

**SENATE MINUTES OF MEETING**

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Via Zoom Video Conference

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

<b>EX-OFFICIO:</b>	<b>FACULTY:</b>		<b>STUDENTS:</b>
A. M. Brinsmead	R. Adams	H. Ramzan	S. Alvi
D. Cramb	S. Benvie	R. Ravindran	Z. Aurony
G. Craney	T. Burke	J. Saber	H. Brahmbhatt
T. Duever	D. Checkland	I. Sakinofsky	N. Chen
C. Falzon	A. Clements-Cortes	J. Schmidt	O. Gubych
K. Gharabaghi	M. Doxtator	L. Shuman	B. Jalayer
G. Hepburn	L. Escandon	J. Spaniol	Z. Khansari
R. Iannacito-Provenzano	N. George	C. Thompson	J. Rodriguez
M. Lachemi	E. Ignagni	M. Vahabi	H. Salih Makawi
S. Liss	L. Jacklin	H. Zarrin	P. Sivasundaram
K. MacKay	A. Jamal		A. Surty
J. McMillen	L. Kolasa		
D. O'Neil Green	A. Lee		
R. Parr	A. M. Lee-Loy		
C. Searcy	S. McCartney		
C. Shepstone	A. McWilliams		<b>EX-OFFICIO</b>
J. Simpson	P. Moore		M. Fast
P. Sugiman	R. Noble		C. Ferworn
D. Taras	D. Oguamanam		
D. Young	R. Ott		

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

J. Caribou	M. Clarke Rodrigues
J. Dallaire	

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

D. Brown	A. S. Ali
C. Idzik	S. J. Ali
I. Mishkel	G. Bramesfeld
	S. Farshadfar
T. Schneider	T. Kuar
S. Sabatinos	S. McFadden
I. Young	N. Ponce de Leon Elphick
	D. Scofield
	K. Train

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 October 5, 2021 meeting.*  
  
A. McWilliams moved; G. Hepburn seconded  
**Motion Approved.**
4. Announcements
5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting  
**Motion:** *That Senate approve the minutes of the June 1, 2021 meeting.*  
  
R. Ravindran moved; A. McWilliams 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. Welcome to Senators**

Welcome everyone to the first Senate meeting of the new academic year 2021-2022. Similar to last year, we are faced with a unique set of challenges as we begin the Fall semester. Even so, the beginning of the school year brings with it the optimism and hope of a fresh start.

I am so proud of our entire community and their commitment and determination to continue to offer exceptional experiences to our students. I want to thank you for dedicating your time and energy to the work of Senate. I look forward to continuing our work together this year.

The province is moving in the right direction with increased vaccinations and protocols to keep our public spaces safer. On our campus, the Fall semester is a transition period. We continue to work towards our goal of a full return in January.

**2. New Appointments**

I want to start by welcoming some of the new faces to Senate today.

Firstly, today marks the first Senate meeting for our Provost, Jennifer Simpson. I'm sure most of you have met and engaged with Jennifer since she joined us in July. I want to formally welcome her to her first Senate meeting. Welcome, Jennifer, not only as our new Provost but our first female provost in the history of Ryerson.

Secondly, Kiaras Gharabaghi is our new dean of the Faculty of Community Services. Kiaras has been at Ryerson since 2006 and most recently, he served as Director of the School of Child and Youth Care and as the John C. Eaton Chair of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Congratulations to Kiaras, and also welcome to Senate!

Thirdly, I'd like to welcome Robyn Parr as the Interim Registrar. Robyn is also the Executive Director of the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and has many years of experience in various roles in the Student Affairs portfolio. As you may be aware, after 32 years at Ryerson, the former University Registrar, Charmaine Hack, has moved on to become the Vice-President, Strategic Enrolment Management at Centennial College. We wish Charmaine all the best in her new role. She has served Ryerson very well and we are grateful for her contributions over the years.

Lastly, I want to share that our Vice-President, Administration and Operations, Deborah Brown, has decided to complete her tenure with Ryerson in mid-January 2022. She joined Ryerson in 2018 and in what feels like a very short time, she has made a tremendous impact on our university. I am grateful for all that she has done for our community at Ryerson. She is also an alum of our university. A search for the next vice-president, Administration and Operations has started. We had our first meeting of the search committee last Friday and you have also seen that the composition of the Search Committee was shared with our entire community this week. Deborah will remain until a new vice-president is in place.

