

# Meeting of the Board of Directors

Ryerson Students' Union (RSU) – Local 24 Canadian Federation of Students SCC 311

55 Gould St, Toronto, ON, M5B 1E9

September 16th, 2020

Toronto, ON

## Executive Committee

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Ali Yousaf       | President                              |
| Siddhanth Satish | Vice-President Education               |
| Vaishali Vinayak | Vice-President Equity                  |
| Liora Dubinsky   | Vice-President Operations              |
| Usama Sheikh     | Vice-President Student Life and events |

## Faculty of Arts

|                  |
|------------------|
| Alexandra Nash   |
| Gabriele Douglas |
| Anika Zaman      |

## Ted Rogers School of Management

|                |
|----------------|
| Akif Anwar     |
| Hilla Yaniv    |
| Homra Ghaznavi |
| Abaan Ahmed    |
| Preet Patel    |

## Faculty Communication and Design Directors

|                  |
|------------------|
| Aidan Falkenberg |
| Ashan Mahendran  |
| Ton Cassie       |

## Faculty of Community Services Directors

|               |
|---------------|
| Steph Rychlo  |
| Sabrina Ahmed |

## Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Science Directors

|               |
|---------------|
| Zain Choudhry |
| Umar Abdullah |
| Salar Syed    |

## Faculty of Science

|                 |
|-----------------|
| Elwad Gedleh    |
| Mishel Galperin |

**International Representative**

Amr Shaikh

**Graduate Representatives**

Waqas Ahmed

Fayez Ahmed Qureshi

**Other Representatives**

|               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| David Jardine | Board of Governors Representative |
| Vacant        | Course Unions Director            |
| Vacant        | First Year Representative         |
| Vacant        | Residence Representative          |
| George Carter | Senate Representative             |
| Vacant        | Student Groups Director           |

**Ryerson Students' Union Staff**

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Priya Paul     | Financial Controller |
| Reanna Maharaj | Executive Director   |

**ABSENT WITH REGRETS**

Dusty Luck

**AGENDA****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.

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE****2. APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

**MOTION 2020-10-22 A01:** Appointment of the Chairperson

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Shoaib Ahmed be appointed as Chairperson for the Ryerson Students' Union Board of Director Meeting for October 2020 - April 2021

David: Does this apply to general meetings?

Ali: No it does not

Moved: Ali Yousaf      Seconded: Steph      Result: PASSED

### **3. REMARKS OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

The Chairperson will provide a brief introduction to how the meeting will be conducted using Robert's Rules of Order.

### **4. APPOINTMENT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY**

**MOTION 2020-10-22 A02:** Appointment of the Recording Secretary

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** Reanna Maharaj, be appointed as the Recording Secretary for the RSU Board of Directors meeting.

Moved: Ali Yousaf      Seconded: Hilla      Result: PASSED

### **5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION 2020-10-22 A03:** Approval of the agenda

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the October 22nd, 2020 agenda be approved as presented.

Moved: Siddhanth Satish      Seconded: David      Result: PASSED

David: Based on Ali's email, you responded the name of the first year rep you are ratifying, we need to add that I believe.

Ali: Yes, that would be added to the minutes by Reanna

David: Yes, I also asked for exec updates but I didn't see it on the agenda

Ali: Yes, updates will be at the end of the agenda from staff and executives

### **6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION 2020-10-22 A04:** Appendix A

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** September 16th, 2020 minutes be approved as presented in Appendix A.

Moved: Siddhanth Satish      Seconded: Steph      Result: PASSED

### **7. RATIFICATION**

**MOTION 2020-10-22 B01:** Ratification of the Ex-officio Director position

**WHEREAS** the Ryerson Students' Union has several Ex-Officio positions on its board of directors; and

**WHEREAS** the positions are duly elected by the governing bodies;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT Abdul Rahman Saleem** be ratified as an EX-Officio member, as the First Year Representative on the RSU Board of Directors for October 2020 - April 2021.

