

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

April 07, 2021

Executive Committee

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Ali Yousaf | President |
| 2. Siddhant Satish | Vice-President Education |
| 3. Vaishali Vinayak | Vice-President Equity |
| 4. Liora Dubinsky | Vice-President Operations |
| 5. Usama Sheikh | Vice-President Student Life and Events |

Faculty of Arts

6. Alexandra Nash
7. Gabriele Douglas
8. Anika Zaman

Ted Rogers School of Management

9. Akif Anwar
10. Hilla Yaniv
11. Homra Ghaznavi
12. Abaan Ahmed
13. Preet Patel

Faculty Communication and Design Directors

14. Aidan Falkenberg
15. Ashan Mahendran
16. Ton Cassie

Faculty of Community Services Directors

17. Steph Rychlo
18. Sabrina Ahmed
19. Dusty Luck

Faculty of Engineering, Architecture and Science Directors

20. Zain Choudhry
21. Umar Abdullah
22. Salar Syed

Faculty of Science

23. Elwad Gedleh
24. Mishel Galperin

International Representative

25. Amr Shaikh

Graduate Representatives

26. Waqas Ahmed

27. Fayez Ahmed Qureshi

Other Representatives

28. MJ Board of Governors Representative

29. Vacant Course Unions Director

30. Abdul Saleem First Year Representative

31. Vacant Residence Representative

32. Vacant Senate Representative

33. Vacant Student Groups Director

Ryerson Students' Union Staff

34. Priya Paul Financial Controller

35. Reanna Maharaj Executive Director

ABSENT WITH REGRETS

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. REMARKS OF THE CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for attending the meeting. We will follow Robert's rules. This may be a long or intense meeting, I will repeat that I need everyone to be respectful because this may be a tough meeting. I want to remind everyone that you signed an NDA to please keep confidential things confidential. You need to represent the organization, no cross talking, always address the chair. No personal attacks, I will not stand for that. I would like to request that we respect people's pronouns with that said I will start

3. APPOINTMENT OF THE RECORDING SECRETARY

a. MOTION 2021-04-07 A01: 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: Vaishali Result: PASSED

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. MOTION 2021-04-07 B02: Approval of the agenda

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the April 07, 2021 agenda be approved as presented.

Moved: Ali Yousaf Seconded: Steph Result: PASSED

Steph: I would like to make an amendment of the order. I would like to request that under new business the oversight committee be shared first. And then the impeachments and then the CRO report

Alex: i was also going to move to amend the agenda to move the oversight committee findings first

Ali: The only thing is for the impeachments it takes a few hours. A few people have emailed and said that they can only attend for a few hours. I have been part of the oversight committee and so has Reanna

Steph: I just feel very contrary to that. I cannot vote on approving an election that I don't feel that I have all of the information on. Are the oversight committee findings going to be presented first?

Ali: Reanna and I can give everyone the findings, however, impeachments to take longer and some folks have exams to study for a assignments to finish

Alex: I recall that we moved the time of the meeting so that everyone can attend. I think it is important that we do not proceed with any impeachment proceedings without that report. If we do not get to the election results then I would be happy to attend another meeting.

Reanna: Would you like to move the oversight committee findings first? And leave the rest of the agenda as is?

Ali: I don't know if it would be fair to ask people to miss studying for their final exams

Steph: MJ has his hand up

MJ: I believe in the last statement that Ali said is that we can do the ratification over email? I know that it might be difficult to call another meeting. Would this be possible?

Ali: I think there are a lot of questions and concerns that might need to be answered about the elections results. I think it would be better to just do it now?

Steph: Point of clarification that this is our first board meeting for April. So I believe we have another board meeting in april

Ali: The by-laws says that there only needs to be one meeting per month. This would be considered the April meeting

Alex: Are we moving the oversight committee report to the beginning of the agenda?

Ali: Yes that will be moved to the beginning of the agenda

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

a. MOTION 2021-04-07 C03: Approval of the Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the March 31st meeting minutes be approved as presented in Appendix A

Moved: Ali Yousaf

Seconded:

Result: PASSED

6. MOTION FOR RATIFICATION - ELECTIONS APPEALS COMMITTEE

a. MOTION 2021-04-07 D04: Ratification of Elections Appeal Committee

WHEREAS it is stated in RSU by-law 6.38 “The four (4) student members for the Election Appeals Committee are subject to ratification by the Board of Directors upon a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors present.”

