

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held September 10, 2020
Via zoom video conference
9.30 – 11:30 am**

In attendance:

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

Regrets:

The meeting was called to order at 9.34 am
and Mike welcomed new executive committee
member Dave Hannah.

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved with one addition – Study leaves.

Moved: Dan Laitsch/Alexandra Wieland

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 25th minutes

Approved with one amendment to the attendees list.

Moved: Steeve Mongrain/Janice Regan

Carried.

3. Business arising

- i. SFUFA would like to revisit the discussion regarding embedded faculty reps and advocate for a return to that model in CEE. During the recent pandemic, more faculty members have come forward to express their concerns. Mike, Kumari and Suzanne noted they would work together to come up with a strategy on how best to approach the SFU Administration about this.

4. Presidents Report – Mike Sjoerdsma

- Mike gave an update on his meeting with Joy Johnson and Andrew Petter on August 31st and noted it was a collegial meeting and an important one.
- Mike attended new faculty orientation which was conducted via zoom webinar. SFUFA is hoping to reach out to these faculty members before the end of September.
- The SFUFA office will not be moving to a new location as originally thought and plans are in place to reorganize the office space.
- Mike asked executive committee members' if there is interest in holding hybrid exec meetings starting October and Suzanne, Kumari and Janice noted they would be interested in meeting in person. Others can connect virtually via zoom. At present, the Halpern Center Room 114 can accommodate a maximum of 10 people with social distancing in place and this room has been booked for future meetings.
- Rochelle Tucker has stepped down from the SFUFA executive and the Teaching Appointments Rep. position on the executive committee is now vacant. After some discussion the executive voted on the following motion:

Motion:

That Suzanne Norman be appointed as SFUFA Teaching Appointments rep on the executive committee for a two year term starting September 1, 2020.

Dan Laitsch/Alexandra Wieland

Carried with one abstention.

- There is one more Director position vacant on the executive committee and the committee will look to see who expressed interest in the last election.
- Janice Regan volunteered to take Rochelle's place on the academic dishonesty subcommittee.
- About 300 SFUFA members have participated in the SFUFA Covid-19 survey. The deadline was extended to Sunday September 13th at 5 pm.
- Mike noted that he is on the search committee for the VP Advancement and Alumni Engagement. A virtual forum was held in May for members of the SFU community and a meeting of the search committee is slated for September.
- Mike and Brian attended a meeting with Jennifer Perry and Jon Driver to discuss issues related to professional development and biennial reviews, both of which are impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It was noted that SFU has loosened the requirements for purchasing laptops. Other items being looked at under PDR are larger desktop screens and cell phones being used for office work.

5. Executive Director report – Brian Green

- Brian gave an update on bargaining and noted that there has been some progress since August.
- Brian gave an update on SFUFA's advocacy cases and noted there are currently 15-20 grievances filed and about 5-6 of them have gone to arbitration which is concerning to SFUFA.

6. a) Committee reports

- Parking: Kumari and Dan met with David Agosti, Director, Parking and Mark McLaughlin, Ancillary Services to talk about the parking plan for September. Parking has extended the no charge policy for daily parking until the end of the semester.
- Safety committee update: Janice gave an update of the Central Safety Committee and noted they had met with the Administration over the summer.

b) Study leave timing

- The deadline for application is fast approaching and due to Covid-19 there is quite a bit of uncertainty and faculty members are wondering if the deadline can be delayed. SFUFA would like to discuss how leaves are prioritized given that many members have deferred leaves on the books.

8. Items for Consultation – September 17, meeting

- i. Welcome to Joy Johnson. We look forward to working with Joy, and wonder if she has any thoughts on her experience moving into the role of President or any priorities she has identified for her term.
- ii. Grading guidelines. Some Depth and Faculties have developed grading guidelines, and some even go so far as to indicate how various forms of assessment should be used. At times such guidelines can cut close to academic freedom, and we are particularly concerned about strict enforcement of such guidelines during COVID times, when instructors need flexibility. Has SFU any central direction on when and how grading guidelines ought to be used?
- iii. Study leave. The study leave deadline is approaching, raising a number of questions. In particular, we would like to discuss how leaves are prioritized, given questions about teaching needs and the fact that many members have deferred leaves on the books.
- iv. General updates. Given the ever- changing COVID situation, we would like to hear about any updates in general. In particular, has CEE any new initiatives? What are the plans

regarding reopening of the Library? And has the University any information to provide on what is expected for Spring and Summer semesters?

9. Other Business

Motion

That Steeve Mongrain be appointed as SFUFA Treasurer for 1 year starting September 1, 2020.

Moved: Dan Laitsch/Alexandra Wieland

Carried with one abstention.

Adjournment. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11.52 pm.