

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting  
Held Thursday March 12, 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)  
D. Laitsch (Education)  
C. Lesjak (English)  
R. Tucker (Health Sciences)  
C. Schwarz (Stats & Actuarial Science)

B. Green (Executive Director)  
M. Lam (Recorder)

**Regrets:**

H. Hendrigan (Library)  
K. Pendakur (Economics)  
J. Scott (Membership Services)

**1) Approval of Agenda**

Treasurer report (#4) was added to the agenda.

Moved: N. Abramson/R. Day

Carried.

**2) Approval of Minutes of November 20th**

Approved as circulated.

Moved: N. Abramson/D. Laitsch

Carried.

**3) Business Arising** - there was none to report.

**4) Treasurer Report – D. Broun**

- A year to date financial report was circulated to the Executive prior to the meeting.
- The donations line item is over budget due to the recent strike fund donation of \$2000.00 to UNBC faculty association; The \$1000 annual donation to the CAUT academic freedom fund has not been expensed as yet.
- The legal budget is high due to additional expenses associated with pension legal services and the pension actuary report. The Executive recommended expensing the actuary costs of roughly \$15,000.00 for the pension report to the “special projects” line

item but recommended leaving any legal costs associated with pensions under Legal. Moving forward, the Executive recommended that SFUFA obtain cost estimates for any work to be undertaken by external contractors.

- Member events are slightly over budget due to the various pension info sessions held at the 3 campuses in January and February.

#### **5) Presidents Report**

- CUFA BC distinguished academic award winners have been announced and they are: Dr. Bruce Lanphear, Health Sciences SFU, Dr. Antonia Mills, UNBC, and Dr. Chris Darimont, UVIC are winners this year.
- Julian has received mostly positive feedback from members re: the pension actuarial report that was circulated last week. A pension survey will be circulated to members within the next two weeks.
- In his meetings with J. Driver, Julian talked about contract negotiations & pensions. It was noted that reps from the College Pension Plan have contacted SFU Administration. At the next meeting, Julian noted he would address faculty review of Deans' appointments.
- A fossil fuel divestment panel discussion is being organized by a student group on campus, which will mostly look at the role that Universities play and what stance they should take on such public issues. Julian noted that many faculty members have been interested in the issue and have raised it at past general meetings. SFUFA has committed to assist with a donation of \$500 to cover catering and room booking costs for the event. Posters are being circulated and the event is taking place on Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

#### **6) Executive Directors Report**

- Executive nominations for 2015/2016 are underway and SFUFA is seeking volunteers for the following positions: President Elect (3 years), Librarian/Archivist (2 years), Teaching Appointment rep (2 years) and 2 Directors (two year terms).
- The Executive recommended that SFUFA host a candidates forum where nominees would be given the opportunity to speak in person on the issues that are important to them and where members could ask questions. SFUFA members who cannot attend in person would be allowed to email their questions in advance and the event will be videotaped for future viewing. The candidates statements would be published on the website in addition to being included in the survey template.
- Communication with members re: salary negotiations and pension: After much discussion the Executive noted it would be best to organize two separate information

meetings for the membership before the summer semester. One to review the results of the recent salary survey and another to discuss the pension plan. The salary survey results which should be out by the end of March would also be reviewed at the AGM on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Brian noted he would write to the bargaining team about their availability and get back to the Executive about possible meeting dates.

- The Executive agreed to set aside 15 minutes at the next meeting to accommodate a pension presentation by Andrey Pavlov, Beedie School of Business.

**7) Bargaining update**

- SFUFA has no bargaining sessions this month; UNBC has gone on strike; UBC is going to arbitration; UVIC is in mediation.

**8) End to post secondary tuition**

- SFUFA has been asked to endorse an Open Letter to the federal government being circulated by the Presidents of the Cape Breton University Faculty Association and Students Union, who have launched a campaign calling for an end to tuition for post-secondary education in Canada. After some discussion the Executive noted it would be best to refer the matter to CAUT.

**9) Items for Consultation March 18th**

- I. **Budget update:** SFUFA heard that P. Hibbitts delivered a budget update at SCUP this week and would be interested in hearing about it.
- II. **Family care and teaching assignments:** SFUFA would like to talk about possible means of recognizing the family care demands of many members. The lengthy operating hours of the university and the closing hours of the SFU child-care centre are only two things that come up regularly as issues that impact faculty who have child-care responsibilities. We understand the importance of a fair and transparent process to ensure that courses are taught at a range of times, but would like to discuss what kinds of personal circumstances might be considered legitimate considerations in scheduling and how these might be accounted for.
- III. **Student experience ratings:** SFUFA noted the recent Macleans article on university rankings of student experience, and would be interested in hearing the University's thoughts on this, both as regards problems with the methodology or reporting and real areas of concern that these ratings might highlight.
- IV. **Building Maintenance:** We have seen the recent coverage of the decision to close Louis Riel house, which has again brought our attention to the larger

question of deferred maintenance. The necessary cost of deferred maintenance in some of the articles has been \$700 million, though in other places it is stated that the real number is closer to \$200 million. We would like to hear a bit about where this discrepancy comes from. We also understand that SFU has done an assessment of its buildings in order to determine what repairs are necessary or safety concerns are identified. We would like to see that complete list so as to better understand the extent of the problem and the possible risks associated with the maintenance deficit.

**10) Other business**

- UNBCFA strike fund donation: The following motion was presented, opened for discussion and voted on by the Executive via email on March 7, 2015. It was noted that many associations around the country are sending donations to the UNBC faculty association strike fund and/or people to walk the picket lines. UBC was sending 3 people to Prince George to join the picket lines and even small schools back east were sending cheques of \$1000.
- Although SFUFA has not yet developed a donation policy, but given that the outcome of the strike would have an influence on SFUFA negotiations and that SFUFA works closely with UNBC faculty through CUFA, in addition, UNBC is a small faculty association facing a huge challenge as it takes on a leadership role in the future of post secondary education in BC, the Executive recommended making the following donation to UNBC faculty association in support of their struggle to achieve an equitable first Collective Agreement.

**Motion:**

That the SFUFA executive approve a donation of \$2000.00 to the UNBC Faculty Association to demonstrate our support for their efforts to negotiate a fair and equitable first contract with UNBC.

**Moved:** R. Day/H. Hendrigan

Carried unanimously.

**Adjournment.** There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.