

Minutes
SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held January 10, 2013
Diamond Alumni Club
9:15 – 12 noon

In attendance:

Glenn Chapman, President (Engineering Science)
Carla Graebner, Past President (Library)
Carl Schwarz (Stats and Actuarial Science)
Russell Day (Psychology)
Yolanda Koscielski, Treasurer (Library)
Neil Abramson (Business)
Julian Christians (Biology)
Karen Kavanagh (Physics)
Melanie Lam, Executive Assistant (recorder)
Brian Green, Acting Executive Director

Regrets:

M. Taboada (Linguistics)
Natalia Gajdamaschko (Education)
Maureen Fizzell (Business)

1. Approval of Agenda.

Motion:

“To approve the agenda with three additions: **(a)** Executive Director position & search **(b)** Letter re: Quebec budget cuts & **(c)** Donation to CAUT Academic Freedom Fund”.

Moved/Seconded: R. Day/N. Abramson

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of November 8, 2012 Executive Meeting.

Approved with one minor amendment to item #3 - business arising”.

Moved/Seconded: N. Abramson/R. Day

Carried.

3. Business Arising.

R. Day asked for an update on the proposal to switch banks from Vancity to Bank of Nova Scotia on campus and was informed that BNS is working on a proposal, which hasn't been submitted to SFUFA to date. Also, a meeting is being set up for Y. Koscielski and B. Green to meet with the Scotia McLeod rep. to review and discuss the status of SFUFA's GIC investments. An update will be provided to the Executive at the next meeting.

- 4. a)** In Early December the Minister of Higher Education in Quebec made an unexpected announcement of a \$140 million budget cut to Colleges and Universities which will hugely impact students and teaching. After some discussion, the Executive recommended issuing a letter in support of their colleagues in Quebec objecting to the cuts. C. Graebner agreed to draft the letter.

b) Ongoing support to CAUT Academic freedom fund - C. Graebner brought forth a recommendation to the Board to donate \$1000 to this fund, which is primarily to help finance the promotion and defense of academic freedom for all member organizations. It has in the past been used by the UBCFA to keep up their legal fight defending a member whose academic freedom and UBC

Administration was threatening faculty rights. Carla further noted that SFUA does not typically donate financially as much as other Universities to the fund and that there are many CAUT services offered to members including assistance with negotiations that SFUFA could tap into. After some discussion, the Board noted there is a line item for donations in the current budget and the following resolution was passed. B. Green will draft a letter for G. Chapman to send to CAUT.

Motion:

“That SFUFA donate \$1000 annually to the CAUT Academic freedom fund to be reviewed every 3 years by the SFUFA Executive Board”

Moved/Seconded: R. Day/ N. Abramson

Passed Unanimously

c) Executive Director position - B. Green and M. Lam left the meeting while the Board held an in-camera session to discuss this item. The Personnel Committee comprised of current President Glenn Chapman, Past President Carla Graebner and Executive member Karen Kavanagh made a recommendation to the Executive about the position and the following resolution was passed:

Motion:

“That Membership Services Officer B. Green’s salary be increased by \$3000 per month to reflect his additional responsibilities as Interim Executive Director of the Faculty Association of Simon Fraser University effective October 22, 2012 until the position of Executive Director is filled. Further, that the Acting Executive Director not be required to take on any new major SFUFA projects for the duration of his term and that a search for a continuing Executive Director commence immediately and applications be considered until February 8, 2013 as indicated in the SFUFA job posting to be distributed”.

Moved/Seconded: C. Graebner/R. Day

Passed Unanimously

5. Presidents Report – G. Chapman

- G. Chapman gave an update on the recent SCUP meeting he attended and noted that the Learning Outcomes and Assessment report is being brought to the Senate in February 2013. Glenn recommended notifying the membership about this so that their concerns and questions can be brought forward at the February 4th Senate meeting. He noted that the deadline for submitting questions is one week before the Feb. 4th meeting. There was much discussion on this issue and the Executive recommended waiting until after the next Consultation with Senior Administration on January 17th before circulating information to members’.
- It was noted that G. Chapman and C. Schwarz received mostly positive feedback from members and a few complaints about the increase in the extended health benefits deductible to \$125.00 in exchange for a drug card and coverage of contraceptives.

