

SENATE MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, January 29, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

EX-OFFICIO:	FACULTY:		STUDENTS:
L. Barnoff	R. Babin	R. Ravindran	N. Allou
M. Benarroch	A. Bailey	S. Sabatinos	B. Baum
M. Bountrogianni	D. Checkland	N. Thomlinson	J. Circo
D. Cramb	K. Dermody	J. Tiessen	A. Jagayat
G. Craney	M. Dionne	M. Vahabi	F. Khan
T. Duever	S. Dolgoy	N. Walton	R. Kucheran
C. Falzon	A. El-Rabbany		S. Mehmood
C. Hack	M. Green		S. Rattan
M. Lachemi	R. Hudyma		
K. MacKay	C. Kular		
J. Mactavish	V. Magness		
I. Mishkel	D. Mason		
D. O'Neil Green	A. McWilliams		
A. Saloojee	R. Meldrum		EX-OFFICIO STUDENTS:
C. Shepstone	P. Moore		R. J. Allick
P. Sugiman	S. Rakhmayil		
S. Zolfaghari			

SENATE ASSOCIATES:**ALUMNI:**

A. M. Brinsmead

M. Zouri

REGRETS:**ABSENT:**

D. Androutsos

C. Antonescu

D. Brown

T. Burke

E. Ignagni

S. Liss

J. McMillen

C. Tam

D. Taras

M. Tiessen

A. Yazdani

S. Benda

N. Chen

Y. Derbal

S. Faruqi

K. Kumar

J. Makuch

J. Marriott

A. Miransky

A. Rahunathan

P. Shannon

A. Sharma

5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole Discussion:

Topic: The Next Academic Plan

5:50 p.m. Senate Meeting starts

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 January 29, 2019 meeting*

R. Ravindran moved; A. McWilliams seconded.

Motion approved

4. Announcements - None

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Motion: *That Senate approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting*

D. Checkland moved; F. Khan seconded

Senators highlighted some statements in the minutes that required clarification, as well as some typographical errors. The President proposed that the Secretary refer to the recording to get the exact wording, and asked members to vote on the motion in the understanding that the minutes will be corrected as indicated.

Motion approved

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Motion: *That Senate approve the minutes of the November 6, 2018 meeting*

A. McWilliams moved; N. Walton seconded.

- A Faculty Senator noted that comments regarding the Urban Health PhD program were not included.
- President Lachemi asked that Secretary of Senate refer to minutes for those comments and add them accordingly.

Motion approved

7. Correspondence - None
8. Reports
 - 8.1 Report of the President
 - 8.1.1 President's Update

The President reported that:

- 1) There has been news from the Ontario provincial government regarding reduction of fees by 10% by September 2019 and freeze on tuition fees for 2021 for all Ontario universities and colleges.
- 2) There will be changes to how ancillary fees are characterized and charged to students. The President will update members when more information is received from the government as to what will be mandatory and what will be optional.
- 3) There will be changes to OSAP and Ontario student loans. These changes will be reported to Senate as they are announced and finalized.
- 4) The 10% reduction in tuition will result, for Ryerson, in a 5% reduction in total operating budget, not 2% as the Minister stated. This reduction changes from university to university, dependent on the number of international students. The Minister is likely taking a specific university as an example and extrapolating to other institutions. It will be a challenge to deliver the highest quality of learning environment to students given these circumstances. There was no consultation with Ryerson prior to announcement of cuts. There will be an assessment of the full impact this will have on the university. Ryerson has begun budget planning for the next fiscal year, as led by the Provost.
- 5) Ryerson takes the recent allegations in the student press regarding financial mismanagement in the Ryerson Student Union (RSU) very seriously. The RSU is a separate entity and they have their own board of directors. However, given the seriousness of these allegations, the President has written to the RSU executive asking to meet and discuss this matter. The meeting is scheduled to occur tomorrow (30th January, 2019) and there will also be a meeting with the full board later in the evening.
- 6) On consultations regarding the Freedom of Expression statement, the Provost has been active in reaching out to Ryerson faculty.

The Provost reported that:

- Consultations regarding budget are about to commence and that he hopes to continue to see active engagement as the process proceeds.
- Consultations about the Freedom of Expression statement has been launched with faculty and students. The President has also held a couple of meetings with Senators.