### **3. Congratulations – Rankings**

I want to acknowledge and congratulate our programs on some impressive national and international rankings. As you know, Senate is responsible for making sure that we meet the quality of our programs and we are very impressed with the national and international rankings of some of our programs. I would like to highlight a number of them.

- The Business Management Studies program ranked #100 globally and #4 in Canada for citations per paper in the 2021 QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- Hospitality and Tourism Management program ranked among the top 100 globally for the second consecutive year, and second in Canada in the 2021 Shanghai Ranking of academic subjects. That's a very significant ranking and I want to highlight the excellent work done by faculty members in the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.
- The Ted Rogers MBA program ranked third in Bloomberg Businessweek's 2021–2022 survey of MBA programs in Canada. That's a very significant ranking for our young MBA program.
- The RTA School of Media has been named one of the "20 Best International Film Schools of 2021" by The Hollywood Reporter.

- The School of Image Arts has been listed as one of MovieMaker's top 40 "Best Film Schools in the U.S. & Canada 2021".

#### **4. Honorary Doctorates**

I am very pleased to share with you the names of the honorary doctorate recipients for Fall 2021. Thank you to everyone involved in preparing the honorary doctorate nominations, and the Awards and Ceremonials Committee for its work. As you know, the Awards and Ceremonials Committee is a Standing Committee of Senate. It has been a pleasure to connect with the nominees who have responded with enthusiasm and pride in accepting the honour. We'll be awarding these in a virtual ceremony that will air on November 15, 2021 at 2:30pm.

- Brian Gluckstein - Principal, Gluckstein Design and Ryerson Alumnus  
Doctor of Fine Arts, honoris causa
- Wesley Hall - Executive Chairman and Founder, Kingsdale Advisors, who will be awarded with a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa
- Louise Penny - Author and Ryerson Alumna, who will be awarded with a Doctor of Letters, honoris causa. She is promoting her new book and will be moving to London, UK.

#### **5. Standing Strong Task Force Report (Slide Presentation)**

As you know, in August, the University received the report of the Standing Strong Task Force, and our Board approved its 22 recommendations -- including renaming the university.

I want to start by thanking the Standing Strong Task Force. The report is the result of a tremendous amount of hard work and dedication by the co-chairs Joanne Dallaire and Catherine Ellis, by their manager Rachel DiSaia, and by the Task Force members who gave up so much of their time and energy to provide our university with an outstanding report and thoughtful recommendations. The work of the Task Force was done under great pressure, with our university increasingly becoming a focal point in a national, and sometimes international discussion of commemoration and colonization.

I'd like to share with you how the University prepared for the launch of the report and the reception to date.

This is a historical moment for our university. As with all major communications and outreach efforts, our goals are:

- to inform our community;
- to demonstrate a commitment to our core values; and ultimately,
- to enhance and protect the reputation of the university.

- **Communication**

We used every communications channel available from personal phone calls to stakeholders; to op-eds in newspapers; to countless media interviews; with lots of social media to amplify and support this exercise.

Our primary objective was to establish the University's narrative from the outset. That was important for us and in order to do so, we had senior leaders personally call and email key stakeholders. We have had many conversations with stakeholders and also members of our alumni family. We arranged an exclusive story with the Globe and Mail to run immediately following the decision by the Board. We established a microsite to act as a one-stop destination for all information and updates on the Task Force report and recommendations. We sent an email to over 60,000 faculty, students, staff and recent alumni immediately following the Board decision. We also wrote an op-ed that ran in the Toronto Star on the following day.

- **Public Engagement**

The results are impressive. The Globe and Mail exclusive alone had the potential reach of nearly one million readers, and generated 9,500 social media shares. It also helped set the tone for coverage that would follow.

Between August 25 and September 10, our central communications team secured over 800 media stories with a total combined reach of over 700 million.

In its first two weeks, the Next Chapter website that was created just for this, generated more traffic than any of our sites, except Ryerson.ca/Covid.

The email to faculty, students, staff and recent alumni generated over 30,000 page views of our Ryerson Today newsletter.

