

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting  
Held September 11, 2014**

**DAC**

**9.30 – 12 noon**

**In attendance:**

Neil Abramson (Business)  
D. Broun (Physics)  
Glenn Chapman (Engineering Science)  
Julian Christians (Biology) Chair  
Russell Day (Psychology)  
Holly Hendrigan (Library)  
Carolyn Lesjak (English)  
Krishna Pendakur (Economics)  
Carl Schwarz (Statistics)  
Rochelle Tucker (Health Sciences)

**Regrets:**

Brian Green, Executive Director  
J. Scott (Member Services)  
M. Lam (recorder)

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Approved with one addition 9 b.

Moved: C. Lesjak/C. Schwarz

Carried.

**2. Approval of Minutes of June 12, 2014**

Approved with one correction (K. Pendakur's name appears twice).

Moved: N. Abramson/G. Chapman

Carried.

**3. Business Arising**

- A member approached SFUFA to ask if the Association would consider making a financial donation to the BCTF in support of the current teachers strike. It was noted that a letter was written by SFUFA to the BCTF and was circulated to members via the academic discussion list. It was noted that In terms of past practice, SFUFA has provided an annual donation to the CAUT Academic Freedom fund and have generally declined making political statements. However, the Executive acknowledged that the question of political and financial support to the BCTF and other organizations is an important one and noted

it would be beneficial to develop guidelines or a policy around this issue. Further discussion of this item was tabled to a future meeting.

#### **4. Presidents Report - J. Christians**

- Julian had meetings with Andrew Petter and J. Driver and items discussed were the possible changes to the faculty pension plan and upcoming negotiations of a new collective agreement.
- Brian and Julian met with Colin Galinsky; legal counsel on pension matters who is scheduled to speak at the September 25<sup>th</sup> pension presentation. His general advice was for SFUFA to engage the membership as much as possible on the issue and to consider hiring an actuary to run some possible scenarios for members.
- SFUFA wrote a letter of support to BCTF and it was circulated to members' via the academic discussion list. Most responses from members on the forum/mail list were favourable. The letter has not yet been posted on the BCTF website.
- Julian noted he is meeting with the SFSS President who is interested in getting faculty on board with the open textbook initiative. There was much discussion about this item and the following points were expressed:
  - The SFU bookstore has a high mark up.
  - Open Textbooks: textbooks are listed in random order making it time consuming to search. In addition, some authors are not heard not of. These textbooks may be good as supplemental material.
  - Students are downloading books from illegal sites and members need to be reminded of the new copyright laws in Canada.
  - Publishers are threatened and are therefore offering better deals to faculty members. Russ got a good deal for his intro psych course this fall.
  - With the Open Textbooks students may not get access to online support and various articles which is as important to the educational experience; its not all about just the textbook.
  - SFUFA should be careful not to push faculty members to adopt the use of open textbooks because it may infringe on Academic Freedom.
- Julian has set up a schedule to attend departmental meetings in various faculties this fall.

#### **5. Executive Director report**

- October 16<sup>th</sup> Consult: J. Driver, A, Petter and T. Rahilly will be away and SFUFA has been asked to consider cancelling the meeting. The Executive noted it is too early to decide

whether to cancel the meeting since there may be issues that can be addressed without those members at the table.

- The ad hoc committee on Equity is in the process of reconvening after the summer break.
- Neil is working on scheduling some pub nights and pension get togethers with the membership this fall. Events are being scheduled at Surrey and Vancouver as well.
- A newsletter will be circulated to members sometime in September and the focus will primarily be on the pension plan issue. Speaker Bio's for the September 25<sup>th</sup> pension event will be included.
- Brian is meeting with J. Driver to appeal on behalf of a member about obtaining a modified contract. It was noted that the University doesn't usually grant this to those over 60 years of age and this may be viewed as discriminatory. Brian will update the Executive re: the outcome at the next Executive meeting.
- The fall general meeting is scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup> but some Executive members noted this is would be around the deadline time for NSERC grants, which may affect attendance. The office will look into an alternate date in early November.
- Brian and Melanie met with the BNS to discuss securing a credit card for the Association. Historically Brian and Melanie have paid for purchases and conference bookings etc.with their own personal credit cards. The bank is clear that any credit card – even if secured with the Associations own funds would constitute borrowing and in order to apply for a card, a special resolution of the membership is required to approve the application. A draft resolution to be presented at the fall general meeting was circulated with the meeting package for all to review. Brian noted that SFUFA would give members one-month notice of the resolution.