Ali: The persons name is Abdul Rahman Saleem I sent an email to the board before this meeting

Steph: Can we give them speaking rights to introduce themselves

Ali: Yes, we can do that

Abdul: I'm excited to be part of the team and see what happens you know.

David: I think in some years there has been an elections for first year rep. I know it is optional but is there a reason we chose not to go with an election this year?

Ali: According to the bylaws it can be appointed by the President

Liora: I'm not sure how to raise my hand but I believe that we missed approval of the minutes

Moved: Ali Yousaf                          Seconded:                          Alex                          Result: PASSED

## **8. DISPENSERS FOR MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS AT STUDENT CAMPUS CENTRE (SCC)**

**MOTION 2020-10-22 D01:** Menstrual Products Being Made Available for Students in the Student Campus Centre (SCC)

**WHEREAS** one-third of Canadians under the age of 25 who menstruate struggle to buy enough products every month. Period Poverty is a truly invisible form of poverty that hinders equitable access to education.

**WHEREAS** the RSU advocates for free and accessible menstrual products for all students who menstruate.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the RSU will launch a pilot project to address Period Poverty experienced by our community by installing dispensers for menstrual products in the SCC building.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the RSU Executives will lobby the Palin Foundation for this initiative to be adopted on SCC and funded by the Palin Foundation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the RSU Executives will lobby Ryerson University for this initiative to be adopted across our campus and funded by Ryerson University.

Steph: I have a question for Homra – Is this just supposed to be in bathrooms?

Homra: They would be in the SCC building and all over the campus

Steph: But are they just being stored in the bathrooms?

Homra: yes – it would mainly be in bathrooms

Steph: Can we make sure it is not excluding the gender neutral and male washroom as well please

Homra: Yes, of course. I just want to clarify that this was passed at the equity committee already and it is our job as the student union to eliminate period poverty

Moved: Homra Ghaznavi

Seconded: Steph

Result: PASSED

## 9. PANDEMIC RESPONSE COMMITTEE

**MOTION 2020-10-22 E01:** Creating a temporary pandemic response committee

**WHEREAS** Ryerson University has undergone enormous changes in light of the pandemic

**WHEREAS** students are experiencing many new and unplanned hardships that are impacting their academics, social life and career prospects

**WHEREAS** the RSUs mission is to improve the quality of the student experience for our members

**WHEREAS** the RSU has already created a COVID-19 grant and the Good Food Centre grant to support students financially

**WHEREAS** there are plenty of other ways that we can improve the current situation for students

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the RSU convene an ad-hoc Pandemic Response Committee until the end of the year, or until Ryerson fully reopens, in accordance with the provisions below

1. Pandemic Response Committee

1.1. The Board of Directors shall establish a Pandemic Response Committee in accordance with the following terms of reference:

1.1.1. The Pandemic Response Committee shall consist of:

1.1.1.1. The Vice-President Education;

1.1.1.2. The Vice-President Equity;

1.1.1.3. The Pandemic Response Commissioner;

1.1.1.4. One (1) Residence Council representative, chosen by the Residence Council Executive

1.1.2. The Pandemic Response Committee shall also consist of the following members whom shall be appointed by the Board of Directors

1.1.2.1. Three (3) directors;

1.1.3. The Pandemic Response Committee shall be charged with the following mandate;

1.1.3.1. Research the responses and action of fellow student unions across Ontario,

1.1.3.2. Gather feedback from the membership on what improvements they would like to see the RSU push for,

1.1.3.3. Propose events, services, campaigns or other measures to the Board of Directors that should be implemented,

1.1.3.4. Evaluate events and services the RSU is currently or has previously offered to determine if and how they can be delivered amid the pandemic,

1.1.3.5. Supporting the Executive in implementing, running and evaluating any measures recommended by the committee approved by the Board of Directors

1.1.4. The Pandemic Response Committee shall be an open committee, with the ability to go in camera if an agenda item requires confidentiality

1.1.5. The Pandemic Response Committee shall be jointly supported by the Vice-President Education and Vice-President Equity, due to the nature of the committees work in student advocacy and equity.

