

Draft:

Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting

Held June 11, 2020

Via zoom video conference

9.00 – 10:30 am

In attendance:

Kumari Beck (Education)
Sherryl Bisgrove (Biological Sciences)
Genevieve Fuji Johnson (Political Science)
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)

Regrets:

Brian Green (Executive Director)

The meeting was called to order at 9.35 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved with one addition – Executive session (in camera discussion).

Moved: Steeve Mongrain/Alexandra Wieland

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of September 17th minutes

Approved as circulated.

Moved: Kumari Beck/Janice Regan

Carried.

3. Business arising

- i. Dai Heide from the department of Philosophy has been appointed as a Director to the SFUFA executive but won't be able to attend meetings until January 2021, due to his teaching schedule.

4. Presidents Report – Mike Sjoerdsma

- The search for the Vice-President Advancement and Alumni Engagement (VPAAE) is ongoing and a meeting is scheduled in October. The search for the Vice-President,

Research and International will begin in November 2020 and Kumari Beck has volunteered to be SFUFA's rep on the search committee. It was reported that a Library rep was not invited to sit on this search committee and SFUFA will follow up with the VPA office. Search committees are also being struck for the Registrar and Executive Director Enrollment Management, which Janice Regan volunteered for and for the Director of HR.

- Mike noted that there are ongoing discussions with the Executive Director of Faculty Relations and the VPA, to modify biennial salary reviews and PDR expense restrictions due to disruptions produced by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The SFUFA office will be undergoing some renovations this Fall which will include the expansion of the meeting room and the installation of a smart tv to be used for meetings.
- Steeve Mongrain and Janice Regan are on SFUFA's Academic Integrity working group and the university too is in the process of setting up a similar working group and Steeve noted he has been invited to sit on that committee. SFUFA will be asking the administration at the next consult meeting about the mandate for their committee.
- In Brian's absence Mike gave an update on collective agreement negotiations. The executive also discussed the increase in limited-term lectureships under 50% in the past couple of years and what next steps SFUFA might take after bargaining is done.

5. Executive Director report

Brian is away and there was no report.

6. Member Services report – Jennifer Scott

- Jen has been busy with collective bargaining and dealing with a variety of advocacy issues and noted there are a number of grievances that have been filed.
- A number of faculty members have complained about the changes to the timing of the release of the exam schedule and noted that it causes many conflicts for students. The recommendation is to put this on the agenda for the next consult meeting.

7. 2020/2021 SFUFA budget – S. Mongrain (Treasurer)

- This years budget mostly stays the same with some exceptions. Meeting expenses, member events and conference expenses have been impacted by COVID restrictions and therefore has been lowered for this fiscal year; Special projects has increased to accommodate the office reorganization project, and the COVID-19 study SFUFA undertook with Academic Women. Donation expenses were increased from \$4000 to \$6000 due to the number of requests received last year and that the donations budget

was maxed out early in the fiscal year in 2019. Legal expenses have been increased by \$10,000 due to the number of advocacy cases proceeding to arbitration. The legal reserve is healthy at \$310,000 and the general reserve as at the last audit in 2019 sits at \$1,008,669.00.

Motion: That the 2020/2021 SFUFA budget be approved as presented.

Moved: Kumari Beck/Janice Regan

Carried unanimously

8. a) Committee reports

- Kumari noted she has joined the CUFA BC working group on the gender impacts of COVID-19 and noted the group has met twice so far. The group will be developing model language for family accommodations and salary evaluations and have sought legal help for this. They are planning on conducting a survey to mostly collect people's experiences. Kumari noted she would keep SFUFA posted.
- Senate: It was reported that the VPA gave an update on the impact of COVID-19 on workload and merit evaluations.
- Equity Committee: The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for October 29th.
- Janice gave an update on the Central University Health and Safety Committee and noted that they are consulting with unions on campus about their current structure and to determine whether a change is required to the current structure. Janice noted she would be discussing this further with Jennifer Scott to review and possibly make recommendations.

b) Executive session

Motion:

The executive voted to go into executive session at 10:47 am. The board ended the executive session at 11:02 am.

Moved: Dave Hannah/Kumari Beck

Carried unanimously.

Decision: That the SFUFA executive strike a subcommittee made up of Jennifer Scott, Janice Regan and Kumari Beck, to review ongoing issues with CEE and bring forward recommendations to the SFUFA executive committee.

9. Items for Consultation – October 15th

- i. Exam scheduling policy: we have heard from faculty regarding changes to the timing of the release of the exam schedule. Whereas in previous years, the exam schedule was

- available at registration, now it is only available mid-semester. We are already seeing an increase in the number of exam conflicts, which, in turn, increases workload for faculty.
- ii. Software license issues: SFUFA understands there is a workaround currently available for Adobe allowing remote access to the 2018 version and we would like to hear SFU's thoughts on a longer-term solution regarding future licenses, and blanket agreements as this is going to continue to be an issue.
 - iii. Academic Integrity Committee: we understand SFU has struck an Academic Integrity Committee, as has SFUFA. We would like to hear SFU's thoughts on the work this committee has been mandated with as there is both a need for a longer-term solution as well as an immediate way to address the increase in academic integrity issues arising from online learning due to COVID.
 - iv. COVID update: As the Fall semester is well underway, we are wondering if SFU has heard from the Province regarding plans for Summer 2021 instruction. We also understand that international students will now be allowed to enter Canada: with these students being able to travel to Vancouver, are there plans to increase in-person teaching, especially for graduate courses?
 - v. New VPA: this is our last consult before Catherine Deveurgne joins SFU. What are the plans for the transition, and how can SFUFA help support her in her new role?

10. Other Business

- Jennifer Scott noted she has almost completed the first semester of her Labour Relations and Employment Law course and thanked the executive for their support.
- **Motion:**
The executive voted to go into executive session re: item 8b at 11:15 am. The board ended their executive session at 11:19 am.
Moved: Kumari Beck/Steeve Mongrain Carried unanimously.
- Mike reported he will not be present at the next executive meeting on the 15th and Kumari will chair on his behalf. Those attending in person will meet at the SFUFA office.

Adjournment. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.