

Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held February 6, 2014
DAC
9:30 – 12 noon

In attendance:

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

Regrets:

Maureen Fizzell (Business)

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved as circulated.

Moved: R. Day/J. Christians

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2014.

Moved: R. Day/M. Taboada

Carried.

3. Business Arising.

- Approximately 35 people attended the SFUFA unionization forum held on January 30th and the Executive thanked G. Chapman and K. Pendakur for their efforts in organizing the session. The slides from the presentation will be posted on the website shortly.
- Certification – cards have been distributed to volunteers and members have started to hand in their cards.
- Safety at bus loop – This item need not be addressed with the Administration since C. Graebner has already brought it forward to the University safety committee.
- N. Gadjamaschko reported that some members in her area were not happy that many of the recently held SFUFA social events were tied to unionization and they would like to see SFUFA work on other important issues once unionization is over.

4) Presidents Report

- Neil briefed the Board about his recent trip to the CAUT Presidents Council and noted that he got some useful information from Doug Baer about UVIC's certification process.
- The certification kick-off events were held last week and were successful. 45 members were in attendance at Burnaby, 40 in Surrey and 12 in Vancouver.
- There is fear mongering among members that the Administration may change the framework agreement following unionization and Neil has re-iterated to members that this cannot be done unilaterally without SFUFA's agreement.
- Some questions have arisen about the card signing process, specifically the collection of cards from junior members by their senior colleagues and TPC reps. Exec members who had attended the volunteer training emphasized that this item was reviewed at the training session by SFUFA legal counsel and they feel confident that the volunteers are mindful and prepared as to how to deal with such sensitive situations.
- The Administration is concerned about its ability to manage tenured faculty who are of retiring age who are unable to perform their duties. The Executive reiterated that SFUFA would be sure to participate in any conversations with the Administration on the development of a new Policy and also recommended that SFUFA think about what would be acceptable and what would not be acceptable under the Policy.
- It was reported that Bookstore revenues are declining by 10% per semester mostly due to books being available to students via Google scholar.
- President Petter recently visited India and signed agreements with the Indian Institute of Technology to support research collaborations and met with University officials from Delhi to review plans for a workshop and joint initiatives for student exchanges in the area of linguistics.

5) Executive Director Report

- The UNBC award for 2012 – 2014 was made public early this morning and is 2.5% and 2.5% which is the same as the UBC award. UNBC are also in the process of unionizing.
- The Administration is surprised that the LRB has permitted electronic voting at UVIC for their certification drive.
- One member has brought forward a concern about the proposed Kinder Morgan Morgan pipeline route that will run close to SFU and has asked if SFUFA would consider applying for intervener status. The Executive recommended that this item be raised at the next senior admin meeting to see if the Administration is engaged in discussions about any potential impacts to SFU.
- An announcement will be sent shortly to members about the upcoming AGM and Executive nominations. The AGM is set for April 10 at 10:30 am. Nominations are being

sought for 4 Directors and a President elect. Those whose terms are coming to a close, M. Taboada, K. Pendakur, N. Gadjamaschko & M. Fizzell are asked to contact Brian about your interest to re-run or if you know of a colleague who would be a good candidate for an Executive position.

- Brian will approach Academic Women to see if they would compile a report for the AGM on the Equity issue.

6. Treasurers Report

- D. Broun reviewed the year to date financials with the Executive and noted that all expenditures are on budget.
- The year-to-date legal expenses are lower than expected but will most likely rise during the unionization campaign.
- Roughly \$4500 has been spent on member events to date, which is on target.
- Membership dues collected are slightly higher than forecasted.

7. Salary Equity Committee

- Is comprised of 4 rep's from SFU Administration including the Associate VP Academic; Director, Human Rights; Dean, Lifelong Learning & D. Thorpe Dorward plus 4 faculty reps including K. Pendakur, A. Kessler, M. Kropinski and C. Murray. Committee proceedings are confidential at this time and a timeline of 1 year has been established. An expert has been consulted to review the data in order to predict true patterns at SFU and 6 meetings of the committee have been scheduled. K. Pendakur reported that the committee is making reasonable progress.
- The Executive recommended circulating an update to the membership about this.

8. Sub Committees

- Academic Women would like more direct communication with the SFUFA Executive and there have been discussions about forming a sub committee to work on equity diversity and having an Exec member act as committee Chair to facilitate communication with SFUFA. The objective would be to identify the challenges around gender diversity and make sure that information gets back to SFUFA so that the Executive could act on it.

9. Teaching and Course evaluation project – tabled to next meeting.

10. Items for Consultation

i. Kinder Morgan Pipeline

SFUFA would be interested in hearing whether there is any anticipated impact on SFU, and whether the university is engaged in any discussion about potential impacts.

ii. Changes to requirements for annual reports

SFUFA would like to hear about the changes. Members have reported that they are no longer required to produce annual reports every year but we were not aware this change was coming and would like to hear more about it.

iii. Protected Disclosure of Wrongdoing

SFUFA would like to hear about the changes specifically what areas of disclosure are protected and what are possible impacts on members particularly in terms of fairness or process during investigations.

iv. Federal government announcement re: international students

A statement has been released and we would be interested in hearing the university's thoughts on this and any impacts we are likely to see.

v. Update on Faculty of Education

SFUFA would like to hear about the status of the mould investigation and renovations in Education.

11. Other Business

- The Bargaining committee met yesterday and will be developing a proposal but is awaiting the Budget Letter from the Ministry of Advanced Education to be released.
- J. Scott is working on a newsletter and members have asked that a hard copy be circulated. The Executive recommended doing opinion pieces on unionization similar to the January UNBC newsletter.
- The Executive noted it would be a good idea to present an advocacy report for members at the next AGM.

9. Adjournment.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.