

SENATE MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Via Zoom Video Conference

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

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 June 2nd, 2020 meeting.*

A. McWilliams moved; N. George seconded

Motion Approved.

4. Announcements - None
5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion: *That Senate approve the minutes of the May 5th, 2020 meeting.*

A. McWilliams moved; S. Zolfaghari 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) Thank you to Senators and the Ryerson community for their support throughout the year and we wish you the best during this difficult period of the COVID-19 Pandemic and for the balance of the year.
- 2) Issue of having Special Constables on campus:

- With the distressing situation in the United States and incidents close to home, we have been hearing from some Ryerson community members about concerns with special constables;
 - Acknowledged that each individual's lived experience informs their perspectives of safety and security on campus. He understands that some people feel more secure with increased presence of uniformed personnel, and others feel differently. The university's goal has always been to implement a community safety model that recognizes these realities and lived experiences;
 - Believes Ryerson can and should be a leader for a holistic model of community safety;
 - Our security staff have been building strong relationships with social service agencies providing community members with the connections and support services they need; however, the reality for us is that we are experiencing serious challenges on our campus that are beyond the scope of our current safety and security team, such as assaults and incidents involving a weapon;
 - The next steps we will undertake as we work towards developing a uniquely Ryerson approach to safety and wellbeing on our campus.
 - Ryerson will be striking a working group (including stakeholders from RFA, RSU, and CESAR who are encouraged to provide a representative on this group) to hold further consultations with students, faculty, and staff to discuss how we can develop a safety and security model that works for the Ryerson community. I encourage all of you to take part. They will report back to senior administration with their recommendations.
 - We will update the community with the membership of the working group and next steps shortly; As always, we will continue to listen to our community.
- 3) Congratulations to Saeed Zolfaghari, Vice-Provost Faculty Affairs, on his new role as Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic, starting June 1, 2020.
 - 4) This was the last meeting for Michael Benarroch, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and thanked him for his leadership, sound advice and commitment in finalizing the Academic Plan, among other major initiatives, and recently responding to challenges of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic situation for our students, staff and faculty. President Lachemi presented a Certificate of Recognition to M. Benarroch.
 - 5) Fall 2020 term update: Planning continues for Fall term and the eventual return to campus. We are also waiting for advice from the Federal, Provincial and the City of Toronto. The majority of courses will be online. Activities on campus will be allowed as Public Health guidelines permit. Students' Services continue to offer a variety of services to students.

University Planning Office under the leadership of G. Craney, is leading the Scenario Planning exercise. They are receiving information from all Faculties on the necessary steps for preparing the campus for reopening, and will share more details in the coming weeks.

- 6) **Graduation Ceremonies:** Students are asking about ways to celebrate graduation. There will be a celebration on June 30, 2020. This will start with a half-hour live event and continuing with other online events, consisting of Faculties and alumni organization. Marci Ilen, TV host and Ryerson Alumna, will host this live celebration. More information will be forthcoming and we hope it will be exceptional for students, and their families and friends.
- 7) **Inspiring Actions:**
As of May 1, we have been finding out power together. Supplies of 1,000 lbs of PPE have been donated to Northern Indigenous communities. More than 60 volunteers from the School of Fashion continue to sew thousands of face masks for delivery to St. Michael's Hospital. Food Services is offering students with boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables to help alleviate the financial, emotional and psychological plights of students.

In April, the Ted Rogers School of Management student society board voted to donate \$100,000.00 to the TRSM COVID-19 Student Emergency fund. The faculty offered \$450 to 2,000 students in need. Thanks to the leadership of the dean and the support from TRSM.

Video Presentation:

The presentation highlighted Ryerson's response to COVID-19. President Lachemi thanked the Marketing and Creative Services team for compiling this video.

