

draft:

Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held Thursday March 5, 2020
Halpern 114
9.30 – 11:30 am

In attendance:

Kumari Beck (Education)
Sherryl Bisgrove (Biological Sciences)
Dan Laitsch (Education)
Steeve Mongrain (Economics)
Suzanne Norman (Publishing)
Janice Regan (Computing Science) late
Michael Sjoerdsma (Engineering Science) Chair
Rochelle Tucker (Health Sciences)
Alexandra Wieland (Archives)
Melanie Lam (Minutes)
Jennifer Scott (Member Services)
Brian Green (Executive Director)

Regrets:

Genevieve Fuji Johnson (Political Science)
Kumari Beck (Education)

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved with one addition – academic calendar dates (other business).

Moved: Alexandra Wieland/Sherryl Bisgrove

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 13th

Approved as circulated.

Moved: Suzanne Norman/Sherryl Bisgrove

Carried.

3. Business Arising - none to report.

4. Presidents Report – Mike Sjoerdsma

- Congrats to SFUFA Executive Director Brian Green for completing 10 years of service with SFUFA.
- Data breach at SFU: The breach was discovered on February 27th but the SFU community was not advised until Monday March 3rd and not many details were given as to the causes or implications other than asking everyone to change their passwords. The executive recommended bringing this forward for discussion at the next consult

meeting.

- CUFA BC: The Distinguished Academic Awards gala takes place on April 16th - please let Brian know if you are interested in attending. Brian Green, Mike Sjoerdsma and Dan Laitsch have been interviewed by CUFA for a special strategy session planned for next month.

5. Executive Director report – Brian Green

- The Bargaining Committee has a comprehensive proposal ready and is waiting for a meeting date from the administration.
- There was much discussion on an issue Brian is working on. Brian reported he has been working with a Department Chair to ensure all salary stipends follow the collective agreement. Mike Sjoerdsma noted he will be following up with the VP Academic about this and SFUFA will be writing to the university about its concerns. A related concern in the same department is the intervention of senior administration on a faculty search for a Canada Research Chair.

6. Member Services report

- Jennifer gave an update on her advocacy cases and noted that the biennial review process has just been completed and many members have approached her with issues around this.
- It has been reported that TPC criteria in one department appears to be stricter for the rank of University Lecturer which is against the collective agreement and SFUFA is looking into this.

7. Year to date fiscal report – Steeve Mongrain

- We have gone through 42% of budget time and most items are on track.
- Defence Fund numbers have increased due to an increase in membership numbers.
- Donations are higher than the budgeted amount due to the UNBC strike which SFUFA donated to. To date the breakdown is \$1000 to the Out on Campus group, \$2000 to UNBC and \$1000 to the Mount Alison Faculty Association during their recent strike.
- Printing and duplicating costs are higher due to higher-than-normal printing/duplicating volume related to bargaining.

8. Committee reports

- Senate: With the exception of Applied Sciences, student admission numbers are down and FIC enrolment is down.

- SFU and Navitas (which operates FIC) have extended their contract through to 2030.
- SCUS: Changes are being proposed as to how Program GPA's are calculated. Curriculum changes have been approved in Applied Sciences, Beedie School of Business and Computing Science.
- EDI: Sherryl Bisgrove reported that the newly formed EDI Advisory Council held a half day retreat in February and the session was run by the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI). Both the VPR and the acting VPA were in attendance.

9. Items for Consultation – March 12th

- i. Data breach - the recent data breach was clearly a serious event. SFUFA would like to hear from the university about causes, response, implications, and steps being taken to prevent further such breaches.
- ii. COVID-19 - the spread of COVID-19 has resulted in cancellations of travel and events for individuals and institutions. Faculty members face out of pocket expenses and have used grant dollars and PDR for work trips that now will not happen. We would like to discuss what options are available for those members to recoup their losses.
- iii. FIC - SFU and Naivitas have recently renewed the contract for Fraser Int'l College. We are interested to hear if the contract has changed in any way, whether it considers concerns about dropping enrollment, and what plans are in place to address enrollment concerns.
- iv. HR - a number of Departments and Faculties are experiencing significant delays in having staffing matters processed through HR, with requests taking as much as 18 months to 2 years to be addressed. We would like to know if there is a specific problem that HR is dealing with, and what the plans are to address it.
- v. Calendar changes - next year's academic calendar includes still more partial weeks of classes, further complicating planning. We would like to understand the rationale for the changes, and hear how faculty members can bring their voices to the scheduling decision making process.

10. Other Business

- Academic calendar changes next year: In 2021 the January term begins on the 5th which is a Tuesday and the end of classes is April 12th which is a Monday and that makes it a 13-week term which is different from 2020. Faculty members would like to understand the rationale for the partial weeks of classes next year and the executive recommended bringing it forward for discussion at the next consult meeting.

Adjournment. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.