

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held May 21, 2020
Via zoom videoconference
12.30 – 1.30 (followed by the consult to 3.00 pm)**

In attendance:

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

Regrets:

Genevieve Fuji Johnson (Political Science)

1. Approval of Agenda.

Approved with one addition to other business – SFU childcare privileges for frontline & essential service workers.

Moved: Kumari Beck/Alexandra Wieland

Carried.

2. Approval of minutes of May 14th, 2020.

Approved as circulated.

Moved: Sherryl Bisgrove /Dan Laitsch

Carried.

3. Business Arising

- i. In his meetings with Andrew Petter and Jon Driver, Mike Sjoerdsma raised the following issues:
Timelines and planning for the Fall, flexibility re: professional development funds, Intellectual Property issues and the recommendation is to bring these forward for discussion at the Joint Committee.
- ii. Study of Covid 19 on faculty work – joint project with Academic Women:
 - There is strong support from the SFUFA executive for this project.
 - SFUFA recommends conducting interviews in order to collect nuanced data.
 - Committee members include Julia Smith, Susan Erikson, Ena Lee, Kendra Strauss, Nicky Didicher. Rochelle Tucker volunteered to be the SFUFA point person on the committee. Joy Johnson will be invited to join the discussions.
 - The recommended budget for the project is set at \$15,000 and any overages must be approved by the SFUFA executive.

Motion:

That the budget for the joint study with Academic Women of Covid 19 on teaching and research be set for upto \$15,000.

Moved: Steeve Mongrain/Kumari Beck

Carried.

Motion:

That Rochelle Tucker and Suzanne Norman be appointed as SFUFA reps on the Academic Women/SFUFA Covid 19 joint committee.

Moved: Kumari Beck/Alexandra Wieland

Carried.

- iii. Recommendation to set up an emergency fund for members that are disproportionately affected by the Covid pandemic – This item was raised at the April meeting and Brian reported that he had followed up with SFUFA legal counsel who noted that SFUFA’s Constitution does not allow for this.

4. Items for consultation

- i. Assessment and faculty autonomy - in issues like grading, SFUFA is concerned that faculty are not being provided the degree of autonomy they deserve. Rochelle Tucker volunteered to speak to this item.
- ii. Resources for changes in teaching - we are hearing from many people about issues of resource support as they adjust to online teaching demands. SFUFA would like to discuss ways of offering support, such as PDR flexibility, equipment and resources more generally, especially for contract faculty; ergonomics, desks, computers, cameras, mics, software; options for direct reimbursement of expenses, as well as having tax forms for home office and expenses provided to all by default. Steeve Mongrain volunteered to speak to this item.
- iii. Workload, TA support, expectations - these are huge questions for many faculty, and SFUFA would like to discuss what SFU is looking to offer additional support and to compensate members for huge increase in workload. We are also concerned about implications for the future, and how the current situation is going to be reflected in future biennial reviews. Janice Regan volunteered to speak to this item.
- iv. Timelines - We understand decisions about things like the Fall semester cannot be made yet, but a timeline for key decisions would be helpful. Sherryl Bisgrove volunteered to speak to this item.
- v. 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. Mike Sjoerdsma volunteered to address this item.
- vi. Human Resources: 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. Alexandra Wieland volunteered to speak to this item.
- vii. Calendar changes - next year’s academic calendar includes still more partial weeks of classes, further complicating planning. SFUFA would like to understand the rationale for the changes, and hear how faculty members can bring their voices to the scheduling decision making process. Suzanne Norman volunteered to speak to this item.

5. Other business:

- i. Childcare for essential/frontline workers: Currently childcare at SFU is available for currently enrolled families who have been identified as *essential workers* and faculty members are most likely not eligible. It was noted that WorkSafe BC may be issuing more guidelines soon.

The meeting ended at 1.27 pm.