

Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held Thursday, May 10, 2018
Halpern 114
9:30 - 12:00 noon

approved June 14/18

In attendance:

Kumari Beck (Education)
Sherryl Bisgrove (Biology)
Dan Laitsch (Education)
Steeve Mongrain (Economics)
Michael Sjoerdsma (Chair, Engineering Science)
Alexandra Wieland (Archives)
Brian Green (Executive Director)
Melanie Lam (Recorder)

Regrets:

Ronda Arab (English)
Krishna Pendakur (Economics)
Genevieve Fuji Johnson (Political Science)
Rochelle Tucker (Health Sciences)
Russell Day (Psychology)

1) Approval of Agenda

Approved as circulated.

Moved: Dan Laitsch/Alexandra Wieland

Carried.

2) Approval of April 19th minutes

Approved with amendments.

Moved: Sherryl Bisgrove/Kumari Beck

Carried.

3) Business Arising

- Construction site signage and access – although SFUFA raised this at a previous consult meeting, it is still not adequate. SFUFA will follow up on this at next weeks consult meeting. Mike Sjoerdsma noted that SFUFA exec members have been invited to tour construction sites at Burnaby and he will be putting out a call to the executive shortly.

4) Presidents report – Mike Sjoerdsma

- Mike, Brian and Jennifer attended the CAUT conference at the end of April. There were discussions on the following: CAUT is calling on the Federal Government to establish a public inquiry into the treatment of Carleton Professor Hassan Diab who was jailed in France; Suspension of 5 professors at UNBC; Motion put forward to condemn Royal Roads Administration for refusing to release membership information to their faculty association and Carleton University facing censure over secrecy order. Kirstie Duncan, Minister of Education, who is also an Associate Professor at U of T attended and spoke at the conference.
- SFPIRG (Simon Fraser Public Interest Research Group) is circulating a petition asking SFU to lease space directly to SFPIRG. The group previously leased office space from SFSS who will be relinquishing its lease once the new SUB is completed.

- Mike attended a Westcoast Women in Engineering event and noted it was a very proactive event which was attended by the VP Academic.
- SFUFA is eager to move forward with the salary anomaly report and this has been communicated to the SFU Administration.

5) Executive Director report

- The call for nominations for two pension trustees will be going out this week and elections will be held in early June. If any executive members know of anyone who may be interested in running, please ask them to contact Brian.
- SFUFA is working on putting together a good bargaining team and the team will begin planning early for bargaining next spring. This should be finalized soon and Brian noted he would keep us informed.
- Brian and Mike will be attending the CAUBO (Canadian Association of Business Officers) conference which is being held in Vancouver in June and hosted by SFU. Sessions will include Building Social Infrastructure, Leading from the Middle, Managing controversial events on campus, University Governance sessions, Benchmarking Administrative Efficiency and preparing for Collective Bargaining.
- TSSU is in discussions with the Administration on how to deal with their conversion rights (TSSU long term Sessional Instructors to SFUFA Limited Term Lecturers) and a meeting is planned for next week.
- Since the pension plan topic will be gaining momentum in the coming weeks, Brian recommended getting an education piece/plan written by the pension consultant for the membership, in language that is easy to understand.

6) Pensions – David Broun

- David gave an update on the Eckler pension valuation report. It was noted that the report would be circulated to members once pension committee members have had a chance to review it.

Motion:

That the SFUFA executive believes that the BC College Pension Plan is now a viable option, and that members ought to have the ability to consider it, and provides that guidance to our representatives to the pension committee.

Moved: Dan Laitsch/Kumari Beck

Passed Unanimously

Committee reports

- i. Equity: The SFU Equity Diversity and Inclusion committee is meeting once every two weeks.
- ii. Parking – Rochelle Tucker has requested a follow up meeting but to date there has been no response.

7) Items for Consultation – May 17th

- I. Business Arising: Following up on the issue of construction, we would like to know who at SFU faculty can speak to regarding construction-related concerns. A similar question regarding classroom set-up and equipment issues - to whom can we refer people?
- II. Reconciliation Process: We would like to invite someone to present on the reconciliation process and it's work. We understand this may not be possible for the next consult but would be interested in hearing more about the process and how we can contribute.
- III. Academic planning - units have submitted academic plans through Deans and to the VPA. We would be interested to hear how these are reviewed at the higher levels, and how they impact broader university planning and priorities.
- IV. Payroll tax - Minister Carole James was quoted in the paper as saying municipalities would not be excluded from the payroll tax, but that non-profits, school boards and colleges and universities may be. We, through CUFA BC, have called for an exception for public post-secondary institutions, and were pleased to hear that an exemption is being seriously considered. We would like to hear whether there is any more formal indication that an exemption will be granted, or anything in particular we can do at this stage to encourage such a decision.
- V. New Email roll-out – SFUFA has heard a few concerns regarding the roll-out of the new email system, but it generally appears to have been quite successful. Are there issues that have arisen that we ought to be aware of, or any advice for members who approach is with questions?
- VI. Human Rights Officer – SFUFA is pleased that SFU has now hired a new Human Rights Officer. We would like to invite them to attend a consult so we can be introduced and hear about priorities and how we can assist in making the office as effective as possible.
- VII. Administrative searches – SFUFA would like to hear an update on current and anticipated searches. We understand that the Dean of Science and AVP Learning and Teaching searches are at an advanced stage and are interested when we might hear about appointments. We also understand that number of searches are likely to be and when we might expect them to be announced.

8) Other business – none to report.

9) Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.