Moved: David Jardine

Seconded: Ashan

Result: PASSED

David: I think its very clear – to summarize most of the text the VP education and VP equity will be very important to have on the committee, having VP equity would be important since so many equity groups are being over looked. On the BOG we are getting feedback from student – basically no one is happy. People are seeing stuff happening at other school, it was just the other day – it think Windsor came out with COVID testing on Camps. I don't think Ryerson is doing a lot of those things on campus. I think the RSU could help with lobbying that, and I think with a committee we can lobby the university to do better. I did some research and I had 74 people on an Instagram

story vote that they would want this. I think the RSU reputation is not that great because of previous years, but I think that this would be good for this year and rebuild our reputation.

Alex: I wanted to say that I agree. This would be a good step towards rehabilitating our reputation towards students. I think it makes sense to have a smaller group that can really be focused, and so students can follow what we are doing for students. I wanted to thank David for bringing up COVID testing on campus. Getting tested is not easy and accessible, if you can find a time slot you then have to take yourself to a hospital to get tested. Getting COVID testing on campus would really help the RSU

Gabriele: I agree with David and Alex. This will help students a lot! David's story really reflects how students feel. People feel that their money is going nowhere since they are not on campus. By doing this students won't feel cheated. This will help the RSU regain some goodwill. This is going to directly affect students since a lot of them are having a hard time and this will build our mental health and stability.

David: I did research for how many people are on campus. In residence we have 350 students and then I mean a lot of us are also downtown. I did look into how many people are in the area. Windsor only has about 500 students so why can't we do it. University admin can be a little slow but the RSU can keep showing the University how much students actually want this. I think RSU can really serve students by being that voice

Ali: Thank you everyone who has acknowledged the grants that we have done. We have a lot of application to go through even after 6pm. I love the intention of this motion and where it is coming from. SAC is also working on this. I am totally in favor of this motion and this committee as well. VP education and equity already sit on SAC as well, and they can also work on this committee as well since this is a project they are already working on. We are running a few surveys on our social media as well, from our end we have a social media team that is working on a plan to share the RSU resources that are already available. We are also working with our health and dental plan to make changes to that as well

David: Would it be following the same process, or at the next boarding meeting will we vote who gets on this committee?

Ali: I'm busy tomorrow but I can work on the Google form over the weekend and we can share that with the board

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **a. Quarterly Report**

Liora: Hello everyone, so me and Priya have prepared our quarterly report to show how everything is going financial up until today. I will share my screen to go through

the summary of the report. I want to mention that the document is confidential, and everyone should have the password to open the doc.

*Motion to go in-camera*

David: What amount of this report can be shared?

Ali: Anything surrounding wages and staff of a particular person we need to keep that in-camera.

Alex: Can Priya stay in case we have any questions

Ali: Yes we will keep Priya and Reanna

*Motion to go in-camera passes*

*Motion to go out of camera*

Moved: Ali

Seconded: David

Result: PASSED

#### **b. Good Food Center - Letter**

Ali: I am not an elected president of CESAR, CUPE or other organizations. We are making decisions that are good for the RSU. I have explained multiple reason in the past

David: In the letter they reference other things that are similar to GFC at other universities that are opening. Are we looking into other ways to follow the regulations and open the service?

Ali: Yes, we are looking at services that can deliver packages to students, but when it comes to working on campus, I believe that it is still unsafe to have staff work on site. We are making decisions that are good for Ryerson Students

David: What happens to the money for the GFC from this year if it is not used?

