

**SENATE MINUTES OF MEETING**

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Via Zoom Video Conference

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<b>EX-OFFICIO:</b>	<b>FACULTY:</b>		<b>STUDENTS:</b>
L. Barnoff	R. Adams	R. Noble	M. Arif
M. Benarroch	D. Androutsos	S. Rakhmayil	Z. Bokhari
D. Brown	R. Babin	H. Rollwagen	H. Elsayed
D. Cramb	A. Bailey	S. Sabatinos	J. Kewal
G. Craney	C. Bradish	M. Tiessen	M. Moghaddas
T. Duever	T. Burke	J. Tiessen	K. Nguyen
C. Falzon	D. Checkland	M. Vahabi	K. Park
C. Hack	K. Dermody	N. Walton	V. Prevost
G. Hepburn	M. Dionne		H. Shahid
M. Lachemi	A. El-Rabbany		J. Spagnuolo
S. Liss	A. Ferworn		
K. MacKay	N. George		
J. McMillen	M. Green		
D. O'Neil Green	R. Hudyma		<b>EX-OFFICIO STUDENTS:</b>
C. Searcy	K. Kumar		N. Brayannis
C. Shepstone	L. Lavallée		
P. Sugiman	A. McWilliams		
D. Taras	R. Meldrum		
D. Young	A. Miransky		
S. Zolfaghari	J. Neil		
<b>SENATE ASSOCIATES:</b>			<b>ALUMNI:</b>
A. M. Brinsmead			N. Di Cuia
J. Dallaire			S. Rattan
R. Kucheran			
M. Zouri			
<b>REGRETS:</b>			<b>ABSENT:</b>
E. Ignagni			S. Benvie
I. Mishkel			D. Bitondo
P. Moore			S. Donato-Woodger
A. Yazdani			O. Karp
			D. Salman
			M. Tiessen

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 April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting.*

R. Babin moved; G. Hepburn seconded

**Motion Approved.**

4. Announcements - None

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the minutes of the March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 meeting.*

A. McWilliams moved; N. George seconded

**Motion Approved.**

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes - None

7. Correspondence - None

## 8. Reports

### 8.1 Report of the President

#### 8.1.1 President's Update

#### **The President Reported:**

1. Congratulations to Charles Falzon, who has been re-appointed as Dean of Faculty of Communication and Design
2. Slide Presentation: How Ryerson is Responding to COVID-19
  - Goodwill and resilience
  - Students are being supported throughout these challenging times
  - Thanked everyone for their support, all teams, units across the University
  - Thanked the members of the Senate Priorities Committee for reacting very quickly on behalf of Senate to draft a proposal to provide reasonable grade options to assist students
  - In an effort to support students, Ryerson has contributed \$6M towards Student Relief. Approximately 4,000 students applied for support; \$750 per student was approved

- **Working with Partnerships:**
  - Ryerson has been working closely with all levels of government and has been actively communicating with Mayor Tory and others
  - The excellent platform Magnet was used at the national level to assist students to find jobs
- **Ryerson will be establishing an Implementation team to assist in various areas:**
  - Prototypes of personal protective equipment will be tested by hospitals to ensure they meet guidelines and requirements
  - Providing student residences to healthcare workers
  - Mattamy Centre space will be provided if needed
  - Daphne Cockwell Centre's Nursing labs are also available for use
  - Scholarly Research and Creative Activity (SRC) – Ryerson researchers are heavily involved participant members
  - **Convocation:** It was a difficult decision to postpone Spring Convocation. Students affected will be honoured in Fall 2020 as well as Honorary Doctorate recipients.

#### **Questions/Answers/Comments:**

**C:** Thank you for the provision of Wi-Fi and partnership with Rogers.

**C:** The Library has done an excellent job providing access to students and has shipped a number of laptops to students. Rogers has provided unlimited internet access to students. Those with no Rogers access received hotspot sticks to be able to access Wi-Fi.

**C:** The Library has been lending laptops prior to the pandemic and 125 laptops were sent to students. The Library has ordered 100 more. Additional laptops will be donated by FCAD and 160 students signed up for Rogers and FIDO unlimited data plan.

**C:** Students can either pick up laptops or they can make arrangements to have them shipped to their home address.

**Q:** Regarding online course response for Spring/Summer and Science courses - There was a survey of students that some courses are not being made available and some are prerequisite courses?