- As the government asked that the university have a statement in place by January 1, 2019, the current statement, plus a group of existing policies, and the existing 2010 Statement on Freedom of Expression have been uploaded to the webpage named 'Freedom of Expression Policies at Ryerson University'. The policies included are concerned with academic and non-academic misconduct, room booking, harassment and other related topics. Commencing on January 11, he has met with all faculties except for the Faculty of Arts and TRSM, and will be consulting with them in the upcoming two weeks.
 - Themes that have arisen in these conversations are concerned with clarity, uncertainty as to what constitutes hate speech, what falls under the policy and what doesn't, autonomy of the University vis-à-vis the government, safety concerns for people who feel they need to be protected, and responsibility to cover the cost of these events. Consultations with student groups will be led by Ian Crookshank throughout February. In the meantime, the government is reviewing Ryerson's Freedom of Expression statement and related policies.
 - In response to a question as to whether a new committee will be formed to create a new statement that would come back to Senate, the Provost indicated that it would depend on what the response from the government is and what the conclusion of the process at Ryerson is. Once all feedback has been received, there will then be better opportunity to assess the statement and to see whether a committee needs to make revisions.
 - In response to a question as to whether student Senators will be contacted to lead one of these consultations, the Provost advised that the intention is to meet with as many student groups as possible to help lead the consultations, and that if Student Senators are not contacted, they should let him know so the Vice-Provost, Students Office can connect.
- 7) The President further reported - following a discussion at Senate in December, he has written to the Chamber of Commerce (OCC) to request that they not use Ryerson's name without consulting the University. The President of OCC responded that he will reach out to Ryerson before adding our name to announcements. In terms of membership, Ryerson is a member, but at a low tier. In the past, some very successful work has been achieved with the benefit of the OCC.
- 8) On the activity of the Ryerson RAMS men's hockey team [with video presentation], who just hosted their First Annual Kids Hockey Day in December at Regent Park, it was reported that there were sixteen RAMS players engaging with approximately fifty children from the community. He also announced that the men's basketball is ranked #1 after defeating Carlton University's team.

Questions arising from the President's Report, and the President's responses:

- Q: How does the 20,000 sq. ft. Ryerson will be occupying in the large development on the corner on Yonge and Gerrard streets compare with some existing buildings on campus?
- A: The building will contain 85 floors for mixed purpose use; Ryerson will be occupying three floors; type of use has not yet been determined, but it could be a mix of classrooms and office space. The SLC is 150,000 square feet and therefore one floor of the SLC may offer comparable size.
- Q: When is the building at Yonge/Gerrard expected to be completed?
- A: Demolition of existing structures will commence soon. The expected timeline will likely see completion in 2023-2024.
- Q: Given the impending budget cut, does Ryerson expect that any of the current faculty hiring processes that are currently underway will be terminated?
- A1: Not at this point, however Ryerson is awaiting an update for the provincial budget. The Minister has expressed that grants will not be cut, however, this has yet to be verified.
- A2: The Provost added that in the budget memos that were sent out to Faculties, those positions that were to be protected were mentioned and the searches underway will be protected.
- Q: Will there be cuts to contract teachers within the university?
- A: The core business of the university will be protected and students will not be without instructors as the objective is the delivery quality programs.
- Q: Can clear instructions be provided regarding ancillary fees?
- A1: It's important that we protect the engagement of students. The President referred to a recent event where different groups of students participated and discussed the importance of student engagement at Ryerson. He also mentioned the important work of *The Eyeopener* that is funded by these fees, in part. The Ryerson community will be kept informed as to what categories of fees will be protected and what will be voluntary.
- A2: The Provost added that the Council of Ontario Universities were asked to prepare a set of questions for the government to answer about how to implement the changes regarding ancillary fees, changes to OSAP, and student tuition. There has been a meeting set to answer questions about tuition and a meeting was just set to discuss ancillary fees which is taking place in February. Regarding OSAP, a meeting has yet to be set. Senate will be further updated moving forward.
- Q: Will there be a change in how much students are charged depending on the number of courses taken?
- A: Unable to provide an answer now but that will be addressed in coming consultations.
- Q: When the proposal for the Law School was being created, there was a committee that provided a great deal of feedback about the process and that led to Senate agreeing to go forward with the Law School under the assumption that it was going to be self-sustaining financially and that there would be government support for it. Has this committee been consulted to see whether they still think it prudent to move forward given the financial changes that the government has imposed on the program?

