

Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held January 9, 2014
Halpern 114
9:30 – 12 noon

In attendance:

Neil Abramson, Chair & President (Business)
Glenn Chapman (Engineering Science)
Julian Christians (Biology)
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)
Natalia Gajdamaschko (Education)
David Broun (Physics)

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved with one addition to Business Arising.

Moved: J Christians/R. Day

Carried.

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

Moved: G. Chapman/H. Hendrigan

Carried.

3. Business Arising.

- The Executive discussed the effect that unionization may have on SFUFA's structure and its relationship and interaction with the Administration. There was discussion about the kind of contract SFUFA would want for its membership and the types of issues that could be taken to the negotiating table. There was also a review of issues like tenure denial and market differentials and how it would work in a unionized environment.
- It was noted that at a recent meeting of Academic Women, they voiced disappointment that the Equity issue has lost steam and the perception is that this issue has been put on the back burner due to unionization.

4. Presidents Report

- Neil reported on the results on the recent membership survey on certification and noted that 449 members responded to the recent members' survey, which is roughly 45% of the total membership, which was much better than expected. 380 stated they had enough information and an adequate opportunity to become informed and 69 noted they did not have enough information at this point. 353 members indicated they were ready to start signing cards in favour of certification starting in February 2014, which is 79% of respondents. Brian is compiling a Q and A for members based on the comments made under question #2 of the survey. The Executive noted that although they will ultimately come to a solution that represents its members, it was important to encourage all members including those opposed to voice their opinions on the issue. It was recommended that an email message be sent to members including contact information for individual Executive members. After the discussion, the following motion was passed:

Motion:

That an email message be circulated to members with the following information: the survey results, notice that the collection of cards will likely commence on February 3, 2014, that the Executive will be voting and making a final decision on this issue next week and that members still have an opportunity to voice their thoughts and opinions to the Executive and that individual Executive members contact information be included in the message.

Moved: R. Day/J. Christians

Carried with one opposed.

- Neil noted that the Teaching and Course evaluation project has gone to the Senate for discussion.
- The VPR search committee has concluded their deliberations and a preferred candidate – Dr. Joy Johnson has been recommended. Dr. Johnson is currently the director for the CIHR Institute for Gender and Health and is a professor in the school of Nursing at UBC.
- The Administration is concerned about its ability to manage faculty performance in a post-mandatory retirement world; The Executive noted that SFUFA should be actively involved in any policy deliberations.

5) Executive Director Report

- A CAUT rep. will be coming out to Vancouver on the 20th and 21st to discuss certification with the SFUFA Executive and with volunteers. The Executive opted to meet at the HC campus on the evening of Monday the 20th.

- A training session is being held for SFUFA certification drive volunteers on Tuesday January 21st from 11:30 – 2 pm and Brian encouraged Executive members to attend the session. The group will prep for signing cards in February and review what volunteers can and cannot do. SFUFA legal counsel Alan Black will also be attending the meeting.
- CAUT is hosting a Get Science Right Town hall meeting at Harbour Center on January 28th and Brian encouraged Executive members to publicize the event in their faculties by circulating a poster, which he will be forward to them shortly.
- Neil and Brian are meeting with the Librarians today to discuss how unionization will affect them.

6. Items for Consultation – January 16th meeting

i. New E.D Public Relations

SFUFA would like to hear about the role this person would play and the mandate for the position and whether this is a new position or an existing one.

ii. Destruction of federal library resources

There has been a good deal of press lately on the federal government's cuts to scientific libraries. SFUFA would like to know if SFU has pursued or considered pursuing ways to save data that might otherwise be lost.

iii. Security

Recent thefts of computers have raised a number of security concerns, both physical and digital. SFUFA is not aware of significant security presence on campus nights and weekends and would like to hear what security is in place. In terms of digital records, thefts of computers raise the question where and how can digital records best be stored securely. The cloud system on SFU connect has a number of limitations, and faculty are discouraged from using external cloud resources for confidential information. SFUFA would like to know what recommendations the University have, or what might be considered to address this. In particular, SFUFA would like to know if SFU has looked into a site license for Lojack, a tracking and security software for laptops.

iv. Road Improvements

As road improvements are carried out, SFUFA would like to discuss the impact on pedestrian and cyclist safety.

7. Other Business

- The Executive recommended speaking to HR about sending a beginning of the year reminder to faculty members about their benefits and various deductibles.
- Archive of members forum or academic-discussion list – Brian will find out how Executive members can access this information.

9. Adjournment.

There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11.58 am.

Moved: M. Taboada/G. Chapman

Carried.