

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held Thursday March 9th, 2017
Halpern 114
9.30 – 12:00 noon**

In attendance:

Ronda Arab (English)
Sherryl Bisgrove (Biology)
Russel Day (Psychology)
Dan Laitsch (Chair, Education)
Scott Mackenzie (Library)
Michael Sjoerdsma (Engineering Science)
Rochelle Tucker (Health Sciences)
Brian Green (Executive Director)
Melanie Lam (Recorder)
Jennifer Scott (Member Services)

Regrets:

Neil Abramson (Business)
Kumari Beck (Education)
Steeve Mongrain (Economics)
Genevieve Fuji Johnson (Political Science)

1) Approval of Agenda

Moved: Russell Day/Mike Sjoerdsma Carried.

2) Approval of Minutes February 9th

Approved as circulated.
Moved: Russell Day/ Ronda Arab Carried.

3) Business Arising - none to report.

4) Presidents report

- In his regular meeting with President Petter, Dan noted they had discussed the food service workers situation and SFUFA's proposal for a new faculty club.
- Dan and SFUFA staff members attended Doug Thorpe Dorward's farewell party on Thursday March 2nd. SFUFA has a regular meeting scheduled with Faculty Relations on Friday March 10th to talk about issues related to the new collective agreement.
- The CUFA governance conference which was held on March 3rd and 4th was well attended and offered useful sessions.
- The SFUFA social held at the Surrey campus was well attended and successful. It was noted that it was a good idea to schedule the event to coincide with SIAT's monthly departmental meeting.

- The Building Connections conference which was held on Tuesday and co-hosted by TLC and Health and Counseling was a good event. Many faculty members attended the afternoon session where discussions focused on faculty social, intellectual, and mental well-being. The notes from the meeting would be made available shortly and SFUFA will be sending thank-you notes to faculty panelists and organizers at TLC and Health and Counseling. Russell Day noted he would forward these names to the SFUFA office.
- There was a recommendation to invite reps from other employee groups and the Director, Faculty Relations to next year's event.

5) Executive Director report – Brian Green

- Update on Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy: SFUFA is happy to report that many of SFUFA's recommendations will likely be included in the final version of the draft and these were circulated by e-mail to the executive by Genevieve on March 1st. It is unsure when the policy will be finalized and sent to the BOG for approval.
- Pension update: A Committee made up of Julian Christians, David Broun and Barbara Sanders is looking at options for pension reform, including a target benefit plan. They will be meeting with the Administration and reporting on it by the end of April. An update will be provided to members at the AGM in April.
- Student Evaluation of Teaching and Courses (SETC) Committee: Faculty have many concerns about this process. A new committee is being formed and SFUFA has not been invited to play a role. After some discussion the executive recommended that this be brought forward as an agenda item at the March Consult meeting.
- Faculty Relations: Catherine Stoddard will be taking over Doug Thorpe Dorward's former position in an acting capacity as Executive Director but their long term plans are unknown at this time.
- CUFA BC Council: The annual meeting will take place on April 20th and 21st. The distinguished academic awards dinner will be taking place on the 20th evening – please advise Brian if you are interested in attending.
- Bank signing authority: Since Neil Abramson will be retiring soon, a third signing officer is needed. The current signing officers are Executive Director, Brian Green and Vice President & Treasurer, Mike Sjoerdsma.

Motion:

That Scott Mackenzie, Librarian and Archivist Director, be added on as a SFUFA executive signing authority effective immediately.

Moved: Rochelle Tucker/Mike Sjoerdsma

Carried.

- World University Service of Canada: Brian noted that this organization runs a student refugee program where student refugees are sponsored to study at Canadian universities and colleges. They would like an opportunity to present at the next GM in March.
- Kinder Morgan: SFUFA has been invited to attend group sessions to discuss the tank farm threat and potential risks for students and staff at Burnaby campus, and Jennifer has been attending these meetings. There is a Town Hall event being held on April 3rd from 4 – 6 pm and the Embark Sustainability organization is looking for support for either catering and/or room booking charges.

