

Ryerson University was originally established on September 16, 1948, by an Order-in-Council. It was established as a provincial polytechnical institute called the Ryerson Institute of Technology. On April 26, 1963, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute was established by *The Ryerson Polytechnical Institute Act, 1962-63* (the "Original Act"). The Original Act transferred the conduct, management and control of the Ryerson Institute of Technology to the Board of the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute. The Original Act was amended in 1966 and 1971 before it was repealed and replaced with *The Ryerson Polytechnical Institute Act, 1977* (the "1977 Act") on November 25, 1977. The 1977 Act was amended four times, the first time in 1989. The second time in 1993, which included changing the name of the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute to Ryerson Polytechnic University. The third time in 2002, which included substituting the title of the 1977 Act with the *Ryerson University Act, 1977*. Finally, it was amended for a fourth time in 2007. An official consolidated version of the amended 1977 Act is not available.

This document represents a consolidation of the 1977 Act and its amendments created by the Office of the General Counsel and Secretary of the Board of Governors for the convenience of the Ryerson University community. For official reference, please refer to the Order-in-Council, statutes, and amendments directly. These can be found online at <https://www.ryerson.ca/governors/resources/>.

## Ryerson University Act, 1977 (*amended*)

### INTERPRETATION

1.--(1) In this Act,

(a) (*repealed*)

**Interpretation** (b) "administrative staff" means the full-time employees of the University who are not members of the teaching faculty;

(c) "alumni" means the persons who have received degrees, diplomas or certificates from Ryerson Institute of Technology, Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Ryerson Polytechnic University or Ryerson University and who are no longer registered as students; (*amended*)

(d) "Board" means The Board of Governors of Ryerson University; (*amended*)

(e) "Chancellor" means the Chancellor of Ryerson University; (*amended*)

(f) "Minister" means the Minister of Education and Training;

(g) "President" means the President of Ryerson University; (*amended*)

(h) "property" means real and personal property;

(h.1) "Senate" means the "Senate" of Ryerson University; (*amended*)

(i) "student" means a person who is registered as such in a program or course of study at the University that leads to a degree, diploma or certificate of the University;

- (j) "teaching faculty" means the full-time employees of the University whose principal duty is the performance of the teaching function or research function of the University, including the employees holding the offices of Dean, Chair or Assistant Chair of a department, or Academic Director;
- ( j.1) "University" means Ryerson University; (*amended*)
- (k) "year" means the membership year of the Board or the Senate , as the case may be, and shall be any twelve-month period established by the Board or the Senate , respectively, from time to time; (*amended*)
- Conflict R.S.O. 1970, c. 89** (2) In the event of conflict between any provision of this Act and any provision of *The Corporations Act*, the provision of this Act prevails.

## GENERAL

- University** 2.--(1) Ryerson Polytechnic University and the Board of Governors of Ryerson Polytechnic University are continued under the name Ryerson University. (*amended*)
- Corporation** (2) The University is a corporation without share capital composed of the members of the Board of Governors of the University.
- Objects** 3. The objects of the University are:
- (1) The advancement of learning, and the intellectual, social, moral, cultural, spiritual, and physical development of the University's students and employees, and the betterment of society.
  - (2) The advancement of applied knowledge and research in response to existing and emerging societal needs and in support of the cultural, economic, social, and technological development of Ontario.
  - (3) The provision of programs of study that provide a balance between theory and application and that prepare students for careers in professional and quasi-professional fields.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- Board of Governors** 4.--(1) The Board of Governors of Ryerson University shall be composed of (*amended*)

