

MINUTES OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL

February 6, 1996

MEMBERS PRESENT

C. Lajeunesse	D. Mason
K. Alnwick	M.C. Mayo
E. Aspevig	J. Meslin
D. McLaren for A. Bonifacio (regrets)	M. Miller
M. Booth	D. Mock
F. Cappadocia for M. Bornstein	C.J. Monroe
L. Braverman	M. Morel
I. Bryan	M. Morriss
J. Campbell	M. Novick
C. Cassidy	W. Owen
P. Cheevers	A. Peart
W. Cukier	A. Pokas
A.R. DeLuca	N. Potts
E. Deutsch	C. Ravindran
M. Dewson	D. Shaw
N. Dzeletovich	J. Swain
J. Easton	J. Turtle
G. Thomas for P. Flynn (regrets)	W.E. Vine
P. Gharghour	C. Webb
K. Goheen	W. White
L. Grayson	P. C Wong
B. Hartley	
J. Hicks	
P. Jensen	
S. Karim	
L. Kelly	
S. Kelman	
A. Kittler	
M. Kosny	

MEMBERS ABSENT

A. Bonifacio (regrets)
M. Creery
I.R. Devine
P. Flynn (regrets)
A. Heisey

I. Levine
D. McKay
R. Malinski
M. Maskow

L. Lewis
S. Port
C. Sam Foh
J. Sandys

1. President's Report

The President reported that he is holding information and consultation meetings with faculty and staff regarding Ryerson's financial situation, as a means of providing information and obtaining useful feedback for preparing the 1996-97 budget and a three year projection.

After meeting with the Deputy Minister of Finance and speaking with I. Bassett, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, the fate of the government's promise of \$4 million for pay equity, which was withdrawn in December, without notice, is still unknown.

The President announced that on Feb. 13, 1996, the Federal Minister of Industry, J. Manley, accompanied by the President of NSERC, D. Brzustowski, and Vice President of SSHRC, P. Lovejoy, will make an official announcement of the new Chair in Retailing. He offered his congratulations to K. Jones and M. Pearce who will jointly hold this position.

He also drew members' attention to an article about Ryerson's Fashion Department in the *Toronto Star*, and said here is good news pending about K. Kilbride. Student S. Rawat, Professor J. Shields and President Lajeunesse were quoted in a three page article in *McLeans Magazine*. The President feels that it is a good sign that Ryerson is receiving some external attention.

The March Council meeting is changed from Tuesday March 5, 1996 to Monday, March 11, 1996, as President Lajeunesse will be away at AUCC in Ottawa.

Members were referred to R. Mendelson's report on COU as printed in the agenda on pages 1 - 2. R. Mendelson sent regrets that she was unable to attend today's meeting.

D. Shaw asked if there is a scrapbook of press references to Ryerson in the press. The President said he would be happy to make available to members of Council, the report prepared for the Board of Governors about Ryerson faculty achievements.

2. The Good of the University

The President turned the meeting over to C. Cassidy, Vice Chair, who invited questions/comments. G. Thomas, Vice President, Education, RYESAC, reminded members of the Day of Action rally in conjunction with other universities, and the march to Queen's Park taking place February 7, 1996. He asked that professors allow students to participate.

S. Kelman asked if anything is being done to speed up curriculum changes. D. Mock replied there has been considerable curriculum change in the last 16 months, which has resulted in reductions in overall courses and classroom workload for students. Currently, ASC is reviewing the tripartite curriculum and will bring forth a short discussion paper for the March or April Council meeting. This may have an impact on curricular change at Ryerson.

S. Kelman also asked if Ryerson could produce the equivalent of the U. of T.'s *Blue Book* and if faculty can be listed on ProfNet, which allows journalists seeking someone to talk on a particular topic, access to a list of faculty and their area of expertise. The President was enthusiastic and will ask R. Crow, in his new Development Office role, to pursue this.

P. Cheevers, President of RYESAC, read a prepared statement. RYESAC, in the recent student referendum, advocated students vote against staying in CFS; however, students voted to stay in CFS. He said that RYESAC was questioned about the referendum by sociology students after one professor encouraged students to vote in favour of CFS. However RYESAC was not allowed by the professor to speak to the class with RYESAC's point of view. Another professor also endorsed CFS and handed out CFS pamphlets and material. A member of the RFA attended a meeting with a student group calling themselves Ryerson Students' Union, although RYESAC is the only one recognized by Ryerson. This group supported CFS.

RYESAC fears that RFA members may be proselytizing in the classroom and that students may be judged on their politics rather than the quality of their work..

P. Cheevers summarized RYESAC's concerns as follows:

1. Members of the RFA influenced students on how to vote on a student issue while in the classroom.
2. RYESAC feels the CFS referendum is a student issue that should have been handled by RYESAC, students and CFS.
3. Faculty provided opinions on materials outside of classroom.

P. Cheevers requested an administrative as well as a faculty perspective.

E. Aspevig, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, said he needed more details to respond, but offered a general comment on P. Cheevers statement. While this is an issue of concern to student government, it is imbedded in larger issues of, for example, value, social structure etc. It seems appropriate for a sociologist to comment on this in his/her teaching. If, however, there is blatant propogandizing, it is another issue.

D. Shaw agreed with E. Aspevig, but also said she needed more details. If a professor directed students how to vote, she feels it an inappropriate use of professorial power.

D. Mason feels it inappropriate to restrict faculty to just their specific area and thinks it okay to express the opinion that it is not a bad idea to stay in CFS.

W. Cukier said RSU did send around representatives to request class time, but there was no request from anyone else.

D. Mock spoke for administration, saying E. Aspevig expressed his views. He respects the right of individual faculty members to express opinions on those issues.

