

**SENATE MINUTES OF MEETING****Tuesday, January 28, 2020****MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<b>EX-OFFICIO:</b>	<b>FACULTY:</b>	<b>STUDENTS:</b>
L. Barnoff	R. Adams	S. Rakhmayil
M. Benarroch	R. Babin	H. Rollwagen
D. Cramb	S. Benvie	S. Sabatinos
G. Craney	T. Burke	M. Vahabi
C. Falzon	D. Checkland	
L. Fang	M. Dionne	
C. Hack	A. El-Rabbany	
G. Hepburn	A. Ferworn	
M. Lachemi	N. George	
K. MacKay	R. Hudyma	
J. McMillen	E. Ignagni	
D. O'Neil Green	C. Kular	
C. Searcy	L. Lavallée	
C. Shepstone	A. McWilliams	
P. Sugiman	A. Miransky	
D. Taras	P. Moore	
D. Young	J. Neil	
S. Zolfaghari	R. Noble	<b>EX-OFFICIO STUDENTS:</b>
		N. Brayannis

**SENATE ASSOCIATES:****ALUMNI:**

A. M. Brinsmead	N. Di Cuia
J. Dallaire	S. Rattan
M. Zouri	

**REGRETS:****ABSENT:**

D. Androutsos	K. Agyemang
A. Bailey	M. Arif
C. Bradish	D. Bitondo
D. Brown	K. Dermody
R. Kucheran	S. Donato-Woodger
S. Liss	M. Green
I. Mishkel	O. Karp
M. Tiessen	K. Kumar
J. Tiessen	R. Meldrum
N. Walton	V. Prevost
A. Yazdani	H. Shahid

1. Call to Order/Establishment of Quorum

2. Land Acknowledgement

"Toronto is in the 'Dish With One Spoon Territory'. The Dish With One Spoon is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee that bound them to share the territory and protect the land. Subsequent Indigenous Nations and peoples, Europeans and all newcomers have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect."

3. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the agenda for the January 28, 2020 meeting*

L. Fang moved; R. Babin seconded

**Motion Approved.**

4. Announcements - None

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the minutes of the December 3, 2019 meeting*

M. Dionne moved; M. Vahabi seconded

**Motion Approved.**

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

D. Bell provided a final update on the GCM one-year follow-up to their PPR. Previously, a Senator raised some concerns. At the recommendation of President Lachemi, a meeting was held with the Senator, the Dean, Associate Dean and the Chair of that program. A written response letter was provided to the Senator on December 19, 2019, addressing his concerns.

7. Correspondence - None

8. Reports

8.1 Report of the President

8.1.1 President's Update

**The President Reported:**

- 1) Welcome to two new deans who joined in January 2020 – Donna Young, Inaugural Dean, Faculty of Law; and Gary Hepburn, new Dean of the Chang School.
- 2) Congratulations to the TRSM Dean and team of the MBA program that was ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in Canada by Bloomberg Business Week, for being awarded best business school 2019-2020 based on: interviews and surveys of faculties, administrators and students at

MBA programs worldwide. Pleased to see that in two categories (Learning and Entrepreneurship), the MBA program was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> respectively.