- **Public Quotes**

Stakeholders, alumni and students all provided a positive response to the news and helped carry and reinforce our message. I'm not saying here that it was unanimous. We had a number of people, especially from our alumni (we have 225,000 alumni, of course some of them were not necessarily supportive of the decision to change the name).

- **Public Reaction**

In terms of public reaction, the analysis of the coverage showed that it was overwhelmingly neutral. However, I am happy to report that 15% of the media coverage was positive and supportive. More importantly, less than 3% of the media coverage was negative, and if you've done much work with the media, negative is often the norm.

- **Social Media Response**

I am also happy to report that we had a similar, high level of engagement on social media. Within the first day of the Board acceptance announcement, the topic received over 3,000 mentions across social media and over 5,000 in the first two weeks.

We will continue to keep our community and our partners up to date on the progress we are making with regard to implementing all 22 of the Task Force recommendations with regular, ongoing updates.

## **6. Two New Advisory Committees:**

- The first is the **Advisory Committee on University Renaming** -

This committee will undertake broad consultations to identify a new name for our university that reflects our strengths, values and aspirations. They will submit recommendations for consideration to the executive group and the recommendations will ultimately go to the Board for a decision before the end of this academic year.

In assembling the committee, we sought broad representation from our Board, Senate, alumni, students, faculty, and staff. The committee will be chaired by the Provost, with Toni De Mello, Assistant Dean for Student Programming, Development and Equity, Lincoln Alexander School of Law as vice-chair.

There are several members of the renaming committee in this Senate meeting and I want to thank all of you for agreeing to help us with this very important work. I will keep you informed of their work as it moves forward.

- The second committee that I want to share with you is the **Senior Medical Advisory Committee** -

This committee will support the planning and development of the university's proposal for a School of Medicine in Brampton. It's composed of nine physicians, and chaired by Dr. Andrew Padmos, former CEO of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

We are fortunate to have all of the members' expertise and guidance, as we create our proposal for the future of healthcare in our province.

We have also established a student advisory council who are having their first meeting this week.

The initial report from the first round of internal consultations is now publicly available. A second round of consultations will also be announced shortly.

## **7. Ring Installation**

In September, the university unveiled the installation of a large-scale public artwork to honour the Dish With One Spoon Territory. The three-metre tall steel sculpture, known as the "Ring," is located east of the Gould Street and Nelson Mandela Walk intersection. It is the end result of a multi-year project that emerged from the thoughtful and ongoing work of the university's Truth and Reconciliation Strategic Working Group in collaboration with members of the university's Indigenous community.

I look forward to a day when we can all enjoy it on campus together.

## **Questions/Comments:**

**C:** D. Checkland –

With respect to the Standing Strong Task Force comments you mentioned, I want to make a few important textual and critical comments. Let me say first of all that I am absolutely in favour of changing the name moving forward, leaving behind contestations about colonialism. The points that I'm going to make about historical accuracy are really small potatoes compared to the wider goals of reconciliation and learning about the history of Indigenous peoples and what has been done to them and happened to them. Yet, I'm still troubled about the talk of Ryerson's legacy. There is enough in Ryerson's legacy as a symbol of colonialism to justify anything we've done and of course we don't even need to make him a bad guy to change the name. But there are a number of things in the report that are troubling to me because some other historians who've disagreed with the report have mentioned some bits of data that are not addressed in the report.

I will just speak to two things that are not addressed and are troubling in the report. First of all, they are absolutely right and I congratulate and thank them for saying that he is not the architect of the residential schools. But on the day of Truth and Reconciliation, he was six times, that I heard within an hour on two different channels, described as an architect of the residential schools. If you read the report carefully, what's the evidence? His report is an internal document in Indian Affairs in 1847, it leads to the establishment of two schools, a third that was supposed to be done never happened. They have none of the other features of the big residential schools and the only linkages that the Task Force even mentions is there is some similar language in an 1879 report – the Davin Report. In 1898, his report is appended – 52 years after he wrote it. This might indicate some influence, but it's not much. So the legacy of Ryerson as an individual, let's say it's a small thing, but there is not much there.

