

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting**  
**Held Thursday June 9, 2016**  
**Halpern 114**  
**9.30 – 12:00 noon**

**In attendance:**

N. Abramson (Chair, Business)  
R. Arab (English)  
G. Chapman (Engineering Science)  
J. Christians, (Biology)  
R. Day (Psychology)  
D. Laitsch (Education)  
C. Lesjak (English)  
M. Sjoerdsma (Engineering Science)  
Brian Green (Executive Director)  
Melanie Lam (Recorder)  
J. Scott (Member Services)

**Regrets:**

D. Laitsch (Education)  
K. Pendakur (Economics)  
J. Rowe (Archives)

**1) Approval of Agenda**

Approved as circulated.

Moved: J. Christians/C. Lesjak

Carried.

**2) Approval of Minutes of May 19th**

Approved as circulated.

Moved: G. Chapman/M. Sjoerdsma

Carried.

**3) Business Arising - none to report**

**4) Presidents report – N. Abramson**

- Neil gave an update on his meeting with J. Driver which included the following: a discussion on the new Aboriginal strategic initiative that SFUFA is spearheading; the final report on the recent advocacy case; signing of confidentiality agreements and the recently held sexual violence forum which was attended by about 50 people. Regarding the frequent requests for faculty to sign confidential agreements, the Executive discussed this and recommended that SFUFA draft language to be included whenever these agreements are used. For example, it would be beneficial to include clarification for faculty members regarding the meaning of “confidentiality” in these instances and to differentiate between procedure and information and also to perhaps include a term for the agreement. It was noted that the

goal of SFUFA is not to discourage members from participating in committee work but rather to protect members and still give the university, what they want.

#### **5) Executive Director report – Brian Green**

- Brian noted that only one new executive member can attend the orientation/transition session scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup> and also that he will be away on September 8<sup>th</sup> for the first scheduled Executive meeting following the summer break. The Executive recommended that the September 8<sup>th</sup> exec meeting be postponed to the 16<sup>th</sup> and the orientation session for new folks be rescheduled to September 16<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 9:30, followed by a 2-hour executive meeting to 11:30. The consult meeting is scheduled from 11:30 – 1 pm (with lunch) on that day.
- The estate planning session for members will take place on Wednesday September 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 at the DAC. An announcement will be sent to members shortly.
- Starting September, Dan Laitsch has secured private office space at the Surrey and Vancouver campus locations and SFUFA staff plans to be available to meet with members at these locations on a rotating basis.
- Brian gave an update on the conclusion of the advocacy case in the Faculty of Science and noted that the final report will be made available to stakeholders soon.
- SFUFA's summer GM is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 – 2:30 at Burnaby in Irmacs Theatre, preceding the pension trustee AGM.
- There is a push for universities to rely on performance metrics in peer evaluation. As we move through the accreditation process, it is recommended that SFUFA monitor the use of performance metrics at SFU and Brian asked anyone who hears anything about this in their faculty to keep him advised.

#### **6) Member Services report – J. Scott**

- Jennifer gave an update on the cases she is working on.

#### **7. Items for Consultation**

- I. Accreditation update: SFUFA would be interested in hearing the latest on the NWCCU accreditation process and what we might expect for the summer and fall.
- II. Indigenization initiative: some time ago SFUFA heard that SFU was developing a plan for indigenization of the curriculum; this is an important project, not least in efforts to balance a serious commitment to indigenization with broader principles such as academic freedom. SFUFA would be interested in hearing about developments on this front and whether there is or will be a committee working on this issue and developing recommendations.
- III. TLC - our executive has concerns about a perceived conflict of interest, in that the TLC's

external reviewers do not seem to be at arms length from people in the TLC.

- IV. El Dorado Gold - carried over from last consult, we want to thank the University for its defense of the academic freedom of our members, but also raise concern about what this event indicates regarding entitlement felt by certain donors to interfere with academic freedom.

#### **8) Bargaining update**

- Brian gave an update on contract negotiations and noted that bargaining is ongoing and that two sessions have been scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **9) Aboriginal Strategic Plan**

- Brian and Neil met with Eldon Yellowhorn (Department of Archaeology), William Lindsay (Office for Aboriginal Peoples) and Ron Johnson (Office of Indigenous Education), to review the draft document. The plan is for the rest of the aboriginal faculty at SFU to review the document over the summer months and finalize it in the fall. Neil noted that SFUFA's intention is to create a general set of guidelines and principles - an aspirational document for aboriginal faculty, rather than a specific set of objectives and actions.
- The executive discussed the draft document and made some recommendations to incorporate support from the Administration for aboriginal students via bridging programs, more scholarships for aboriginal graduate students and resources for those who may want to indigenize their curriculum/program. Brian noted he would revise the document and circulate it to the executive.

#### **10) Other Business**

- Carolyn was unable to attend the last senate meeting and Glenn Chapman gave an update.

#### **11) Adjournment** - There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 am.