Ali: It rolls over to the next year

Liora: I was happy with the turnout for the GFC application. I am very happy that we are able to help with money and help those students out during COVID-19

Steph: Do we have any affiliation with Ryerson Urban Garden. I keep seeing a lot of videos of them harvesting garlic and going around and giving out food

Ali: Homra and Vaishali can you make note of that – to collaborate with Ryerson Urban Garden

## 11. Executive & Staff Updates

### Staff

Reanna: I have been going into the office alongside Priya multiple times a week to get documents ready for the audit. Because of COVID-19 the collection of financial documents is harder to get to the auditors since everything is virtual. I have also been working on Career Boost and other HR files for our part-time staff and setting up payroll. Other than that, I have been tending to some HR related matters in regards to our unionized and part-time staff

Priya: There are 2 years of ongoing audits. Since they cannot come onsite everything little thing needs to be scanned. We go into the office 3-4 times a week. Making sure everything is up-to-date for the government. Working on that financial report and making sure that everything is up to date. We understand that people do not have disposable cash right now, so we're making sure that we run cheques weekly.

Alex: Thank you so much to Priya and Reanna that are going in and for your hard work. I just wanted to say that I appreciate it!

### Executive

**Ali:** The audit is my number 1 priority. I am working on that every week and sometimes even over the weekend. I have received so many applications for the COVID grant and Food Relief. We are working with SASSL for birth control and Plan B reimbursements. We are also working on changing the health and dental plan. I am working with Usama to plan a few events with RU student life.

David: When will the by-election for the science seat be held?

Ali: I am waiting to get the list of all the Ryerson students. Once that is done I am hoping to get working on that

David: What is happening with the unionized staff? just because I believe CUPE had a day of action, if it's going to be growing and growing will there be an answer for staff soon.

Ali: As I said before none of us are representing CFS, CESAR and we are here to make the best choice of students.

Reanna: I think I can answer you question. Full-time staff will be updated on their employment status when their 4-month layoff period is coming to an end.

Liora: I was going through the COVID-19 applications and we have received over 1000. There was a great response but also a great need which is unfortunate. That is taking a big chunk of my time. We actually ended up opening the grant for another 24hrs because students were requesting that. Looking to see if there is enough mental health resources on campus. Its great to have communication with students. We are having a pumpkin carving events for Halloween. We are working on the reimbursement process for pregnancy test and plan b.

Alex: I wanted to point out if we should be taking the break so that other can pray?

Ali: I think we will be able to wrap up in 10 mins

David: I have a question for Liora – did the COVID grant ask for SIN numbers? And if it did how are we handling that

Liora: we did not ask for SIN numbers

Vaishali: Okay we are working on a podcast with BIPOC student collective. We are partnering with Hillel for Ryerson Holocaust Education Week. We have an equity panel coming up and for the ESC we have implemented office hours. I worked on the food relief grant applications and they are being reviewed. We have also chosen an organization to donate for the \$5000 donation.

Homra: The organization that we decided to donate to is called Black Legal Action. I will share my screen so that everyone can view the website.

Elwad: part of the scope of work is assisting black citizens to help file reports against police officers who have committed anti-black racism

Steph: We are doing a lot of different initiatives that we don't normally do like social justice week. I can see that CESAR is working on it but I don't see the RSU working on that. Also I don't see the disorientation event

Vaishali: We will be doing disorientation in the winter semester, we are focusing on different events right now.

Usama: We have the street team hired. We have hired 6 leads that will be our marketing team and they will help us out with all the events that we are planning. I've been in contact with someone at ROM and we are trying to set up pricing for students – maybe 15% off for Ryerson Students. I'm also trying to set up the campus groups fair for the first week of November but that might not be enough time to get it promoted – so maybe

mid November. We have been working on the pumpkin carving contest – I think people on the board should take part in that as well.

David: Would all of the commissioners of the different committee be able to send an update on what they have been working on. Maybe like 1-2 sentences

Ali: Yes, that can be arranged for the next board meeting.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 2020-08-26 A07**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the October 22nd, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors be adjourned.

Moved: Siddhanth Satish      Seconded: ---      Result: PASSED