WHEREAS the members on the Elections Appeal Committee have yet to be ratified by the Board.

WHEREAS there are some concerns about the members on the Elections Appeal Committee being harassed or targeted

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the names of the members on the Elections Appeal Committee be revealed *in-camera* to the Board

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors vote to ratify the members of the Elections Appeal Committee

Moved: Ali Yousaf Seconded: Akif Result: PASSED

Ali: Motion to go in camera

Second: Steph

Ali: Motion to move out of Camera

Second: Alex

7. MOTION FOR RATIFICATION – ELECTIONS REPORT & RESULTS

a. MOTION 2021-04-07 E05: Ratification of RSU 2021/2022 Election Report & Results

WHEREAS it is stated in RSU by-law 6.43 (P) that the CRO will “submit a report to the Board of Directors on or about the first week of April in respect to the conduct of each election with recommendations, if any, for changes in election regulations or appeals

WHEREAS the CRO Final Report contains all of the information about the 2021/2022 RSU Elections process and results

WHEREAS it is stated in RSU by-law 6.94 that “Successful candidates will only be ratified after [a] fifteen (15) day period”

BE IT RESOLVED that the elections results outlined in the CRO Final Report be ratified by the Board of Directors

Moved: Ali Yousaf

Seconded: Zain

Result: PASSED

Alex: Are we going to hear from the oversight committee before we vote?

Ali: Yes - Reanna will share the findings from the oversight committee.

Reanna: Yes what we did was go through the articles that the campus media wrote that included articles in the Eyeopener and Ryersonian, we also investigated some allegations that were on the Reddit thread. From there the members of the oversight committee came up with specific questions to ask both Vaishali and Sid. Around 6:15pm Sid and Vaishali were asked to join the meeting and answer our questions. Many of our questions were surrounding the messages with contacts who utilized the RSU Food Box service. I will pass it along to the Board members on the committee to elaborate.

Homra: The oversight committee was given this responsibility to go through the allegations that were being made. To make a decision we need to know both sides of the story. After reading the CRO report it gives a better picture of the allegations. We found through the CRO report that some of the people that Vaishali was messaging were people that they had met previously. Both Vaishali and Sid did not have access to their RSU email account. They also did not have access to the building. The committee did not find any wrong doings. On Sid's side we do not know why his impeachment was put forward because we do not have anything on his side. I don't believe that his impeachment does not have any factual information that we can rely on

Alex: I had some questions but Zain can clarify first

Zain: So I wanted to say that the allegations made - there was nothing broken in the by-laws. There was just a statement saying that this was unacceptable

Alex: You mentioned the importance of listening to both sides of the story. Was there any attempt to reach out to the reporters?

Ali: From the oversight committee point of view it is hard for us to look into any of this. It is not anyones responsibility to look into this besides the CRO. In the committee Vaishali and Sid showed the CRO everything that they had

Dusty: I was going to give speaking rights to Heidi

Heidi: I am asking that you let our editor and chief into the meeting because they are still waiting

Ali: I don't see anyone in the waiting room, as soon as I see them I will accept them

MJ: I would like to re ask the questions that Alex asked before, did anyone try to reach out to the reporters.

Ali: It should be their responsibility to reach out to us. We got some people opinion

Alex: I would like to clarify that I got an email yesterday asking if there was any evidence and that some people were feeling harassed.

Reanna: I wanted everyone to be aware that the allegations and complaints that are being investigated in the oversight committee have already been reported and looked into by the CRO, DRO and the elections appeal committee. These allegations are part of the RSU Elections Process and no staff member, executive or board of director should be investigating these allegations. The CRO has also made mention of the message in the final elections report.

