

**MINUTES
SFUFA SPRING GENERAL MEETING**

Tuesday April 21, 2015

2:00 – 4:00 p,

Burnaby: Halpern 126

(Via videoconference) - Surrey: 3595 - Vancouver: HC 2250

33 members were present (3 in Vancouver; 2 in Surrey) and quorum was achieved.

1. Approval of the agenda.

MOVED by D. Broun/G. Chapman

Carried.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 2014 Fall GM.

There was discussion regarding the recorded details of the two motions related to item #9 – Kinder Morgan Pipeline. In the draft minutes, there are two motions recorded; the first one opposing the pipeline itself, is recorded as not being “Carried” (defeated by a vote) and the second one expressing support for communication rights is recorded as an amendment and is recorded as being “Carried”. R. Hackett, who brought forward the motion at last years GM, noted that this may be incorrect and that both motions were separate and were “Carried” (voted in favour). After much discussion, members noted it would be best to table the approval of the minutes until this information can be verified. The SFUFA office staff noted they may have a second set of notes from the meeting and would follow up on that.

Motion:

That the approval of the Fall GM minutes be tabled to the 2015 Summer GM pending verification of the information recorded under the two motions for the Kinder Morgan Pipeline, agenda item #9.

MOVED by C. Graebner/H. Pabel

Carried.

1 opposed.

3. Business Arising.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Presidents Report – Julian Christians.

- For the past few months SFUFA has been discussing retirement and pensions with members. One of the questions being asked is whether SFUFA should seek to join the BC College Pension Plan, which is a defined benefit plan. A survey was circulated to members in early April and the following results were noted: Total respondents were 244, which is slightly less than ¼ of the total membership.

Question 1: Do you have enough information to make a decision? 203 said yes which is 83% of respondents. 41 members agreed that they do not have enough information to make a decision, which is 17% of respondents.

Other questions:

- I. I would vote in support of the option of switching to the college pension plan – 98 members said they would which is 40% of respondents.
- II. I would vote in support of the option of switching to the college plan because I think it would be good for others even though I probably wouldn't make the switch myself - 18 (7% of respondents).
- III. I'm leaning towards supporting the option of switching to the college plan, but I need to think about it more/ I need more information - 45 (18%)
- IV. I have no idea; I need to think about it more/ I need more information. 30 (12%)
- V. I'm leaning against supporting the option of switching to the college plan, but I need to think about it more/ I need more information. 9 (4%)

Julian noted that the Executive would be discussing next steps and would make a decision shortly, on whether to proceed with a membership vote on the issue. He further noted that current members would be given the opportunity to vote and choose whether they would stay with the existing plan or switch to the new plan, but future members would automatically be enrolled in the new plan and that decision would have to be made by the current membership.

- CUFA BC – At the Fall GM, the membership passed a motion for SFUFA's reps on the CUFA BC Board to obtain a report on CUFA's vision and strategic plan and to find out how CUFA BC was going to deliver value for money. Julian noted that on February 17th, CUFA had a strategic meeting to discuss priorities and roles for the organization. Recognizing that it will not be possible to achieve all of these goals with a staff of 1.6, the following priorities were identified:
 - ✓ Lobbying and maintaining a public dialogue re: case funding, governance issues;
 - ✓ Public Policy research – providing expertise on how Universities are governed and the role of PSEC;
 - ✓ Service – coordination among organizations, bargaining support. Recently CUFA stepped in to provide support to UNBC during their strike, a role traditionally played by CAUT. CUFA also provided support to UVIC during their contract negotiations.
 - ✓ Serving as an information clearinghouse on provincial matters, for example, collecting decisions on grievances and arbitrations for use by member associations.

SFUFA Executive members who attended the recent CUFA BC Council meeting noted they felt more confident that the new Executive Director would be a valuable asset to the organization and that he should be given an opportunity.

- SFUFA scheduled two membership meetings to discuss bargaining priorities. One meeting was held last week on April 14th and the next one is scheduled for April 28th. Members in Surrey and Vancouver can join via videoconference and Julian encouraged all members to attend the information sessions.

5. Bargaining Update – D. Broun

- Compared to other institutions, SFUFA's collective bargaining is going well and both sides are engaged. Both sides have exchanged all non-monetary proposals and have signed off on two articles they agreed on. The process may appear to be slow because SFUFA is taking their time to provide rationales and reasons for points being brought forward, but the process remains sound and positive to date. SFUFA was in a good position going in to bargaining due to the high level of preparation – thanks to Executive Director Brian Green, who spent time last summer putting together a draft collective agreement template, which greatly assisted the bargaining committee. In terms of a timeline, it was noted that SFUFA won't be tackling salary issues until the Fall of 2015 and that should give the Association time to continue to talk and engage with members on this. SFUFA would like more members to participate in discussions and give direction to the Executive on salary issues.

6. Other Business

I. **Motion:**

That the outgoing members of the Executive, namely, David Broun, Holly Hendrigan, Carl Schwarz and outgoing President Julian Christians, be thanked for their hard work and commitment to SFUFA this past year.

MOVED: C. Graebner/H. Pabel

Carried.

- II. Public Inquiry Campaign – H. Hendrigan, SFUFA Director, noted that SFUFA was recently approached to circulate a link to a petition, calling on the Provincial Government to launch a public inquiry into the 2012 deaths and injuries of the workers at the Babine and Lakeland Sawmills. It was noted that the Executive has often received requests of this nature in the past, and have grappled with the extent to which they should support such social issues that aren't directly related to work. Holly noted that these requests/links could be published on the SFUFA website if members are interested or could be circulated via the academic discussion list.

Approved: July 29, 2015

7. Adjournment.

Adjourned at 3:10 noon

MOVED by N. Abramson/H. Hendrigan

Carried.