Questions/Answers/Comments:

- C. Appreciate that the university is holding consultations, but the community is not in favour of the agreement that has already been made for special constables on campus. They are a part of the problem. For a long time the Black community has been having conversations around police brutality. We need to focus on things that will stop this perpetuation of anti-Black racism.
- Suggestions of what we can do to support Black students, staff and community:
- the immediate termination of provisions for special constables at Ryerson;
 - the hiring of trained social workers and nurses to assist Ryerson security in supporting community safety;
 - oversight and transparency regarding complaints made against Ryerson security;
 - thorough crisis intervention, de-escalation, mental health, first aid, harm reduction, anti-oppression and anti-racism training for assisting Ryerson security;
 - a transition strategy for alternatives to uniformed security on campus and;
 - forums where Ryerson members and members of the public can discuss a transition, strategy and its implementations where they can ask questions and provide feedback.

- A. President Lachemi responded that he understood the concerns and stressed the importance of the wellbeing of everyone on campus. We have not signed any agreement with the Toronto Police Board. It has to be well balanced to provide safety and security to everyone. He asked the RSU and CESAR presidents to designate someone to be part of the Working Group on this matter.

- C. Reference to the May 14 memo to faculty regarding the Fall term. Some people came away with different interpretations of what was said. Wonder if there should be something universal that should come from the top down of the university to clarify this so faculty and students know how to prepare.

- A. President Lachemi – Yes, we will provide communication. It is not just top down communication but with a cross-section. M. Benarroch will be talking with Deans, who are in discussion with Chairs/Directors as to how to move forward. We are giving people some time and the Planning Office is gathering information, completing their findings and will get back to the community.

- C. Echo comments regarding Special Constables on campus. Have seen extreme police brutality from living in Regent Park. Recommends others who can be involved in the Working Group, e.g. Indigenous peace-keeping communities.

- A. President Lachemi commented that he welcomes suggestions and we also want to provide safety for faculty, staff and students on campus, especially in the evenings. He has received complaints from faculty, especially female faculty who have been assaulted by people from outside the community. We have had break-ins on campus and the safety of everyone on campus is our priority.

8.2 Communications Report

Included in the agenda

8.3 Report of the Secretary

- 8.3.1 Vice-Chair of Senate Election results. The Secretary reported that L. Lavallée was elected Vice-Chair of Senate. She welcomed L. Lavallée and thanked A. McWilliams for his assistance on Senate as Vice Chair over the past two years.

President Lachemi congratulated L. Lavallée on her new role. He thanked outgoing Vice-Chair, A. McWilliams, on behalf of Senate, for his leadership and commitment and presented him with a Certificate of Recognition.

- 8.3.2 Standing Committees of Senate: SPC and AGPC membership lists were finalized

8.4 Committee Reports

- 8.4.1 Report #W2020-5 of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC): K. MacKay

8.4.1.1. Periodic Program Review for Retail Management – Ted Rogers School of Management

Motion: *That Senate approve the Periodic Program Review for Retail Management – Ted Rogers School of Management.*

K. MacKay moved; A. Ferworn seconded.

Motion Approved.

8.4.1.2. Addition of “Honours” to the Bachelor of Commerce – Retail Management degree designation – Ted Rogers School of Management

Motion: *That Senate approve the addition of “Honours” to the Bachelor of Commerce – Retail Management degree designation – Ted Rogers School of Management.*

K. MacKay moved; A. Ferworn seconded

Motion Approved.

8.4.1.3. Universities of Canada – Egypt curriculum proposal – Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science

Motion: *That Senate approve the Universities of Canada-Egypt curriculum proposal – Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science.*

K. MacKay moved; A. El-Rabbany seconded

This will commence in Fall 2021.