- A1: The Provost responded that this project will be financially sustainable. In the creation of this proposal, the university created two budgets with different tuition fees because there was never agreement from government. Currently, the university is reassessing these budgets to set tuition fees that would not draw resources from the rest of the university, yet remains hopeful that the government will decide to support the Law School before it is launched. Ryerson has also increased its fundraising efforts in an attempt to offset the government imposed budget cuts so that scholarships and offsets may still be provided to students.
- A2: The President added that part of the consultation regarding next year's budget will share the full picture of how the Law School is going to be funded.
- Q: Has the committee that recommended proceeding with the Law School been consulted again following changes to budget as it was originally stated that the Law School was going to be one of the less expensive law schools in the province and that it was going to address interest in different perspectives. Now that it is going to be the third most expensive law school in the province, does the committee still think that this is a defensible decision?
- A: No objection to consulting the committee as many of its members are in favor of the Law School. Reiterated that the program is very enticing to donors and Ryerson has continued to reach out to potential donors which will in turn allow the program to be more affordable to future students.
- Q: As the proposed cuts will directly affect low-income students by cutting OSAP grants, instead of raising funds for new programs, could Ryerson work on supporting students in need who are in existing programs?
- A1: The Provost indicated that efforts are underway to identify donors, and that scholarship monies have been set aside that will not be cut.
- A2: The President said he would be happy to invite the VP Advancement to a meeting regarding fundraising and will hopefully have him make a presentation soon. He then added that a retreat is being held in which the Master Plan will be discussed and perhaps these questions can be addressed as part of this discussion.
- Q: Existing new faculty searches will continue, student scholarship will be safe, the new Law School project will proceed, new buildings will be built, and a way will be found to support incidental fees. Where will all the money come from to cover these expenses?
- A: In the presentation regarding Ryerson's next campaign, these questions will be addressed. In regards to the Master Plan presentation, the new building is not necessarily out of the operating budget of the university.

8.2 Communications Report – as presented in the report

8.3 Report of the Secretary

8.3.1 Senate Election:

D. Bell stated that Senate elections are coming up. Elected faculty are on a two-year term and elected students are on a one-year term. The proclamation has already gone out.

February 4, 2019 – Call for nominations

March 4-7, 2019 - Online voting period for students, faculty at large and CE faculty

March 11-14, 2019 - Online voting period for faculty within the Faculties

In response to a question, the Secretary clarified that if a student Senator's term starts halfway through the academic term, it is not counted as a term for the purpose of calculating length of service.

8.4 Ombudsperson Report: N. Farrell presented her report.

https://www.ryerson.ca/senate/agenda/2019/Ombuds_Report_2017_2018.pdf

N. Farrell began with the observation that she is pleased to report on accomplishments that have been achieved at Ryerson and areas that require greater work. In particular, at this time, it is very important to utilize feedback from individuals who are working, studying, and contributing to the university. She noted that an ombudsperson is neither an apologist for the university nor an advocate for the student.

The Ombudsperson's office is to be an advocate for fairness for all those concerned. Ryerson has excellent terms of reference for ombudspersons and, as other institutions across the province implement offices for ombudspersons, they frequently consult Ryerson. N. Farrell then emphasized the importance of incorporating the principles of fairness and the principles of natural justice into all decision-making at Ryerson. She noted that ombudspersons try to prevent problems from occurring, they do individual casework, and they do systemic and system-wide analysis.

The office has been in existence for twenty-one years with over 11,000 cases handled, more than 200 investigations, and thousands of recommendations given on a regular basis. In regards to recommendations, she brings forward three.

Recommendation #1: Accommodating students with disabilities – Senate Policy 159 be reviewed as soon as possible.

Recommendation #2: Review of Academic Consideration and Appeals Policies (underway)

Recommendation #3: That staff and faculty see their role as collegial not only with one another but with students as well and advocate for student's success in all of their functions.

N. Farrell then thanked the university for its continued support of ombudsperson recommendations and gave a few examples of the specific actions Ryerson has taken to support academic accommodation and success.