The second argument that has been raised against Ryerson repeatedly is that he is a racist and certainly he is somewhat patronizing. He's a colonialist in that way, though is he a racist? The thing that is cited all the time is the Common Schools Act of 1850, which is a racist document and he is the head of schools who drafts the document. That looks like it makes him a racist. I don't even know if this is true and I'm not a historian. I can't assess whether it is true, but the historians who have been complaining about the unfairness told me that they sent to the Task Force the evidence from Ryerson's papers – the letters he wrote in the 1850's where he says in these letters, and they quote him, that he never tried harder to get anything defeated than the racist clauses for a separate school system for Black students. He fought as hard as he could but lost to get this out of the Act. That doesn't make him sound that he is the author. There's a legacy of racism there, but why pin it to Ryerson? The reason for bringing this up is not because it matters that much in the wider scheme of things but we are a university and universities are supposed to act on and disseminate the best available evidence they have and the best information they have, and it's not clear to me that's what we've done; and it

certainly hasn't penetrated the wider public in terms of education. So my concern here is about the recommendations that are about educating on the basis of the Task Force report. It's not like they're saying it's the biggest thing in the world but there is just not much evidence. Plattsburger of the Commons School Act, is a civil servant who draft things, they don't author it. Then their bosses review it, make changes and then it goes to the legislature, who can do the same thing. Given if Ryerson's letters do say that then it seems like the legacy is not his personal one, but it's there, and that's enough for us to be concerned about racism or colonization. I think it's important to get these things on the record that it's not a flawless report.

A: President Lachemi – Thank you David for these comments. You mention Egerton Ryerson as being an architect of Indigenous schools, that, unfortunately, was in the media and was actually before the report was published. I have seen a lot of media coverage that question the notion that he was the architect of Indigenous schools. I can tell you the position of the university was very clear. I had many interviews after the report was published with the media and this move is about reconciliation, and my position with the media is that the reality is that the existing name is a source of frustration and pain for many members of our community and they have seen those letters and expressions of pain by many members of the Ryerson community, not just members of the Indigenous community, but also other Ryerson community members. Let's move to the next chapter of our history and let's work together to have a name that can unite our community, as unfortunately, the current name is a source of division. I was very clear in the media interviews that this was not a trial of Egerton Ryerson. Our position was that we consult with our community and come up with something that can advance our role as a university. I agree with you that the role of the university is to take into consideration the history but build a better future.

Q: I heard from a number of students that they chose Ryerson because the name carries a lot of weight – that's it's prestigious, so what are we going to do about that?

A: President Lachemi – I've heard from many of our students and alumni. I will tell you that the reputation is the quality of the programs and what we offer to our students and we will continue to do so despite the fact that we will be moving forward with a new name. I think we have to work hard to make sure we communicate this with our existing students and alumni that we should work together to continue the momentum in terms of quality of programs and learning experience provided to our students. I think that's the best response to students who think that by changing the name may affect the reputation, we have to work hard to let them know that's not true.

**8.2 Communications Report** – None. This report will now be submitted quarterly.

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

#### **8.3.1 Committee Updates**

The student Senator positions were updated in September and the most recent Senate membership updates can be found on the Senate website.



#### 8.4 Committee Reports

##### 8.4.1 Report #F2021-1 of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC): K. MacKay

8.4.1.1. Periodic Program Review for Civil Engineering – Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Periodic Program Review for Civil Engineering – Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science.*

K. MacKay moved; L. Kolasa seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.2. Discontinuation of the Business Technology Management Direct Entry program – Ted Rogers School of Management

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Discontinuation of the Business Technology Management Direct Entry program - Ted Rogers School of Management.*

K. MacKay moved; H. Brahmhatt seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.3. Discontinuation of the Part-Time Retail Management program – Ted Rogers School of Management

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Discontinuation of the Part-Time Retail Management program - Ted Rogers School of Management.*

K. MacKay moved; H. Brahmhatt seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.4. Admission changes to the Part-Time Social Work program - Faculty of Community Services

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the admission changes to the Part-Time Social Work program – Faculty of Community Services.*

K. MacKay moved; H. Salih Makawi seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.5. Interdisciplinary Black Studies Minor proposed by the Department of English – Faculty of Arts

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the interdisciplinary Black Studies minor proposed by the Department of English – Faculty of Arts.*

K. MacKay moved; R. Ravindran seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.6. Exception to Policy #2 – Program Balance for the Midwifery Education Program – Faculty of Community Services

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the exception to Policy #2 – Program Balance for the Midwifery Education Program – Faculty of Community Services.*

