

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held May 9, 2013 at the Diamond Alumni Centre**

In attendance:

Carla Graebner, (Library)
Glenn Chapman, President (Engineering Science)
Karen Kavanagh (Physics)
Maite Taboada (Linguistics)
Natalia Gajdamaschko (Education)
Neil Abramson (Business)
Yolanda Koscielski, Treasurer (Library)
Julian Christians (Biology)
Brian Green, Acting Executive Director
Melanie Lam, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Regrets:

Maureen Fizzell (Business)
Russell Day (Psychology)
Carl Schwarz (Statistics and Actuarial Science)

1. Approval of Agenda.

Approved as circulated.

Moved: N. Abramson/Y. Koscielski

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes April 18, 2013 Executive Meeting.

Approved as circulated.

Moved: N. Gajdamaschko/M. Taboada

Carried.

3. Business Arising.

a) Members Social

- The Members Spring Social is set for Tuesday May 28th at 3:30 pm at the DAC.
- Panel discussion on faculty unionization - Ed Bukszar will speak against and Chris Pavsek will speak in favour. Discussion to be 15-20 minutes in length.
- The invitation will be circulated to members next week.

b) Equity Study

- Carla and Maite spent time at archives and found the 1991 Equity Committee report and the 1990 draft equity plan, which was circulated to the Executive Committee for review on May 1.
- A copy of the SFU Employment Equity report (Contractors Equity Achievement Report July 1995) was circulated at the meeting and C. Graebner noted it would be a good resource to have on hand when studying other equity groups.
- There used to be an Equity Employment Resource group, many of whom have retired. M. Taboada, K. Kavanagh and N. Gajdamaschko will try to contact Committee members to gather more information on the Equity issue.

c) Approval of revised Representation policy documents

- B. Green noted that these forms were revised since the last big advocacy case and will be given to members to sign off before SFUFA enters into any formal process on advocacy. The Executive reviewed the documents and passed the following motion to approve them:

- **Motion:**

“that the revised representation policy documents be approved as circulated”.

Moved: K. Kavanagh/Y. Koscielski

Passed Unanimously

4. President’s Report.

G. Chapman reported on the following:

- A break out session on Equity held at the last CAUT Council was very useful, and SFUFA should consider using some of those resources for the SFU Equity Study.
- In light of the upcoming provincial election, Executive members were encouraged to contact their local NDP reps to ask about their party’s position on the proposed 50 million cut to post secondary institutions.
- The outcome of the recent salary arbitration was not helpful in reducing the desire for faculty unionization.
- Restructuring at NRC: Glenn gave an update on the recent proposed changes to the NRC by the federal Conservative government noting there is a move from supporting basic science research to research that is of national importance and connected to Canadian industry and business. The Executive was encouraged to read the Huffington Post article, which Glenn circulated on May 8th.

5. Executive Director’s Report.

B. Green reported on the following:

- SFU is proposing changes to the current PD Reimbursement of home Internet charges by members. The new proposal recommends that members are not required to submit receipts for this item, however they must indicate (for Revenue Canada audit purposes) the percentage of time they use their computers for SFU related business. It was noted that roughly 90% of members claim this item each year but some are turned down due to not having submitted the necessary receipts. The purpose of the change is to make it easier to process these claims with minimal impact on members. There was much discussion on this issue and the Executive recommended seeking more specific information from Academic Relations.
- Brian is dealing with many advocacy cases and cases have doubled since the New Year with a wide range of issues being handled.
- SFUFA is disappointed with the rationale provided by the arbitrator on the recent arbitration award re: faculty salaries. Most of the half page rationale given by the arbitrator is taken from SFU’s submission and Brian noted that according to the current arbitration structure/language, the arbitrator is not required to give reasons for his/her decision. As a next step, the Executive recommended taking a closer look at SFU’s position and deconstructing their arguments and providing strategies and arguments for each item.
- Some members had given positive feedback on the recent unionization report, which was circulated, noting it was thorough and well balanced.

6. Chief Negotiators Report – Carl was not available at the meeting to give an update.

7. Equity Study

- Although the Administration noted they would not look at this issue until the fall semester, the Executive recommended identifying the 2 people from SFUFA who would sit on the Committee with reps from the Administration and Academic Women and also to commence research on the issue over the summer months. C. Graebner and N. Abramson volunteered to sit on the Committee and M. Taboada agreed to assist. B. Green will talk to S. Senyshyn to see if he is interested in getting involved.

8. Items for Consultation May 16.

a) **Grad Student Funding:**

NSERC is placing increasing emphasis on the HQP section of proposals, dealing with the role of funding for grad students. Here at SFU, the Dean of Graduate Studies has indicated that faculty must demonstrate funding is available for incoming grad-students as criteria of admission. Together, these place faculty members in a difficult position, unable to secure funding without students and unable to recruit students without funding. We would like to hear from the university on this dilemma, and ask whether the university has considered an alternative, centralized funding model for graduate students rather than the current faculty-member-specific approach.

b) **Translink:**

We understand that with the compass pass Translink may be moving to phase out the employee pass program many members use. We would like to hear what SFU understands the future of the employee pass to be, and how any changes are to be rolled out. We have also noted that certain transit hubs - and Production Way in particular - are not adequate to the numbers of students, faculty and staff using them at peak times, and there have been issues of over-crowding and aggressive crowding that pose safety concerns. We would like SFU to raise this as an issue with Translink to see what might be done to improve user safety.

c) **Learning Outcomes:**

We would like to hear from J. Driver about the feedback he has received on the new proposal, and discuss next steps.

d) **Changes to NRC:**

Our members are concerned about recent changes to the NRC, and we would like to hear how SFU is responding. On a related note, CAUT has recently launched its "Get Science Right" campaign, and we are interested in hearing what plans, if any, the AUCC might have to address these issues.

e) **BCKDF Funding:**

BCKDF funds normally match CFI funding, but while information from CFI has been available for some time, we have not heard about the BCKDF portion. Has SFU heard anything about this, or does the university have any idea when we might expect to hear?

9. Other Business

- Update on ED position: Glenn noted that candidates have been contacted and interviews scheduled and the hiring Committee is in the process of compiling interview questions which should be completed within the next couple of weeks.
- June Consult meeting: G. Chapman recommended that the Executive compile important questions for the June Consult, to avoid cancellation of the meeting.
- Media Training workshop – It was recommended that Neil Abramson and Julian Christians register for this event sponsored by SFU Public Affairs on May 28th and June 4 at Burnaby campus.
- Some Librarians were recently concerned about a possible violation of privacy when being asked to complete a form which required them to list their community and volunteer work including any businesses they may be running. C Graebner noted that this is standard procedure and she had responded to members' queries and concerns.

10. Adjournment.

Adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Moved: Y. Koscielski/K. Kavanagh

Carried.