

# **X\* FACULTY ASSOCIATION**

## **Meeting of Council of Department/School Representatives**

January 19, 2022

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

Zoom Video Conference

### **MINUTES**

#### **Present**

Peter Danziger (Chair)	Umberto Berardi	Jan Matejovic
Ian Sakinofsky	Saber Moradi	Khaled Sennah
Dave Mason	Alex Ferworn	Anna Flaminio
Anthony Francescucci	Janelle Brady	Lev Kirischian
Andre Foucault	Vadim Geurkov	Sarah Bull
Jennifer Burwell	Caron Phinney	Yanfei Sun
Hossein Zolfagharina	Natalia Lumby	Housne Begum
Julie Kellershohn	Peter Fisher	Izabella Pruska-Oldenhof
Aziz Guergachi	Taymoore Balbaa	Marsha Barber
Ndeye Ba	Michael Baumtrog	Ann Ludbrook
Matthew Philp	Kathleen Wilkie	Jamy Li
Diane Pirner	Josephine Wong	Sandra Juutilainen
Chun-Yip Hon	Antoine Panaioti	Jesse Tanguay
Andrea Migone	Opeyemi Akanbi	Maureen Reed
David Scofield	Janice Rudkowski	Charles Zamaria
Susan Preston	Dawn Onishenko	Amina Jamal
Nemoy Lewis		

#### **Regrets**

Oliver Okafor	Seyed M. Hashemi	Chil-Hung Cheng
Beverlee Buzon	Yeganeh Bahoo	Daniela Cristini
Richard Chisik	Neil Wolff	David MacKenzie
Gerda Cammaer	Jim Tam	Alexandra Mogyoros

Alison Skyrme  
Michael Milona  
Jaqui Gingras

Niushan Gao  
Tisha Ornstein  
Michael Bergmann

Joyal Miranda  
Marusya Bociurkiw

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## Minutes

- 1 Order/Establishment of Quorum
  - Meeting began at 4:10 p.m.
- 2 Approval of Agenda (Barber/Onishenko) - Adopted.
- 3 Approval of minutes from October 20, 2021 (Reed/Migone) - Adopted.
- 4 Political Action Committee
  - As a position remains vacant on the committee, the Chair asked if there were any further members interested in sitting on this committee. Housne Begum volunteered to sit on the committee.
- 5 Return to Campus
  - Discussion on the return to campus issues/concerns. Discussion focused around the announcement from the University president earlier that afternoon indicating that there would be a transition period starting January 31, with all activities in person after reading week (February 28).
  - Which activities will be remote and which in person will be Department/School specific, but the ultimate decision will be the Dean's. Departments/Schools are encouraged to meet and make recommendations through the Chairs/Directors to their Deans.
  - The President's message contained the statement "...the number of cases resulting in hospitalizations and ICU stays are decelerating and we are beginning to see a decline in test positivity rates". It was noted (with graphs and other details) that while it was true that test positivity rates are starting to fall, the beginning of this fall coincides with the date that the province stopped testing the general public. Further, it is not clear how much the hospitalizations and ICU stays are decelerating and for how long.
  - Many questions were asked over the provision of PPE and rapid tests if and when we return to in person teaching.
  - There was discussion of the predicament of parents, they are expected to be responsible for testing and isolating their children in the event of exposure. This can mean that the whole family must isolate. There was a request that the XFA write a public message acknowledging the predicament that parents are in. I. Sakinofsky said that he was planning a communication which would include something mentioning this issue.
  - The proposed return date of February 28<sup>th</sup> was questioned. The danger of returning after Study week when many travels was mentioned. The problem of returning after nearly half of the term is done was also an issue. Many students have never been on campus.
  - There are persistent questions over what to do if a faculty member gets sick, or is forced to isolate. If a faculty member is sick, there is no backup for a course to run, particularly if it is later in the term. Also, there are questions about students missing assignments.

- A question was asked about those threatened with suspension due to their vaccine status. It was reported that currently no member has had their pay suspended. However, in most cases it was a delay of implementation.
  - It was reported that in order to order your personal microphone faculty members should contact CCS. It is recommended that people use their own mics with masks.
  - There continues to be little to no transparency from the Administration on the various issues' faculty, staff and students have concerning the return to campus. The X\*FA has had a difficult time getting answers from the University but continues to seek out a clearer position on how the return to campus will be handled.
  - A Joint Health and Safety Committee is mandated as part of the Ontario Health and Safety act. The committee contains both Union and Administration representatives. In December the union representatives brought a document (which has been shared with members) to this committee asking questions about how the existing policies would interact with various scenarios. In this document various deficiencies in the policies around in-person presence on campus were identified and recommendations made. The Administration members made some comments and asked for more time to consider these proposals. The unions amended the documents in light of the Admin concerns and brought the proposals back to the committee in early January. The Admin members again prevaricated. As time is running out the union members decided (as is their right under the act) to write a recommendation directly to the administration. Under the legislation the Administration has 21 days to respond to these recommendations. Should they not respond or the response prove to be inadequate, there is the option to call on the Ministry and to grieve.
- 6 Policy 159 ([Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](https://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/policy-159-review/)) is currently under review. The draft Policy and Procedures can be found at <https://www.ryerson.ca/senate/policies/policy-159-review/>. The current version has dropped the "Principles" Section and in particular, has dropped mention of Academic Freedom and Academic Standards.
- 7 A. Foucault provided an update on bargaining. The contract is ready to be signed and should be available in the near future. Due to the time that it has taken to finalize the contract those who were XFA members as of July 1, 2020 will receive \$467 in their January 15 pay in lieu of extra benefits they might have received in the intervening period.
- 8 Adjournment  
Meeting ended at 6:02 p.m.

Next meeting: Zoom meeting on **February 16, 2022** 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."**