

# RYERSON FACULTY ASSOCIATION

## GENERAL MEETING

December 7, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference

### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

Donna Koller opened the floor with some housekeeping regarding how the meeting would run.

Corinne Hart began with acknowledgement that here in Toronto we are in the Dish with One Spoon Territory. This is a treaty between the Anishinaabe, Mississaugas and the Haudenosaunee that bound them to share this 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. We all eat out of the Dish, all of us that share this territory, with only one spoon.

#### **1) President's Opening Remarks**

I. Sakinofsky welcomed everyone to the meeting.

I. Sakinofsky thinks that the XFA Executive has made it clear that it is likely a mistake to return in-person for the Winter semester. If the membership is to return in-full in-person, the XFA's focus should be on transparency and safety.

He talked about J. Cook a member of the Bargaining Committee. J. Cook realised that the Collective Agreement was like the Constitution of the University and the bargaining process was the advancement of the constitution.

I. Sakinofsky mentioned several Policy Grievances that are currently being pursued to arbitration:

- Pension
- Academic Freedom
- Navitas
- Improper use of the hiring process
- Pay Equity

The Faculty Association need to pursue these arbitrations to the point of adjudication by arbitration, as well as the disinterested approach taken by the Administration. Also, the recently appointment of the former VPFA as VP Administration (creating a disturbing alliance consisting of the President, the Deputy Provost and the new VP Administration and the President's Chief of Staff).

On the positive side the four campus unions have to share in the challenges of dealing with a obdurate and distant Administration. The four unions are CUPE 233 (representing custodians, groundskeepers and maintenance workers); OPSEU 596 (representing professional staff); CUPE 3904 (representing contract academics); and the XFA

(representing tenure track faculty, limited term faculty, librarians and counsellors). The relationship between the representatives of these four unions has strengthened during the pandemic. This is positive because it promotes collegiality amongst the unions, as well as providing a stronger collective.

I. Sakinofsky thanked those members who responded to the Faculty Association's request to provide a report of their in-person teaching experiences in the Fall semester.

He also thanked those who wrote to the Senior Administration in November, at the Faculty Association's suggestion, informing the Administration of the members' concerns of the prospect of returning to campus in-person in Winter 2022 or the members' desire to return. Members were asked to do this because it was clear that the Administration was not acknowledging the Faculty Association's collective approach. There was never any obligation for members to write a letter and there still is not. However, the opportunity to write the letter remains if they are so inclined.

2) **MINUTES – MAY 7, 2021 GENERAL MEETING**

**BIRT** – Minutes of the May 7, 2021 meeting be approved as circulated (Francescucci/McWilliams) – CARRIED

3) **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Anthony Francescucci presented the audited financial statements for 2021, which are also contained in your package

The RFA Executive recommends to the membership approval of the 2021 Audited Financial Statements.

**BIRT** the RFA Audited Financial Statements of the Year Ended August 31, 2021 be approved. (McWilliams/Danziger) – CARRIED

4) **NEW BUSINESS** – None

5) **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS** (Executive and Standing Committees) - Elections

Ian called out the vacation positions

6) **NEGOTIATING REPORT**

No notes were taken. Ian are you able to put some blurbs? I do recall Brian saying that everyone would have received a payment of \$450 (+/-)

7) **COMMITTEE CHAIRS' AND OFFICERS' REPORTS**

Reports are included in "FACULTY NEWS LINK" – Fall 2021, Vol 37, No. 1

8) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

