

Draft Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting

Held Thursday, November 9, 2023

In Halpern 114

9.30 – noon

In attendance:

Bertille Antoine (Economics)
Ronda Arab (English)
Adena Brons (Library)
David Broun (Physics)
Tim Beischlag (Health Sciences)
Janice Regan (Computing Science)
Mike Sjoerdsma (Engineering Science) Chair
Ljiljana Trajkovic (Engineering Science)

Brian Green (Executive Director)
Melanie Lam (Executive Assistant, Minutes)
Jennifer Scott (Member Services)

Regrets:

Kumari Beck (Education)
Rochelle Tucker (Health Sciences)
Lyn Bartram (SIAT)

In Kumari's absence, Mike Sjoerdsma is meeting
Chair and called the meeting to order at 9:38 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

Approved with no additions.

Moved: Tim Beischlag/Janice Regan

Carried.

2. Approval of the October 12, Minutes.

Approved with one edit to the attendees list.

Moved: Tim Beischlag/Adena Brons

Carried.

3. Business arising

TSSU strike: Ask senior admin for a debrief on the job action and lessons learned. The recommendation is to raise this item at the consult meeting next week.

4. Presidents Report – Mike Sjoerdsma

- The draft 23/24 budget was circulated for all to view and the following was noted:
- Mike and Kumari attended the CUFA Fall council meeting and it was noted that good reports were presented by other member associations. It was reported that many universities are spending more on legal fees, mostly due to the increase in the number of grievances and arbitrations.
- SFU Presidential Reappointment Community Consultation: SFUFA has sent a letter to the Presidential Renewal Committee.
- 3 member socials were held this Fall, one at each of SFU's campus locations and they were well attended.

5. Executive Director report

- Brian gave an update on a recent grievance settlement regarding Collective Agreement provisions that

limit the over-use of limited term positions. SFUFA & FR are going through a list of people who are affected by this decision and are trying to determine how best to manage those positions.

- The issue of employees from Research Services, Student Learning Commons & CEE wanting to join SFUFA - Brian gave an update on this case.
- SFU Med School (SFUMS): The search for a founding dean continues and is expected to be wrapped up by February 2024; an acting associate dean, Dr. Evan Adams has been appointed, and it was noted that Dr. Adams has not been given a faculty position @ SFU, but holds an adjunct Professorship from FHS.
- Research Assistants: The TSSU is attempting to bring them into their bargaining unit and the case is with the LRB.
- If the TSSU strike is not resolved before Thursday October 19th, SFUFA will consider skipping its regular consult meeting with senior admin.
- It has come to light that SFU has hired the services of Lions Gate Risk Management (LRGM) to surveil and investigate those on the TSSU picket lines, and this appears to be a big issue for the SFU community. This firm has been linked to operating against Indigenous Land Defenders, surveilling the Trans Mountain Expansion Project which undermines Indigenous rights, and therefore SFU is being seen as violating the terms of Reconciliation. It is recommended that this be brought forward for discussion at the consult meeting with senior admin.

6. **Member Services report-** Postponed to next month.

7. **Staffing Proposal**

- In 2022 SFUFA members voted to increase member dues to address mounting legal fees and the need to increase capacity in the SFUFA office.
- Cases have increased over the last few years, but that's not the primary strain on staff. What's needed is someone to do legal prep work in advance, develop case files etc. data collection and analysis, support with ongoing Teaching Faculty issues and faculty accommodations.
- The proposal being brought forward is for a part time contract position to work with the MSO and the ED on background work for member cases, with the possibility of it turning into a longer-term position in the future.
- This person, while on contract, would not be attending executive meetings and will have no contact with SFUFA members or work with senior administrators on SFUFA's behalf.
- There was full discussion of this proposal at the executive planning retreat in September. The option of creating a 25% position has been built into the 23/24 budget and the office does have a person in mind. SFUFA has sought legal assistance in drafting a conflict-of-interest policy for the candidate.

Motion:

That Brian Green be authorized to move forward with the offer of employment to Derek Sihota, regarding the part time contract position at the SFUFA office, based on the employment conditions discussed by the executive committee today and on September 12th.

Moved: Kumari Beck/Tim Beishclag

Carried.

8. Committee Reports.

- David Broun gave an update on bargaining and noted that although both bargaining teams have not met for a while, discussions between SFUFA's ED and SFU's external negotiator have taken place and a proposal and counter proposal have been exchanged.

9. Items for Consultation – October 19th @ 10.30 (Cancelled if TSSU pickets are in place)

- i. SFU's hiring of LGRM to surveil TSSU picket lines. We know the University has heard from across the community about this issue, and indicated that it has canceled the contract. However, SFUFA has very serious concerns and expect to raise a number of questions regarding the decision.
- ii. Financial statements - SFU's financial statements have not yet been released, though in past years they have been released prior to October 1st. SFUFA would like to hear why they are delayed, and when they might be expected.
- iii. Grades and assessment - as the University has been unable to reach an agreement with the TSSU, many faculty and students are asking what the plans are for assignment of grades. SFUFA believes the University has a responsibility to address this proactively with the community, and would like to hear what is planned.
- iv. Medical School - SFUFA would like an update on the medical school, and specifically to hear when Senate will be considering the matter, as recent media stories seem to suggest the plan is confirmed, but we are not aware that Senate has approved the SFUMS.

10. Other business

- A reminder that the executive will meet with senior admin in Strand Hall on the 19th if TSSU pickets are down.

11. Adjournment: There was no other business and the meeting was adjourned at 12.09 pm.