

MINUTES

SFUFA Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 8th, 2021

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

<https://sfu.zoom.us/j/4728550758>

In attendance:

Mike Sjoerdsma

Brian Green

Jennifer Scott

Kumari Beck

Dave Hannah

Alexandra Wieland

Steeve Mongrain

Suzanne Norman

Sherryl Bisgrove

Janice Regan

Dan Laitsch

Regrets:

Dai Heide

Melanie Lam

1. Approval of agenda
KB/AW; SM/KB for amended agenda
2. Approval of March 25th, 2021 meeting minutes
SM/RT
3. Business arising--none
4. President's report

Have been raising question of extension to tenure clock with VPA for a number of months now. Sent another message before last consult and a follow-up after consult. Have no information about whether SFU is going to offer extensions; the deadline is April 15th so at this point is very late for members. As of now faculty members don't even have the option to extend.

July 1st transition date; joint communication will be going out in the coming weeks.

5. Executive Director report
Pension—SFU waiting for approval from BCCPP, then final costing needs to come to SFUFA and SFU. We need to communicate to members as soon as possible because our members need to plan. Once we have officially joined the plan, BCCPP will provide detailed information to members about the transition. SFUFA will not provide financial advice to members; for specific individualized information members will need to go to their own financial advisor. New folks at

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Faculty Relations have been very responsive thus far and we are finally starting to resolve a long backlog of cases. Regarding CEE and IP issues, FR has agreed that no one should be in class without instructor's position, and the VPA was going to give direction to CEE and once that communication went out, we would get a message of confirmation. Exec elections have been announced and we are in the nomination period. On Monday, April 12th, we will send out detailed info regarding dues proposal so that members have a week before the vote to contemplate the proposal and ask any questions.

6. Member Services report

Getting ready for mediation and arbitration, lots of faculty members on sick leave, getting ready for Copyright course. Discussion regarding the process of going on sick leave/LTD, and the difference in how these processes play out depending on the department/faculty

7. Committee reports/Community Engagement/EDI

Suzanne-

Has been doing drop-in sessions for teaching faculty members. A few common concerns: process for promotion from Senior Lecturer to University Lecturer. There have been some concerns that departments are asking for criteria beyond the scope of the agreement. In the past, TPC criteria were available on the FR website; no longer posted. SFUFA should review departmental TPC criteria to ensure they are consistent with the agreement. Any members who are being asked to fulfil criteria beyond the scope of the agreement should come to SFUFA. Continued issues with CEE not having staff embedded in academic units and instead relying on 'ticket' system that is inefficient and doesn't allow staff to best use their expertise.

PDR—teaching faculty don't have access to as many grant funds as research faculty, so relying more heavily on PDR for things like computers which are required for research.

Kumari—parking: status quo of complimentary parking continues until August 31st. Working on transition plan for return to face to face. More details about what return might look like after July meeting. Jen will represent SFUFA on COVID recovery (transportation) committee. A lot of uncertainty regarding capacity, especially because a lot of people may not be comfortable taking transit but also there may be much more working from home, so difficult to anticipate what to expect.

Janice—registrar search has concluded, and negotiations are in process with the preferred candidate. Safety committee meetings, every meeting, return to face

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to face has been top of mind for faculty. A lot of concerns about workload in Fall, especially if faculty are being asked to teach in any kind of hybrid mode.

8. AGM

Brenda Austin-Smith, President of CAUT will give a short presentation and we expect her to discuss the situation at Laurentian, copyright issues stemming from York University, and academic freedom issues; Richard Marsh, our auditor, will give a brief presentation and present some financials; have the exec election results as well as the dues proposal.

9. P/Cr/Nc (Steeve): students could ask instructors to advise them about what they should do regarding the Pass/Credit/No credit system. Some departments are telling faculty members not to give any advice to students because the system is so complicated. Should students take up these options there is the possibility that the courses will not count towards their degrees, so they should be consulting with academic advisors. This P/Cr/NC system, which was originally designed as a trial due to COVID-related disruptions, has been established as a permanent feature of options for students (until the return to face to face), provided the course isn't on an exclusion list determined by the academic units. Rules are different in every department, and there may be important ways that the rules of different departments interact in such a way that could negatively impact the student, particularly regarding pre-requisites, etc. Students wanted a pass/fail mechanism, and SFU was reticent to implement pass/fail, so this is the compromise SFU came up with. At this point it is very difficult for faculty members to decide that the entire grading scheme will be pass/fail; the current system is entirely student-driven. There are workload implications for faculty, especially for undergraduate chairs who need to approve these requests. Also impacts how instructors approach pedagogy if some students are working towards grades and others pass/fail; also will impact student effort, especially for things like group assignments if students are working towards different ends and the faculty member doesn't know which students are pass/fail and which are looking for grades.

10. Townhall re Fall return

Will any faculty member be asked to teach both online and face to face at the same time?

Extra supports put in place for student advising, we anticipate faculty members being inundated with requests for student support.

Will there be expanded student physical and mental health services? Capacity to handle increased demand?

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COVID protocols—what will be put in place? Scheduling, cleaning, etc.

Each workplace will figure out how to implement public health guidelines; SFU will be responsible for how to implement them.

What is the contingency plan?

What about faculty members who can't come back in person for health reasons?

11. Consult Items

P/Cr/Nc—students' ability to select alternate grading scheme, and because of the exception list, students may be making decisions now that may have ramifications for further in their degree that may affect completion times. What is the University doing to advise students on these options as currently faculty are being asked a lot of questions?

COVID- what will they do with input from public forum; what is the contingency plan;

Follow up and report from public forum

Will faculty members need to teach both online and in person in the Fall?

Transportation plan for the return to face-to-face

Multi-factor authentication: role accounts, etc

Fall enrolment numbers, how many international students are we expecting given the government is currently anticipating a 36-week delay for international student visas

Administrative Benchmarking with Cubane Consulting—timelines, etc? (Business Arising)

12. Other Business- Other announcements/issues?

13. Adjournment

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