



TO: Ryerson University Election Procedures Committee

Julia Shin Doi, Chair
Maddy Fast, CESAR Representative
Mariam Hashemi, Staff Representative
Jennifer Hicks, Alumni Representative and Committee Secretary
Jennifer MacInnis, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary
Ian Sakinofsky, RFA Representative
Siddhanth Satish, RSU Representative

FROM: Colleen Dempsey, Returning Officer

DATE: November 6, 2020

RE: **RYERSON GRADUATE STUDENTS' UNION FEE REFERENDUM 2020**

On October 1, 2020 the Board of Governors of Ryerson University approved the holding of a referendum among all graduate students to seek approval to create a levy to fund the work of the Ryerson Graduates' Student Union ("RGSU") and an optional health plan that is specific to graduate students.

BACKGROUND

Graduate students at Ryerson were represented by the Ryerson Students' Union ("RSU") until the spring of this year. In a RSU referendum held in April 2020, RSU members voted in favour of the removal of graduate students from the RSU membership and the creation of the Ryerson Graduate Student Union ("RGSU"), an independent student government to represent the interests of graduate students at Ryerson.

Despite the formation of the RGSU, graduate students continued to pay membership fees to the RSU. To reflect the change in membership to the RGSU, a referendum was held among graduate students to approve the collection of an annual RGSU membership fee of \$123.84 from full-time graduate students, fees would be pro-rated for part-time graduate students. Approval is also being sought to move to a new opt-in health-care plan at a cost of up to \$650.00 per year. These fees would be indexed annually to the Toronto Consumer Price Index, and would start in September 2021.

With the success of the referendum, the RGSU fee of \$123.84 replaces the current RSU membership fee of \$99.76 for graduate students. The optional RGSU health-care plan of up

to \$650 per-year replaces the RSU optional health-care plan of \$340.00 per-year, for full-time students.

THE PROPOSED QUESTION

Do you agree to the creation of an annual RGSU membership fee of \$123.84 to fund the operation of the Ryerson Graduate Students Union (prorated for part time students), with an optional healthcare plan of up to \$650 per-year, to be paid by all students enrolled in Ryerson graduate programs starting in September 2021, and indexed annually to the Toronto Consumer Price Index?

The Referendum was held on November 2 to November 5, 2020.

THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTRONIC VOTE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Students Eligible to Vote	3,072
Ballots Submitted:	526
Votes Cast:	521
YES Vote:	310
NO Vote:	211
Declined to Vote:	5
Participation Rate:	17.1%

SUMMARY

According to the Ryerson University Referendum Policy there is no minimum quorum (voter turnout) required to validate a referendum and there must be a 50% + 1 vote threshold to determine the outcome. As the above results demonstrate, the Referendum question was successful.

Therefore, based on the applicable policy and the results of the referendum, it has been determined that a sufficient number of graduate students agreed to the creation of an annual RGSU membership fee of \$123.84 to fund the operation of the Ryerson Graduate Students Union (prorated for part time students), with an optional healthcare plan of up to \$650 per-year, to be paid by all students enrolled in Ryerson graduate programs starting in September 2021, and indexed annually to the Toronto Consumer Price Index.