- 3) Among 39 new recipients, there were six people with affiliation to Ryerson, who received the Order of Canada awards at the end of November 2019. Three Honorary Degree recipients (James Cameron, Heather Reisman, Mitchell Cohen); Ronald Besse, from Ryerson Alumni family; Ken Greenberg, Vice-chair and Co-founder of the Ryerson City Building Institute; and Nadir Mohamed, Board of Governors member.
- 4) Update regarding Brampton Innovation Zone: On January 7, 2020, Ryerson and the City of Brampton announced an agreement to establish the Brampton Innovation Zone. It will be based on our existing zone network of free mentorship and access to valuable resources for Brampton-based entrepreneurship.
- 5) Cybersecurity Focused Accelerator: The DMZ and Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst have launched a new accelerator for scale-up companies in the cybersecurity space. The program will be located in Brampton and is supported by a number of private and public organizations. The federal government is supporting the accelerator through FedDev Ontario, as well as the City of Brampton.
- 6) An email announcement was sent to Senators on Friday, January 24, 2020, regarding the University's decision to terminate our 1986 agreement with the Ryerson Student Union (RSU). Last year, January 2019, we learned of allegations of improper use of RSU funds by members of the 2018-2019 Executive team. In light of these allegations, we called a meeting with the Board of RSU and the Executive, and we were very clear that we would withhold the fees that we collect on behalf of RSU from all full-time students and we would not entrust them to the RSU until they reached certain conditions. In that meeting, we made it very clear that RSU is a separate organization from Ryerson, but we wanted transparency and good governance. We asked them to conduct a forensic audit of their financial situation, which should be done by an external firm. We asked them to share with us the results of the outcome of the investigation and to start to negotiate a new agreement with Ryerson that calls for transparency, accountability and good governance. Over the past year, we have tried in good faith to negotiate an agreement that ensures that good governance and accountability form the basis of a partnership that puts the students' experience first.

Unfortunately, the RSU has ceased responding to our efforts to reach common ground. Communication is very poor; discussion with the executive team was totally absent. We have also been asked by many students, and petitions signed by many students to do something about the situation with RSU. In the absence of collaboration and poor governance structure, we have decided to end the agreement that we have between us and RSU. We will be communicating with all students within the next two days. Regarding next steps: we want students to be represented by a viable organizations,

and we will be asking students to come up with proposals in order for us to help them designate or select an organization that can be independent and can represent them.

We are committed to facilitate the process to ensure students have the opportunity to determine the structure of their representative. RSU is an umbrella organization under which there are many groups. We are also committed to ensure that essential services will continue to be provided to students.

**Questions/Answers/Comments:**

**Q:** Has the University seen the audited report of the RSU, which was completed by Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC).

**A:** President Lachemi responded that he has not seen that report and that we put three conditions when we met with the RSU and heard about allegations of fraud or misuse of funds. We asked them to do a forensic audit and to share the results of the audit with us. We have not seen any report.

**Q:** Who initiated that report and who paid for it?

**A:** President Lachemi responded that the RSU both initiated it and paid for it as they are a separate organization from Ryerson.

**Q:** Has RSU submitted the PWC report to police as it mentioned misappropriation of funds?

**A:** President Lachemi stated that he is not aware and we have not been contacted by police or the Ministry of Labour.

**C:** President Lachemi commented that we are hearing from the media about a number of issues that RSU is facing. We are hearing about complaints from staff about the way the executive is dealing with staff. The Ministry of Labour is investigating those allegations as well, but we have not been contacted by them.

**Q:** Has the University transferred monies to RSU that would allow them to cover the cost of the auditing process?

**A:** President Lachemi said that he has not heard from RSU regarding this.

**Q:** What is the status of the RSU representation on Senate since there is a democratic representation for students on Senate? Who is the RSU representation?

**A:** Typically, the RSU representative is the VP of education for RSU; however, that person resigned on January 6, 2020. There is no representative at tonight's evening.

**C:** President Lachemi explained that changes in the executive of RSU in the last few weeks resulted in one of the VPs being impeached and two other VPs resigned from the executive. In response to the lack of RSU representation on Senate, it was reiterated that there will be another organization which will replace RSU, from which a

representative will have a seat on Senate. In the meantime, there are many students on Senate who represent their Faculties and students at large.

**C:** J. McMillen stated that she will be communicating with students within a couple days regarding a plan to move forward with regards to a process to facilitate the selection of a new student government. It is not our interest to run that process directly so we will be engaging an external representation to drive this process. We will have a Chief Process Officer who will work with a committee of students to adjudicate that process to select a structure. We will then move into a period of nomination and campaigning for the officers of that organization once the students have selected which method of governance they would like to see. The new officers will be chosen and we have a proposed timeline that we hope to facilitate that process in advance of the April exams.

**Q:** RSU is still planning to hold their annual election for 2020-2021. What would that mean for those students who get elected, assuming they do continue with the election?