**A:** We have tried to get as many courses as possible online. We did the best we could in a short time.

**C:** Chang School had 821 online sections, and will be offering 300 more. There are currently 629 new sections offered online. We are working with instructors to teach these courses. Some courses cannot necessarily be offered online. Some courses are lab-based, so we are unable to offer these at the moment.

**C:** Plans are underway to virtualize lab courses for the Summer term.

**C:** Suggestion to student senators that if students are asking questions, advise them to reach out to their Deans and we will respond as best we can.

#### **8.2 Communications Report – (included in agenda)**

#### **8.3 Report of the Secretary**

##### **8.3.1 Senate Elections Update**

D. Bell provided an update of the Senate membership for 2020-2021

#### **8.4 Committee Reports**

##### **8.4.1 Report #W2020-3 of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC): K. MacKay**

8.4.1.1. Periodic Program Review for the Department of Aerospace Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering Degree Program – Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Periodic Program Review for the Department of Aerospace Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering Degree Program - Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science.*

K. MacKay moved; T. Duever seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.2. Periodic Program Review for the Program of International Economics and Finance, Bachelor of Arts Degree – Faculty of Arts.

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Periodic Program Review for the Program of International Economics and Finance, Bachelor of Arts Degree – Faculty of Arts.*

K. MacKay moved; A. McWilliams seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.3. Universities of Canada - Egypt Partnership Proposal – Faculty of Communication and Design

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Universities of Canada-Egypt Partnership Proposal – Faculty of Communication and Design.*

K. MacKay moved; N. Di Cuia seconded

**Q:** While foreign students come here, not many of our students opt to study away. In terms of student access in Egypt, will the students pay normal student fees?

**A:** More or less; it is not quite the same. The Faculty is looking at a variety of scholarships and bursaries to make it a broader range. There is a lot of enthusiasm for this program and incredible passion for exploring this.

**C:** This is the only Canadian-based University in the Middle East. Glad that we have a footprint there.

**C:** Ryerson should be careful about Intellectual Property and copyright.

**C:** Partners are interested in programs from Faculty of Engineering & Architectural Science, specifically Electrical & Civil Engineering, as well as Mechanical Engineering.

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.4. Certificate review for Advanced Nursing Leadership and Management – Chang School

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the certificate review for Advanced Nursing Leadership and Management – Chang School.*

K. MacKay moved; L. Lavallée seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.5. Certificate modifications to Advanced Nursing Leadership and Management – Chang School

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the certificate modifications to Advanced Nursing Leadership and Management – Chang School.*

K. MacKay moved; N. Walton seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.6. New Certificate in Introduction to Community Services – Chang School

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the new Certificate in Introduction to Community Services – Chang School.*

K. MacKay moved; G. Hepburn seconded

**Q:** Is there is a home school?

**A:** It will rest in the Dean's office, Faculty of Community Services.

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.7. New Certificate in Practical Data Science and Machine Learning – Chang School

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the new Certificate in Practical Data Science and Machine Learning – Chang School.*

K. MacKay moved; G. Hepburn seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.8. For information: G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education Certificate Revisions

- i. Certificate in Data Analytics, Big Data and Predictive Analytics: Required course deletions; course additions; changes in prerequisites
- ii. Certificate in Disaster and Emergency Management: Certificate title change
- iii. Certificates in Public Administration and Governance, Levels 1 and 2: Certificate title changes
- iv. Certificate in Disaster and Emergency Management: Course title change
- v. Certificate in English Literature and Popular Culture: Course addition and deletions (electives)

## 8.4.2 Report #W2020-3 of the Academic Governance and Policy Committee (AGPC):

M. Benarroch

### 8.4.2.1. Provost's Update

#### The Provost Reported:

1. The Yeates School of Graduate Studies and Associate Deans determined that the additional change to graduate grading options is an opportunity for students to choose to drop the course.
2. Assistance to Students:
  - Ryerson gave \$3M towards student assistance. The funds were sent out to as many as possible to alleviate students' situations.
  - Through the International Office, we brought back many students from around the world, and assisted those who returned who had nowhere to go, with hotel assistance.
  - Rebate was given to students for their last five weeks if in residence, and also for their meals.
  - The total was approximately \$6M towards assistance to students.
3. RSU advocates are back working and participating in the Appeals process. Also, RSU has reached out to the University and wants to know how we can work towards further assistance to students. He stated that regarding the RSU additional advocate motion passed at the last Senate meeting, this is being put on pause due to the injunction. He offered that Ryerson will abide by the injunction.

