

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held Thursday October 8, 2015
Halpern 124
9.30 – 12:00 noon**

In attendance:

N. Abramson (Business) Chair
R. Arab (English)
G. Chapman (Engineering Science)
J. Christians, (Biology)
D. Laitsch (Education)
C. Lesjak (English)
K. Pendakur (Economics)
M. Sjoerdsma (Engineering Science)
R. Tucker (Health Sciences)

Brian Green (Executive Director)
M. Lam (Recorder)
J. Scott (Membership Services)

Regrets:

J. Rowe (Archives)
R. Day (Psychology)

1) Approval of Agenda

Approved with one addition – TSSU update.

Moved: G. Chapman/J. Chrisitans

Carried.

2) Approval of Minutes

a) September 17, 2015

Approved as circulated.

Moved: G. Chapman/C. Lesjak

Carried.

3) Business Arising

- It was reported that since the release of SFUFA's statement to the Burnaby Now newspaper re: the Kinder Morgan Pipeline, the newspaper has interviewed Bob Hackett and is developing a radio new story on the subject.

4) Presidents Report – N. Abramson

- The equity presentation to SFUFA members will take place on November 23rd from 2 – 4 and location will be announced at a future date.
- SFUFA membership survey: Neil noted he would have the survey results compiled by next week but reported that the top issues for SFUFA members are low salaries,

workload, the downloading of secretarial/clerical duties on the professoriate and the new teaching professor rank policy.

- At the recent CUFA Council meeting UVIC reported on their successful negotiations and spoke about how they had gained a few salary percentage points for their members (over the 5.5% /5 years) due to the governments new Economic Stability Mandate. There was much discussion about this and it was noted that SFUFA's bargaining team is reviewing the current salary step structure. Neil noted it would be effective for SFUFA to build awareness of the topic through various membership hospitality events and to get support from faculty re: push for changes to the salary system.

Motion:

That the SFUFA Executive begin its hospitality events for members this current year with a focus on discussions around salary systems.

Moved: R. Tucker/G. Chapman

Carried.

- Offloading of clerical work on the Professoriate – there was discussion about this item and everyone agreed that functions such as the processing travel expenses, plagiarism grievances, entering of grades and grade appeals, previously handled by clerical staff are now downloaded onto SFUFA members, which is an extra burden given the demanding responsibilities of research, teaching and service.
- New teaching professor rank policy – It was noted that the bargaining team has entered into discussions with the Administration to fix the current policy and the Executive tabled the discussion to a future meeting.

5) Executive Director Report – B. Green

- Brian noted he has been away from the office for one week but gave an update on TSSU negotiations.

6) MSO report – J. Scott

- Jennifer gave an update on two important advocacy cases she is working on.

7) Teaching release policy discussion

- A revised draft was circulated with the meeting package. What is being added to the current policy is (a) the flexibility to give a reduction in workload over the term of the appointment for the Past President and/or President Elect, if they so choose and (b) It allows the Executive Committee to grant release time (one course per year) to members

of the bargaining committee, executive committee or members at large, on an ad hoc basis. The Executive recommended the following: Add text to include the duties of the President Elect and Past President without being too prescriptive; change the wording so that the Executive Committee initiates/identifies projects that may qualify for a teaching release, rather than have members apply for it; take out the word “exceptional cases “ and add one course per year under the section **Guidelines for Additional Release Time**. Brian noted he would make the changes and circulate it to the Executive.

8) Items for Consultation – October 15, 2015

I. Parking

SFUFA have had several issues brought to their attention including reserved spots for faculty, appropriate parking for people with disabilities particularly at Surrey campus, enforcement of parking regulations, lack of response from Parking Services to requests from members and hopes that someone on the Admin team will be able to respond to this.

II. Campus building projects

A recent news-story on extensive building at UBC has brought this matter to SFUFA’s attention and SFUFA would like to hear what if anything SFU might do to create a structure to facilitate building projects despite the provincial restrictions on building by the university itself.

III. Safety of members and rights of students

A current case has brought to SFUFA’s attention a problem with the balance between protections for the safety of our members and protections for the rights of students. We would like to discuss this with the Administration so that people in various roles are aware of the issues and we might identify ways to better share information and restore an appropriate balance.

iv. TSSU situation

The SFUFA Executive would like to hear from the University about the state of bargaining/impasse with the TSSU; matters seem to be worsening and faculty members have serious concerns about the impact of the current impasse.

9) Other Business

- There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 10.29 am.