

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held Thursday December 3, 2015
Halpern 114
9.30 – 12:00 noon**

In attendance:

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

Regrets:

Joy Rowe (Archives)
J. Scott (Membership Services)

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

1) Approval of Agenda

Approved as circulated.
Moved: R. Day/R. Arab

Carried.

2) Approval of Minutes

a) October 15, 2015

Approved with two amendments.
Moved: R. Day/R. Arab

Carried.

3) Business Arising

- There was none to report.

4) Presidents Report – N. Abramson

- Neil gave a report on the CAUT Council conference he attended last week and noted that highlights included a presentation on threats to tenure in the USA, an address by Christian Addai-Poku President of the National Association of Graduate teachers in Ghana, a presentation on the Get Science Right Campaign and the outcome of the 2015 federal election.
- CUFA and UVIC are scheduled to speak to their respective Opposition Critics about

university guaranteed loans programs and deferred maintenance.

- The Executive discussed how SFUFA can support the Aboriginal Strategic Plan at SFU, the inclusion of special weighting criteria for tenure and promotion applications of Aboriginal faculty, similar to that established at Trent University and the indigenization of curriculum. Brian noted he would circulate a copy of Trent's TPC policy to the Executive.
- Neil is on the search committee for the new VP Academic & Provost and reported that a decision should be made by next Monday.

5) ED Report – B. Green

- Brian gave an update on the 3 large advocacy cases SFUFA is dealing with and noted it could potentially require legal processes.

6) BOG & Senate meeting reports

- R. Day is scheduled to attend the December 7th Senate meeting and asked about SFUFA's practice for producing meeting reports. Brian noted that those who attend the BOG and Senate meetings should circulate written reports to the Executive group by email.

7) Service recognition in faculties

- SFUFA is concerned in general with the shrinking number of faculty who volunteer for service activities and in the governance of SFU. A good example of this is the slipping membership in the Faculty College and lengthy delays in organizing Faculty Review Committees. The Association would like to explore ways to provide greater levels of recognition for those doing service work for the University, which is critical to the functioning of the University. It was acknowledged that some department's value service more than others and some value external service more than service to the University. In addition, with increasing faculty workloads governance work has become less of a priority. After much discussion, the Executive recommended that educating members and having a conversation about the topic would be a good first step. It was further noted that it would be beneficial to persuade the SFU Administration to take a leadership role in the matter. Neil and Brian will discuss this and bring back ideas for a collegial governance type event for members.

8) Items for Consultation – December 10, 2015

- I. We understand that TLC is due for an external review. SFUFA would like to hear about the timing and process and how faculty across the university can be involved.

- II. We have not yet had confirmation of SFU's appointments to the salary equity implementation committee or when this work might begin. Is there an update available?
- III. With recent announcements of a new associate VP Human Resources and a new Associate VP Teaching and Learning, we have heard concerns about the growth of administrative positions while faculty positions are not keeping pace with needs. We understand the value of senior leadership in key areas and recognize that budgeting requires hard decisions about priorities. We think there would be some benefit in a regular report on the absolute and relative numbers of senior administrators, faculty, support staff and students. SFUFA would like to hear whether such information is tracked and, if so, where it can be found. If it is not tracked, we would request that it be done annually and reported to the community .
- IV. We would like to hear more about the status of the course evaluation pilots. In particular, what has been learned from the second wave of pilots, and what changes, if any, are expected? We also would like to hear what steps have been planned or taken to begin to address the question of broader evaluation of teaching, i.e. measures apart from the student satisfaction surveys.

9) Other Business

- CUFA Distinguished Academics award – Brian will forward the information to the Executive and asked everyone to circulate it widely in their faculties. The Executive recommended establishing a “leadership in the community award” and will bring this forward at the next CUFA council meeting.
- Brian will forward Trent University’s TPC policy to the Executive for review.

10) Adjournment - There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.