

X* FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Meeting of Council of Department/School Representatives

October 20, 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
Jesmen Mendoza
Donna Koller
Oliver Okafor
Seyed Mohammad Hashemi
Umberto Berardi
Jan Matejovic
Saber Moradi
Yeganeh Bahoo
Alex Ferworn
Daniela Cristini
Andrea Martin
Anna Flaminio
Sejal Patel
Janelle Brady

Richard Chisik
Vadim Geurkov
Lev Kirischian
Colleen Derkatch
Kim Bates
Caron Phinney
Yanfei Sun
David MacKenzie
Julie Kellershohn
Peter Fisher
Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof
Matthew Philp
Aziz Guergachi
Marsha Barber
Michael Baumtrog
Alexandra Mogyoros
Ndeye Ba
Alison Skyrme
Nemoy Lewis

Kathleen Wilkie
Jamy Li
Joyal Miranda
Diane Pirner
Sandra Juutilainen
Chun-Yip Hon
Michael Milona
Jesse Tanguay
Andrea Migone
Opeyemi Akanbi
David Scofield
Janice Rudkowski
Charles Zamaria
Marusya Bociurkiw
Susan Preston
Dawn Onishenko
Jacqui Gingras
Michael Bergmann

Regrets

Chil-Hung Cheng
Beverlee Buzon
Khaled Sennah
Sarah Bull
Hossein Zolfagharina

Gerda Cammaer
Jim Tam
Taymoore Balbaa
Ann Ludbrook
Niushan Gao

Antonie Panaioti
Tisha Ornstein
Housne Begum
Josephine Wong

Staff

Stacy Stanley

Minutes

1. Order/Establishment of Quorum
 - Meeting began at 4:10 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda (Barber/Hashemi) - Adopted.
3. Approval of minutes from June 16, 2021 (Chisik/Hashemi) - Adopted.
4. Return to Campus
 - Update - I. Sakinofsky reported on a meeting he and Jesmen Mendoza had with President Lachemi.
 - The Administration's view is that all other Universities are operating at full capacity (Please note, many Universities are actually running at 50% capacity) and they are leaning toward having most faculty, students and staff return to campus in January 2022.
 - The Administration's position is that they are following the direction of Ontario's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Moore, on how to proceed.
 - The X*FA representatives questioned how the University will ensure everyone on campus is vaccinated and was told there will be announcement regarding this issue soon.
 - Very little information was garnered during the meeting but President Lachemi did state there will be a sequence of announcements in the coming weeks regarding the University's plans for the return in January 2022.
 - Members reported on issues/concerns faculty have regarding returning to campus. Issues and concerns included:
 - Member questioned why students have not been surveyed regarding returning to campus as many of them have concerns about returning to campus.
 - There are concerns regarding the ventilation systems in classrooms/offices. (The recommended standard is 3 air exchanges per hour after a room is occupied to allow proper ventilation.)
 - Students, faculty, staff are concerned about those getting to and from campus on public transit which puts them at higher risk of contracting and also passing on COVID-19.
 - Sanitization is a major concern for many. Cleaning of classrooms, washrooms and hallways.
 - Crowded hallways and physical distancing issues are also concerns.
 - Some members are immunocompromised or live with immunocompromised family members and feel unsafe returning to campus.
 - Mask wearing is a major issue. Members want to know how to handle people who refuse to wear masks and how mask will mask wearing be enforced.
 - Mental health issues are also a concern. Those that are having issues with anxiety may have increased issues having to return to campus.
 - Members questioned how would outbreaks be handled.
 - Faculty asked for flexibility regarding in-person teaching. It was suggested that only courses that truly need to be in-person return to campus and those that can be done online remain remote.

- There are concerns regarding how faculty will ensure students are fully vaccinated and how medical exemptions would be handled.
- The Ryerson Safe App needs to be improved.
- Members were asked to email feedback received from their colleagues regarding returning to campus issues/concerns to rfa@ryerson.ca
- Return to Campus W2022 Questionnaire – Dave Mason
 - This the link to the results of the X*FA survey:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe67QqNHxO4NqKmXr8JpwZS-G8l5sKtUwuF9myW5jsJvlbnXA/viewanalytics>
 - The survey showed that 68% of faculty members do not want a full return to campus in January 2022. Some members felt comfortable meeting in very small groups if needed.
- There is a lack of transparency from the Administration regarding their plans for faculty, students and staff returning to campus. The X*FA is pushing back against a full return to on campus teaching in the Winter Semester and is asking all members to email the Administration to express their concerns. Please send emails to President Lachemi - lachemi@ryerson.ca, the VPFA - vpfa@ryerson.ca, the Provost - provost@ryerson.ca and carbon copy (CC) the X*FA - rfa@ryerson.ca.

5. Items from the Floor

- Memorandum of Agreement 28 – Hiring and evaluation of Indigenous faculty members and librarians. Indigenous members are assessed within their program and do have the right to request an Indigenous person be on the DEC/DHC. There will still be 5 DEC/DHC members one of whom will be Indigenous if requested by the Indigenous faculty member. The Indigenous DEC/DHC member will come from the Indigenous Faculty Committee (IFC). The IFC's role is to provide an Indigenous member to an academic unit when needed.

6. Negotiations Update – Brian Ceh

- Negotiations have not been formally completed. There are a few benefit issues that are still being bargained. The hope is that this will be concluded in the near future.
- Updates will be provided once they become available.

7. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 6:09 p.m.

Next meeting: Zoom meeting on **November 25, 2021** from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**** The X is out of respect for those who are campaigning for Ryerson University to change its name.****