



BOARD OF GOVERNORS
November 30, 2020
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Video and Teleconference

M I N U T E S

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of Ryerson University (the “University”) held on November 30, 2020, at 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: S. Babikian, J. Cockwell (Vice-Chair), C. Ellis, C. Evans, J. Fukakusa, C. Garay, J. Gonzales, R. Graham, H. Harb, D. Jardine, M. Lachemi, M. Kolios, A. McKee, N. Mohamed (pending renewal), C. Paisley, D. Porter, T. Rubman, S. Sinha (pending renewal), W. Soliman, T. Staffieri (Chair)

Board Secretariat:

J. Shin Doi, General Counsel, Secretary of the Board of Governors and University Privacy Officer
V. Luckiram, Governance Coordinator
J. MacInnis, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Governors

Others in Attendance:

D. Brown, Vice-President, Administration and Operations
V. Carinci, Director, Strategic Procurement & Payment Services
G. Craney, Deputy Provost and Vice-Provost, University Planning
T. Conte, Executive Director, Office of the Vice-President, Administration and Operations
R. Frankle, Assistant Vice-President, Development
M. Forbes, Chief of Staff & Executive Director, Communications
J. Grass, Assistant Vice-President, University Relations
G. Hepburn, Dean, The G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education
R. Iannacito-Provenzano, Vice-Provost, Faculty Affairs
S. Liss, Vice-President, Research and Innovation
G. Mallon, Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management and Development
K. MacKay, Vice-Provost, Academic
M. McEachrane Mikhail, Executive Director, Office of Provost and Vice-President, Academic
J. McKee, Chief Financial Officer
J. McMillen, Vice-Provost, Students
M. McEachrane Mikhail, Executive Director, Office of the Provost and Vice-President, Academic
I. Mishkel, Vice-President, University Advancement and Alumni Relations
J. O'Donnell, Chief Human Resources Officer

D. O’Neil Green, Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion
C. Shepstone, Chief Librarian
A. Saloojee, Assistant Vice-President, International
S. Zolfaghari, Interim-Provost and Vice-President, Academic

1. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Board Members Only)

2. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Executive Group Invited)

END OF IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1. Chair’s Remarks

T. Staffieri opened his remarks with an acknowledgement of the land. T. Staffieri thanked Board members for attending the last meeting of the year and welcomed new Board member W. Soliman to the meeting.

3.2. Approval of the November 30, 2020 Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

M. Lachemi welcomed new Board member, W. Soliman. M. Lachemi congratulated former Board member M. Ien for being elected Member of Parliament for Toronto Centre and J. Shin Doi on winning the Chambers Diversity & Inclusion Award for Outstanding Contribution in the In-House category.

M. Lachemi reported that in response to grey lockdown level restrictions in the City of Toronto, in-person course activities that can be offered online are no longer offered in-person, and students who were participating in experiential learning have moved to remote working environments. M. Lachemi explained that communal study spaces are restricted and the fitness facilities are closed. Virtual services and resources remain available to students, faculty and staff.

M. Lachemi advised that essential services employees continue to work on campus while other staff and faculty will continue to work remotely until the end of April 2021. M. Lachemi reported that the University is offering all staff an added day off between now and Spring to support their mental health and well-being. M. Lachemi noted that the University will also be closed on February 16, 2021, to give the community an additional day on Family Day weekend.

M. Lachemi announced a new partnership with SOTI, a business mobility firm. M. Lachemi explained that the University's aerospace experts will support SOTI's new aerospace division, which focuses on advanced aerial drone and robotics research. The collaboration is an opportunity for the University's researchers and students to work on cutting-edge projects. M. Lachemi thanked S. Liss for leading the negotiations of this agreement.

M. Lachemi reported that award-winning Canadian photographer and alumnus E. Burtynsky has donated his archives to the University. M. Lachemi thanked P. Roth for his leadership in securing the donation and advised that a selection of images are available on the Ryerson Image Centre website.

M. Lachemi reported that on November 17, 2020, the University held a virtual graduation celebration for over 2,100 graduates and thanked the Ceremonials Office for their dedication to making the celebration special.

M. Lachemi provided an update on the Egerton Ryerson Task Force, noting that the co-chairs are Board members, J. Dallaire and C. Ellis. M. Lachemi advised that the task force includes faculty, students, alumni, and external experts.

M. Lachemi informed Board members that on November 12, 2020, the University launched the Ryerson Strategic Vision, a foundational document for the University, informed by community consultations and aligned with the University's other key strategic plans. M. Lachemi thanked Executive Group members for their leadership and Board members for their thoughtful input. M. Lachemi shared a video introducing the Strategic Vision.

4.1. Opportunities Working Group: Ryerson Online

M. Lachemi informed Board members that G. Hepburn, Dean of the G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education (the "Chang School") and member of the Opportunities Working Group, is leading the Ryerson Online project, which aims to develop a strategy to seize opportunities for online education. G. Hepburn provided an overview of the Chang School's programs and enrolment status, highlighting that most of the courses offered are for degree-credit and have the same academic oversight and quality as undergraduate courses.

