

MINUTES
SFUFA SPRING GENERAL MEETING
Thursday April 10, 2014
10:30 – 12:30
Burnaby: Irmacs ASB 10900
(Via videoconference) - Surrey: 5380 - Vancouver: HC 2250

53 members were present (7 in Vancouver; 4 in Surrey)

1. Approval of the agenda.

Agenda item #5: Catherine Murray had a scheduling conflict and wont be presenting an update on Salary Equity. Anke Kessler who is co-chair of the committee will give a brief status report. An item 5b – report from Membership Services Officer was added to the agenda.

MOVED by D. Broun/G. Chapman

Carried.

2. Approval of the minutes 2013 Fall GM.

MOVED by C. Schwarz/N. Gajdamaschko

Carried.

3. Business Arising.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Presidents Report – N. Abramson.

- It was previously reported that 15% is contributed towards the pension plan for Senior Administrators at SFU; the correct amount is 10% and Neil apologized for the error.
- Unionization: Since February, a group of volunteers led by Chris Pavsek has been working on collecting cards in favour of a vote on SFUFA's certification as a union. To date, which is roughly 9 weeks since the collection phase began, 600 cards have been signed, which is 55% of the membership and above the 45% percent required under the Labour Relations Code. The Association will be preparing an application to the LRB requesting a formal vote towards the end of April. The LRB will then review the application and determine if the signed cards meet the requirements of the Board. Following that, a vote will take place within weeks, most likely in mid May. The timing and details of the vote will be determined by the LRB but SFUFA will be requesting an electronic vote in order to reach the most number of members. If 50% plus 1 of the membership vote yes in favour, SFUFA then becomes a union. In the succeeding 4 months, (June – September) a new contract will be hashed out and Neil noted that it could possibly take longer. It was also noted that although unionizing will not necessarily raise faculty salaries, it would broaden the scope of issues that SFUFA has control over.
- SFUFA continues to work on other issues such as gender pay inequity, academic freedom of lecturers and senior lecturers in regards to research, challenges and

barriers facing First Nations faculty and governance issues like Learning Objectives.

5. a) Salary Equity Study - Catherine Murray was not available to give a report but A. Kessler, co-Chair of the Equity committee gave the following update:
 - The committee is comprised of 4 reps from the Administration and 4-faculty reps and is at stage 1 of the process, which is data gathering; terms of reference have been established and the data has been submitted to the Administration for review.
 - The Administration is working well with the committee and the process is progressing reasonably well. It was noted that the overall mandate of the committee is to only gather data and facts and compile a report on the findings.

- b) Update from Membership Services – Jennifer Scott noted she is working on the following long-term SFUFA projects:
 - Faculty of Education on workplace health and safety issues regarding mould.
 - Workload for Lecturers in conjunction with the office of Institutional Research.
 - Policy regarding academic freedom/intellectual property rights.
 - Creative solutions for retirement/modified contracts.
 - Workplace bullying and harassment Policy.
 - Improving joint health and safety committee structure to better function for faculty workplace health and safety needs.
 - Regarding advocacy, J. Scott has handled roughly 100 cases since September 2013. The breakdown of cases by percentage is as follows:
 - Retirement: 8% of cases
 - Sick/Leave: 19%
 - Tenure, Promotion, Workload: 23%
 - Equity/workplace health and safety: 10%
 - Conflict resolution/negotiation: 23%
 - Policy interpretation/implementation: 17%

6. Guest Speaker – R. Vose, V.P, CAUT.
 - Robin spoke about the various issues facing the post secondary sector and noted that CAUT continues to work on various faculty issues and continues to lobby for the following: more funding for science in Canada via the Get Science Right campaign; CAUT stands with the CFS to fight against the case of skyrocketing tuition fees and the rising student debt; With an increasing corporate influence in University affairs, there is a greater threat to academic freedom and CAUT continues to monitor and vigorously defend academic freedom and ultimately strives to ensure that Canada’s universities are accessible, properly funded and serve the public interest.

7. Other Business:

- It was noted that a part of the route for the proposed Kinder Morgan pipeline project would be through Burnaby Mountain and a question was asked if SFUFA had addressed the issue with SFU Administration. The membership was informed that SFUFA has raised this at a meeting with SFU Administration who noted they have reps attending all the relevant meetings and are closely monitoring the issue. B. Hackett noted there is a rally organized this Saturday at 10:00 am and everyone who is interested is encouraged to attend. Additionally, more information about this is available at burnabypipelinewatch.ca.
- In November a motion was passed by the membership to urge the pension trustees to look at developing an optional fund divested from the fossil fuel industry and a question was asked about the status of this issue. The membership was informed that a response is being drafted by the pension trustees and is on its way. Members who are interested in this item were urged to write to B. Green SFUFA Executive Director, for an update.

8. Adjournment.

Adjourned at 12:00 noon

MOVED by R. Day/C. Pavsek

Carried.