**A:** President Lachemi responded that the decision taken by the University is not to recognize RSU anymore as the representative for students.

**Q:** Are there a set of terms and conditions laid out where the RSU would be recognized if they meet those terms that Ryerson provided or should there be a new governance or body?

**A:** President Lachemi responded that anyone from the student body can put their ideas forward for a new government, including those who are part of RSU, but we want to have an agreement in place with the new organization that will have those foundations, i.e. good governance, transparency and accountability to all students.

**Q:** What would happen to the facility that RSU currently occupies?

**A:** The Student Campus Centre and Oakham House are owned by the University and leased to the Palin Foundation, which is made up of a number of different members on their board. The intricacies of that relationship are currently under discussion and next steps will be made available as they are sorted out.

**Q:** If the election resulted in the same student body, the same University with the same issues, how do you prevent the same situation from re-occurring? What is your plan to make sure that the same problems are not repeated two or three years down the road?

**A:** President Lachemi responded that we have to put conditions in that agreement and we expect that there will be a foundation for good governance. We want the executives to be more accountable to students, not to us. We have received many complaints from students who are pleased with the University's stance on this.

**Q:** Why did Ryerson choose to make this decision prior to February 3, 2020, when RSU is having their general meeting shortly?

**A:** President Lachemi responded that they have been very patient with the organization. We have done everything possible to engage them in good faith to avoid this scenario

from happening. After one year of trying to achieve something meaningful for students, we made this decision.

**Q:** What is happening with essential services provided by RSU (academic advocacy, resource centres, legal advice, etc.) as well as fees belonging to RSU that Ryerson is holding?

**A:** J. McMillen responded that Ryerson remains committed to ensuring that the disruption to student services is minimized. We are engaging in conversations in which those services can continue to be supported. There are also many places on campus where students can get support and so part of the process in the coming days will be to assess if we able to find a way to continue on with those services.

**Q:** RSU was taking steps to correct the situation as they have hired new staff, etc. after the individual was impeached. What steps were not taken during the year that the university expected them to take in order for Ryerson to reach its decision?

**A:** President Lachemi reiterated that the university is very concerned about our students and is also concerned about how the funds had been used, collected by the university and have been used by a number of executives in a way that is not serving students. There were many students who were not happy with the situation, and we could not just watch and wait for another year. We have not seen any serious efforts to address the issue of mismanagement of funds.

**Q:** What steps could the RSU have taken to avoid this situation?

**A:** President Lachemi reiterated that we wanted them to look at what happened and hire an expert or experts to look at the financial situation; to be transparent with the University as it's collecting money and funds from students; and we wanted to have a solid framework in terms of the agreement between the University and the union to make sure that this will not happen in the future - an agreement that will call for transparency, good governance and accountability. The old agreement does not have the ability to make sure that we have transparency and good governance.

- 7) Announced that regarding information in the media about the Coronavirus, it was reported that there are two cases in Toronto. Ryerson is working with Public Health and COU is working with the Ministry of Health along with other Universities in this regard. If there are any updates, he will communicate this to the community. Information will be sent through Ryerson Today. We do not have any cases at Ryerson, contrary to postings publicized on social media.
- 8) Strategic Vision: We are developing an umbrella document vision for Ryerson 2030 based on consultation with the different plans and feedback received from the community about what Ryerson should be in 2030. That document is in the process of development. We will bring the draft of this document when it is ready and ask for your feedback and comments.

9) A video was shown regarding the work done by one of the students in the Disability Studies program. “Agents of Change” featured a Ryerson student, Paul Benson. C. Shepstone stated that this is an initiative that was done by the Library on student learning and particularly experiential learning. It is one of four that is coming out of a new creator’s grant that was launched in 2019.

8.2 Communications Report – included in the agenda.

8.3 Report of the Secretary

8.3.1 Senate Elections

February 3, 2020 – Call for Nominations

March 2 to 5, 2020 – Online voting for students, faculty-at-large and CE faculty

March 9 to 12, 2020 – Online voting for faculty

Email communications will be sent out next week.

#### 8.4 Committee Reports

**8.4.1 Report #W2020-1 of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC): K. MacKay**

8.4.1.1. Changes to the Field Placement hours in the School of Social Work

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the changes to the Field Placement hours in the School of Social Work*

K. MacKay moved; L. Lavallée seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.2. Assignment of the Honours Bachelor Degree designation for Double Majors

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the assignment of the Honours Bachelor Degree designation for Double Majors*

K. MacKay moved; S. Rattan seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.3. Periodic Program Review for the Department of English Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree Program – Faculty of Arts

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Periodic Program Review for the Department of English Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Degree Program – Faculty of Arts*

K. MacKay moved; S. Rattan seconded

**Motion Approved.**

**8.4.2 Report #W2020-1 of the Academic Governance and Policy Committee (AGPC):**  
**M. Benarroch**

**8.4.2.1. Provost's Update**

M. Benarroch updated members on SMA3. There was a second communication with the province on January 31, in which they sent us a response to what we submitted. We are still working on the final details of the data. All 10 of our metrics have been chosen. We are trying to take the least risky approach when it comes to these metrics, and we are trying to lessen any risk so we do not lose funding in the future and we will be able to meet the metrics.

In addition, the Provost stated that he wanted to update Senate on a request that came from a Senator last year. It had to do with curricular changes and timings of these changes and how it works with the calendar and if we could look at the whole structure for more flexibility. The Registrar's office had looked at all of the types of curricular changes that might come forward and have developed a timeline for many of them, trying to find the latest date possible for each of the different ones to come to Senate in order for them to be approved for that year. That report was presented to our Vice Provost Academic and she met with the associate deans and YSGS who had some follow-up questions. This is a work in progress but we are trying to get all those questions answered and we will bring it to Senate to show where the flexibility lies in bringing forward curricular changes.

**Q:** As the budget cycle is approaching, will the SMA's have any influence on the budget?

**A:** For the initial period, I do not think so as SMA measurements will begin based on the end of this year. Our data for the last three years, starting at the end of this year, will be our starting point. Over time, if there is a measure that we are not meeting, we will have to take some action and those actions would cost the institution. If we are missing a target consistently, we are losing revenue and that will have an impact on our budget.

**8.4.2.2. YSGS Council Bylaws**

**Motion: That Senate approve the proposed YSGS Council Bylaws**

C. Searcy moved; C. Shepstone seconded

**Motion Approved.**

**8.4.2.3. The Academic Plan 2020-2025**

**Motion: That Senate approve the Academic Plan 2020-2025**

M. Benarroch moved; R. Babin seconded

**Motion Approved.**

## **8.4.3 Report #W2020-1 of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies Council (YSGS) – C. Searcy**

### **8.4.3.1. Periodic Program Review for Math Graduate Programs**

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Periodic Program Review for Math Graduate Programs*

C. Searcy moved; D. Cramb seconded

**Motion Approved.**

### **8.4.3.2. Periodic Program Review for Economics Graduate Programs**

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Periodic Program Review for Economics Graduate Programs*

C. Searcy moved; P. Sugiman seconded

**Motion Approved.**

### **8.4.3.3. Periodic Program Review for the Philosophy Graduate Program**

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Periodic Program Review for the Philosophy Graduate Program*

C. Searcy moved; P. Sugiman seconded

**Motion Approved.**

9. Old Business - none

10. New Business as Circulated - none

11. Members' Business

**C:** A Senator asked about the academic appeals process and advocacy as it relates to RSU.

A statement was read regarding CESAR's concerns and position on the RSU matter. Included in the statement were concerns that as a sister student union that provide similar services, CESAR was never updated on this matter or were invited to help provide advice or the decision to terminate the agreement with RSU. The university's action puts the appeals process at risk; and affects many services and centres. CESAR is asking Senate to consider why the student union should be autonomous from the University.

**C:** A Senator agreed with the University's decision to sever ties with RSU and highlighted the fact that RSU did not honour the requirements that the University had put forth.

**C:** A Senator indicated that RSU has been around for over 35 years, is there any way that we can separate the people who did the wrong from the entity itself? Keep RSU and encourage the students to develop a new executive and build on the equity attained over the last 35 years.