A. Kittler expressed concern about a group that may have misrepresented themselves as RSU.

L. Braverman praised the Library, the entire open concept on the main level and the reference area with the technology to do research. She also praised the staff. D. Shaw added her congratulations for the improvements in the Library, specifically the availability of CD ROMs for periodical information.

C. Ravindran commented that the Library has excellent new acquisitions and would like to see a periodic list of these.

R. Malinski thanked members for their positive comments and added that while the Library does not have a big collection it has big service. He gave the invitation to “come and see us”. The Library has a 5th floor facility to review new books, which are added weekly. He suggested that a list also be put on the World Wide Web.

C. Lajeunesse added his congratulations for R. Malinski’s work in turning the Library around. The President said he has done a fantastic job and the recognition is well deserved.

3. Minutes of the January 9, 1996 Meeting

It was duly moved and duly seconded that:

The Minutes of the January 9, 1996 meeting of Academic Council be adopted as printed in the agenda.

MOVED: G. Thomas

SECONDED: C. Ravindran

A spelling mistake on page 7 of the agenda, the word “concerns”, was noted. Also S. Booth should be M. Booth.

The minutes as amended were CARRIED.

4. Business Arising Out of the Minutes

There was no new business.

5. Correspondence

(a) Priorities and Issues Report of the Vice President, Academic

D. Mock presented, for information, his “Priorities and Issues” report and which will be discussed once PPAC completes its report, in March.

S. Karim suggested some of the “new” university money go to replace lab equipment. D. Mock responded that \$400,000 - 500,000 of “new” money has been put into IT, library accessibility, and multi-media projects in the past year, as well as an infusion into the capital infrastructure of the university. D. Mock said the same process will take place this year, and he explained that equipment for specific labs is something to be discussed at the department level.

L. Braverman asked for clarification on several matters in the report:

- What is RIN connectivity?
- What is happening with Ryerson’s Centres?
- Can there be an annual update on these Centres at Council?

- How does the “new” money relate to the “old” money?
- How can larger classes be handled practically?

D. Mock explained that RIN, Ryerson Integrated Network, is a client server system. Ryerson is moving from an old mainframe model to a client server model. Ryerson’s six centres are CATE, ORS, RI, Tourism, Rogers, and CSCA. Centres report to K. Goheen, Associate Vice President, Academic. D. Mock thinks a report to Council a good idea. The “new” money is associated with Ryerson’s university status. Ryerson must give an accountability report to the government to obtain next year’s funding. A budget bulletin, which will be ready in 2 - 3 months, will describe what the “new” money has been spent on. The physical capacity to increase class size is increasing significantly. Eight classrooms which hold 100 - 120 students have been developed with 4 more underway.

The President offered additional sessions on the budget if anyone wishes them, and suggested members advise Al Wargo, who will arrange for these as requested.

(b) Report Vice President, Administration and Student Affairs

L. Grayson presented her report, “1996/97 Administrative Priorities and Issues”, as printed in the February 2, 1996 “Additions to the February 6, 1996 Agenda”.

The 6 major priorities and issues have not changed from previous years because they are long-term commitments. She said there is a \$25 million dollar backlog of maintenance issues that can’t be ignored any longer, referring to the backlog as a wakeup call.

L. Braverman said the \$25million is an alarming figure and asked where this money is and how will necessary changes be made?

L. Grayson responded that a plan is needed, but we do not need to be alarmist as the figure is not out of line for Ryerson’s size.

C. Lajeunesse added that there is \$4 million contingency fund for health and safety issues that may arise.

(c) Report of Vice President, Faculty and Staff Affairs

M. Dewson welcomed the opportunity to make a first report and presented his report "Priorities and Issues, Division of Faculty and Staff Affairs, 1996-97", as printed in the February 2, 1996 "Additions to the February 6, 1996 Agenda".

L. Braverman asked the difference between Mode I and Mode II faculty, about the status of the harassment policies and procedures, and about money for the various initiatives outlined in the report.

M. Dewson explained that Mode I are faculty hired prior to Dec.31, 1991 whose workload is focused on teaching, while Mode II are those hired after that date and who teach and do SRC activities, the latter being a requirements for tenure. Mode I can switch to Mode II but not vice versa. The next phase of the harassment policy will becoming forward soon. Of the proposed activities described, affordability is very limited.

L. Bryan asked if there is a procedure/counselling for layoffs? M. Dewson explained that administration has tried to ensure no layoffs; of 90 positions closed there were few layoffs. There is a clear process for layoffs with some supports such as counselling. The President stated that he shares J. Bryan's concerns about procedures related to layoffs..

D. Shaw asked when the largest impact of faculty reduction will be felt. M. Dewson said March 1, 1996 is the deadline for accepting/rejecting the early retirement option. After that, he explained, it would not be a human resource issue but an academic one which might involve program restructuring.

E. Aspevig commented that he was impressed with the quality of the reports.

6. Reports of Actions and Recommendations of Departmental and Faculty Councils

There were no such reports.

7. Reports of the Committees

(a) Report of PPAC Committee

M. Kosny, Chair, gave a verbal report. He said the job of PPAC is very difficult both intellectually and practically. PPAC will bring forward a report next month. PPAC's report plus those of the three Vice Presidents will form the basis for a discussion at Council in March. The difficulty facing PPAC is to understand not only the financial reality, but how the committee should look at what/where Ryerson wants to be.

(b) Award and Ceremonials Committee

C. Lajeunesse presented the written report as printed in the February 2, 1996 "Additions to the February 6, 1996 Agenda" and moved:

That Academic Council approve the honorary doctoral degree as Ryerson's highest honorary award and the amendment of the Committee's Terms of Reference to reflect this change.

MOVED: C. Lajeunesse

SECONDED: W. White

The motion was carried.

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8. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.