K. MacKay moved; E. Ignagni seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.7. Exception to Policy #2 – Program Balance for the Occupational Health and Safety Two-year Degree Completion Program – Faculty of Community Services

Exception to Senate Policy #2 – Program Balance for the Occupational Health and Safety Two-year Post Baccalaureate Degree Program – Faculty of Community Services

Exception to Senate Policy #2 – Program Balance for the Occupational Public Health Two-year Post Baccalaureate Degree Program – Faculty of Community Services

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the exception to Policy #2 – Program Balance for: the Occupational Health and Safety Two-year Degree Completion Program; the Occupational Health and Safety Two-year Post Baccalaureate Degree Program; and the Occupational Public Health Two-year Post Baccalaureate Degree Program – Faculty of Community Services.*

K. MacKay moved; A. McWilliams seconded.

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.8. Exception to Senate Policy #2 – Program Balance for the Urban and Regional Planning Two-year Post Baccalaureate Degree Program – Faculty of Community Services

Exception to Senate Policy #2 – Program Balance for the Urban and Regional Planning Two-year Post Diploma Degree Completion Program – Faculty of Community Services

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the exception to Senate Policy #2 – Program Balance for: the Urban and Regional Planning Two-year Post Baccalaureate Degree Program and the Urban and Regional Planning Two-year Post Diploma Degree Completion Program – Faculty of Community Services.*

K. MacKay moved; A. Clements-Cortes

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.9. Exception to Senate Policy #2 – Program Balance for the Medical Physics Degree Program - Faculty of Science

Exception to Senate Policy #2 – Program Balance for the Biology – Option in BioPhysics Degree Program – Faculty of Science.

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the exception to Senate Policy #2 – Program Balance for: the Medical Physics Degree Program and the Biology – Option in BioPhysics Degree Program - Faculty of Science.*

K. MacKay moved; A. McWilliams seconded  
**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.10. Curriculum modifications to the Biology Program – option in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology – Faculty of Science

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the Curriculum modifications to the Biology Program – option in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology – Faculty of Science.*

K. MacKay moved; A. McWilliams seconded  
**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.11. Curriculum modifications to the Mathematics and its Application - option in Computer Science – Faculty of Science

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the curriculum modifications to the Mathematics and its Application - option in Computer Science – Faculty of Science.*

K. MacKay moved; N. George seconded  
**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.12. Curriculum modifications to the Mathematics and its Application - option in Economics – Faculty of Science

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the curriculum modifications to the Mathematics and its Application - option in Economics – Faculty of Science.*

K. MacKay moved; A. Clements-Cortes seconded  
**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.13. Curriculum modifications to the Politics and Governance Program – Faculty of Arts

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the curriculum modifications to the Politics and Governance Program – Faculty of Arts.*

K. MacKay moved; H. Salih Makawi seconded  
**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.14. Proposal for the Occupational Health and Safety: Fast Track BSc Co-op Program – Faculty of Community Services

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the proposal for the Occupational Health and Safety: Fast Track BSc Co-op Program – Faculty of Community Services.*

K. MacKay moved; M. Vahabi seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.15. Curriculum modifications to the Creative Industries Program – The Creative School

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the curriculum modifications to the Creative Industries Program – The Creative School.*

K. MacKay moved; C. Falzon seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.1.16. Proposal to restructure the FEAS optional Co-operative Internship Program – Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the proposal to restructure the FEAS optional Co-operative Internship Program – Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science.*

K. MacKay moved; T. Duever seconded

**Motion Approved.**

#### **8.4.2 Report #F2021-1 of the Academic Governance and Policy Committee (AGPC):**

J. Simpson

##### **8.4.2.1. Provost's Update**

###### **1. Introduction**

I am very glad to be at Ryerson University, both as Provost and at this moment in time. I guess what I really appreciated as a faculty member starting out at a university is the ability to be in conversation and that started out in a department, of course, to be in an intellectual conversation around what I was teaching and researching. I think, as an administrator that's what crystalizes my excitement and where I find meaning related to leadership is what are the conversations that I'm engaged in with colleagues, particularly related to institutional change and especially related to change that moves us closer to equity. It's been a focus of my work for a long time.

