



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**  
**September 29, 2021**  
**1:30 p.m. to 3:30 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 Wednesday, September 29, 2021, at 1:30 p.m. by video and teleconference.

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Present:** H. Al-Jarrah, S. Babikian, N. Campbell, J. Cockwell (Vice-Chair), S. Dworkin, C. Garay, R. Graham, T. Ho, M. Kolios, M. Lachemi, G. Leong, A. McKee, D. Miller, M. Mullings, C. Paisley, C. Randall, R. Rodriguez, S. Sinha, T. Staffieri (Chair),

**Regrets:** J. Dallaire, J. Fukakusa, N. Mohamed, D. Porter, S. Ragunathan, E. Shim, W. Soliman, B. Venkatesh

**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, Senior Legal Counsel and Governance Officer

**Others in Attendance:**

D. Brown, Vice-President, Administration and Operations  
G. Craney, Deputy Provost and Vice-Provost, University Planning  
M. Forbes, Chief of Staff and Executive Director, Communications  
R. Frankle, Assistant Vice-President, Advancement  
J. Grass, Assistant Vice-President, University Relations  
S. Liss, Vice-President, Research and Innovation  
K. MacKay, Vice-Provost, Academic  
G. Mallon, Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management and Development  
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  
J. Simpson, Provost and Vice-President, Academic

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

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

**3. INTRODUCTION**

**3.1. Chair's Remarks**

T. Staffieri welcomed Board members to the first Board of Governors meeting of the year. T. Staffieri noted that all Board members will have now received or will be receiving a Board Welcome box from the University and thanked The Creative School and Dean Falzon for providing the welcome gifts and the Board Secretariat for providing the customized notebooks.

**3.2. Approval of the September 29, 2021 Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

M. Lachemi welcomed everyone to the new academic year. M. Lachemi thanked the community for their commitment and determination to continue offering exceptional experiences to students. M. Lachemi advised that the fall semester is a transition period and the goal is to work towards a full return in January 2022. M. Lachemi thanked new and returning Board members for their continued support.

M. Lachemi provided an overview of the preparations for the Standing Strong Task Force Report announcement and an update on its reception to date. M. Lachemi explained that for an announcement of this magnitude, the University strategically carried out a detailed communications plan using every communications channel available. M. Lachemi advised that the primary objective was to establish the University's narrative from the outset so that the community heard directly from the University about the Standing Strong Task Force.

M. Lachemi outlined the results of public engagement and noted that the analysis of the coverage showed that it was overwhelmingly neutral with fifteen percent (15%) of the media coverage being positive and supportive and less than three percent (3%) being negative. M. Lachemi reported that there was a similarly high level of engagement on social media. M. Lachemi advised that the University will continue to keep the community updated on the progress being made in the implementation of all twenty-two (22) of the Standing Strong Task Force recommendations.

In response to several comments by Board members, M. Lachemi advised that the University will be leveraging this public engagement and that he has been in contact with many generations of alumni regarding the renaming of the University.

M. Lachemi provided an update on two (2) new advisory committees with the first one focusing on the process of renaming the University. M. Lachemi advised that it will be chaired by Provost Jennifer Simpson with Toni De Mello, Assistant Dean for Student Programming, Development and Equity, Lincoln Alexander School of Law as Vice-Chair. M. Lachemi explained that after a process of consultations, the advisory committee will submit a shortlist of names for consideration to the Executive Group, and then management will work with the Board to identify the new name. M. Lachemi advised that this committee has broad representation from the Board, Senate, alumni, students, faculty, and staff and that former President Brian Segal has also been invited to sit on the committee.

M. Lachemi advised that the second advisory committee, the Senior Medical Advisory Committee, will support the planning and development of the University's proposal for a School of Medicine in Brampton and is composed of nine (9) physicians, with Dr. Andrew Padmos, former CEO of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as its Chair.

M. Lachemi reported that the University unveiled the installation of a large-scale public work of art titled, the "Ring" to honour the Dish With One Spoon Territory. M. Lachemi noted that this work of art was the result of a multi-year project that emerged from the work of the University's Truth and Reconciliation Strategic Working Group in collaboration with members of the University's Indigenous community.

M. Lachemi shared a video titled, "First Year Feels" featuring students' reflections on the first-year experience.

## **5. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY**

J. Shin Doi gave notice of amendments to the By-Laws that will be brought forward at the November 29, 2021 Board of Governors meeting. J. Shin Doi noted that the amendments will cover three (3) areas: (i) the conversion of the Executive Committee to the Executive and Governance Committee; (ii) the changes in the law, specifically those related to the not-for-profit legislation; and (iii) the changes in practice.