Questions/Answers/Comments:

- Q.** Referred to page 42 of the agenda regarding the ways in which the program would be subject to Ryerson’s policies - “All employees will be subject to local cultural norms and values as well as Egyptian Employment Law.” What exactly does that mean? Could they be disciplined, fired or removed. This country’s governments have put people in jail for years, including their President. What would happen if a faculty member violates their laws?
- A.** Employees at that institution are from the Universities of Canada-Egypt (UCE) not from Ryerson. They are hired by UCE, not Ryerson, so there will not be a problem.
- A.** The values of the teaching and academic delivery of the programming is Ryerson values and are protected and enshrined in their contract and the constitution that has the acts that allow us to do that. There are also all sorts of checks and balances that if that were questioned or jeopardized, we can cancel the contract.
- C.** Regarding cultural norms – they are teaching our students, so local norms may not be accepted by LGBTQ people.

C. They would like to have as many Canadian teachers apply to teach at that institution as well.

Q. Can we make a Friendly Amendment to strike that sentence?

K. MacKay, mover; and A. El-Rabbany, seconder, agreed to the Friendly Amendment.

Q. Following up on comments, the President of the UCE, who is chair of the board has dual Canadian-Egyptian citizenship, and lived in Toronto for quite a while, so he will observe Canadian values there. In 2017, he visited the previous institution, The Canadian International College, in Egypt and shared his observations with M. Lachemi and A. Saloojee. He was impressed with the structure. They like the idea of Canadian students getting the Egyptian experience and the vice versa. This initiative is excellent and is in line with our international student goal, and will attract students from Europe and Africa, which will give us international presence. This is a win-win solution and his department supports this initiative.

Q. A. McWilliams asked for clarity regarding bullet items 2 and 4 –

‘...that faculty hired for FEAS @ UCE will be non-tenured, teaching stream, contract employees.’

“Ryerson FEAS and associated programs will have full control over candidate selection.”

Which contract documents do these refer to?

A. Faculty hired are UCE employees. They are hired as contract or teaching-stream employees, and ultimately for research to be done at this institution as well. They do not fall under Ryerson’s Faculty agreement. They will be employed by UCE.

C. Re Human rights issues. After meeting the key authorities at this institution, they want to promote thinking, the mentality and the education system as in Canada within Egypt.

C. This is basically the norm in all private universities in Egypt. It is basically a system that is adopted in Egypt.

Q. Would there be an opportunity for CUPE to be teaching there?

A. We will not be considering Ryerson CUPE or RFA but if someone (e.g. on sabbatical) applies, we can consider them on a case-by-case basis.

Motion (including Friendly Amendment) Approved.

8.4.1.4. Changes to co-operative education work term requirements in Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Financial Mathematics, Medical Physics, and Mathematics and its Applications – Faculty of Science

Motion: *That Senate approve the changes to co-operative education work term requirements in Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Financial Mathematics, Medical Physics, and Mathematics and its Applications – Faculty of Science.*

K. MacKay moved; A. McWilliams seconded

Motion Approved.

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

- i. Certificate in Social Sciences and Humanities Foundations: Course additions – Elective
- ii. Certificate in Strategic Marketing: Course Addition – Elective
- iii. Certificate in Lighting Design: Course Deletions and Additions – Required

8.4.2 Report #W2020-5 of the Academic Governance and Policy Committee (AGPC):

M. Benarroch

8.4.2.1. Provost's Update

M. Benarroch thanked the President for his leadership, and to Senators and the Ryerson Community for their commitment to working with him and the university, and welcoming him three years ago. COVID-19 has taught us a lot about how a community can come together and focuses on transforming itself very quickly. I hope that we will be able to shake hands and meet personally and hopefully an opportunity to organize an in-person meeting at some point.

He commented on a previous agenda item from June 2019 on scheduling regarding calendar changes and the timing of them. He asked K. MacKay and C. Hack to comment.

