

Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held Thursday January 9, 2020
Halpern 114
9.30 – 11:30 am

In attendance:

Kumari Beck (Education)
Genevieve Fuji Johnson (Political Science) via
Teleconference
Dan Laitsch (Education)
Steeve Mongrain (Economics)
Suzanne Norman (Publishing)
Janice Regan (Computing Science) late (11.30)
Michael Sjoerdsma (Engineering Science) Chair
Rochelle Tucker (Health Sciences)
Melanie Lam (Minutes)
Jennifer Scott (Member Services)
Brian Green (Executive Director)

Regrets:

Sherryl Bisgrove (Biological Sciences)
Alexandra Wieland (Archives)

1. Approval of Agenda

Item 9b feedback for VPA search to be addressed under President's report.

Moved: Kumari Beck/Steeve Mongrain

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of December 5th

Approved as circulated.

Moved: Steeve Mongrain/Dan Laitsch

Carried.

3. Business Arising

- None to report.

4. Presidents Report – Mike Sjoerdsma

- After a nine-month search process, Joy Johnson, SFU's current VP Research and International has been named as SFU's next President and vice-chancellor effective September 1, 2010.
- VPA search committee: Is seeking community feedback regarding the qualities and attributes that the successful candidate should possess, to help create a position

description and candidate profile. SFUFA (Mike Sjoerdsma) will be providing a written submission to the committee on behalf of SFUFA by January 17th. The executive recommended that SFUFA members additionally participate by attending the scheduled forums in January and completing the online questionnaire.

- The Joint Salary Anomaly Committee is continuing their work on a survey and are seeking feedback, which Mike Sjoerdsma will respond to.

5. Executive Director report – Brian Green

- The Bargaining Committee is meeting today for the first time after the Christmas break and negotiations are going well. There are two non-monetary items left on the table which the committee hopes to get resolved soon. Pension talks are also ongoing and the committee is working on finding funding for the transition costs. John O Neil, who is chief negotiator for the Administration will be leaving his role after today and Jennifer Perry from Faculty Relations will be taking over as chief negotiator.
- In the Fall of 2019, the Executive discussed forming a sub-committee to review the SFUFA office staffing needs and Brian Green noted it would be a good time to get started on this initiative. Dan Laitsch, Suzanne Norman and Steeve Mongrain volunteered for the subcommittee.
- UNBC strike: A special mediator appointed by the provincial government released his report on December 17th and made a number of recommendations. The employer and the UNBC FA have agreed to all of the recommendations in the report which means that the recommended contract language changes will be incorporated into the new contract and compensation issues will be taken to binding arbitration. Selection of a special arbitrator will be agreed to by January 2rd. UBC has reached agreement on almost all of their items and will be finalizing their agreement in January. Royal Roads has not completed their contract negotiations.

6. Member Services report

- Jennifer gave an update on her advocacy cases and noted she is seeking legal advice on two cases. Its Biennial Salary Review time for faculty members and the office has received quite a few queries on this topic.
- Jennifer met with SFUFA's RTP Advisor who noted there were less problems this year with tenure and promotion reviews.
- The Equity committee met on December 18th and will be meeting again in January. A meeting schedule has been set for the semester and the committee is gearing up for elections. The committee is also gathering information to compile a report about inequitable work load issues at SFU so please send specific examples re your department

policies and processes to Kumari Beck.

- A heads up that Faculty Relations has hired an extra person to clear the current back log related to PDR claims.

7. Committee reports

- Janice was absent and there was no report.

8. Items for Consultation – January 23rd

- i. Industry Engagement Office: we have heard numerous concerns regarding the restructuring of the IEO and a lack of transparency regarding this. We would like to hear what is being done and what processes are in place for consultation. We are more generally concerned about the way the office is interacting with faculty members, and would like to request documents outlining its mandate, governance, relationship to SFU as an academic institution and employer. (Carried over from last month).
- ii. Scheduling Policy: we understand that changes to the Scheduling Policy have been presented to Senate. We have been asking about that policy in this venue for some time, so would like to have a presentation on what is being proposed. (Carried over from last month).
- iii. Office of Research Ethics - in December, Trevor Davis sent a message to the community regarding issues with the ORE, including backlogs. We would like to hear what steps are being taken to address the problems, and what if anything has been addressed so far. Other issues discussed in the past have included software upgrades and use of full board reviews as the norm. SFUFA would like to hear about the status of these and any other initiatives as well.
- iv. Business Arising: EDI: Dimensions project - we are interested in having an update on this work, and in particular any info on the survey response rate.
- v. Other Business: Parking thank you. There has been a good deal of work in this area, and while challenges remain, we have noticed not only the new spaces but also more proactivity and better communication. Thanks for all the efforts in this area

10. Other Business

i) Academic Dishonesty: S. Mongrain

In some departments impersonation at exams has become a concerning issue to faculty members. In some instances, imposters have blatantly attended the examination, have taken the exam paper and left without writing it. These test scams appear to be getting more common in some faculties, and faculty members are wondering what SFU can do about it and how faculty members are expected to respond to these situations. Can the Administration provide some guidelines for how faculty can manage this? SFUFA would like to see more invigilators and in some instances support from campus security

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at examinations. The executive recommended raising this issue at the February consult meeting with senior administration, closer to the time of midterm exams.

Adjournment. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am.