

Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting
Held February 10, 2022
Via zoom video-conference and in SH3103
9.30 – 12 noon

In attendance:

Kumari Beck (Education) Chair
David Broun (Physics) late
Dave Hannah (Business)
Dan Laitsch (Education)
Suzanne Norman (Publishing)
Janice Regan (Computing Science)
Rochelle Tucker (Health Sciences)
Baharak Yousefi (Library)
Melanie Lam (Minutes)
Jennifer Scott (Member Services)
Brian Green (Executive Director)

Regrets:

Steeve Mongrain (Economics)
Ljiljana Trajkovic (Engineering Science)

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved as circulated.

Moved: Dan Laitsch/ Baharak Yousefi

Carried.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2022

Approved as circulated.

Moved: Janice Regan/Baharak Yousefi

Carried.

3. Business arising

Currently, SFUFA meeting minutes are made public and posted to the SFUFA website. There was a discussion on whether or not to post meeting minutes to a password protected page on the website, and the executive recommended continuing with the current practice.

4. Presidents Report – Kumari Beck

- Kumari and Brian have met with the new Executive Director, Faculty Relations Ella Forbes-Chilibeck.
- The first meeting of SFUFA's Chairs and Directors Network group took place on January

21st and it was productive. Committee members raised many issues and Kumari noted she would circulate the meeting notes to the executive.

- CUFA BC has selected the winners of this years Distinguished Academics Awards and the names will be announced at the Gala on April 13th.
- The SFUFA executive is looking for someone to replace Kumari Beck on the search committee for the AVP Communications and Marketing. Interviews are scheduled in March.

5. Executive Director report – Brian Green

- Brian reported that SFUFA, along with other unions representing CUPE staff, SFU Poly Party and TSSU, sent a joint message to SFU administration, about the decline of labour relations over the past few years.
- On January 26th, the joint committee received a detailed report from the VP Finance and Administration regarding the status of various issues that SFUFA had raised at the consult meeting in January - i.e. campus management of ice and snow, canvas maintenance, HVAC and air quality, absenteeism report, EFAP counselling services.
- SFSS Accessible Campaign: In September 2021 the SFSS launched this campaign asking that all large classes be recorded and that SFU provide more flexible learning opportunities for students. SFSS is in the process of drafting a letter to SFU and it was further noted that student senators had raised this issue at the last senate meeting.
- Bargaining: Brian is meeting with SFUFA's Chief Negotiator today to review timelines etc, the bargaining committee are planning to have their first meeting during reading week in February and Bargaining officially begins in March.
- EFAP & Absenteeism lists: SFUFA has not received this information for a while and a reminder letter was sent to let the university know that sharing this information is in keeping with the employer's obligations and responsibilities under the Collective Agreement.
- SFUFA has heard that SFU has placed people in excluded non-continuing positions and will be following up on this.
- The work of Research Associates intersects with SFUFA members and the Association will be writing to this group to ask about joining the bargaining unit.
- Brian, Jennifer Scott and Kumari Beck will be travelling to Lethbridge today to provide support to striking faculty at the University of Lethbridge, Alberta.
- The SFUFA AGM is slated for April 27th from 2:30 to 4 pm.

6. Members Services – Jennifer Scott

- The Member Services Officer gave an update on advocacy and current grievances and noted that settlement of these cases are taking a longer than unusual time resolve.

7. Committee Reports

- Equity committee: Ljijana Trajkovic was absent and there was no report.
- Chairs and Directors Committee: Kumari Beck, committee Chair, noted that the group met on January 21st and had a productive meeting. She will be sharing the notes with the executive so that everyone is aware of the issues being raised.
- Senate: Janice Regan gave an update on the motion brought forward by students' asking that faculty be asked to deliver courses in two formats. It was also noted that a motion to change the policies that come to the Senate Committee on Rules, was defeated in Senate.
- Safety Committees: The North East Health and Safety Committee is seeking a backup faculty rep. Also, more communication is needed between the committees and the labour unions on campus and Jennifer Scott volunteered to follow up on this.

8. Grading Policy and Academic Freedom

It was reported that SFU Policies 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 (under T20.01 Grading and Reconsideration of Grades), appears to give Deans final authority over the grading policy of courses and this may violate academic freedom provisions outlined in the SFUFA Collective Agreement. After some discussion, Brian Green noted he would try to get some information from CAUT on previous cases, and report back.

9. Support for Faculty Associations on strike

There are several Faculty Associations who are currently on strike: Namely, Acadia University, Lethbridge University, Ontario Institute of Technology and others who will potentially go on strike (Mount Royal, York and Athabasca). SFUFA has \$2000 left in its donations budget and would like to immediately donate \$1000 each to the first 3 Faculty Associations. After much discussion, the executive voted on the following motion:

Motion:

That SFUFA take a motion to the membership at the AGM in April, to go into deficit on the donations line item in order to provide a customary \$1000 donation to the larger number of Faculty Associations going on strike.

Moved: David Broun/David Hannah

Carried Unanimously.

Motion:

That SFUFA make a donation of \$1000 each to Acadia University FA, Lethbridge University FA and UOIT FA.

Moved: David Hannah/Janice Regan

Carried unanimously.

10. Items for Consultation – February 17th

- i. Under business arising: SFUFA would like an update on covid protocols including N95 mask availability and rapid tests.
- ii. Conflict of interest policy: This policy did not come to joint committee, as is required; SFUFA would like to invite Trevor Davis to the consult to speak about the proposed changes so we can fully understand them and have some initial discussion.
- iii. WIFI and email: SFUFA understands that the increase in Wi-Fi issues and email security breaches may be in large part beyond SFU's control, but the current situation is not sustainable; we would like to hear about what specifically is being done to address these issues.
- iv. Making consult meetings more substantive: SFUFA thinks there are things the Association might do to help these meetings be more substantive and address matters more concretely. We would like to work on concrete tangible follow up from these meetings; for example, after the last meeting, Martin provided us with a clear list of action items flowing from what we had discussed, which was very helpful and allows us to see that the issues we raise translate into real action. We appreciate that a good deal. We also note that often there are University initiatives that we hadn't heard about in advance; we would welcome more items from SFU in this forum. Finally, we would like to propose that at the next consult (March) we devote 45 minutes or so to a discussion of workload; we have brought this forward several times, and made presentations on the issues we are hearing about, and think it would be valuable to have time for a fuller discussion.

11. Other Business

- None to report.

Adjournment. There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm.