

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held Thursday November 13, 2014
Irmacs Boardroom
9.30 – 11:30 am**

In attendance:

D. Broun (Physics)
Glenn Chapman (Engineering Science)
Julian Christians (Biology) Chair
Russell Day (Psychology)
Holly Hendrigan (Library)
Dan Laitsch (Education)
Carolyn Lesjak (English)
Carl Schwarz (Statistics)
Rochelle Tucker (Health Sciences)

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

Regrets:

N. Abramson
Krishna Pendakur (Economics)

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved as circulated.

Moved: J. Christians/G. Chapman

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of October 16th

Approved with a few minor amendments.

Moved: J. Christians/R. Tucker

Carried.

3. Business Arising

- Steven Salaita event: Julian noted he had sought more information about the nature of the event from Sheila Delany and noted the presentation would be more academic in nature. Further discussion of this item was postponed to the end of this meeting or to the next Exec meeting on November 20th.

4. Collective Agreement & right to strike

- There was discussion as to whether SFUFA should engage the membership on the right to strike issue and whether it should be done via a debate or a survey. The Executive noted it was premature to raise the issue with the membership at this stage since

bargaining has not even begun. The recommendation was to postpone the conversation to a future meeting.

5. Bargaining Update

- The bargaining committee is proposing changes to the terms of employment for Teaching Appointments and a draft was circulated to the Executive for review.
- A new rank University Lecturer is being proposed.
- Librarians: Currently working on language for Archivists, reporting relationships are inconsistent and issues with promotion. Also merit pay. Discussions ongoing for all of these.
- Also proposing to eliminate TARC and alter composition of TPC to include at least one Lecturer.
- Carl will provide an update on the status of bargaining at other Universities next week.

6. New teaching evaluation system

- J. Christians received a memo from J. Driver, which noted that a new teaching evaluation system has been approved by Senate and is being developed under the supervision of SCUTL. Software for the system has been identified and a series of pilot test programs will begin soon. SCUTL will be developing guidelines and best practices and once approved, all faculty are expected to conform to the guidelines. The memo also noted that faculty members would be given plenty of opportunities to provide input and get involved in discussions on the new system.
- The Executive discussed the issue and noted the following:
 - Ask the Administration if there could be voluntary opt-in by instructors during the pilot test program.
 - Making public scores of individual courses or instructors serves no purpose.
 - Receiving summary stats about a large class has been very helpful to faculty. Can it be linked to student attendance records as well? With on-line evaluations, students who don't attend classes can complete evaluations, which may be unfair to Instructor.
 - The questions: Some should be used for formative purposes only and some for formative and summative purposes. Only some questions should be made available to TPC's.
 - J. Christians noted that some of these issues may have already been addressed in the report to the Senate and recommended that Exec members review the report first.
 - N. Abramson is involved in the project and the recommendation was to have Neil

give an update on this at the next Exec meeting.

7. Presidents Report

- CUFA BC has hired Michael Conlon as their new Executive Director. Michael was previously with AAPS at UBC and has done policy work with CAUT and has been National Director of Research for the Canadian Federation of Students. CUFA not involved with collective bargaining or legal services to members but rather focuses on lobbying and networking. Most of the work done behind the scenes – not visible to members therefore hard to measure efficacy. In the past CUFA was effective in changing the government's position on mandatory retirement. Also, during last election CUFA raised University issues with individual political parties. SFUFA concerned that dues were raised twice recently but CUFA services were minimal. Brian and Julian will bring forward SFUFA's concerns and expectations to the CUFA table. It was noted that the new E.D would be developing a strategic plan early next year and that SFUFA will be active in that process.

8. Executive Director report

- Brian has spoken to an actuary about pulling together a pension report for SFUFA, which would identify comparisons and show members what they would get under different models.
- SFUFA is planning on hosting a winter social for members and the Executive noted that Tuesday December 2nd would be the best date for the event, which is right after the last day of classes and before exams.
- Two SFUFA members have been active in demonstrations against the Kinder Morgan Pipeline and have had claims filed against them by K.M. Court hearings for the injunction are ongoing and a rally is being held at SFU today in Convocation Mall. B. Green and J. Christians put together a statement last week which is posted on the SFUFA website, opposing K.M's action against members involved in a peaceful protest and defending the rights of members to participate in a legal protest regarding matters of public interest. An open letter was also sent to A. Petter who subsequently made a public statement on rights of free speech and peaceful protest. A legal defence fund has been set up online to cover the legal costs for the hearings and so far donations have totaled \$40,000. Brian noted that a motion is being brought forward at today's Fall General Meeting.

9. Items for Consultation – May 16th

- i. Centre for Students with Disabilities - we understand there is meant to be an advisory board of faculty to the Centre, but we are not certain how active it is or what precisely its role is. We do periodically hear from faculty members with concerns about decisions arising from the Centre, and while our general position is that students have a right to accommodation, it would be helpful to have some discussion about how faculty members and we as an Association can best interact with the Centre's work so as to protect the rights of students with disabilities while also helping address specific concerns that do come up.
- ii. Grant spending - in a recent meeting we learned that a faculty member and PI on a grant was unaware that funds from that grant had been dispersed. The funds were used for targeted purposes identified in the grant itself, but the faculty member played no role in the process and was not even informed when it occurred. We understand that there are circumstances in which grant funds might be administered by someone other than the PI on a day-to-day basis, but are concerned if PIs are not fully aware of the protocols and/or informed when grant funds are used.
- iii. Parking continues to be a concern since the changes introduced earlier this year. We would like to hear an update on steps to manage faculty and staff parking, and would like to see a copy of the University's parking plan.
- iv. Accreditation - we would like to hear an update on the accreditation process, which we understand is ongoing though we've had little information on developments over the past year or so.
- v. Deferred maintenance - we would like an update on deferred maintenance costs and plans in place to address this problem. On a related note, we are aware that in one department plans are in place to replace plumbing in bathrooms that have caused no issues we are aware of; members in that area have noted that the cost is likely to be in the millions. We would like to better understand the process for allotting limited funds, particularly in light of the very serious concern arising out of the mould problem in the faculty of education.
- vi. Fossil fuel divestment - this is largely a point of information. At our recent General

Meeting, members of the Association brought forward and passed motions directing SFUFA to publicly oppose the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion and to request that the Board of Governors begin a process of divestment from fossil fuels. We would be interested in hearing any thoughts you may have on either of these, but primarily wanted to ensure that these statements will not catch the University by surprise when we issue them.

10. Other Business – none.

Adjournment. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 pm.