will abandon any right of access to, or return to, the bargaining unit represented by the Ryerson Faculty Association.
– CARRIED

7) Negotiating Report

B. Ceh gave a brief update on bargaining. Details on bargaining are posted on the RFA's website – www.rfanet.ca

8) President's closing remark

I. Sakinofsky thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

9) Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.