**Q:** What is the University's plan for Wi-Fi support moving into the Spring and Summer term?

Rogers partnership was a really great idea for this term, will this be extended? Any support for students not on the Roger's network with support of a Wi-Fi stick?

**A:** The Library is working with the President's office to discuss options with Rogers. We are also looking at other ways to support students over the spring and summer. For information, here are the online/virtual services and resources offered by the Library:

*<https://library.ryerson.ca/blog/2020/03/ryerson-library-resources-and-services-update/>*

**C:** To request a laptop and/or Wi-Fi email the Library at [access@ryerson.ca](mailto:access@ryerson.ca).

**C:** We would appreciate Telus and Bell joining Ryerson to provide students with coverage for Spring and Summer.

**Q:** How do students pick up the laptops when the Library is closed? And will the laptops be available for Summer online classes?

**A:** The Library has been shipping these out or arranging pickup in special cases.

**Q:** Is there is an estimated timeline when students can expect to receive the \$750?

**A:** There were 4,000 student requests and we are working with Western Union, among other measures, to disburse these funds to students.

**Q:** Will the Ryerson Student Relief Fund reopen for students? Is this initiative being funded solely by donations, or has Ryerson dedicated a specific monetary amount to offering this relief?

**A:** Ryerson has dedicated more than \$3M of our own funds. We are now trying to raise external funds.

**C:** Thank you to C. Shepstone and the Library for supplying our new student Pow Wow team with Wi-Fi so we can continue digital planning!

**C:** TRSM bought 200 new laptops and used all our existing laptops.

**Q:** I have noticed that Spring/Summer courses that were previously available (in-person) have been cancelled. Is the University looking to make these available online, or is the choice in Summer school courses being decreased to what was already an online course?

**A:** TRSM is increasing courses. Chang is opening up caps. More students will have access to Spring/Summer than in the past.

**Q:** Why can't the University move to credit, no-credit option for graduate students?

**A:** It was felt that the decision taken would be the best option.

**C:** Graduate students have fewer courses than undergraduate students. It could also cause issues with students hoping to go to Masters and Doctorate programs. Graduate students require different types of accommodation. There have been many debates among graduate program Deans.

**C:** Re credit, no-credit. We're giving undergraduate students a lot of choice. Why can't we give graduate students credit or no-credit option like the undergraduate students?

**Q:** Wondering about the Fall semester: when will Ryerson want to make a decision whether it will be remote learning or in-person or hybrid? It seems it is crucial that a decision is made sooner rather than later, especially for Admissions.

**A:** We are certainly thinking of courses for the Fall term. We have to work with directives from government as to when we return and the best way to protect our community.

**Q:** Regarding graduate course drop deadline - what happens when a student misses the final exam, and gets an INC grade. Then writes the test later. Will they still have this option to drop the course five days after the official grade is released?

**A:** We are trying to strike a balance. Students who have an INC would have to get in touch with the Registrar's Office to get that type of accommodation. We will make it available in this situation.

**Q:** Social work has a partnership with FNTI and the program starts the last week of August. It seems a far way off but wondering if we can think a bit about admissions and OneCard orientations, etc. The last class takes place at the end of August, how would students get their OneCard, etc.

**A:** The Provost will look into this.

### **8.4.3 Report #W2020-1 of the Senate Priorities Committee (SPC): M. Lachemi**

8.4.3.1. Endorse the action taken on March 24, 2020 by Senate Priorities Committee (SPC), to amend Policy 46 to create CRD and NCR grades in order to address the concerns of students regarding the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on their grades and future prospects

**Motion:** *That Senate hereby endorses the action taken on March 24, 2020 by Senate Priorities Committee (SPC), to amend Policy 46 to create CRD and NCR grades in order to address the concerns of students regarding the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on their grades and future prospects.*

D. Checkland moved; A. McWilliams seconded

C: It is important for Senators to realize that there was no provision for SPC to act. There is a need for Emergency powers.

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.3.2. Proposed academic structure of a potential agreement with Navitas regarding the recruitment and academic preparation of international students for direct admission into the second-year of participating programs at Ryerson.