General Inquiries/Comments on the Ombudspersons Report:

1) In response to a question as to whether there is a lack of knowledge regarding the appeals process and student rights, N. Farrell agreed that there is a great lack of knowledge concerning the academic appeals policy because the only time when students tend to think about it is when they seek it out because something has gone wrong. Many aspects of the appeal process can be inaccessible to students, particularly in times of crisis. It should be a topic discussed actively with students to make them more comfortable with it. For example, it could be mentioned/discussed in course syllabi.

2) A Senator thanked N. Farrell on behalf of Senate for all her work, as he acknowledged that this would be her last report as Ombudsperson. He stated that he has always enjoyed reading her report over the years because it given a longitudinal understanding of concerns being raised at Ryerson. He remarked on some interesting changes in the concerns. For example, there has been a decrease in academic appeals. He then asked if she had any comments as to the reason for the decrease in appeals or increase in other areas.

N. Farrell mentioned that the introduction of the Fresh Start program helped to reduce appeals as it allows students to be reinstated more smoothly following required to withdraw status from a program.

3) A Senator remarked that the reports have been compelling in a variety of ways in terms of seeing what people are grappling with. For example, the recommendations for students with diverse abilities and challenges would fit ideally in a discussion of what kind of values the university wants to bring up in the Academic Plan. She thanked N. Farrell for the advice she has given her and students over the years.

4) A Senator thanked N. Farrell for her contribution as Ombudsperson. He said he has learned a lot from her recommendations and mentioned the success of his inviting her to the orientation of his graduate Program. He suggested that she visit different departments so that an orientation be given to each faculty informing individuals of the resources available to them.

5) M. Lachemi reminded Senate of N. Farrell's departure from her role as Ombudsperson, and advised that those recommendations can be passed on to her replacement. He also thanked her for everything she has done at Ryerson, including contributing to the positive change here. He stated that he has enjoyed her commitment to students and fairness. He presented a bouquet of flowers to N. Farrell on behalf of Senate.

8.5 Committee Reports

8.5.1 Report #W2019-1 of the Academic Standards Committee (ASC):
Vice Provost Academic K. MacKay

8.5.1.1 SOPHe Major Curriculum Modification

Motion: *That Senate approve the amendment to the SOPHe Major Curriculum Modification.*

K. MacKay moved; A. McWilliams seconded.

K. MacKay reminded Senate that it approved major curriculum modifications last November. When the committee was looking at their implementation plan they discovered some issues concerning course sequencing and spoke with both the Registrar and Academic Standards about making the corrections to the sequencing before the implementation of the modifications as shown in the agenda package.

Motion approved.

8.5.2 Report #W2019-1 of the Academic Governance and Policy Committee (AGPC):
M. Benarroch

8.5.2.1 Senate Bylaws

Motion: *That Senate approve the proposed Bylaw #1 be adopted, replacing Articles 1 through 8 of the existing Senate Bylaw as described in the Senate agenda.*

D. Checkland moved; N. Walton seconded

D. Checkland indicated that the procedures section replacing the current Bylaw's section 9 will be coming forward to the next Senate meeting in a new Bylaw #2 once it is approved by AGPC.

Motion to amend:

D. Checkland moved; N Thomlinson seconded:

That Article 2.2.1.4 be amended to read:

Indigenous faculty: There shall be one (1) indigenous faculty member elected by the Aboriginal Education Council (AEC) from all indigenous faculty using procedures developed by the AEC in consultation with the AGPC and the wider Indigenous community.

Amendment approved

In response to a question about what happens to Article 9 in the current Senate Bylaw, David Checkland indicated it is still in forced and will be replaced with Bylaw #2 in March if approved.

Motion as amended: approved

9. Old Business- None
10. New Business as Circulated- None
11. Members' Business- None
12. Consent Agenda
 - 12.1 Annual report from the Academic Integrity Office (AIO)
 - 12.2 Course Change forms from:
https://www.ryerson.ca/senate/agenda/2019/Course_Change_Forms_January_15_2019.pdf

Faculty of Arts: Politics & Public Administration
Faculty of Communication & Design: Creative Industries; Professional Communication
Faculty of Community Services: Child & Youth; Occupational & Public Health
Faculty of Science: Chemistry & Biology; Mathematics; Medical Physics
Ted Rogers School of Management: Accounting Co-op; Law and Business; Retail Management
13. Adjournment 7:31 p.m.