

# TORONTO METROPOLITAN FACULTY ASSOCIATION

## GENERAL MEETING

May 8, 2023 – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Chair, Alex Ferworn, opened the meeting, welcomed attendees and provided a Land Acknowledgement.

### **1. President's Opening Remarks – Jesmen Mendoza**

J. Mendoza welcomed everyone to the General Meeting.

J. Mendoza commented on the TFA's solidarity with unions and other groups on campus. Despite the Administration's disparaging remarks, the relationship between the TFA, campus unions and groups continue to grow stronger. The TFA continues to push forward and form alliances with unions on and off of the campus.

J. Mendoza discussed Toronto Metropolitan University's (TMU) signing of a 10 year contract with Navitas, which is a private, third party, for-profit organization and education provider. Navitas recruits international students who do not regularly meet the admission criteria for TMU programs. If these students complete successfully a year at Toronto Metropolitan University International College they gain entry into the second year of their program at TMU. Anecdotal reports suggest this process may not be preparing students for second year entry into TMU programs and may have a negative impact on the program, faculty and students. Some departments have been successful at preventing Navitas from taking hold. The TFA will be sending out a briefing note on the impact Navitas has had on the campus and also how faculty can prevent Navitas from being established in their department/school.

J. Mendoza commented on the Blue-Ribbon Panel on Financial Sustainability in the Post-Secondary Education Sector that was formed by the Ontario Provincial Government to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. The purpose of the panel is to keep the post-secondary education sector financially strong and provide the best student experience possible. The panel does not include any faculty or students and has a short turn-around time to deliver their report to the Provincial Government. The TFA is concerned that this committee will mimic a similar panel in Alberta where their report was used to suggest post-secondary institutions as being overly reliant on Government funding.

J. Mendoza thanked everyone for attending the TFA General Meeting.

## **2. Minutes of General Meeting, December 6, 2022**

**BIRT** – Minutes of the December 6, 2022 meeting be approved as circulated (Danziger/Skyrme) – CARRIED

## **3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

J. Mendoza explained that at the last AGM, members voted on a motion that the Executive put forward on November 8, 2022, recommending the membership adopt the Association's new name. As well as motions to update the Bylaws to reflect the name change and also be compliant with the Ontario Not for Profit Corporations Act. It was later revealed that not enough notice was properly provided for members to vote on the three motions, therefore, the motions were brought forward again for the membership's approval.

**BIRT**, at the recommendation of the Executive, that the Association's name be amended to be Toronto Metropolitan Faculty Association, with its abbreviation to be TFA. – CARRIED

**BIRT**, References to the "Corporations Act" in Bylaw No. 1 be deleted and replaced with "Not-for-Profit Corporations Act", and any consequential changes to references in the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. – (Hart/Ferworn) - CARRIED

**BIRT**, the Executive Committee take all necessary or desirable steps to implement these resolutions, which includes the resolution on changing the Association's name, file articles of amendment and bring the Association into compliance with the Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (Ontario) including but not limited to proposing further amendments to Bylaw No. 1, if any are required or desirable, at the next general membership meeting. – CARRIED

## **4. TFA Awards – Rachel Berman**

R. Berman presented the 2023 TFA awards. The TFA congratulates the following recipients:

Career Achievement – Songnian Li, Civil Engineering.

Career Achievement – Khaled Sennah, Civil Engineering.

TMU Person of the Year – Kris Alexander, RTA.

## **5. Treasurer's Report – Anthony Francescucci**

A. Francescucci presented the Proposed Budgets – Operating, Defence, and Reserved Funds 2023/2024

Motions:

**BIRT** Executive recommends the membership approval of the 2023-24 Budget as presented by the Treasurer. (Francescucci/Gingras) - CARRIED

We have been advised by our auditors that in any given fiscal year, the TFA builds 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 2022-23 fiscal year be transferred to the Defence Fund at the end of that fiscal year. (Francescucci/Silver)

Appointment of Auditor

**BIRT** the accounting firm of McCann & Roque be re-appointed as TFA external auditors for the fiscal year 2023-2024. (Francescucci/Gingras) - CARRIED

## **6. Chair, Negotiating Report – Ian Sakinofsky**

I. Sakinofsky acknowledged the CUPE 233 members on how well they conducted themselves by standing up to the Administration. They persevered on a point of principle and are ratifying today.

I. Sakinofsky gave an update on the TFA's bargaining process

## **7. Committee Chairs' and Officers' Reports**

Reports are included in "FACULTY NEWS LINK" - Fall 2023, Vol. 39, No. 1

## **9. Other Business**

D. Checkland brought forward a Notice of Motion to make an amendment to the Bylaw – The motion will be presented at the AGM in December 2023

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.