K. MacKay stated that the Registrar's Office did a review of the curriculum modifications submissions times, and in our undergraduate curriculum modification model this year, we have a revised schedule as a pilot that includes greater flexibility in some of the processes, dates and deadlines. We have moved the category 3 minor modifications and major modifications coming to the OVPA to August 21 (previously it was June 30), and with respect to the calendar modifications for category 1 and category 2, these have been pushed a couple of weeks. There is also a submission timetable that the Registrar's office has put together which shows that Green is good, and we can make these changes; Amber is proceed with caution – these are exceptions, please come and talk to us; Red is not possible. These have all been outlined in the memo sent out. We really are striving for greater flexibility. At this time, the Registrar's office is quite over-extended in terms of everything that has been going on with COVID-19, so this is our attempt this year to move forward and we will continue to review our processes and systems to maintain flexibility in the future.

C. Hack said it is very difficult to move the timing, but we appreciate the need and we will continue to see what can happen moving forward. Some of these may be systems related

in terms of looking for new tools to help us alleviate some of the manual work. It is an ongoing effort that we are happy to remain connected with all of you to move forward.

8.4.2.2. Revisions to Policy 164: Graduate Status, Enrolment and Evaluation

Motion: *That Senate approve the revisions to Policy 164: Graduate Status, Enrolment and Evaluation*

C. Searcy moved; A. El-Rabbany seconded

Motion Approved.

8.4.2.3. Policy 169: Experiential Learning

Motion: *That Senate approve Policy 169: Experiential Learning.*

K. MacKay moved; A. McWilliams seconded

Q. What are the accessibility opportunities for students with disabilities?

A. We built in as much flexibility as we could for students with disabilities. We continue to put students first.

Motion Approved.

8.4.2.4. Retirement of Policy 146: Laptop Policy

Motion: *That Senate approve the retirement of Policy 146: Laptop Policy.*

K. MacKay moved; A. Yazdani seconded

Motion Approved.

8.4.2.5. Amendment to Policy 60, 61, 118, 157, 159, 161, 162 and 166 to include law students where policies list out students that the policy applies to

Motion: *That Senate approve the amendment to Policy 60, 61, 118, 157, 159, 161, 162, and 166 to include law students where policies list out students that the policy applies to.*

K. MacKay moved; A. Yazdani seconded

Motion Approved.

8.4.2.6. Amendment to Policy 168: Grade and Standing Appeals – Glossary definition of advocate

Motion: *That Senate approve the amendment to Policy 168: Grade and Standing Appeals – Glossary definition of advocate.*

K. MacKay moved; D. Taras seconded

Motion Approved.

M. Lachemi thanked all those involved in amending the policy glossary wording: D. Bell; T. Burke; D. Checkland; S. Donato-Woodger; K. Mackay; A. McWilliams; R. Meldrum; V. Madsen; in consultation with CESAR and RSU.

8.4.2.7. For information: Policy 167: Academic Consideration:

Procedures to include: **Other Extenuating Circumstances:**

(IV) Assigned Duties within the Canadian Armed Forces (documentation required, e.g., signed letter from the Officer Commanding or higher with the dates of required service)

8.4.3 Report #W2020-4 of the Yeates School of Graduate Studies Council (YSGS):

C. Searcy

8.4.3.1. New Masters of Fine Arts program in Scriptwriting and Story Design – Faculty of Communication and Design

Motion: *That Senate approve the new Masters of Fine Arts program in Scriptwriting and Story Design – Faculty of Communication and Design.*

C. Searcy moved; A. Ferworn seconded

Motion Approved.

9. Old Business – None.

10. New Business as Circulated – None.

11. Members' Business – None.

12. Consent Agenda:

12.1. Due to current circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic, Social Work is implementing the changes to their field placement hours for the Bachelor of Social Work program approved by Senate in January 2020 (one year earlier than originally planned). This will be implemented earlier than the Senate approved date.

President Lachemi thanked the Senators and offered best wishes to M. Benarroch on his move to Winnipeg as President of the University of Manitoba. He also thanked the Senate Office team and Presentation Technology Specialists for their efforts in ensuring that the Senate Zoom meetings worked smoothly the past few months.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.