**C:** A member of the gallery asked who is guiding students regarding the appeals advocacy

process? Appeals were due on the 20<sup>th</sup>, it is very important right now who is guiding the students through the appeals process.

**A:** J. McMillen, Vice Provost Students, is looking into this as this is part of our Senate Academic Policy.

**C:** A Senator indicated that there is not enough academic advocacy support for students and lack of this affects students. Students have always been asked to seek the support of the advocates, but students have reported that they were unable to meet with the advocates as there are only one per student union.

**C:** A Senator indicated that we should find out from students what they would like regarding their democracy, whether they want a student union, whether they can trust another student union to lead the students. Students' trust has disappeared regarding any source of leadership. It is very important going forward to ask students what it is they are looking for.

**C:** A Senator expressed interest in supporting student associations who are doing such good work, and does not want the issues to overshadow the strength and governance and excellent work of other groups. In TRSM there are about 36 clubs that are functioning appropriately with governance. The team's advisory council is asking Ryerson if this is a brand affecting reputation issue and we should keep in mind that the reputations of all of our students are being besieged inadvertently. We should strongly support those well-run societies.

**Q:** Why didn't we have a plan before dissolving RSU?

**A:** President Lachemi said there will be communication going out to all students within the next 48 hours, and that the position of the University is that we believe students deserve a student government that demonstrates a commitment to public financial accountability, democratic and transparent governance and sound human resource practices. We believe in the importance of the organization to be totally independent of Ryerson.

**C:** A Senator indicated that the services that RSU has created over the years are very important, e.g. paying tuition fees through instalments. The RSU has been criticized by not meeting the one-year timeline, where was the university in setting up the provisions for students to ensure that their needs were being met this past year before they got rid of the RSU?

**C:** A Senator expressed that while RSU has very important services for students, some of the new candidates for election have ties to the old RSU executive and that could contribute to why the process is so bad.

**C:** A member of the gallery stated that RSU had a glorious past of being around since 1967, but that since he has been at Ryerson (2015) he has noticed that there has been negative reports about RSU's governance. He was present when most of the conversations were taking place with President Lachemi and J. McMillen with the entire Board of Directors of RSU. We all agreed to take measures to mitigate those issues, but RSU has not implemented most of the

initiatives that were agreed with Ryerson. In fact, four of the executive members of the 6-member executive team have either gotten impeached or resigned over the last few months. It is of the best interest of the students that you find a new way forward.

**C:** A Senator indicated that the real victims are the students and we should keep in mind how the actions of RSU and the University will be impacting the students over the next few days, and the impact of the University administration, staff as well as student peer leaders.

12. Consent Agenda

12.1 Academic Integrity Office Senate Report 2018-2019

[https://www.ryerson.ca/senate/senate-meetings/agenda/2020/Course\\_Change\\_Forms\\_January2020.pdf](https://www.ryerson.ca/senate/senate-meetings/agenda/2020/Course_Change_Forms_January2020.pdf)

12.2 Course Changes Forms From:

**Faculty of Arts:** Criminology/History Double Major; Criminology/Politics & Governance Double Major; Criminology/Sociology Double Major; English; History; History/Politics & Governance; Interdisciplinary Studies; Languages, Literatures & Cultures; Politics & Governance; Politics & Governance/Sociology Double Major; Sociology.

**Faculty of Communication and Design:** Creative Industries; Fashion; Graphics Communications Management; Image Arts; Interior Design; Journalism; Performance; Professional Communication; RTA School of Media.

**Faculty of Community Services:** Child & Youth Care; Disability Studies; Midwifery; Nursing; Nutrition; Occupational & Public Health.

**Faculty of Science:** Chemistry & Biology; Computer Science; Mathematics; Physics.

**Faculty of Engineering & Architectural Science:** Architectural Science; Mechanical & Industrial Engineering.

**Ted Rogers School of Management:** Health Services Management; Hospitality and Tourism Management; Retail Management; Real Estate Management;

13. Adjournment –

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.