

MINUTES
SFUFA SPRING GENERAL MEETING
Monday March 25, 2013
2:30 – 3:30 pm.
Burnaby: Halpern Center
(Via videoconference) - Surrey: Room 3595 - Vancouver: HC 3100

35 members were present (7 in Vancouver; 2 in Surrey)

1. Approval of the agenda.
MOVED with one amendment: # 6 Special Presentation was moved up to #4.
M. Taboada/M. Ling **Carried.**
2. Approval of the minutes October 30, 2012 Fall General Meeting.
MOVED by K. Kavanagh/C. Schwarz **Carried.**
3. Business Arising.
None.
4. Special Presentation: “Get Science Right” with Jim Turk, Canadian Association of University Teachers.
 - The future of science and research in Canada is in jeopardy. CAUT is launching a national campaign next year to highlight the challenges facing Canadian academics and researchers in light of the new direction taken by the federal government.
 - Main concerns are: underfunding of basic research, politicization of science, elimination of surveys and data collection initiatives, partisan appointments to granting council boards, muzzling of librarians and archivists and other experts, promoting undue corporate influence in university research.
 - From 2007 – 2013 there has been a decrease in base funding SSHRC 10.1%, NSERC 6.4% and CIHR 7.5%.
 - 56% of NSERC Council members are not active scientists and 100% of new funding for Canada’s three granting councils in the 2013 federal budget is dedicated to research partnerships with industry.
 - Some steps CAUT is taking: Setting up petitions & Email tools, a dedicated website, holding town halls and regional forums for researchers to discuss the topic and creating a database of researchers and scientists to facilitate advocacy.
 - Refer to CAUT website www.caut.ca/news for updates on this topic.
5. President’s report.
G. Chapman gave the following update:
 - Salary negotiations: SFUFA and the Administration are currently in arbitration. The Arbitrators ruling could take up to one month or longer and SFUFA will keep members posted of any new developments. Negotiations are

also underway for creating a new Teaching Professor rank, Professor of Professional Practice rank and salary review for Librarian/Archivists. UVIC's negotiations also concluded without an agreement and they are heading to arbitration; UBC had arbitration dates set for February but this was rescheduled due to the arbitrator being ill.

- Since September 2012, roughly 146 members have sought assistance from SFUFA for various issues, which is significantly higher than in previous years. Brian Green continues to play the dual role of Membership Services Officer and Executive Director in the SFUFA office until a new E.D is hired.
 - SFUFA is continuing to put pressure on the Administration re: the Learning Outcomes initiative. Members are encouraged to carefully review the documentation circulated by the VP Academic and to voice their concerns via their faculty senators. SFUFA believes that further consultation and more details are required about the financial, workload and pedagogical implications before the learning outcomes initiative is brought forward to the Senate for a vote.
 - Equity study: SFUFA has recently addressed this item with the Administration and will continue pursuing it as a high priority issue.
6. Report on Harry Crowe Foundation Conference on the limits of academic freedom – Presentation by Michael Ling: Due to time limitations, the written report will be circulated by Email to the membership.
7. Other Business.
- There was no other business to report.
8. Adjournment.
Adjourned at 3:35 pm
MOVED by J. Christians/B. Hackett **Carried.**