**Motion:** *That Senate approves the proposed academic structure of a potential agreement with Navitas regarding the recruitment and academic preparation of international students for direct admission into the second-year of participating programs at Ryerson.*

D. Taras moved; M. Vahabi seconded

C: Recommended tabling the motion until next meeting. What do we mean by high-quality students? Students are only allowed to register in their second year, do they know this? Navitas has not had any new contracts since 2010 and has been rejected by other Universities. We should ensure that there be more than one partner to look at. We have to protect employees: e.g. regarding lower pay and lack of access to resources. It would be wise to push this till the end of COVID-19.

C: Most of the information provided is incorrect. For example, the statement that employees are not being treated properly is wrong. It is important to be accurate with Senate when expressing views.

C: We have spoken with other Universities and received a more positive response. Also spoke to competitors of Navitas, and felt Navitas offered a better deal.

C: Regarding the statement that students being confused or misled that they are not being admitted at first year, students are well informed. With COVID-19 and current financial pressures students will be facing, the competition to attract international students will become very intense. We have had conversations with other providers and they cannot provide what we require.



**Q:** Regarding credits, do they have to have all first-year courses completed before they are admitted?

**A:** Students will have to complete 10 courses before they can register. Those courses will be transferred as credits.

**C:** A partnership may bring some new expertise and knowledge, but the financial terms of the proposed deal appear disproportionately disadvantageous to Ryerson, all risk to Ryerson, most cash goes to Navitas.

**C:** Navitas will end up providing excellent opportunities to Ryerson staff, and the outcomes to students are demonstrably better.

**Q:** About other Universities rejecting Navitas? any proof? This is important to know.

**Q:** Is there any evidence about the other Universities who refused like McMaster?

**A:** There is a very impressive operation at Simon Fraser. I was sceptical, but was persuaded that the treatment of students, staff and faculty was excellent. I asked very tough questions when I was there, including labour relations questions.

**C:** Navitas is owned by a Canadian partnership.

**C:** Real discussion should occur. Why not defer this matter to the next meeting?

**A:** There is a timing issue involved. We have had many townhall meetings across campus and discussions at the March Senate meeting's Committee of the Whole. The comments are included in the March Senate minutes.

**Q:** Regarding academic structure. I am wondering about how academic policies would be applied. Who, for example, would handle appeals for Navitas students?

**A:** Our own professors would oversee quality, not Navitas.

**A:** Ryerson will handle appeals from second-year students. We will ask Senate Office and Academic Advising to develop a policy on this matter.

**C:** Not seeing any risks with Navitas.

**C:** Would prefer more time being devoted to more discussion.

**Motion to Table Item 8.4.3.2.:**

Z. Bokhari moved; K. Park seconded

**C:** We examined Navitas in the last meeting, and people were supposed to have done their homework before this meeting.

**C:** I agree with the last comment. We have been discussing this for ages, and were given the agenda a week ago (to review, research, as needed) if we have any objections.

**C:** I agree that we have had lots of time to consider and seek information. I would like to vote on it.

**Vote on Motion to Table defeated.**

**Original Motion Approved.**

8.4.3.3. Grant Senate Priorities Committee (SPC) temporary emergency powers beyond those in Senate Bylaw #1 to address on behalf of Senate emergency academic issues that arise and cannot, without risk of harm to students or faculty, wait until the next scheduled Senate meeting to be addressed. These are special emergency powers only. Any actions so taken must be reported to Senate as soon as possible, including full descriptions of the nature of the emergency and the rationale for the actions taken. These powers will be in effect until either rescinded by Senate or superseded by an amendment to Senate Bylaw #1.

**Motion:** *Given the unprecedented adaptations forced upon the University by the current pandemic, that Senate hereby grants Senate Priorities Committee (SPC) temporary emergency powers beyond those in Senate Bylaw #1 to address on behalf of Senate emergency academic issues that arise and cannot, without risk of harm to students or faculty, wait until the next scheduled Senate meeting to be addressed. These are special emergency powers only. Any actions so taken must be reported to Senate as soon as possible, including full descriptions of the nature of the emergency and the rationale for the actions taken. These powers will be in effect until either rescinded by Senate or superseded by an amendment to Senate Bylaw #1.*

D. Checkland moved; A. McWilliams seconded

C: Add wording to rescind when everything is over.

**Motion for Friendly Amendment:** Add: *“to be revisited by June 2021”*.

D. Taras moved; G. Hepburn seconded.

**Friendly Amendment to Motion Approved.**

9. Old Business - None

10. New Business as Circulated - None

11. Members’ Business -None

12. Consent Agenda - None

13. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.