Dusty: I was address the reaching out to journalist - that was to get in touch with students who had allegations

Ali: We did reach out to the CRO in regards to the harassment. Both Sid and Vaishali did show the CRO all of the messages they are in questions. In regards to the eyeopener articles some of the messages are being tampered with. The biggest concern that was being raised is that people from the Appeal Committee were being reached out to and being harassed, that is why we disclosed their names in camera. We did what we could to reach out

Alex: With all respect to everyone I would like to reiterate that these impeachments would likely affect the election results. The fact that my concern with these motions is that current executive members have allegations brought against them. My intention was to address the allegations against current executives, the elections were just coincidental. Why is the president involved in the oversight committee, this is a conflict of interest

Ali: The president is part of all the committees. Number 2 in regards to what you said - execs being involved in elections, I had an idea that these allegations might come up after. I told them to work and I changed their email password during the week of elections. I told them that they could not even be in the office. You can get it confirmed by the building manager that none of them were in the building. They had no access to resources. In regards to me personally - I was not involved with anything personally. I had zero information

Alex: I just want to say thank you for clarifying that, I do appreciate that committee to proactively try to mitigate conflict of interest. I don't believe that the RSU does not have any data security. I don't think anything would stop them from compiling information before that

Ali: If we are going off of assumptions we can say anything. I do not see anything factual. These 2 did not tell me they were running in elections until the all candidate meetings. I did what I could on my end

Alex: Before we vote

Ali: The voting already started

Alex: I tried to raise my hand

8. MOTION FOR IMPEACHMENT – VP EQUITY

a. MOTION 2021-04-07 F06: Notice of Impeachment: Vaishali Vinayak, VP Equity

WHEREAS the RSU By-Laws Section 2.3 f) requires notice of removal from office or impeachment vote at least one (1) Board Meeting in advance

WHEREAS there are serious allegations and evidence suggesting that, in the course of the recent RSU election, Vaishali Vinayak took actions that resulted in students feeling pressured and targeted due to their reliance on equity center programs

WHEREAS there are serious allegations and evidence suggesting that, in the course of the recent RSU election, Vaishali Vinayak used their position and privileged access to student's personal information to contact potential voters and potentially build a voter list

WHEREAS there is significant credibility to these claims and students deserve answers to ensure their personal data is secure and their elected representatives are not abusing their power

THEREFORE the following motion shall be introduced at the next Board of Directors meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Vaishali Vinayak be removed from the position of Vice-President Equity, effective immediately

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Vice-President Equity-elect be appointed to the position of Vice-President Equity to begin their term early, as soon as possible.

Moved: Alexandra Nash

Seconded: Steph

Result: FAILED

Alex: I just want to say that I don't think that our VPs should use their resources to help with rsu elections. I would like to call to question

Vaishali: To everyone i have worked with over the course of my term

I am addressing you today to discuss the call for my impeachment. But before delving into the case at hand It is my obligation as VP Equity and as a woman of colour to deplore the unpunished display of internalized racism that creeps beyond this impeachment motion.

Before making a case for my innocence, let me remind this board that this is the third year in a row that BIPOC students on this board have to face impeachment. In more than 50 years of existence, impeachment procedures have been mostly used against students from the BIPOC community.

While I have faith in the democratic process that guides our union and this very board, it is still with sadness and consternation that I stand in front of you today. Indeed, it is those same voices that publicly called for racial equality over the summer that are dragging now BIPOC bodies in shame in front of their peers under the disguise of makeshift justice motivated by nothing but petty political interests.

Let us start by analyzing the allegations behind this motion in 3 parts, namely.

1. The provenance of the motion.
2. The accusation behind a motion
3. The choice of this vehicle of punishment.

1. The provenance of the motion.

While it might be unrelated, it is highly strange that this motion was brought forward by a political opponent. This raises the question as to whether this motion for impeachment arises a genuine concern for this board's integrity or as a thinly veiled political manoeuvre.

What I can tell you for sure is that this motion is by no mean beneficial not to the RSU nor to the students or the board. Having been involved with the RSU for a

while the backers of this motion are not clueless as to the impact ,another impeachment would have on the relation with the University .

They are well aware that a string of impeachment almost led to the defunding of the equity service centers and of the RSU.

Whoever brought forward this impeachment motion clearly did not have the best interests of the RSU on their mind.

On the other hand, the political benefits that would come from bringing forward an impeachment motion are pretty obvious, an impeachment would make Siddhanth and I look bad in the cusp of our ratifications. This is just a last-ditch effort by people who've lost to us in a democratic manner.