G. Hepburn reported that the Chang School does well in the greater Toronto area and is in a position to capitalize upon the opportunity to expand the University's reach across Canada and internationally. G. Hepburn reported that Ryerson Online focuses on flexible, online learning that creates growth with minimal impact on internal resources and builds on the University's existing capacity and partnerships. G. Hepburn provided an overview of the project's next steps, highlighting plans for program development, service enhancement, marketing and partnerships, and market research.

5. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

J. Shin Doi advised that the report was included in the Board materials and offered to answer questions.

6. REPORT FROM THE INTERIM-PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT ACADEMIC

S. Zolfaghari provided an update on the Fall term enrolment and confirmed that the University met a number of its domestic and international targets. S. Zolfaghari spoke to the University's experiential learning initiatives, including the Ryerson Venture Zone, the Indigenous Fashion Support program, and the Recovery Cohort program. S. Zolfaghari provided an overview of the University's initiatives to foster inclusion, highlighting the thirty-one (31) grants and bursaries awarded by the Yeates School of Graduate Studies to support Black and Indigenous graduate students.

S. Zolfaghari informed Board members that November 17, 2020, was World Access to Higher Education Day ("WAHED") and advised that this year's theme is, Access and Success in the Post-Pandemic World. Ryerson Today published a special edition that includes stories about WAHED.

6.1 Ryerson University Library: Digital Infrastructure and Innovation

C. Shepstone reported that the Library contributes to the University's mission by providing vital resources, ensuring academic success, and delivering quality programs to students. C. Shepstone highlighted the Library's work to Board members, focusing on the Scholarly Research and Creative ("SRC") activities across the University. C. Shepstone advised that the reach of SRC activities includes regional, national and international initiatives. The University, represented by S. Liss, is focused on transforming research infrastructure and accelerating global science initiatives.

C. Shepstone spoke to the Digital Research Repository that showcases the University's SRC output in a single location. C. Shepstone reported that the University has a new studio that uses large scale projections to create immersive learning and research environments for both groups and individuals. C. Shepstone shared the ways that the University is innovating and leveraging the Library's physical and virtual infrastructure, including the Chinatown Heritage project. C. Shepstone spoke to the University's project with the Aga Khan Museum, advising that the Library led the development and creation of various unique digital experiences and experiential learning engagements, and conducted exploratory research looking at the efficacy and impact of these pedagogical tools.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1. **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

J. Cockwell reported that the Executive Committee met on October 29, 2020, and W. Soliman was appointed to the Board of Governors as a Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council appointee for a three-year term commencing on October 8, 2020. J. Cockwell advised that the Executive Committee confirmed the appointment of W. Soliman to the Negotiations Committee.

7.2. **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

7.2.1. **Fiera Capital Report - September 30, 2020**

D. Porter reported that the Finance Committee met on November 25, 2020. N. Trottier and D. Pennycook of Fiera Capital provided an update on the University's Endowment Funds.

7.2.2. **2020-21 Enrolment and Budget Update**

D. Porter advised that G. Craney provided Committee members with an update on enrolment, noting that G. Craney was available to answer questions.

7.2.3. **Financial Statements (unaudited) for the period ending October 31, 2020**

D. Porter reported that J. McKee presented the second-quarter unaudited financial statements, which indicated that the University is on track to balance the 2020-21 budget as approved by the Board of Governors in April 2020. D. Porter advised that the Finance Committee is recommending the approval of the Financial Statements.

It was moved, seconded, and carried:

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

THAT the Board of Governors approves the Financial Statements (unaudited) for the period ending October 31, 2020, as presented.

7.2.4. **Purchasing Policy Amendments**

D. Porter informed Board members that J. McKee presented the amendments to the University's Purchasing Policy and Procedures and that the Finance Committee is recommending the approval of the amendments as presented.

It was moved, seconded, and carried:

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

THAT the Board of Governors approves the amendments to the Purchasing Policy and Procedures as presented.

7.2.5. Review of Revenue and Expenditures for Masters of Fine Arts in Scriptwriting and Story Design and Doctor of Media & Design Innovation

D. Porter advised that G. Craney spoke to the proposed Masters of Fine Arts in Scriptwriting and Story Design and Doctor of Media & Design Innovation. D. Porter reported that the Finance Committee is recommending the approval of both programs. The related materials for these items are included in the Board materials on Diligent.

It was moved, seconded, and carried:

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

THAT, on the basis of the review carried out, the program approvals of Senate, and on the basis of the planned revenue and expenditures presented, the new Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Scriptwriting and Story Design is deemed financially viable and may be offered September 2021 at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic.

It was moved, seconded, and carried:

BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

THAT, on the basis of the review carried out, the program approvals of Senate, and on the basis of the planned revenue and expenditures presented, the new Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Media and Design Innovation is deemed financially viable and may be offered September 2021 at the discretion of the Provost and Vice President Academic.

8. TERMINATION