

# RYERSON FACULTY ASSOCIATION

## Meeting of Council of Department/School Representatives

March 25, 2021

4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference

### MINUTES

#### Present

Peter Danziger (Chair)  
Ian Sakinofsky  
André Foucault  
Dave Mason  
Brian Ceh  
Abbas Keramati  
Alex Ferworn  
Anika Kozlowski  
Anna Flaminio  
Beverlee Buzon  
Christopher De Sousa  
Daniela Cristini  
David Scofield

Dawn Onishenko  
Dimitrios Latsis  
Ellen Choi  
Evan Cleave  
Jacqui Gingras  
James Pringle  
Jesse Tanguay  
Joey Power  
Kourosh Zareinia  
Lynda McCarthy  
Marsha Barber  
Matthew Philp  
Michael Bergmann

Mucahit Cevik  
Oliver Okafor  
Saber Moradi  
Sajad Saeedi  
Sandra Juutilainen  
Seyed Hashemi  
Tisha Ornstein  
Umberto Berardi  
Vadim Geurkov  
Val Lem  
Yeganeh Bahoo Torudi  
Zhen Lu

#### Regrets

Ann Ludbrook  
Alexandra Mogyoros  
Chil-Hung Cheng  
Chun-Yip Hon  
Colleen Derkatch  
Hossein Zolfagharina  
Kim Bates

Lev Kirischian  
Laleh Samarbaksh  
Madhi Roghanizad  
Mehrunnisa A. Ali  
Miranda Campbell  
Michael Milona  
Ndeye Ba

Nicole Bennett  
Richard Chisik  
Sarah Bull  
Taymoore Balbaa  
Wei Xu  
Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof

#### Staff

Stacy Stanley

---

## Minutes

1. Order/Establishment of Quorum
  - Meeting began at 4:10 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda (De Sousa/Gingras) - Adopted.
3. Approval of minutes from February 24, 2021 () - Adopted.
4. Announcements and Updates
  - The RFA General Meeting will be held on May 7, 2021 from 12 – 2 pm. via Zoom.
5. Updates from the President – Ian Sakinofsky
  - Return to Campus
    - Discussion regarding whether faculty will be returning to campus in the Fall 2021.
    - The Administration has announced that a decision regarding the return to in-class teaching will depend on Toronto Public Health regulations and the situation with the vaccine.
    - Some departments/schools and Faculties appear to have already decided to continue with remote teaching in September 2021.
    - Members are concerned they will be compelled to return to in-class teaching and what the return to in-class teaching will involve as far as health and safety issues. The Administration has not given a definite answer on this issue but will make an announcement on June 9, 2021 regarding this matter. The RFA would like an earlier answer to this issue to allay members fears and give members more time to prepare.
    - The RFA is asking for feedback on faculty members' concerns regarding returning to campus. Reps' Council members are asked to gather members' viewpoints and opinions, then provide information gathered to the RFA via email at [rfa@ryerson.ca](mailto:rfa@ryerson.ca).
  - Budget Consultation Townhall Meeting
    - Discussion on Ryerson University's budget.
    - As has happened in previous years the Administration has proposed its budget before the announcement of the Provincial Government's budget, and is proposing a 3.5% budget cut. The Administration has said their revenue is increasing by 1% and costs are increasing by 4.5% which is why the budget cut is needed. In previous years these cuts have been grossly overestimated. Previously, the budgets did not align well with the audited statements, this year is complicated by the effects of COVID on the University finances. In any case, it is clear that the University is financially healthy. The RFA advises departments to resist cuts as much as they can.
    - Discussion on the Budget Incentive Program (BIP)
6. Items from the floor
  - Suggestion to have caucus of RFA Senators
  - RFA did discuss issues regarding strange questions from finance. VPFA was sympathetic but is waiting for a response from Finance.
  - The request to forgive or postpone repayment of deferred courses for at least one year was raised with the Administration. They are not willing to forgive a course but would be open to defer repayment of a course. A plan and a rationale would be required for deferral.
  - Professional Expense Reimbursement Fund (PERF)
    - Members may purchase furniture for up to \$500 using money from their PERF.
    - There is an additional \$500 instructional faculty allowance (this is separate from the PERF) specifically for instructional faculty to purchase electronic items such as microphones, printers, computers, cameras etc. This money cannot be used to purchase furniture.
  - Discussion on how faculty are performing assessments while remote teaching.
  - Discussion on students' mental health.
    - Members have noticed a significant increase in student mental health issues.

7. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 6:10 p.m.

Next meeting: Zoom meeting on **April 12, 2021** from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.