- (a) the Chancellor, who shall be a member of the Board by virtue of his or her office;
  - (a.1) the President, who shall be a member of the Board by virtue of his or her office;
  - (b) nine members, none of whom is a student or an employee of the University, appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council for a term of three years;
  - (c) three members, none of whom is an employee of the University, elected by the alumni from among themselves for a term of three years;
  - (d) three members elected by the teaching faculty from among themselves for a term of two years;
  - (e) two members elected by the administrative staff from among themselves for a term of two years;
  - (f) three members elected by the students from among themselves for a term of one year; and
  - (g) two members, neither of whom is a student or an employee of the University, appointed by the Board for a term of three years.
- (2) The Board shall by by-law determine the manner and procedure of election of its members and shall conduct such elections and determine any dispute as to eligibility to hold office or to vote, and such elections shall be by secret ballot.
- (3) *(repealed)*
- (4) Subject to subsections (4.1) and (5), a person may sit as a member of the Board for more than one term but shall not do so for more than three consecutive terms
- (4.1) If a person sits as a member of the Board for three consecutive terms, the person is eligible to sit as a Board member for up to three more consecutive terms if a least one year has elapsed since the expiration of the previous three consecutive terms.  
*(amended)*

**Multiple  
Terms of  
Office**

**Eligibility for  
reappointment  
or re-election**

- Exception** (5) The limit of three consecutive terms referred to in subsection (4) does not include service on the Board for the balance of an unexpired term for a person who becomes a member of the Board under subsection (8). (*amended*)
- Membership vacated** (6) A member of the Board ceases to hold office where he or she ceases to be eligible pursuant to,
- (a) subsection 3; or
  - (b) clauses *b* to *g* of subsection 1 under which he or she was appointed or elected, as the case may be, except that a student member who graduates during his or her term of office may serve for the remainder of such term.
- Absence from meetings** (7) Where, within any year, a member of the Board, not having been granted leave of absence by the Board, attends less than 50 per cent of the regular meetings of such body, the Board may by resolution declare his or her membership vacant.
- Filling vacancies** (8) Where a vacancy on the Board occurs before the term of office for which a person was appointed or elected has expired,
- (a) if the vacancy is that of an appointed member, the vacancy may be filled by the same authority which appointed the person whose membership is vacant; and
  - (b) if the vacancy is that of an elected member, the Board in its sole discretion shall determine if the vacancy is to be filled and, if so and notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the manner and procedure for so doing, and the person filling such vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the person whose membership is vacant.
- Quorum** (9) A quorum of the Board shall consist of ten members or such greater number as the Board by by-law may determine, and at least one-half of the quorum shall consist of members of the Board appointed or elected under clauses *b*, *c* and *g* of subsection 1.
- Chair and Vice-Chair** (10) The Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among the members appointed or elected under clauses *b*, *c* and *g* of subsection 1 and in the event of the absence or inability to act of the Chair or of there being a vacancy in that office, the Vice-Chair shall act as and have all the powers of the Chair.
- Absence** (11) In the absence or inability to act of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Board may appoint one of its members appointed or elected under clauses *b*, *c* and *g* of subsection 1 to act as Chair for the time being and

the member so appointed shall act as and have all the powers of the Chair.

- Term of office** (12) The term of office of the Chair and the Vice-Chair shall be as determined by the Board.
- Committees** 5.--(1) The Board may establish committees and appoint persons thereto and, subject to subsection 5, confer upon any such committee authority to act for the Board with respect to any matter or class of matters.
- Majority to be board members** (2) A majority of the members of a committee shall be members of the Board.
- President ex officio member** (3) The President shall be an *ex officio* member of every committee established under subsection 1 unless excluded therefrom by a by-law or a resolution of the Board.
- Nominee** (4) The President, if not excluded under subsection 3 as a member of a committee, may nominate an officer of the University to represent him or her on a committee established under subsection 1, and such nominee shall act in the place and stead of the President on such committee.
- Decision of committee** (5) No decision of a committee that includes in its membership persons who are not members of the Board is effective until approved and ratified by the Board.
- Nominee deemed member of the Board** (6) For the purposes of subsections 2 and 5, an officer of the University nominated by the President under subsection 4 to represent him or her on a committee shall be deemed to be a member of the Board.
- Powers of the Board** 6.--(1) The government, conduct, management and control of the University and its property, revenues, expenditures, business and affairs, except with respect to such matters as are assigned by this Act to the Senate, are vested in the Board, and the Board has all powers necessary or convenient to perform its duties and achieve the objects and purposes of the University including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the power, (*amended*)
- (a) to enact by-laws for the conduct of its affairs;
- (b) to appoint the President and define his or her duties and responsibilities;

