

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

In attendance:

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

Regrets:

R. Tucker (Health Sciences)
J. Christians, (Biology)
M. Sjoerdsma (Engineering Science)
J. Rowe (Archives)

1) Approval of Agenda

Approved as circulated.

Moved: R. Arab/C. Lesjak

Carried.

2) Approval of Minutes

a) April 21, 2016

Approved as circulated.

Moved: D. Laitsch/G. Chapman

Carried.

3) Business Arising - none to report.

4) Presidents report – N. Abramson

- SFUFA is working with senior First Nations faculty to draft a Policy on how to assist and support F/N faculty in such matters as tenure standards, in-class supports, mentoring, and recommendations to improve the quality of their work-life on campus. The first and second drafts have been reviewed and some changes have been made. Once this draft is finalized, William Lindsey from the Office of Aboriginal Peoples will seek input from indigenous faculty on campus, and the draft policy will be brought to the Executive for discussion.
- Neil will be stepping down as SFUFA's tenure and promotion advisor next year and Jeff

McGuirk from Physics will be taking over and has been job shadowing Neil this past year.

5) Executive Director report – Brian Green

- The pension trustee elections are underway. This year there were 5 nominees for 2 open positions and the deadline for voting is Wednesday May 18th.
- In light of recent legislation proposed by the BC government requiring post secondary institutions to maintain sexual misconduct/assault policies, Brian noted that SFU is putting together a committee to start the work on this. An additional advisory group is also being established and the Administration has asked SFUFA to submit names of potential committee members.
- Bargaining: SFUFA submitted their salary proposal to the Administration roughly 3 – 4 weeks ago. A few meetings have been cancelled and the process is moving slower than expected. Bargaining is set to resume on May 27th.

6) Member Services report – J. Scott

- Jennifer noted she has several cases on the go and gave an update on the ongoing harassment case.

7) Open Access Policy

- The draft Policy that the library committee has been working was attached with the meeting package for the Executive to review. SFUFA is being asked if they would support this Policy, which is being taken to the Senate for approval sometime in the summer. There was much discussion about this item and the Executive noted it likes the idea that SFU is encouraging faculty to share their products of research via open access. However, there are many concerns with the Policy itself: For example, the Policy indicates that if one does not wish to share their work in the open access repository, individual university authors may obtain a waiver. In this instance, if the faculty member forgets to obtain the waiver, SFUFA is concerned that members' could face possible sanctions for non-compliance. In addition, the Policy may be in conflict with other SFU policies governing intellectual property rights and academic freedom. SFUFA would also like SFU to recognize and make it clear in the Policy that if any faculty member faces legal action from a Publisher, that they (SFU) would assume liability. The Executive recommended that this be brought forward for further discussion with the Administration at the May 19th consult meeting.

8). Items for Consultation – May 19th

- I. **TLC** – An external review is underway, and a new VPA joining SFU in the Fall. TLC hiring process is happening now, but might be better left until the results of the review and the arrival of Peter K. Is there a reason we are acting in advance of these developments? SFUFA suggests that it might be better to wait.

- II. **Open Access Policy:** The Library committee has been working on a new Open Access Policy, which has been sent out for community consultation. We have raised concerns during the drafting stage, and recognize that a good deal of progress has been made. However, while we support the encouragement of open access, we have core concerns that remain outstanding, particularly regarding, legal liabilities, possible sanctions for non-compliance and the interaction of this proposed policy with the policies and agreements governing intellectual property and academic freedom. SFUFA would like to see these addressed before the Policy moves forward so as to avoid any disputes arising after the fact.

- III. **Student Satisfaction Surveys/Teaching Evaluation:** SFUFA has a few questions/concerns. 1) The new online system integrates lectures and labs; given the limit to the number of course specific questions, it is difficult to build in enough feedback on both lecture and lab components, as the two require very different questions and need to be assessed differently. Has this been identified as a problem, and are there steps being taken to address this concern? 2) SFUFA understood that the online system would be tested alongside the paper system in order to properly compare performance of the two models; now, that side-by-side comparison is explicitly not being done. SFUFA is concerned that there is a missing important step in assessment of the new system, and that without an adequate comparison, TPCs will face difficulties in using the data generated for purposes of biennial review and promotion and tenure consideration. SFUFA would be interested in discussing how this might be addressed. 3) SFU policy is that student opinion should not be the sole means of evaluating teaching; further, when we began work on the new system, an explicit goal was development of other, additional modes of assessment. SFUFA would like to hear about the status of such alternatives, and how the University can ensure that Departments and Faculties do not rely exclusively on student opinion.

- IV. **Eldorado Gold:** recent complaints lodged by Eldorado Gold against SFUFA members in the Institute for the Humanities have caused significant concern about the failure of corporate donors to recognize the centrality of academic freedom and the entitlement

donors sometimes feel to demand that SFU police our members' work. SFUFA appreciate the response of the University, through Joanne Curry, in defending our members' rights and upholding the principles of academic freedom, but we are concerned about what this instance illustrates regarding the challenges of corporate sponsorship .

- 10) Other Business** - There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.