

Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting

Held September 8, 2022

In Halpern 114 & via zoom

9.30 – noon

In attendance:

Lyn Bartram (SIAT) via zoom
Bertille Antoine (Economics)
Kumari Beck (Education) Chair
David Broun (Physics) via zoom
Janice Regan (Computing Science)
Ljiljana Trajkovic (Engineering Science) via zoom
Rochelle Tucker (Health Sciences)
Baharak Yousefi (Library) via zoom
Brian Green (Executive Director)
Melanie Lam (Executive Assistant, Minutes)
Jennifer Scott (Member Services)

Regrets:

Dave Hannah (Business)
Dan Laitsch (Education)

The meeting was called to order at 9.41 am.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Approved with one addition - appointment of Treasurer.

Moved: Rochelle Tucker/Janice Regan

Carried.

2. **Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2022**

Approved as circulated with two abstentions.

Moved: Janice Regan/ Baharak Yousefi

Carried.

3. **Business arising** – none to report.

4. **Presidents Report – Kumari Beck**

- Welcome all executive members to a new semester and welcome new executive members Lyn Bartram and Bertille Antoine.
- Kumari gave an update on the recent meeting of the CAUT academic freedom & tenure committee, noting that academic freedom is important to members. CAUT is currently supporting 8-9 academic freedom cases, which is a high number. Dr. Alison Hearn, Chair of the CAUT Academic Freedom committee, will be a speaker at the SFUFA fall GM scheduled for November 17th.
- Bargaining: A chief negotiator has been named to the SFU bargaining team. UNBC is in bargaining; UVIC is set to resume in September and has a new VPA and Provost; tentative agreements have been reached with HEU and the BCGEU; Royal Roads is in arbitration for compensation.
- Kumari noted she meets with the VPPEI and VPA, every month before SFUFA's consult meeting with senior administration.
- The SFUFA exec meeting calendar was circulated and Kumari noted the following: There won't be an executive meeting preceding the next consult meeting on September 15th, the consult will

run from 10:30 to noon as per usual. There is no executive meeting on May 4th, 2023 and the pre consult on May 11th has been scheduled from 9:30 - 11:30, followed by the consult to 1 pm.

5. Executive Director report

- A new Director of Faculty Labour Relations has been hired in Faculty Relations and Brian and Jennifer are working with him on several cases. The Executive Director position in FR remains vacant.
- In the spring, a needs assessment was done on staffing levels (SFUFA office) and Brian has drafted a report which will be reviewed at the executive planning meeting at Kumari's on September 14th.
- SFU's bargaining team for the next round of bargaining comprises of Eugene Fume, Justin Mason, Brenda Lautsch and an external negotiator, Geoff Tierney. The SFUFA team is made up of Chief Negotiator David Broun, Ronda Arab, Mike Sjoerdsma, Dave Hannah, Rochelle Tucker and staff members Brian Green and Jennifer Scott. SFUFA has asked the university for bargaining dates starting in October 2022 and Jennifer & Brian are in the process of reviewing SFUFA's proposals.
- The recent bargaining survey of members revealed 5 strong areas that need attention: Salaries and inflation, workload/service loads, improvements in benefits (mental health/physio/optical), differential treatment of teaching faculty, governance and collegiality. There are 3 other areas that were raised by members' which SFUFA will need to address, not necessarily via bargaining: the biennial review process, teaching evaluations and academic freedom & collegial engagement.

Motion:

That the SFUFA executive committee endorse the priorities identified by the bargaining team, to take forward to the next round of bargaining with SFU.

Moved: Janice Regan/Bertille Antoine

Carried unanimously.

6a. Member Services report

- Jennifer Scott gave an update on the current advocacy cases and noted there are currently many cases including 2 grievances. There was a mediation held last week and recommendations will be handed down by the arbitrator at the end of the month. There's an Intellectual Property (IP) case going forward in the spring of next year. The folks at the Center for Digital Media were successful at their bid at the Labour Relations Board to become employees of SFU.
- Jen has been working with Brian throughout the summer on drafting SFUFA's bargaining proposals.

6b. Appointment of a Treasurer:

- This item was postponed until the next meeting.

7. Committee Reports

- Parking: It was reported that unlike in previous years, there was no meeting of the Parking Committee in September. Faculty members who teach at multiple campuses are requesting that they pay for parking

only at their home location and Kumari noted she would follow up with the Director of Parking Services.

- Equity Committee: Elections were held in summer and 4 new people were elected: Bidisha Ray, Krishna Pendakur, Mohsen Javdani and Leanna Jantzi. The committee will be appointing Gordon Coleman and Suzanne Norman to the team at their first meeting on September 21st. Kumari Beck continues as an ex officio member and Ljiljana noted she would send us a list of new committee members following the first meeting.
 - Community Relations: The contract workers justice committee met over the summer and is arranging a Town Hall meeting in the fall. In July, SFU announced that it will take steps to become a Living Wage Employer, in its commitment to improve equity and inclusion for working members of the SFU community.
 - Health and Safety committee: There were many complaints over the summer from faculty who were teaching in classrooms which had no functioning HVAC systems. In addition to this, many faculty were teaching in non airconditioned classrooms, while air-conditioned classrooms remained empty. Janice Regan will be following up on these issues with the committee. Rochelle Tucker noted she is no longer able to be a faculty delegate on this committee.
8. **Items for Consultation** – September 15th at 10:30 (Halpern 114)
- i. VP, People, Equity and Inclusion: Now that the VP, PEI has been with SFU for a few months, we would like to hear from Yabome about her experience thus far, her priorities for the coming year, and how faculty members can engage with her office and its work
 - ii. CAL Advisory Board: There was a commitment some time ago to establish an advisory board for the Centre for Accessible Learning, but it appears to still not be in place. We would like an update as to when it will be struck and how its members will be selected.
 - iii. Exam Scheduling: We continue to hear concerns about exam scheduling; not announcing the exam schedule in advance is causing a lot of planning issues and concerns, not only for faculty members who often have conferences etc. but for students as well.
9. **Other business**
- A reminder that the executive committee will be meeting at Kumari's place on Wednesday, September 14th for a planning session. Brian noted he would circulate the agenda shortly.
10. **Adjournment:** There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 11.35 am.