All of that to say that I'm glad to be at Ryerson right now for the conversations that are happening. It just feels that it is a great fit that has been felt through the process of talking to the search committee about the role of provost at Ryerson. One really concrete example that has already been referenced is Ryerson's choice to rename the institution. We are leaders nationally in this conversation, in saying yes, we think it's worth visiting the name and choosing a different way to embrace our national values going forward. That's just one example of the conversations that I've been pleased to be involved with. I look forward to meeting more and more of you as my time here continues.

Another general comment is that Senate is very important as you saw today. There are all kinds of discussions that go on; for example, the host of curriculum modifications, attention to detail on what will be great for programming. Senate really is one aspect of the embodiment of democratic governance at the university. I just want to affirm my commitment to the process and practice of democratic governance. It is the talking to each

other in order to make the best academic decisions going forward, whether that's related to programming, to SRC or to other kinds of public engagement. Thanks to all the Senators for committing to that service.

The conversations and decisions here will inform my work as Provost. I really try to lead off conversations at the provost level and across the university with the commitment to foregrounding academic priorities. All of us know that we are operating in a time where there are always constraints around the work we do, whether those are space, or budget or other types of resources. As a leader and administrator, we are here for those academic priorities whether they be related to programming and working with our students and ensuring an excellent student experience, whether it's related to SRC and excelling in that area or whether it's connected to our relationships with communities and public engagement. I guess I just want to note that we can sometimes get caught up in those kinds of constraints and they certainly are part of the conversations we will have, but I always do my best to make sure that the academic priorities are in the foreground.

Finally, as many of you might expect, there is a lot of new information that I'm receiving every day and I can also say that I'm feeling very connected to colleagues and really well immersed and engaged with a range of conversations. I have felt excellent support and enthusiasm for my leadership here; that's been wonderful across the board – both with senior leaders, in the provost's office and in the many meetings that I've had with various individuals across the university. I couldn't have had in my mind a better beginning, and I would like to thank everyone for your engagement with that beginning.

## **2. Updates on Fall Term**

Fall term has really been understood and experienced as a transition time. The universities in Ontario and across the country have had to operate within the directives and expectations coming out of the province, so Fall has been a transition term. Many faculty members continue to teach virtually. What I really want to emphasize is my appreciation for faculties' commitment across the board to student learning and excellence in student experience. Sometimes that means on-campus teaching and sometimes it means virtual teaching. I know that at every level, faculty, chairs, deans are working hard to prioritize student outcomes and experience and I appreciate that.

In terms of orientation, there has been a range of on-campus activities and virtual activities. We've tried to build a lot of agency to the different Faculties, so where there's a need and a want for variation, that can happen, but we also try to ensure that at the university level, there are opportunities for students both virtually and on campus. Just to demonstrate that, there has been an online hub and a six-module program online for students. I know that the Office of the Vice Provost Students has been particularly attentive to first- and second-year students who may not have been to campus, so the online hub and the six-module program navigate RU, RU4U are all online options for students. In addition, Academic Accommodation Support, Student Wellbeing, Aboriginal Student Services, Library, MAC and RAC have provided on-campus and virtual supports.

## **3. Proof of Vaccination**

Since early September, there has been an app in place to confirm vaccination status. October 18 is the date on which anyone who has not provided proof of vaccination or who has not received an exemption will not be able to access campus. I can note that we have had a very strong uptake with that app, in terms of registrations of vaccination status.

#### **4. Winter 2022**

With regard to Winter 2022, I know there are questions. I've been in conversations with the deans and vice provosts about the planning for that term. I think the information that we currently have from the province leads to the likelihood of a full return. We can't predict the future, but with all the information we have now, the possibility of a full return is very likely. The Public Health reality and direction from the province aligns well with the university's planning for and communication about Winter term. I'll also note that the university has for many months now (about a year and a half) taken a multi-layered approach towards the safety of the community, and right now what that approach includes is proof of vaccination for everyone that comes to campus or engages in university in-person activities, distancing, masks, etc., to support a full return. In concrete terms regarding scheduling and classes, the challenge now and the task that we are engaged in, is to ensure that the full return in terms of courses on campus and the space demands with the capacity of the university can be met. There are ongoing conversations in departments and with deans about plans for classes in Winter 2022 and whether those will be virtual or on campus. Given those scheduling requests and to what degree the university can meet those in terms of space capacity, there will be an outcome and we will then communicate this to deans who can then be in touch with colleagues and departments.