- (c) to appoint, classify, promote, suspend, transfer, reclassify or remove the members of the teaching faculty and administrative staff and such other employees as it considers necessary or advisable for the proper conduct of the affairs of the University, but no member of the teaching faculty or administrative staff except the President shall be appointed, classified, promoted, suspended, transferred, reclassified or removed unless recommended by the President or such other officer or employee of the University delegated under subsection 4;
- (d) to fix the number, duties and salaries and other remuneration of the officers and employees of the University;
- (e) to delegate such of its powers under clauses *c* and *d* as it considers proper to the President or other officer or employee of the University as may be recommended by the President;
- (f) to provide for the retirement and superannuation of persons referred to in clauses *b* and *c*;
- (g) to provide for payments by way of gratuities, retirement allowances, sick leave allowances, superannuation allowances, pensions, annuities or life insurance, or any combination thereof, payable to any representative of or for the benefit of the persons mentioned in clauses *b* and *c*, or any class or classes thereof, out of a fund or funds comprising contributions made by such persons, or any class or classes thereof, or by the University, or both, or otherwise;
- (h) to expend such sums as may be required for the purposes of funds that are established for the payment of gratuities, retirement allowances, pensions, life insurance, or health insurance, for the benefit of the persons mentioned in clauses *b* and *c*;
- (i) to expend such sums as the Board considers necessary for the support and maintenance of the University and for the betterment of existing buildings and the erection of such new buildings as the Board may consider necessary for the use and purposes of the University and for the furnishings and equipment of such existing and newly-erected buildings;
- (j) to expend such sums as the Board considers necessary for the erection, equipment, furnishings and maintenance of residences and dining halls for the use of the students;

- (k) to acquire, hold and maintain such real property as the Board considers necessary for the use of the students of the University for athletic purposes and to erect and maintain such buildings and structures thereon as it considers necessary;
- (l) to provide such health services, health examinations and physical training for the students of the University as the Board considers necessary;
- (m) to appoint by resolution a member or members of the Board, or any other person or persons, to execute on behalf of the University either documents and other instruments in writing generally or specific documents and other instruments in writing and to affix the corporate seal of the University thereto;
- (n) to borrow money for its purposes upon its credit, and to give such security against the assets of the University by way of mortgage, debenture or otherwise, as it determines;
- (o) to invest all money that comes into its hands that is not required to be expended for any purpose to which it lawfully may be applied, subject always to any express limitations or restrictions on investment powers imposed by the terms of the instruments creating any trust as to the same, in such manner as it considers proper and, except where a trust instrument otherwise directs, combine trust moneys belonging to various trusts in its care into a common trust fund;
- (p) to establish and collect fees and charges for tuition and for services of any kind offered by the University and collect fees and charges on behalf of any entity, organization or element of the University.

**Recommendations  
by President as  
to staff**

- (2) The President shall make recommendations to the Board as to the appointment, classification, promotion, suspension, transfer, reclassification and removal of the members of the teaching faculty and administrative staff.

**Recommendation**

- (3) The President may recommend an officer or employee of the University for the purpose of a delegation by the Board under clause e of subsection 1 of certain of its powers.

**Delegation by  
President**

- (4) The President, subject to the approval of the Board, may delegate his duties under subsection 2 to any other officer or employee of the University.

**Audit of accounts** 7.  
**R.S.O. 1979.**  
**c.373**

The Board shall appoint one or more public accountants licensed under *The Public Accountancy Act* to audit the accounts and transactions of the University at least annually.

**Annual report to Minister**

8.--(1) The Board shall make a financial report annually to the Minister in such form and containing such information as the Minister may require.

**Tabling**

(2) The Minister shall submit the report to the Lieutenant Governor in Council and shall then lay the report before the Assembly if it is in session or, if not, at the next ensuing session.

**Other reports**

(2.1) The Board shall submit to the Minister such other reports, as the Minister may require.

