

MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

Thursday, 22nd February, 2018
9:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

The Treasurer (Paul B. Schabas), Banack, Beach, Bickford, Braithwaite, Brecht, Burd, Callaghan, Clément, Conway, Cooper, Copeland (by telephone), Corsetti, Criger, Donnelly, Earnshaw, Epstein, Evans, Falconer, Furlong, Galati, Go, Goldblatt, Gottlieb, Groia, Haigh, Hartman, Horvat, Howell, Krishna, Lawrie, Leiper, Lem (by telephone), Lerner, Lippa, MacLean, McGrath, Merali, Mercer, Murchie, Murray, Papageorgiou, Pawlitza, Potter, Richardson, Richer, Rosenthal (by telephone), Ross, Sharda, Sheff, Sikand, Spurgeon, C. Strosberg, H. Strosberg (by telephone), Swaye, Troister, Udell, Vespry, Walker (by telephone), Wardle, Wright and Zordel.

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Secretary: James Varro

The Reporter was sworn.

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TREASURER'S REMARKS

The Treasurer welcomed everyone joining Convocation by webcast.

The Treasurer recognized that Convocation is meeting in Toronto which is a Mohawk word that means "where there are trees standing in the water".

The Treasurer acknowledged that Convocation is meeting on the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation and acknowledged the Haudenosaunee, and recognized the long history of all of the First Nations in Ontario and the Métis and Inuit peoples. He thanked the First Nations people who lived and live in these lands for sharing them with us in peace.

The Treasurer addressed the protocol for Convocation in the Lamont Learning Centre.

The Treasurer expressed condolences to the family of Mary Patricia Weaver, Q.C., a former bencher, who passed away on January 27, 2018, and condolences to Mr. Braithwaite's colleagues at Weaver Simmons LLP.

The Treasurer advised that he attended the swearing in of former bencher Sandra Nishikawa as a judge of the Superior Court of Justice on February 15, 2018.

The Treasurer advised Convocation of his visits to all law schools in Ontario, which concluded with his visit to Queen's University on February 12, 2018.

The Treasurer advised, further to release of the results of the articling survey, that he has established a small team of benchers to develop a series of actions to be taken to address issues arising from the results. The benchers are Jacqueline Horvat, Barbara Murchie, Tanya Walker, Jonathan Rosenthal and Cathy Corsetti. The work is to include outreach, promotion of relevant Law Society services and supports and review of relevant rules of conduct.

The Treasurer reminded benchers of several upcoming events:

March 13, 2018	International Women's Day Event
April 25, 2018	Reception for Newly Licensed Paralegals
May 9, 2018	Law Society Annual General Meeting

MOTION – CONSENT AGENDA – Tab 1

It was moved by Ms. Criger, seconded by Ms. Strosberg, that Convocation approve the consent agenda set out at Tab 1 of the Convocation Materials.

Carried

Tab 1.1 – DRAFT MINUTES OF CONVOCATION

The draft minutes of Convocation of January 25, 2018 were confirmed.

Tab 1.2 – MOTIONS

Tab 1.2.1 – Annual General Meeting

THAT Convocation approve Wednesday May 9, 2018 at 5:15 p.m. at Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto as the time and place of the 2018 Annual General Meeting, in accordance with Section 5 of By-Law 2 [Corporate Provisions].

Carried

Tab 1.2.2 – Committee Appointments

THAT Heather Zordel be appointed to the Audit and Finance Committee and the Government and Public Affairs Committee.

Carried

Tab 1.2.3 – Law Society Tribunal Appointments

THAT Convocation approve the appointments to the Hearing Division and Appeal Division of the Law Society Tribunal as set out in the motion at Tab 1.2.3.

Carried

Tab 1.3 – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE CALLS TO THE BAR

THAT the Report of the Executive Director of Professional Development and Competence listing the names of the call to the bar candidates be adopted.

Carried

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPETENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Wardle presented the Report.

Re: Ryerson University Application for Approval of a Proposed Law School Program

Mr. Wardle introduced guests from Ryerson University: Mitch Frazer, Vice-Chair, Board of Governors, Julia Shin Doi, General Counsel and Secretary, Gina Alexandris, Senior Director of the Law Practice Program and Grant Buchanan, Distinguished Visiting Professor.

It was moved by Mr. Wardle, seconded by Ms. Horvat, that Convocation endorse the recommendation of the Federation of Law Societies of Canada that Ryerson University's proposed common law degree program fulfills the National Requirement. Individuals who hold a Ryerson common law degree should be permitted to apply for admission to the Law Society of Ontario on the conditions set out in sub-paragraphs i., ii., and iii. of paragraph 5 of the Report.

Carried

Mr. Mercer abstained.

For information:

- Professional Development and Competence Committee Annual Resource and Program Report

EQUITY AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE/COMITÉ SUR L'ÉQUITÉ ET LES AFFAIRES AUTOCHTONES REPORT

Ms. Donnelly presented the Report.

Re: Human Rights Monitoring Group Requests for Interventions

It was moved by Ms. Donnelly, seconded by Ms. Go, that Convocation approve the letters and public statements in the cases set out in subparagraphs a. through f. of paragraph 6 of the Report.

Carried

For Information:

- Report of the Activities of the Discrimination and Harassment Counsel for the period of July 1 to December 31, 2017
- Equity Legal Education and Rule of Law Series Calendar

TRIBUNAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Murchie presented the Report.

Re: Rules of Practice and Procedure Amendments

It was moved by Ms. Murchie, seconded by Ms. Merali, that Convocation approve amendments to the Law Society Tribunal Hearing Division and Appeal Division Rules of Practice and Procedure and the forms thereunder, effective January 1, 2017, to change “The Law Society of Upper Canada” to “Law Society of Ontario” wherever it appears, to take effect at the same time any legislative amendments changing the Law Society’s name take effect.

Carried

For information:

- Law Society Tribunal 2017 Fourth Quarter Statistics

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS STEERING GROUP REPORT

Mr. Falconer presented the Report.

Re: Public Awareness and Licensee Engagement Campaign

It was moved by Mr. Falconer, seconded by Ms. Donnelly, that Convocation:

- a. approve the implementation of the public awareness and licensee engagement campaign as outlined in the report;
- b. direct the Steering Group to continue to work with staff to provide guidance and input on the implementation of the awareness campaign; and
- c. direct the CEO to provide updates to Convocation, as appropriate.

Carried

GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE 2016 REPORT

Ms. Leiper presented the Report.

Re: Next Steps in Achieving Governance Effectiveness

Ms. Leiper presented the Report for information.

PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Mercer presented the Report.

Re: Eighth Report of the Advertising and Fee Arrangements Issues Working Group

Mr. Mercer presented the Report for information.

For information:

- Annual Report of the Complaints Resolution Commissioner

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REPORTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

PARALEGAL STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

- Amendments to the Paralegal Guidelines (Language Rights)

REPORT FROM THE ACTION GROUP ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE (TAG)

CONVOCATION ROSE AT 12:59 P.M.