



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**June 29, 2021**  
**4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**  
**Video and Teleconference**

**M I N U T E S**

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Governors of Ryerson University (the "University") held on Tuesday, June 29, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. by video and teleconference.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** S. Babikian, N. Campbell, J. Cockwell (Vice-Chair), J. Dallaire, C. Ellis, C. Evans, J. Fukakusa, C. Garay, J. Gonzales, R. Graham, D. Jardine, M. Kolios, M. Lachemi, G. Leong, A. McKee, D. Miller, N. Mohamed (pending renewal), C. Paisley, D. Porter, S. Ragunathan, T. Rubman, S. Sinha (pending renewal), W. Soliman, T. Staffieri (Chair), M. Wright

**Regrets:** H. Harb

**Board Secretariat:**

J. Shin Doi, General Counsel, Secretary of the Board of Governors, and University Privacy Officer  
V. Luckiram, Governance Coordinator  
J. MacInnis, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Governors  
A. Mall, Legal Counsel and Governance Officer

**Others in Attendance:**

D. Brown, Vice-President, Administration and Operations  
T. Conte, Executive Director, Office of the Vice-President, Administration and Operations  
G. Craney, Deputy Provost and Vice-Provost, University Planning  
T. DuCroix, Director, Environmental Health & Safety  
M. Forbes, Chief of Staff and Executive Director, Communications  
R. Frankle, Assistant Vice-President, Advancement  
K. Gharabaghi, Dean, Faculty of Community Services  
J. Grass, Assistant Vice-President, University Relations  
R. Iannacito-Provenzano, Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs  
D. Kinahan, Director, Development Communications  
S. Liss, Vice-President, Research and Innovation  
K. MacKay, Vice-Provost, Academic  
G. Mallon, Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management and Development  
M. McEachrane Mikhail, Executive Director, Office of Provost and Vice-President, Academic  
J. McKee, Chief Financial Officer  
J. McMillen, Vice-Provost, Students

I. Mishkel, Vice-President, University Advancement and Alumni Relations  
J. Neiman, Director, Pension & Benefits  
J. O'Donnell, Chief Human Resources Officer  
D. O'Neil Green, Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion  
A. Saloojee, Professor, Department of Politics and Public Administration  
S. Zolfaghari, Interim-Provost and Vice-President, Academic

**1. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Board Members Only)**

**2. IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION (Executive Group Invited)**

**END OF IN-CAMERA SESSION**

**3. INTRODUCTION**

**3.1. Chair's Remarks**

T. Staffieri opened his remarks with an acknowledgement of the land and welcomed Board members to the meeting.

Honorary Board Elder Joanne Dallaire provided a prayer in light of the horrible discoveries of unmarked childrens' graves in Kamloops and Saskatchewan. J. Dallaire said that the pandemic has been instrumental in raising social justice and equity issues around the world and spoke to the need for accountability from the government.

**3.1.1. Recognition of Departing Board Members**

T. Staffieri thanked departing Board members for their collective work and contributions to the governance of the University, noting that they would all be receiving a gift of thanks in the form of a framed photograph titled "Toronto 2049," autographed by the photographer Alum Lucan Coutts.

T. Staffieri thanked all Board members for their work throughout the year. T. Staffieri thanked Board Committee Chairs J. Cockwell, A. McKee, C. Paisley and D. Porter for their hard work in ensuring that the Board committees ran effectively and smoothly. T. Staffieri thanked the President for the crystal clock engraved with the new name of the law school, the Lincoln Alexander School of Law.

**3.1.2. Recognition of Departing Executive Group Members**

T. Staffieri thanked A. Saloojee, who stepped down from his position as Assistant Vice-President International in January 2021, for the leadership role he played in increasing internationalization and strengthening international partnerships as well as his involvement with expanding programming into the Middle East and North Africa region with the launch of a satellite campus in Cairo, Egypt.

T. Staffieri thanked S. Zolfaghari, acting Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic for the past year, who led the creation of the Provost's Academic Leadership Program, launched Ryerson's annual half-day information session for pre-tenured faculty and delivered valued training sessions to numerous campus committees.

### 3.2. Approval of the June 29, 2021 Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

## 4. **Report from the President**

M. Lachemi thanked Board members for their support and engagement during the 2020-2021 Board year. M. Lachemi thanked S. Zolfaghari for his service as Interim Provost, a role he took over last summer during the challenging first few months of the pandemic. M. Lachemi advised that as Interim Provost, S. Zolfaghari showed incredible leadership, integrity and compassion in responding to the challenges of the pandemic and continuing the work of the University. M. Lachemi thanked A. Saloojee, former Assistant Vice-President International, for his leadership and impact on the University.

M. Lachemi reported that the fall is a transition period as the University increases the number of on-campus classes and activities and prepares for a return to all activities on campus in January 2022. M. Lachemi advised that the continued health and safety of the community remains the top priority.

M. Lachemi reported that as part of the ongoing process to open, the University remains committed to following all directives and regulations from the provincial and federal governments, local health agencies, and the province's Roadmap to Reopen framework.

M. Lachemi advised that the University held virtual convocation ceremonies from June 22 to 24, 2021, for the Spring 2021 graduating class. M. Lachemi explained that convocation celebration boxes were mailed out to graduates who attended, and graduates were invited to submit videos of themselves that were played at the ceremonies. M. Lachemi advised that all 2020 and spring 2021 graduates will be given the opportunity to participate in future in-person convocation ceremonies and cross the convocation stage. M. Lachemi thanked the talented team that organized the ceremonies.

