

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held Thursday February 5, 2015
Halpern 114
9.30 – 12:00 noon**

In attendance:

N. Abramson (Business)
D. Broun (Physics)
G. Chapman (Engineering Science)
J. Christians (Biology) Chair
R. Day (Psychology)
H. Hendrigan (Library)
D. Laitsch (Education)
C. Lesjak (English)
R. Tucker (Health Sciences)
C. Schwarz (Stats & Actuarial Science)

B. Green (Executive Director)
J. Scott (Member Services)
M. Lam (Recorder)

Regrets:

K. Pendakur (Economics)

1. Approval of Agenda

A new agenda item - Library budget was added and #7 MSO report was deferred to the next meeting.

Moved: N. Abramson/R. Day

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of November 20th

Approved as circulated.

Moved: R. Day/G. Chapman

Carried.

3. Business Arising

- It was recommended that the Executive review Consult items raised at past meetings and flag those that require follow-up.

4. Presidents Report

- Julian has had good conversations with members who attended the recent coffee klatsches and 1 pub night in Surrey. Some issues raised were around salary structure, retirement

benefits and SFU financial planning advice at retirement. It may be worthwhile for SFUFA to consider co hosting with SFURA a financial planning seminar for members.

- Given that the SFUFA membership is becoming more engaged and approaching SFUFA staff for assistance more often, it would be good for the Executive to have a mechanism in place to monitor staff workload. It was also noted that it might be beneficial to track issues over faculties as this may influence outreach strategies.

5. Executive Directors Report

- SFUFA is moving ahead with its Visa card application and the signing officers will be going to the bank to sign off on documents today.
- The College Pension Plan will be submitting their pension report to SFUFA shortly.
- Brian is meeting with other Association Executive Directors on February 20th and one item up for discussion is the review of CUFAs relationship with member organizations and its strategic vision.
- Issues with FHS – J. Scott will compile a summary of issues to send to the VPA and J. Christians will request a special meeting with J. Driver to discuss this. Related to this issue, D. Laitsch will forward governance documents & best practices from the faculty of Education to Brian for review.

6. TSSU

- Rep's from the TSSU met with the SFUFA Executive to outline their bargaining goals. TSSU is currently in bargaining with SFU's Administration to build a better collective agreement, which expired in April 2014. Wages have yet to be brought to the table and the employer has yet to table their proposals. Some of the important issues are job security for experienced teachers, equitable benefits for ELC/ITP instructors who are teaching larger classes with reduced benefits, automatic work application system for grad students, paid time for members to attend safety committee meetings (WorkSafe legislation), protection of intellectual property, changing language in the collective agreement to reflect reality (workload), make Surrey and Vancouver "real" campuses not just satellites, wages and benefits for sessional instructors who now teach 1 in 4 courses at SFU. Two more bargaining sessions are scheduled in February.

7. Library Budget

- H. Hendrigan advised the Executive that the 2015-2016 collections budget in the Library has been cut by \$500,000.00 due to the sinking US dollar and the Library is reviewing how to make the cuts with the least impact on community resources. The Executive recommended raising this issue at the next Consult meeting.

8. Bargaining update – C. Schwarz

UNBC has taken a strike vote, UVIC is in mediation and UBC will be heading to arbitration. SFUFA has a bargaining meeting scheduled right after the reading break. Carl will be circulating 2 bulletins to members re: the salary system and a survey following that. It was recommended that a meeting of the Bargaining Advisory Committee be called in the near future. Information sessions need to be scheduled for members in the future and the Executive discussed how best to manage that. It was noted that Jeff McKeil from CAUT would be at SFUFA on February 23rd.

9. Teaching effectiveness – workshop with TLC/bargaining ideas – discussion was deferred to communication via email.

10. Divestment debate – discussion was deferred to communication via email.

11. Items for Consultation – February 19, 2015

- i. Bursaries for foreign students - SFUFA is concerned with what appears to be an increasing portion of bursary money going to support international students relative to Canadian students. This was recently discussed at the Senate as well, and we would like more on this and what, if anything, SFU is doing to protect domestic students.
- ii. Low Canadian dollar – As the dollar drops in value, faculty members and the University will face increased costs, particularly on anything coming out of the US. What impacts are foreseen and what kind of institutional response might be developed to help manage this situation? On the other hand, are there unique opportunities for revenue generation (i.e. international opportunities that are opened up)?
- iii. CIO search – When this was raised a couple of months ago, there was then no information on what the search process might look like or whether the position of CIO would continue in its current form or be restructured. SFUFA would like to hear an update on this and get some detail on what is expected.
- iv. Renovations/maintenance – We understand that the costs of necessary repair and renovation in the Education building alone are significant and outstrip available funds. SFUFA would like to discuss long term planning in this area and what options might be available to ensure a safe physical environment for faculty, students and staff.
- v. Raise the following items under “business arising”: MyRoom follow-up, online grade

change follow-up and parking updates.

12. Other business

- Teaching and Learning in Higher Education conference: R. Day noted that SFU is partnering with UBC to host this conference in June (16-19th). SFU Faculty will get a reduced conference rate and are encouraged to participate. Stay tuned for more information on this event.

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