

Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held October 10 2013 at the Bennett Library: Wosk Room 7100
9:30 – 12:00 noon

In attendance:

Neil Abramson (Chair & President)
David Broun (Physics)
Glenn Chapman (Engineering Science)
Julian Christians (Biology)
Russell Day (Psychology)
Maureen Fizzell (Business)
Holly Hendrigan (Library)
Krishna Pendakur (Economics)
Maite Taboada (Linguistics)
Carl Schwarz (Stats and Actuarial Science)
Brian Green, Executive Director
Melanie Lam, Executive Assistant (recorder)
Jennifer Scott, Membership Services Officer

Approved: October 17, 2013

Regrets:

Natalia Gajdamaschko, (Education)

1. Approval of Agenda.

Approved with the following addition: Add to Other Business, discussion of unionization resolution to be brought forward at next general meeting.

Moved: M. Fizzell/J. Christians

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 19, 2013 Executive Meeting.

Moved: R. Day/H. Hendrigan

Carried.

3. Business Arising.

There was none to report.

4. President's Report.

N. Abramson reported on the following:

- SFUFA's formal proposal to move forward with interest arbitration was turned down by the administration.
- The VPA office and SFUFA will be jointly hosting a lunch for First Nations Professors to give them an opportunity to talk about their experiences about working at SFU. The Executive recommended that it would be a good idea for the VPA to consider hosting a series of meetings for other minority groups as well in the future.
- J. Driver had noted that the course evaluation project is moving forward; the proof of concept phase was completed in the summer, which went reasonably well. In the "pilot" phase, it was noted that the return rates for evaluations were lower than if they were done in class. There was much discussion about this item and it was noted that the average might have been brought down due to the poor return from CODE on-line course evaluations. The Executive recommended raising this at the next consult with the administration.
- In his last meeting with J. Driver, N. Abramson reviewed the problems experienced by faculty with the new Canvass program and asked for extra support for those who had difficulty with the

program and also requested that a set of best practices be developed. The Executive recommended raising this issue at the next consult meeting.

- Neil received an email from CAUT noting they are going to be bringing their “Get science Right campaign” to Vancouver sometime in late January. If Executive members have any thoughts on this please pass them onto Neil or Brian.

5. Executive Director’s Report.

B. Green reported on the following:

- The unionization presentation is taking place at the Halpern Center next Wednesday from 3 – 5 p.m.
- The Executive noted it would be a good idea to meet with SFUFA legal counsel after the next GM to discuss the legalities of the unionization process and seek advice about items such as timelines & conducting a survey vs. a vote etc.. The Executive also recommended inviting the SFUFA advisory committee members to the meeting.
- Executive members are invited to lunch with NDP MLA David Eby on October 21st at 12:30 at the DAC. Those who are interested should let Brian know.

6. Collective Bargaining – C. Schwarz

- Notice was sent to SFU October 1.
- Survey is ready to go to members.
- The bargaining team needs to be established this month and a list of arbitrators drawn up.
- SFUFA had requested that Carla Graebner be added to the bargaining team to represent librarians/archivists interests but the administration has refused to allow a fifth person on the team. Carl noted that this shouldn’t be a problem since there is librarian representation on the current bargaining advisory team.

MOTION:

That C. Schwarz, D. Broun, M. Fizzell and B. Green be appointed as the SFUFA bargaining team for the next round of contract negotiations.

Moved: C. Schwarz/R. Day

Carried with one asbstention.

7. 2013/2014 Budget

- Salaries were restructured therefore there is a decrease by \$20,000 this fiscal year.
- Release Time was not used up last year due to Glenn Chapman not been granted RT.
- There was some discussion about whether the Study Leave Reserve of \$49,000 should be eliminated but the Executive opted to keep it in.
- The SFUFA office will review the monthly cost of the \$300 monthly phone bill.
- There was some discussion about Member events being increased from \$3000 to \$15,000 and the Executive noted it was a worthwhile investment given the member engagement plan for 2014, the unionization drive and it also supports building strength in the Association and also that it more accurately reflects the actual cost of this line item which was close to \$8000 last fiscal year.

MOTION:

That the 2013/2014 draft budget be approved as circulated.

Moved: G. Chapman/D. Broun

Carried.

8. Presidents Review Letter

- The Executive voted to draft a letter to the review committee re: President A. Petter's re appointment and J. Christians volunteered to do this.

9. Items for Consultation October 17, 2013

- I. Teaching and Learning Evaluation Project - we would like an update on its status, and some discussion on the project itself.
- II. Canvas - we have some specific concerns about canvas that we would like to discuss.
- III. Education - we would like an update on the status of the black mould and asbestos concerns in education, as well as information on what steps are being taken to ensure that no faculty member, student or staff-person is at further risk; if there are any reports of investigatory other committees related to this matter, we would like to see those.
- IV. Recording of lectures - we would like to discuss the practice of student recording of lectures, and the posting of these recordings to the Internet and/ or social media sites.
- V. New Minister - we recently had the opportunity to meet with Amrik Virk, and would like to discuss the major issues he touched upon in our discussion and explore issues that might be of mutual concern.

10. Other Business

- I. J. Scott recommended to the Executive that it would be a good idea for SFUFA to step up its social media presence via twitter and facebook, which would go hand in hand with the current member outreach program initiated this year. It was recommended that in the future bargaining bulletins be circulated to the membership via social media in addition to e-mail.
- II. Unionization resolution: There was a lengthy discussion about certification and the following was noted:
 - SFUFA has had 5 outreach events including 2 coffee klatches, 1 lunch at the DAC, 2 pub nights and a second upcoming lunch at the end of October. Neil got 20 responses from the survey conducted at the DAC lunch. Altogether 200 members have been reached via this process and most are interested in exploring unionization further.
 - A motion should be drafted by the Executive and presented to members at the next GM.
 - 450 card signatures are required to certify. C. Schwarz noted that card signing cannot begin until at least October 2014. Therefore SFUFA should continue the information process into the Spring.
 - B. Green and J. Scott are tracking comments from members about the issue.
 - Neil did some research and saw that there are some good benefits with unionization.
 - CAUT will organize members (signature campaign) free of charge.
 - That a large space be booked for the GM to accommodate more than 100 members.

- That a preamble be included with the GM notice and motion. B. Green will work a draft and circulate it to the Executive shortly. The Executive passed the following resolution:

MOTION:

That SFUFA pursue certification under the labour code and continue its education campaign to members over the next 12 months.

Moved: R. Day/ H. Hendrigan

Carried with 1 abstention;1 opposed.

14. Adjournment.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Moved: G. Chapman/M. Taboada

Carried.