M. Lachemi answered questions about whether the Ontario government is planning to make in-class activities mandatory, similarly to other provinces. M. Lachemi answered questions about whether the University is planning to make vaccinations mandatory. A board member suggested incentivizing vaccinations for students to encourage them. M. Lachemi answered questions about the operations of the vaccination clinic. M. Lachemi answered questions about rapid testing of students who are not vaccinated.

T. Staffieri congratulated M. Lachemi for being the recipient of an honorary doctorate from Ontario Tech University.

## **5. Report from the Secretary**

J. Shin Doi provided an update on the recent Alumni elections, reporting that the elected Alumni representative in the 2021 Board of Governors elections is Ryan Rodrigues.

J. Shin Doi announced that the Spring 2021 Board of Governors Student Leadership Award and Medal winner is Nikée Nantambu-Allen, who has received a degree in Psychology from the Faculty of Arts. J. Shin Doi thanked the Award Selections Committee.

J. Shin Doi reminded Board members to complete the Annual Board Assessment being sent via email. J. Shin Doi thanked the Board Secretariat team as well as L. Nater and B. Boase from Media Services for all their assistance this year in ensuring the virtual Board meetings ran smoothly.

## **6. Report from the Interim Provost and Vice President Academic**

S. Zolfaghari thanked Board members for their engagement and support during the 2020-2021 academic year. S. Zolfaghari acknowledged the dedication of the President, Executive Group members, Vice-Provosts, Deans and senior management and thanked them for their counsel during his time in the role. S. Zolfaghari wished incoming Provost Jennifer Simpson much success.

S. Zolfaghi reported that Kiaras Gharabaghi was named Dean of the Faculty of Community Services (FCS), effective August 9, 2021. S. Zolfaghari advised that K. Gharabaghi is a respected academic leader with over 20 years of experience in community engagement and program development.

## **7. Report from the Vice President, Equity and Community Inclusion**

D. O'Neil Green provided an update on three (3) projects that demonstrate how the Office of the Vice-President, Equity and Community Inclusion ("OVPECI") is providing strategic leadership and oversight of enacting the University's values to be intentionally diverse and inclusive.

D. O'Neil Green spoke to the work of the OVPECI on the Anti-Black Racism Campus Climate Review Report, which highlights the real-life experiences of Black students, faculty and staff, to foster a greater understanding of their experience with anti-Black racism. D. O'Neil Green advised that the Presidential Implementation Committee to Confront Anti-Black Racism is tasked with addressing the recommendations included in the report. D. O'Neil Green provided an overview of the implementation committee's working groups and each group's responsibilities.

D. O'Neil Green spoke to the Student Diversity Self-ID Program, which uses the data collected to create a picture of the diversity of students in an academic year. D. O'Neil Green explained that this data helps improve access to education and the experience of students

at the University, creating a campus that supports the success of students from equity groups.

D. O'Neil Green provided an overview of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategic Action Plan that supports the University's existing strategic plans. D. O'Neil Green explained that the plan charts a pathway forward to action the University's values of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

## **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **8.1. Report from the Chair of the Employee Relations and Pensions Committee**

#### **8.1.1. Audited Financial Statements of the Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan and Audit Findings**

A. McKee reported that the ERPC met on June 25, 2021, and is recommending the approval of the audited financial statements for the Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan and audit findings for the year ended December 31, 2020, to the Board.

It was moved, seconded, and carried:

#### **BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Audited Financial Statements of the Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan for the year ended December 31, 2020 be approved to be filed with regulatory authorities.**

#### **8.1.2. Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan Valuation Assumptions and Results for the year ended December 31, 2020**

A. McKee advised that the ERPC is recommending the approval of the Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan Valuation Results for the year ended December 31, 2020.

It was moved, seconded, and carried:

#### **BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan Valuation Assumptions and Results for the year ended December 31, 2020 be approved.**

### **8.2. Report from the Chair of the Audit Committee**

#### **8.2.1. Draft Audited Financial Statements for the year ended April 30, 2021**

C. Paisley reported that the Audit Committee met on June 25, 2021 and J. McKee provided an overview of the draft audited financial statements for the year ended April 30, 2021, which the committee is recommending to the Board for approval.

It was moved, seconded, and carried:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the Audited Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended April 30, 2021 be approved.**

8.3. 2021-22 Tuition Amendment

M. Lachemi advised that the government formally announced the 2021-22 tuition fee policy for the province, which allows the University to increase domestic out-of-province students in 2021-22. M. Lachemi explained that the University is not increasing tuition for domestic out-of-province students in 2021-2022, however the policy requires Board approval as part of Ryerson's 2021-22 Tuition Fee Schedule in order to use that opportunity in future years.

A Board member expressed their concern about the potential increase in tuition. M. Lachemi reiterated that the Board is not being asked to approve an increase in tuition, but rather the tuition fee framework that allows the University to increase domestic out-of-province in the future.

It was moved, seconded, and carried:

**BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:**

**THAT the set of fees for domestic out-of-province students be approved in addition to the domestic fees and international fees already approved in April 2021 and that a new category be included for domestic out-of-province students as outlined in Schedule 1 as presented.**

There was one abstention and one objection.

**TERMINATION**