6. Executive Directors Report – B. Green

- There will be no meeting on February 14th which is during reading break, instead, the Executive will meet on Thursday February 7th and Brian recommended that the meeting start time be moved to 10 am to give G. Chapman an opportunity to skype in to the meeting from his conference. The meeting will run from 10 am – 12 noon.
- C. Graebner will Chair the January 17th Consult meeting as G. Chapman is away.
- Call for Nominations - Brian hasn't yet heard from everyone about their plans for next year and he will contact Exec members individually before putting out the call to members.
- Spring AGM March 2013 – The Executive agreed to hold this on Monday March 25th from 1:30 – 3:30 pm and Brian encouraged Executive members to forward him suggestions for speakers. Some possible ideas were a discussion on the changes to research funding and a report from M. Ling on the Harry Crowe conference on academic freedom, which Brian will follow up on.

7. SFUFA Website

- The Executive previously reviewed a proposal by Marcus Barnes dated December 13th and since there were no further questions or discussion, the following resolution was passed.

Motion:

“That \$3500.00 be allocated to this years budget to migrate and redesign the SFUFA website as per the proposal circulated by Marcus Barnes on December 13, 2012”

Moved/Seconded: K. Kavanagh/C. Schwarz

Passed Unanimously

8. Appeal of Executive funding decision and appointment of Committee

- B. Green reported that the former faculty member rejected SFUFA's last proposal and therefore a review committee made up of Past Presidents is being formed to review the matter. Brian has spoken to 4 possible candidates, two of whom have confirmed their participation. It was noted that the committee would review statements from both SFUFA and the former member, meet with both parties in person and then recommend a decision to the Executive.

Motion:

“That M. Ling, D. Mirhady and either M. Dubiel or J. Sharpe, depending on availability, be appointed to the newly formed review committee to review the recent appeal by a former member for Executive funding for an accounting bill associated with a recent advocacy case”.

Moved: C. Schwarz/J. Christians

Passed Unanimously

9. Update on negotiations – C. Schwarz

- The Economic Benefits Committee is meeting with Librarians and Archivists at the end of the month to review market adjustments.
- SFUFA and SFU Administration exchanged their final offers in December and a date has not yet been set for an arbitration hearing in February.
- UBCFA and UVIC FA are headed to arbitration.
- The Administration has agreed to start negotiations on the policy changes for teaching faculty and to strike a review committee to review market adjustments for Librarians and R. Day and C. Graebner are both interested in taking part in these discussions for their respective group.

Motion:

“that the Executive approve C. Graebner for the Librarians review committee and R. Day for the Teaching Faculty review committee and C. Schwarz to sit on both committees, as agreed to by the SFU Administration as part of the final negotiated offer”

Moved: C. Schwarz/J. Christians

Passed Unanimously

10. Items for Consultation

- The Executive recommended devoting a one hour discussion to the learning outcomes and assessment initiative plus the following items:
 1. Closure of G-lot and move to B lot – this has not been communicated openly to the University community.
 2. Registration priority for student athletes – Is this a policy? Why do athletes get priority over students with disabilities?
 3. Off-schedule mid term exams and their impact on other classes.
 4. Update on services review – The closing of the microcomputer store, what other services are being outsourced?
 5. Exam scoring on week ends – Document solutions is closed on week ends and exams submitted for scoring on Friday after noon are not scored until the following Tuesday, which is problematic.
- Learning outcomes: Main points to raise are, what is cost assessment of L.O? How is the Administration going to assist faculty in implementing this initiative? Has the committee structure and time lines changed? How is the Administration responding to the feedback received to date?

11. Other Business/Announcements

There was none.

12. PDR discussions

Discussion of this item was tabled to the next meeting but the Executive was asked to think about and record any arbitrary rules they've come across re: this policy so that it can be raised at the next Consultation with Administration.

- 13.** There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.