8.4.2.2. Revised Policy 46: Undergraduate Course Grading, Academic Program Standing and Eligibility to Graduate (R. Parr) – Policy was previously approved in June 2021 – only reviewing Sections 5.5.2.6, 10.1 & 10.4

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the revised Policy 46: Undergraduate Course Grading, Academic Program Standing and Eligibility to Graduate Sections 5.5.2.6, 10.1 & 10.4.*

R. Parr moved; D. Checkland seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.2.3. Revised Senate Bylaw #1 to include the RGSU – (D. Checkland)

**Motion:** *That Senate approve the revised Senate Bylaw #1 to include the RGSU.*

D. Checkland moved; R. Ravindran seconded

C: A Senator spoke in favour of the motion. It is important to have student elected representatives at the Senate meetings and I strongly urge all the Senators to vote in favour to include the RGSU in our meetings as soon as possible.

C: Thank you David for putting the motion forward, and thank you to CESAR for your support. I also hope that one day we can add extra seats to Senate to represent our growing student body. I will not be a voting member this year but I will be next academic year. I hope everyone votes for this motion.

C: President Lachemi -This will be in effect next academic year, but I'll make sure that you have a voice here representing Graduate students. Even if you are not a voting member of Senate, we will give you room to voice any concerns or comments here.

C: A student Senator thanked David for presenting the motion and spoke in support of the motion.

**Motion Approved.**

**8.4.3 Report #F2021-1 of the Senate Priorities Committee (SPC): M. Lachemi**

8.4.3.1. Endorse the action taken on July 22, 2021 by the Senate Priorities Committee (SPC) acting on behalf of Senate to permit GMS614 to run in the Fall 2021 term commencing prior to Labour Day

**Motion:** *That Senate endorse the action taken on July 22, 2021 by the Senate Priorities Committee (SPC) acting on behalf of Senate to permit GMS614 to run in the Fall 2021 term commencing prior to Labour Day.*

N. George moved; A. McWilliams seconded

**Motion Approved.**

8.4.3.2. For Information:

A Special SPC Meeting was held August 23, 2021 with an update on the Standing Strong Task Force.

President Lachemi - This was to provide an update to SPC about the recommendation from the Standing Strong Task Force. The Board approved the recommendations on August 25, 2021. Out of respect, I wanted SPC, on behalf of Senate, to be aware of those recommendations, with the understanding that any actions taken by the university with those recommendations will also respect the role of Senate. There will be recommendations that will come to Senate for any move in the direction of implementing those recommendations. I wanted to alert SPC of the process and the progress made that's why we wanted to put it here for information to Senators.

9. Old Business - None

10. New Business as Circulated - None

11. Members' Business

President Lachemi - If you recall at our last meeting in June, 2021, Neil Thomlinson submitted a Notice of Motion regarding the hiring process taking place in Departments and Faculties. We do not have a motion here because that conversation with Neil is still taking place. You may be aware that Neil has officially retired from the university but he is still engaged in many discussions. We will be making some recommendations to SPC to have that item at a Committee-of-the-Whole discussion of Senate, and then we can, in this case, wait for that motion to happen in the future. I just wanted to inform Senators that we are not ignoring the Notice of Motion from Neil Thomlinson but we are working with him to see how we can make things better in terms of the hiring process.

C: I would like to inform Senators that the Standards Development Committee of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) has been working on a post-

secondary education accessibility standard, which means they are recommending that all the post-secondary institutions in Ontario implement methods or provide their recommendations to make our education accessible. This not only speaks to the physical environment like steps versus ramps, it speaks also to the content of our education for those with vision or hearing problems, if it's going to be online, but it goes beyond that as it speaks to what is an integral part of our education or academics – campus life. What measures, as a university, are we going to implement to help students with disabilities to fully participate with learning inside the classroom as well as things that happen on campus? This committee has presented 179 recommendations and they are asking for feedback from individuals as well as organizations and I would strongly urge the University, as a leader in our province to present a response to the 179 recommendations. Can you please share the dates of the townhall consultations that you will make with students and maybe you can share how you will seek feedback with faculty and staff? How will you be consulting with students to hear their voices?

A: President Lachemi – We will take this into consideration. Thank you for bringing this to the attention of Senate.

12. Consent Agenda - None

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.