

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BOARD REPORT – WINTER 2011

Name: GEORGE PHU

Position: President

Submitted on: MARCH 30, 2011

### General Updates for Position

The Winter Semester to say the least has been a very busy and exciting time for the Ryerson Commerce Society. As I alluded to in the my welcome I have never seen so many objectives set out and completed by any Board in my past four years with the organization. As a whole I am proud to say that we have had a very successful year and we have definitely raised the bar to the next level.

### **I would like to highlight a few accomplishments dating back from the Summer semester until now:**

- Second consecutive SOLD OUT Orientation (Frosh) Week where welcomed over 400 new students and collaborated with many external partners as well with internal partners such as the Ryerson O-Team.
- The First Annual RCS Back to School Cookout BBQ that drew over 1000 students and had guests appearance from Dean Ken Jones and Sheldon Levy
- The establishment of the RCS Mobile App this being the first commerce society in Canada to take on this initiative and bring forth technology and a new form of social media to the table
- Our collaboration with Student Services and Student Groups in the “I Wish I Knew” Event and the “Student Group Recruitment Fair”
- Professional workshops such as The Fall Student Summit which was one of the largest gatherings of student leaders to date and our speakers series which hosted the likes of Peter C. Newman, Jim de Wilde, and Buzz Hargrove.
- The host of events and initiatives planned by the RCS Cares Committee including: the CIBC Run for the Cure where we raised \$3000, the Flu Shot Clinic, the RAD Self Defense Classes, The First Annual Ryerson Commerce Games (a joint venture with ITMSA, RSA, HTMCU), and the numerous charities and causes we supported including the Haiti Crisis, the Japan Crisis, the Pakistan Relief Fund, and much more.
- The numerous events put on by the Internal Relations Committee including our monthly themed Student Appreciation Days, the Business of Golf event, the joint venture in Cupid’s Commerce
- The restructuring and improvement to the RCS constitution and bylaws which now allows us to deliver events and services in a more streamlined focus
- The success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ted Rogers Management Conference which brought together over 150 delegates from across the country and numerous industry professionals and corporate partners

- The continued growth of the Collaborative Corporate Partners Program and our guarantee in providing more options for conferences and competitions thus allowing us to send more students
- The implementation of our financial policies and procedures to ensure more accountability and transparency in our finances
- The establishment of a structured RCS Street Team and the services provided through this group
- The establishment of Student Group Awards and the commitment to continue the Appreciation Gala
- The constant improvement of our administrative services and online offerings

These accomplishments are only a host of items that were completed this year. But as you can see from start to finish the Board and Committee Members have never let off. We have continued to our commitment in improving what we do and listening to your feedback. Though not everything can be accomplished in one year we value what you have to say as we are dedicated in ensuring that your opinions are heard and passed on to the next Board to be implemented. As a testament to this guarantee we have initiated a three year Master Plan that will act as a guideline for the future Board Members thus ensuring that your voices are heard and that your requests are implemented even if you are graduating.

One example of listening to your feedback is our recent change in structure. In the past Directors were responsible for liaising with Student Groups but this often caused confusion as there were too many channels of communication. From your suggestions we created the Vice President of Engagement and Outreach position to streamline communication. Their sole purpose is to serve the Student Groups and ensure that student life at the Ted Rogers School of Management is enhanced through engagement in events (Street Team) and through experiential learning (Conferences and Competitions). As well we have also refreshed the Vice President of Internal Relations position to Vice President of Events and Marketing to truly focus on providing student life activities and marketing the RCS and what we do and offer. Lastly our Vice President of Corporate Relations is now solely responsible for sponsorship, creating partnerships, engaging alumni and evidently improving and growing the Collaborative Corporate Partners Program.

As always our Directors are always there to help out but they have an increased role in directing the board and ensuring the long terms strategic vision of the RCS and TRSM is carried out. They will remain representatives for their respective schools but only to the general membership and not the student groups. This way they will have the more opportunities to reach out and engage the general membership.

I am proud to say that these changes will allow the RCS to operate more efficiently and effectively to serve you better. In addition I have continued my communication with faculty, staff, and administration throughout this school year. The Dean's Office and the President's Office is well aware of all our accomplishments as the RCS as well they are aware of the Student Group accomplishments. Their support for what we as student leaders do has been outstanding and we

could not have done it without them. I hope to continue the talks with them for the remainder of my term to ensure that the long term goals that were set will be carried out. Our partnerships with other commerce societies across Canada have also been tremendous. We even had executives from the University of Guelph partake in our Fall Student Summit. Many schools continue to model their organization after the RCS so this gives me great comfort in saying that we are one of the most reputable organizations across the nation. However, there are also lessons and best practices that we can take away from other universities and we have done so this year through multiple facets including our structure change. With these partnerships we are able to continue to develop the TRSM brand, market our Student Group events and provide more opportunities to our General Membership by marketing their events to you.

