

**Minutes of the SFUFA Executive Meeting**  
**Held May 12, 2022**  
**Via zoom video-conference and in AQ2035**  
**9.30 – 12 noon**

**In attendance:**

Kumari Beck (Education) Chair  
David Broun (Physics)  
Dan Laitsch (Education)  
Steeve Mongrain (Economics)  
Suzanne Norman (Publishing)  
Janice Regan (Computing Science)  
Rochelle Tucker (Health Sciences)  
Ljiljana Trajkovic (Engineering Science)  
Baharak Yousefi (Library)  
Melanie Lam (Minutes)  
Jennifer Scott (Member Services)  
Brian Green (Executive Director)

**Regrets:**

Dave Hannah (Business)

**1. Approval of Agenda**

Approved as circulated.

**Moved:** Rochelle Tucker/Janice Regan

**Carried.**

**2. Approval of Minutes of April 21, 2022**

Approved as circulated.

**Moved:** Janice Regan/Ljiljana Trajkovic

**Carried.**

**3. Business arising.**

- None to report.

**4. Presidents Report – Kumari Beck**

- Justin Mason has been hired as the Director, Faculty Labour Relations, in Faculty Relations.
- Dave Hannah and Kumari will be meeting with senior administration next Tuesday to review how to best structure future consult meetings.

- Kumari gave an update on her meeting with the new VP, People, Equity and Inclusion (VPPEI), Dr. Yabome Gilpin-Jacksn.
- met with the new SFUFA has received positive feedback from members regarding SFUFA's information bulletins that have been circulated to the membership since September.
- SFUFA met with CUFA in February. CUFA has announced winners of the 2022 Distinguished Academic Awards, and the Early in Career Award was handed to Dr. Travis Salway in Health Sciences, SFU. The awards will be presented at the CUFA gala on April 13<sup>th</sup> and Brian, Jennifer, Kumari and Dave Hannah will be travelling to Victoria for the ceremony. A provincial lobby day is also planned that week.
- UNBC and UBC have voiced concerns about the long-term effects of Covid on teaching & learning. UNBC has moved almost 30% of their courses to online and have requested tech upgrades.
- UVICFA has raised their mil rate from 6 to 6.5 in July, 2022 and from 6.5 to 7 in July 2023.

**5. Executive Director report – Brian Green**

- SFUFA is continuing to have discussions with Faculty Relations on how best to work through and manage the number of unresolved member advocacy cases.
- Accessible course practices campaign: On March 4<sup>th</sup> SFU responded to the February 22<sup>nd</sup> joint letter sent by SFSS, SFUFA and TSSU about providing flexible learning opportunities to students as a result of the pandemic and the letter was circulated to the SFUFA executive.
- 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.
- Senate: In an effort to help build infrastructure and capacity, SFUFA is reaching out to Senators to see if the Association can help facilitate Senators to work together in advance of Senate meetings. The executive recommending bringing this item forward for further discussion at the April exec meeting.

**6. Members Services – Jennifer Scott**

- The Member Services Officer gave an update on advocacy and current grievances. Many members (at least 20% of the membership) have come forward to complain about burnout and the lack of support from the university post Covid. It was noted that the number of sick leave, disability and partial sick leave cases has increased since Covid.

- SFUFA is continuing to work with past President Mike Sjoerdsma on a faculty audit/staffing levels report for the 2022 AGM.

#### **7. Year to date fiscal report – Steeve Mongrain**

- Most line items are on track. The donations line item is over budget due to the fact that many faculty associations across Canada have gone on strike and SFUFA has contributed to their strike funds.
- Other line items being flagged are legal expenses and conference expenses. SFUFA hopes to have a report on legal cases to present at the AGM in April. Bargaining releases will be expensed to the bargaining reserve.

#### **8. a) Appeal from CAUT re donation to Education International solidarity fund Ukraine.**

After reviewing SFUFA's mandate, the executive voted to not proceed with this donation. Instead, in the next information bulletin, SFUFA will inform members on how they could donate to the cause.

b) Response to SFU request on support for BCHRC special program amendment

#### **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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### **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.