#### **6. Membership Services report – J. Scott**

- Jen has coordinated with department managers to set up a schedule for Julian to attend departmental meetings this fall.
- Jen and Julian are attending the CAUT Western Regional Conference in Alberta and Julian has been asked to speak on FIC. The Executive recommended speaking to Peter Tingling in Business to seek more information on FIC.
- Jen is connecting with other employee groups to see what they are doing in terms of health and safety committees.
- Member cases: There are roughly 10 active cases right now and Jen gave a brief update on the types of advocacy cases she is dealing with.
- The data from the retirement survey is being compiled and a report will be produced for

members by September 25<sup>th</sup>. Neil will assist with the quantitative aspects.

## **7. Treasurer Report – D. Broun**

- A financial year to date report was circulated with the meeting package including the draft new budget for the 2014/2015 fiscal year.
- David pointed out that the actuals are only estimates and will be finalized once the auditor has reviewed them.
- The proposal is to raise the donations line item from \$1000 - \$2000.
- The office will explore the costs to make the switch to cell phones and cancel the landlines in the office.
- CAUT and CUFA dues are both up this year due to an increase in rates.
- Salaries are increased to reflect step increases for staff.
- Legal fees: Note that roughly \$14,000 of the \$20,008 spent on legal is related to unionization and will be reimbursed by CAUT. The legal budget stays the same at \$60,000.
- Member events: SFUFA is hoping to keep up the momentum of engagement and will keep this line item at \$15,000.
- Meeting expenses has increased to reflect the actual amount of \$12,000 spent this past year. This line item includes committee meetings, executive meetings and this past year included meetings associated with certification such as volunteer and coordinator meetings and legal meetings. Expenses for the 2- day training session for the bargaining team and Executive members is also included.
- Sick Leave reserve is the money set aside to hire a temporary replacement for a staff member who may be on short-term sick leave.
- Study Leave reserve: This was established to cover a leave taken by the executive director in the event that he/she is an academic. It was noted that this fund could also be used for teaching release or other purposes & the Executive is considering changing the fund title in the future.

## **8. Bargaining Committee**

- Is working on a new collective agreement. Jennifer and Brian have worked on draft language and have forwarded that to the committee.
- A list of bargaining priorities was circulated with the meeting package for the Executive to review.
- Carl is working on a survey and members will be asked to rate the importance of

items being negotiated.

- UVIC, UNBC and UBC have not concluded negotiations.
- The bargaining committee is looking to possibly add one more person to the team. Current members are D. Broun, C. Schwarz, B. Green & C. Graebner. There was some discussion about this and Carl noted he would be away for the next two weeks but would bring recommendations to the Executive at the October meeting.

#### **9. Additional member – Executive Committee**

- The Executive Committee is short by one person this year because N. Abramson is fulfilling the role of Past President and President Elect. H. Hendrigan put forward a recommendation to add another Director to fill the vacant spot noting that person would be appointed for 1 year up to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2015. Following that the person would have to run for re-election.
- After some discussion the Executive voted on the following resolution:

**Motion:**

That the person who had the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest number of votes in the last executive election (April 2014) be appointed to the Executive Committee for 1 year starting now until August 31, 2015 to fill the one vacant Director position.

Resolution: Passed

#### **10. Items for Consultation – May 16<sup>th</sup>**

- i. Parking - we are concerned about the impact of recent changes, and would like to discuss improvements.
- ii. NSERC grants - faculty are asked to sign off as per reporting requirements, but do not have adequate information to assess the accuracy of the information in the form 300.
- iii. Facilities traffic - safety concerns around campus facilities traffic.
- iv. Costs of conference/ room bookings - SFU could do more to support conference and other professional meetings being hosted here; one recent example - organizers were required to pay full cost for space to be used for the President's Dream Colloquium - a high profile initiative which also serves as a graduate course.

- v. Off-schedule midterms and course registration - this issue was raised at consult last year, but continues to arise.
- vi. Exam scheduling concerns and the 96-hour deadline - raised previously, but continues to be of concern.
- vii. Software availability, educational pricing and concerns re IT services.
- viii. FIC - we would like to discuss whether there are assessments of grading in FIC compared to other student recruitment streams, and the overall performance of students entering SFU from various streams.

**11. Other Business**

A motion was put forward for SFUFA to award a teaching release to Christopher Pavsek from Contemporary Arts for his hard work and leadership on the unionization drive. It was noted that the release would be the equivalent of one course and roughly \$6000.00.

**Motion:**

To award C. Pavsek a teaching release – the equivalent of one course for his work on the unionization drive.

Moved: D. Broun/N. Abramson

Carried with 2 abstentions.

**Adjournment.** There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 12.04 pm.