Therefore, without making any accusation I invite this board to reflect upon the use of an impeachment motion and the motives behind it.

2. The accusation behind the motion

I have, as a rationale behind this impeachment motion being accused of using my position to gain an undue advantage during the election period.

Being that, this happened during the election period, in a time where I was not running as VP equity but rather as a student seeking election, it is fair to assume that any misconduct of my part would have been flagged and penalized by the CRO.

It follows that failure from the CRO to deem any conduct of mine being against the rules of the election that I did not use my position to gain undue advantage.

Regardless of this simple reality, some members of the board decided to exercise their own brand of vigilante justice and bring a motion against me without any justification.

Moreover, the allegation brought against me is fallacious and unfounded. Indeed, I have worked closely with many students over the past year and made personal connections with them with many of them expressing interest in the work of the Equity service centers. Through these conversations, I have created genuine friendship with many of these students and what started as professional relations have blossomed into personal relations.

I have been reached out for volunteer opportunities and many questions and concerns that were not limited to the food box program outside of work hours and

functions and I have always helped these folks as Vaishali Vinayak, not VP EQUITY!!!!!!!!!!.

I messaged a couple of people who I knew on a personal level after I was acquainted with them through the food box program. This is not a violation of any of the campaign rules or regulations. It is unreasonable to expect someone to refrain from contacting anyone they worked with during the course of their term. Moreover, never did I at any point "Pressure" folks to vote for me and arguing that I did, fits within the racist narrative that BIPOC members often threaten and pressure others to get their ways.

I only informed folks of my platform and showed them how to vote. I have already shown the NON EDITED chats to the CRO with the previous conversation that I had with these folks and cleared out these allegations.

Moreover, bringing forward a frivolous motion of impeachment is against the by laws regulating this board and this organization. Indeed, the only mention of impeachment contained in the by-laws is in regard to Legal or financial misconduct and I quote Article 9 of the bylaw section 9.1

9.1 Non-Compliance Any individual agreeing to abide by these By-Laws shall have their behaviour brought before the Board for the Purpose of deciding whether or not they should be impeached, if the individual fails to comply with anything contained in this article, including the prohibition of bad-faith dealings.

The accusation against me has no relation whatsoever to any of the subsection contained within this article (9) therefore not only a motion of impeachment is out of order but is not a valid claim under the RSU bylaws.

3. The choice of this vehicle of punishment.

Impeachment is a permanent stain on anyone's record not only does it bring shame but remains a way to ensure that any potential employer will be suspicious of you.

Having to live in a system riddled with racism and racial injustice is hard enough without having to carry the shame of an impeachment.

Nevertheless, it appears to be aligned with the goals of some of our opponents which have claimed on Reddit "that they wanted to make sure that I never get a job".

throughout the year i have been used to of listening to this that at the end of my term, i will no other option than to be an uber driver. The motive here is very clear that since many people want to make sure that my life gets ruined and i don't have a professional career after rsu.

I will not let this happen to yet another person of colour I am standing here today in front of you, asking this board to look into the unspoken, internalized racism of many of its members who do not hesitate to use racial trope to get their political goal.

I will not dignify this motion any further by answering any questions. I request the board to vote its consciousness and assist me in rightfully clearing my name.

Ali: I have been told the same that after April 30th I would be an Uber driver as well.

Hilla: Alex for you I have a question about credibility about the impeachment motion, what sources were we given that was extremely credible, one source is a thread

Alex: It is significant credibility - the eyeopener has reported this and they go through training and I believe that they are credible. I would

Ali: I don't know why you put forth a motion if youre so keen to vote on it

Dusty: All I want to say is that we respect each other

Chair: we need to take a breather and a pause. Vaishali is next

Vaishali: I give my rights to Ali

Ali: After every board meeting I get a message saying that they are sorry that I'm going through this. I don't know in which university you put through an impeachment motion based on a thread.

Alex: Yes i want to ask since there has been a motion to call to question. Can we vote on that?