To conclude my update, I want to welcome three new student groups to the RCS family and they are: the Ryerson SOS Tutoring Group, the Women in Finance Group, and the Ryerson Sports and Business Association. These groups are a wonderful addition to student life at TRSM. In keeping with the same spirit the real stars of our school is our student groups. Over this year I have gotten to know many of you better. I am extremely pleased with what you have all accomplished. There has been over 150 events planned this year and this number to me is astonishing. Your dedication in putting on these events and providing opportunity to students not only builds our reputation as school but it allows attract industry professionals to our institution which in turn creates jobs for our students. At an event that I attended a few weeks ago five distinguished visiting professors in Buzz Hargrove, Michael Levine, Stephen Lewis, Jeremy Kinsman, and Gerri Sinclair all stated when asked why Ryerson said, "There is something unique about Ryerson. It's something in the air but the community and students are so diverse and so intuitive. There is an eagerness and intelligence in students here that cannot compare to any other universities. Students here just get it right." These words reassured me that I went to the right university and I am sure you all can agree. You all get it and you all understand and have what it takes to be a leader. And with that I thank you for all your hardwork this past year.

#### What's happening next month: relevant information intended for RCS and its general membership

As the current board completes their term there are a few events left on our agenda. The following are a list of events that remain:

- **Annual Transition Student Summit – April 2, 2011 from 10am to 2pm:** This session is mandatory for both incoming and outgoing student group executives in order to receive your starting chits for the next school year
- **RCS Presents: The Business of Golf Event – April 3, 2011 from 11am to 4pm:** This will be a great event for all of those attend to learn some golfing skills and how you would incorporate it with business. Dr. Ken Jones will be joining us to teach us what he knows.
- **The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual RCS Student Group Awards and Appreciation Gala – April 4, 2011 from 6pm to 10pm:** This event will be held at Rosewater Restaurant. This night is a special celebration of all your hard work throughout the year.
- **Final RCS Board Meeting – April 8, 2011 from 4pm to 8pm:** This is your final chance to get your funding requests in for the year. This will also be our **Final Office Hours Day**.

- **RCS Turnover Date – May 1, 2011:** This is the official day that the newly elected members will take office.

### Recommendations/ directions to the board

The RCS Board and organization has grown tremendously throughout this year. As a team we have accomplished our goals and we couldn't have done it without your support. As the current board passes on the reigns to the incoming team it is vital that we continue to have great communication with our student group leaders and our general membership. The RCS is proud at where we are at but we are not stopping here. Next year promises to bring more exciting events and improvements to what we offer at the RCS. We will continue to enhance our services and be better for you. I encourage all students to visit our website and office, and speak to your elected and appointed members in our organization. Your participation and feedback will help us grow and allow us to represent you better. To conclude I would like to thank everyone for an amazing school year and I would encourage those who are not engaged to get out to events, take advantage of services, meet new people and increase the value of your degree. It has been a tremendous honour and privilege in being your President. I couldn't have asked for anything more or a better experience. I thank you all again and as I leave to embark in the next adventure in my life I know that I am leaving this school in good hands. It was a great pleasure so from the bottom of my heart I thank you.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BOARD REPORT – WINTER 2011

Name: ANNETTE LAWRENCE

Position: Vice President Administration and Operations

Submitted on: March 18, 2011

### General Updates for Position

This year was the first time RCS held Election Info Sessions where over 60 students attended. I was fortunate enough to lead this initiative that helped students decide what part of the organization they wanted to be apart of and gave them an in-depth breakdown of each role on the RCS. This raised more awareness of all the roles within the organization and the RCS Elections in general.

Darren and myself along with the rest of the Street Team held the “RCS Street Team Recruitment Fair” in February to help student groups recruit for their executive teams next year. With just over 10 student groups and the Tri-Mentoring Program participating, we hope to grow the fair next year to continue to help promote RCS student groups and help with their recruitment efforts in the Winter semester.