**Annual public report**

(3) The Board shall make available to the public an annual report including an annual financial report in such form and manner as the Board may determine.

**SENATE** (*amended*)

**Senate**

9.--(1) There shall be a Senate of the University composed of,

(a) the Chancellor, the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Deans, the Chief Librarian and the Registrar, each of whom shall be a member of the Senate by virtue of his or her office; and (*amended*)

(b) such other members, not exceeding fifty-one, composed of persons elected by secret ballot, (*amended*)

(i) by the teaching faculty from among themselves,

(ii) by the students from among themselves, and

(iii) by the librarians employed by the University from among themselves, and

(iv) by the alumni from among themselves. (*amended*)

**By-laws**

(2) The Senate shall by by-law determine, (*amended*)

- (a) the number of members to be elected to the Senate by the teaching faculty, the students and the alumni, respectively;
- (b) constituencies for each of the groups referred to in clause *b* of subsection 1 and assign persons or classes of persons thereto;
- (c) the term of office of one, two, or three years, as the case may be, for the members elected by each of the groups referred to in clause *b* of subsection 1; and
- (d) the procedures to be followed in the election of members of the Senate. (*amended*)

**Elections**

- (3) The Senate shall conduct the election of its members and shall determine any dispute as to the eligibility of a candidate at such election or of a person to vote thereat. (*amended*)

**Term of office**

- (4) Where for any reason a by-law of the Senate has not been enacted under clause *c* of subsection 2, the term of office of an elected member of the Senate is one year. (*amended*)

**Eligibility for re-election**

- (5) Subject to subsection 6, a member of the Senate is eligible for re-election except that no member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms, but on the expiration of one year after having served the second of two consecutive terms, such person may again be eligible for membership on the Senate. (*amended*)

**Exception**

**Idem**

- (6) The limit of two consecutive terms referred to in subsection (5) does not include service on the Senate for the balance of an unexpired term for a person who becomes a member of the Senate under subsection (8). (*amended*)

**Membership vacated**

- (7) An elected member of the Senate ceases to hold office where he or she ceases to be eligible pursuant to clause *b* of subsection 1 under which he or she was elected, except that a student member who graduates during his or her term of office may serve for the remainder of the current year. (*amended*)

**Filling vacancy**

- (8) Where a vacancy occurs for any reason among the elected members of the Senate before the term for which a person was elected has expired, the Senate in its sole discretion shall determine whether the vacancy is to be filled and, if so and notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the manner and procedure for so doing, and the person filling such vacancy shall hold office for the remainder of the term of the person whose membership is vacant. (*amended*)

**Chair and Vice-Chair**

- (9) The President shall be the Chair of the Senate and a

Vice-Chair shall be elected from among its members in such manner as the Senate may determine.  
(*amended*)

**Powers of Senate**

- 10.** The Senate has, subject to the approval of the Board with respect to the expenditure of funds, the power to regulate the educational policy of the University and without limiting the generality of the foregoing has the power, (*amended*)
- (a) to enact by-laws for the conduct of its affairs;
  - (b) to enact by-laws for the purposes of subsection 2 of section 9 in order to conduct the election of its members;
  - (c) to make recommendations to the Board with respect to the establishment, change or termination of programs and courses of study, schools, divisions and departments;
  - (d) to determine the curricula of all programs and courses of study, the standards of admission to the University and continued registration therein, and the qualifications for degrees, diplomas and certificates of the University;
  - (e) to conduct examinations, appoint examiners and decide all matters relating thereto;
  - (f) to award fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, medals, prizes and other marks of academic achievement;
  - (g) to award diplomas and certificates;
  - (h) to grant bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, doctoral degrees and honorary degrees consistent with the University's objects;
  - (i) to create councils and committees to exercise its powers.

**THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND SENATE** (*amended*)

- Meetings open to public**    **11.--**(1) Subject to subsection 2 and 3, a meeting of the Board or of the Senate shall be open to the public and prior notice of the meeting shall be given to the members of the Board or the Senate, as the case may be, and to the public in such manner as the Board and the Senate by by-law shall respectively determine, and no person shall be excluded from a meeting except for improper conduct as determined by the Board or the Senate, as the case may be. *(amended)*
- Proviso**                    (2) Where matters confidential to the University are to be considered, the part of the meeting concerning such matters may be held *in camera*.
- Idem**                        (3) Where a matter of a personal nature concerning an individual may be considered at a meeting, the part of the meeting concerning such individual shall be held *in camera* unless such individual requests that that part of the meeting be open to the public.
- Age of student members**    **12.**        Every student is eligible for election to the Board or the Senate whether or not he/she has attained the age of eighteen years. *(amended)*
- Examination of by-laws**    **13.--**(1) The by-laws of the Board and of the Senate shall be open to examination by the public during normal business hours. *(amended)*
- Publication of by-laws**        (2) The Board and the Senate shall publish their by-laws from time to time in such manner as they may, respectively, consider proper. *(amended)*

## CHANCELLOR

- Chancellor**    **13.1--**(1) There shall be a Chancellor of the University.
- Role**                        (2) The Chancellor is the titular head of the University and shall confer all degrees, honorary degrees, diplomas and certificates.
- Appointment**            (3) The Chancellor shall be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of a committee consisting of,  
(a) the President, who shall chair the committee;  
(b) three members of the Board, appointed by the Board; and  
(c) three members of the Senate , appointed by the Senate . *(amended)*
- Term of office**            (4) The Chancellor shall be appointed for a term of three years and until his or her successor is appointed.

- Vice-Chancellor** (5) The President is, by virtue of his or her office, the Vice-Chancellor of the University and, in the absence of the Chancellor or when that office is vacant, the Vice-Chancellor shall act in the Chancellor's place.

## PROPERTY

- Property vested in the University** **14.** All property heretofore or hereafter, by statute or otherwise, granted, conveyed, devised or bequeathed to the Board, the University or to any person in trust for or for the benefit of the Board, the University or any of its divisions or departments, subject to any trust affecting the property, is vested in the University.

- Power to deal with property** **15.** The University has power to purchase or otherwise acquire, take or receive, by deed, gift, bequest or devise, and to hold and enjoy without licence in mortmain and without limitation as to the period of holding any estate or property whatsoever, whether real or personal, and to sell, grant, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of the same or any part thereof from time to time and as occasion may require, and to acquire other estate or property in addition thereto or in place thereof.

- Expropriation R.S.O. 1970, c. 154** **16.--**(1) Subject to the provisions of *The Expropriations Act*, the University may, without the consent of the owner or any person interested therein, other than a municipality or a distinct, regional or metropolitan municipality, enter upon, take, use and expropriate all such land as defined in section 1 of *The Expropriations Act* as it considers necessary for the purposes of the University.

- Land vested in the University not liable to expropriation** (2) Real property vested in the University and used by the University for its purposes shall not be liable to be entered upon, used or taken by any corporation, except a municipal corporation, or by any person possessing the right of taking real property compulsorily for any purpose and no power to expropriate real property hereafter conferred shall extend to such real property unless in the Act conferring the power it is made in express terms to apply thereto.

- Tax exemption** **16.1** The real property vested in the University and any lands and premises leased to and occupied by the University shall be exempt from taxes for provincial, municipal and school purposes so long as they are actually used and occupied for the purposes of the University.

- Limitation periods** **16.2--**(1) For the purposes of *The Limitations Act*, all real

property vested in the University shall be deemed to have been and to be real property of the Crown.

### **UNIVERSITY FOUNDATIONS ACT, 1992**

The Schedule to the University Foundations Act, 1992, is amended by striking out "Ryerson Polytechnic University" and substituting "Ryerson University". (*amended*)

### **COMMENCEMENT**

**Commencement**      This *Schedule comes into force on the day the Budget Measures and Interim Appropriation Act, 2007 receives Royal Assent. (amended)*

Note: This document is a consolidation of texts.

(Assented to May 17, 2007)