Ali: I want to hear from everyone that put forward the motion

Alex: We talked about it already. You said that there are time constraints on board members who have exams

9. MOTION FOR IMPEACHMENT – VP EDUCATION

a. MOTION 2021-04-07 G07: Notice of Impeachment: Siddhanth Satish, VP Education

WHEREAS the RSU By-Laws Section 2.3 f) requires notice of removal from office or impeachment vote at least one (1) Board Meeting in advance

WHEREAS there are serious allegations and evidence suggesting that, in the course of the recent RSU election, Siddhanth Satish used their position and privileged access to student's personal information to contact potential voters and potentially build a voter list

WHEREAS there is significant credibility to these claims and students deserve answers to ensure their personal data is secure and their elected representatives are not abusing their power

THEREFORE the following motion shall be introduced at the next Board of Directors meeting:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Siddhanth Satish be removed from the position of Vice-President Education, effective immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Vice-President Education-elect be appointed to the position of Vice-President Education to begin their term early, as soon as possible.

Moved: Alexandra Nash Seconded: Ali Result: FAILED

Alex: I mean we have discussed the oversight committee findings, if you want to call me racist

Ali: I'm sorry you have to deal with sore losers - I am speaking from my heart

Chair: Please be respectful

Sid: I will let Ali speak instead of me

Ali: I won't be surprised if you have a motion like this next year. I think you will do a great job next year. I think you will do a great job

Sid: I did have a statement prepared but I believe it was called to question

Ali: No one called to question, unless someone wants to talk about the FB and Reddit post

Sid: Before I get to the allegation I would like to say that I voted in favor of this to clear my name. This does not only affect the individual it also affects the University and the RSU. I believe that the committee did the right thing and did a

good job. The allegations about me are baseless - i did not have access to my RSU email. I did not have access during the campaigning period. Someone accused me of something so serious but there is no proof. This seems like a political student since it was brought by the opposition. How can you impeach an executive when not a single by-law was broken. I have tried my best to run a clean campaign, I was given 3 demerits points and I accept that. I was called to the oversight meeting and I did my best to cooperate with them. I still do not know what I am being called out for. The election is a democratic process and many students voted. I would like to call to vote on the question.

Alex: I was going to point out the demerit points.

Ali: We impeached a board member. We pointed out the exact by-law that was broken. Can you point out which by-law is broken? If we're talking about FB posts I can get friends to make posts too. I want to know the exact bylaw that was broken

Alex: As Sid pointed out someone on the RSU board can also be impeached for breach of duty. If these allegations are true, this does constitute a breach of duty. The RSUs most important duty is to represent students. It can be argued that they breached members confidentiality information

Ali: Which breach of duty are you talking about? What is the exact point you are referring to

Alex: As i hope you are aware we have a fiduciary duty to work in the best interest of the RSU and RSU members. If these allegations are true that would constitute a breach of the fiduciary duty. I don't want to keep repeating myself.

Sid: Alex I know you've been repeating that alot and I did clarify that same thing during my statement. I proved proof of this matter to the oversight committee and the CRO. Since a decision has already been made by the CRO

Ali: The burden of proof is always on the person who brought forth the motion. You are the accuser this time then show us the proof. Where is the proof? We are talking about allegations here.

Alex: I am not sure what you think the oversights committee role here was. They have given their report and youre talking about wasting people's time. I would like to move to a vote. I don't want to drag this out

Ali: On what basis? You could of said that the oversight committee would look into this and then an impeachment motion could be put through. I want to know what rules have been broken. In 2 hours I am still waiting to see the proof.

Sid: this is not something that I can take lightly. You are accusing me of not doing my job. I want to know what I did wrong so that I can acknowledge it.

Ali: When you google someone's name you will see this motion. This will be on Sid's and Vaishalis record, you did it.

Chair: This is going into a loop. I understand that we want to move forward. If there is new information please participate. I was just reminded, please address people with their correct pronouns

Alex: I think you're right that this is going in circles so go ahead.

Ali: I can't believe that there is no proof. Lets go to a vote and we'll never get an answer

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Oversight Committee Findings ** moved to beginning of the agenda****

11. ADJOURNMENT

- a. MOTION 2021-04-07 H08**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the April 07th, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors be adjourned.

Moved: Ali Yousaf Seconded: MJ Result: PASSED

Ali: I love this entire board, except for a few people. A lot of you are amazing. I'm sorry that your time was wasted, I'm proud of everyone that stood by their responsibilities.