## **6. REPORT FROM THE PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC**

### **6.1. The Academic Year Ahead**

J. Simpson reported that the fall has been a transition term with a focus on academic excellence and an exceptional student experience with both on-campus and virtual options. J. Simpson explained that many campus orientation events, such as the first Black Student Experience Orientation, were designed with Black, Indigenous, LGBTQ, and other equity seeking groups in mind. J. Simpson noted that online supports have been provided for including an online hub, a six (6) module program for first-year students navigating their transition to university, and a centralized resource hub, RU4U. J. Simpson advised that the following support services continued both on-campus and virtually: Academic Accommodations Support, Student Wellbeing, Aboriginal Student Services, and the newly re-opened Mattamy Athletics Center and Recreation and Athletics Center.

J. Simpson explained that in late August, the University announced that all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors accessing campus must be fully vaccinated. Further, as of October 18, 2021 those who are not fully vaccinated or have not received an approved exemption will not be able to access campus or in-person activities off-campus. J. Simpson advised that those who receive an exemption can still come to campus if they participate in the rapid antigen testing program.

J. Simpson provided an overview of early enrollment numbers, stating that domestic and international full-time undergraduate and graduate numbers were largely on target.

J. Simpson advised that with respect to learning and teaching, classroom renovations and upgrades have taken place and support for virtual teaching continues to be provided to faculty and contract lecturers. J. Simpson highlighted the Learn for Empowerment Program, which aims to increase the numbers in Indigenous staff and faculty and ensure there is a safe environment and work culture.

A Board member inquired about the use of the digital vaccination application and any potential concerns about hacking. M. Lachemi advised that the implementation strategy of the application has been smooth. D. Brown noted that as of September 24, 2021, approximately twenty-four thousand (24,000) students and three thousand five hundred (3,500) employees have used the application to report their vaccination status. D. Brown explained that Brian Lesser, Chief Information Officer for the University, together with the privacy team in the General Counsel's Office, assessed the application for privacy and hacking considerations.

## **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.1. Report from the Chair of the Executive Committee**

J. Cockwell reported that the Executive Committee met on July 22, 2021 and approved the reappointment of the Honorary Board Elder for an additional consecutive term of three (3) years, beginning May 28, 2022 and ending May 28, 2025. J. Cockwell reported that the Executive Committee met again on August 26, 2021 and approved the appointment of Edward Shim to the Employee Relations and Pensions Committee for 2021-2022; the appointment of Nadir Mohamed as an Honorary Board Member of the Board of Governors commencing as of August 17, 2020 and continuing until August 16, 2023; and the appointment of Samir Sinha as an Honorary Board Member of the Board of Governors commencing as of April 1, 2019 and continuing until March 31, 2022.

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

#### **7.2.1. Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan Valuation Report December 31, 2020**

A. McKee reported that the Employee Relations and Pensions Committee met on September 21, 2021 and is recommending that the report on the Actuarial Valuations for the Ryerson

Retirement Pension Plan as at December 31, 2020 not be filed with the regulatory authorities at this time.

It was moved, seconded, and carried:

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

**THAT the report on the Actuarial Valuations for the Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan as at December 31, 2020 not be filed with the regulatory authorities at this time.**

7.2.2. Appointment of the Actuary for the Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan

A. McKee advised that the Employee Relations and Pensions Committee is recommending that Willis Towers Watson be appointed and retained as the Actuary for the Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan for the December 31, 2021 valuation.

It was moved, seconded, and carried:

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

**THAT Willis Towers Watson be appointed and retained as the Actuary for the Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan for the December 31, 2021 valuation.**

A. McKee noted that the Employee Relations and Pensions Committee also received the 2020/21 Annual Pension Report of the Ryerson Retirement Pension Plan, the OMERS Quarterly Fund Review - 2nd Quarter 2021, and the 2021-22 Employee Relations and Pensions Committee Work Plan and Terms of Reference.

A Board member asked what fee Willis Towers Watson is charging the University and whether the University is satisfied that there is value given the amount of the fee. J. Neiman advised that the annual fee for the valuation report itself is Fifty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$56,500) and that the University is satisfied.

7.3. Report from the Chair of the Finance Committee

M. Lachemi provided the report on behalf of the Chair of the Finance Committee, David Porter, and advised that the Finance Committee held a meeting on September 24, 2021, where it received a performance update from the Ted Rogers School of Management Student Managed Investment Fund. M. Lachemi explained that the Finance Committee also approved the amendments to the Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures governing the Ted Rogers School of Management Student Managed Investment Fund and received the 2021-22 Finance Committee Work Plan and Terms of Reference.

**TERMINATION**