Motion:

That SFUFA pays for the cost of the room booking for this event to be held at the Halpern Center on April 3rd, 2017.

Moved: Russ Day/Mike Sjoerdmsa

Carried.

6) Member Services report – Jennifer Scott

- Jennifer has been attending the Kinder Morgan tank farm group meetings, which are attended by other student groups, GSS and other grassroots organizations on campus. They are hosting an event on April 3rd and are looking for speakers. The audience will be comprised of mostly undergraduate students but the event is open to all.
- The Equity Committee met a week ago. The committee has many projects on the go and would like the executive committee to raise the pay equity award issue at a Consult meeting. The committee will be pulling together a report on salary anomaly review practices and are also planning on collecting data for other designated equity groups. A number of Equity committee members are stepping down and the committee needs a new Chair.
- Jen has recently been dealing with complaints from faculty members regarding the transfer of study leave credits, interpretation of parental leave policies, and also the ongoing issues around TSSU sessional instructors being converted to SFUFA Limited Term Lecturers.

7. Financial year to date report – Mike Sjoerdsma

- We are just over 2/5th of our way through this year's budget and most line items are on track. Faculty dues income was projected accurately at 43% to date.

8) Strategy for converting from one-year to two-year Presidency

- If the new bylaws are approved at the next AGM, two additional Director positions would have jobs attached to it and the VP and President positions would serve for 2-year terms rather than for 1 year commencing September 1, 2017.

9) TA job postings

- SFUFA has received complaints from faculty members in Engineering Science about being unable to interview TA candidates in Engineering Science before ranking them. The real concern is that there are explicit qualifications for certain courses such as writing process in Engineering, and not being able to rank TA's is a problem. It is not known if there is something specific in the new language of the TSSU agreement or if this is an internal departmental issue. Since Human Resources administers the TSSU agreement, the recommendation is to have faculty members or departments contact Human Resources to seek direction on this.

10) Member engagement

- SFUFA has been fairly active in its member engagement efforts these past few years and has held pub nights, coffee klatsches, an annual December social, events at Surrey and Vancouver and various luncheons. In addition, exec members have formed a "spirit club" to talk about member engagement and plan activities. The executive noted they would like to continue this work and keep an eye on where the gaps are and see how the Association could do better in this area.
- Executive committee members agree that attending departmental meetings is a good idea. The recommendation is to have each exec member take 15 minutes every 2 weeks to present at a departmental meeting and to find out what issues members are thinking about. Exec members who sign up to do this should be responsible for their own scheduling and reporting back to the executive committee. Jennifer noted she would have a list of departments available for the next exec meeting.
- Another recommendation is to host a get together for Teaching Faculty. Rochelle Tucker noted she would follow up on this.
- Exec office hours: Open up a set time, perhaps for an hour following the Thursday executive meetings, for a drop in for members. Dan noted this is something that could be scheduled immediately.
- Bookmark marketing campaign: These could be made colorful, with website information, SFUFA services, the Constitution, and executive drop in hours. It was noted that Document Solutions prints calendars and perhaps they could be consulted about this.

11. Items for Consultation – March 16th.

- I. SETC committee. We understand that SFU is putting together a new committee to look at student evaluations of teaching. We would like to hear more about the committee, and how we might participate and/ or recommend participants.
- II. Safewalk Program: SFUFA has concerns and would like to raise about the capacity of the Safewalk program and issues regarding scheduling with Safewalk.
- III. Salary gender equity update and progress of new administrative/ staffing structures related to human rights and equity.
- IV. Email migration: SFUFA understands that SFU is planning to migrate email services to a new system. Questions of security and cost have occurred to us, and we would like to have some discussion about what is being proposed and why migration seems necessary.

12) Other Business

- There are rumors that SFU is migrating to a new email system (MS exchange). Although the server itself would reside on Canadian soil, Microsoft is a US company and many are concerned about sensitive information flowing over the border and the increased costs for this. The executive recommended raising this at the next Consult meeting.

13) Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.