### What’s happening next month: relevant information intended for RCS

This month, the Governance Committee and myself have continued to update the Constitution, By-laws and Policies and Procedures Manual to further align with our growth and changes within TRSM.

As I go into the last month of my term, I will transition with the new VP Administration and Operations and VP Engagement and Outreach so they’ll be fully prepared for their roles come May. I plan to work with Campus Facilities and the new VP Admin & Ops to work on improving the current poster policies and work with the Secretary and HR Coordinator to finish plan the Student Summit. I also plan to meet with Kalendar Productions to review this past year working with the mobile app and see what improvements can be implemented to see more success with it for next year.

### Recommendations/ directions to the board

Being involved with the Governance Committee taught me the importance of policies and procedures in regards to achieving an organization’s objectives and the Street Team gave me the opportunity to manage a team of 35 people. To the incoming board, don’t be afraid to ask for help as there are a number of people around you who are there to help you, we’re all on the same team. Also, do not be afraid to delegate tasks, as it gives opportunities for others to shine and obtain new roles and responsibilities.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BOARD REPORT – WINTER 2011

Name: ANGELO PIROSZ

Position: Vice President Corporate Relations

Submitted on: MARCH 21, 2011

### General Updates for Position

This semester the VP Corporate Relations portfolio has been mostly focused on the structuring of Conferences and Competitions Policies and sponsorship and funding for the Ted Rogers Management Conference.

The Ted Rogers Management Conference was a great success in terms of event planning and corporate partnerships. Partnerships were maintained with companies such as Blacks, ICAO, TD Canada Trust, CIT, and RIM while our Platinum Sponsor CMA was greatly satisfied and is happy to be working with student groups at the Ted Rogers School of Management in the future. To close off the year in sponsorship the Corporate Relations Committee will be finalizing our Salesforce CRM project that will allow for improved stewardship in partnerships at the Ted Rogers School of Management in years to come.

In terms of Conferences and Competitions we have funded approximately 100 students from the Ted Rogers School of Management to go on conferences and competitions across the nation and internationally. Myself and our Conferences and Competitions Manager, Michael Decata have worked on improving processes for selection and selection criteria for these conferences in order to give a fair and equal opportunity for all students at the Ted Rogers School of Management.

### What's happening next month: relevant information intended for RCS

Students leaders will be updated on CAPP and sponsorship policies at the RCS Student Group Transition event.

### Recommendations/ directions to the board

Please ensure that hiring, if not completed already is completed as soon as possible. The reason for this is that sponsorship is a very seasonal effort and requires that all student groups and the Ryerson Commerce Society planning is complete in the early months of our summer break in order to optimize fundraising efforts.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BOARD REPORT – WINTER 2011

Name: DEV SINGH

Position: Vice President Finance

Submitted on: MARCH 20, 2011

### General Updates for Position

This year the RCS developed and implemented its first set of financial policies. This was a much need addition to its governance given its student levy increase.

It has been a learning year for both the RCS and Student Groups in terms of how to deal with the new changes and hopefully next year will be a smoother year in terms of the process.

### Recommendations/ directions for the board

Next year there should be more communication between board of directors and student groups in regards to funding requests and reimbursements. Hopefully this issue will be resolved with its new committees as outlined in its updated bylaws.

### What's happening next month:

- Issuing all outstanding cheques
- Closing the budget for the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year
- Transitioning the position to the new VP Finance

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – BOARD REPORT – WINTER 2011

Name: TARA PRENTICE

Position: Vice President Internal Relations

Submitted on: MARCH 18, 2011

### General Updates for Position

For the last few months myself and the IRC have planned several student appreciation days to give back to the students. We have held one every month. Many board members have come out to our events and can attest to the success of them. We have collected funds for different charity's including United Way and Hurricane Katrina. We give away food and drinks and help engage students with the RCS.

Over the last few months I also sat on the Ted Rogers Management Conference committee. The committee did an amazing job planning and executing the conference. It was held on March 10th - 12th and featured many inspirational and passionate speakers as well as students from Universities all across Canada.

I had the privilege of attending two external conference with the executive team; East Coast Leadership Retreat (ECLR) in November and Roundtable in March. At these conferences I networked with students from across Canada. I gained insight to how they put on their events and get their students engaged. This helped me stay motivated and excited/encouraged me to try and bring these things tactics to Ryerson.

I have also started transitioning my successor, Natasha Campagna. I hope to prepare her to be even more successful in this role and implement some amazing changes within TRS. I have great confidence that she will be fantastic in this role.