

UNITED NATIONS STAFF UNION
SYNDICAT DU PERSONNEL DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS
UNIES

45th STAFF COUNCIL/45ème CONSEIL DU PERSONNEL

Minutes/Actes

Meeting No: 45/16
Date: 27 July 2017
Time: 1:30 - 2:40 pm
Venue: Room E
Quorum: 8/16 Units

45th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate at 1:30 pm with 8 Units present. Rapporteur Chandana Mutucumarana held the Chair and Secretary Aitor Arauz-Chapman took notes. The meeting was recorded and a copy deposited with the UNSU Administrator.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted with no changes.

2. Adoption of Minutes of previous Council meeting

The Secretary had not been able to prepare meetings for Meeting 15.

3. Executive Board report and President's report and summary of communications

The 2nd Vice President submitted a summary of communications. She added a verbal report of a meeting with staff members from DPI affected by the implementation of Flexible Workspace without adequate notice.

Unit 39 Rep. regretted that opportunities had been missed for Staff Representatives to provide inputs, since the President had not consulted with the Staff Council prior to the Secretary General's VTC with Staff Unions and his town-hall meeting with staff, both of which were considered official consultations with staff. The 2nd Vice President explained that further consultations were expected after the SG's retreat with Member States, at which point material would be shared and inputs requested from Staff Representatives. Unit 26 Rep. confirmed that constituents had expected the President's statement to be drafted with inputs from the Staff Council and were concerned to learn that there had been no consultation prior to the meeting with the SG.

4. UNSU finances

The Assistant Treasurer regretted she had no information to share.

5. Security

Unit 39 Rep. provided some background on events after his re-election as CCISUA Security Advisor and designation to attend the Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) meeting at Montreaux. He had been subject to retaliation on the part of USG Peter Drennan, including his public questioning of Mr. Rosario's integrity in order to bar his participation at the IASMN meeting, thus obstructing the working of the Staff Unions. Unit 39 Rep. regretted the UNSU's silence on the matter and submitted a draft resolution. The resolution was adopted unanimously, with edits, as Resolution 45/15.

Unit 39 Rep. also reported on USG Drennan's refusal to evacuate during the previous week's fire drill, ordering staff members present to disregard the alarm, in violation of the existing SGB.

As an aside, the Council voted to confirm the summer recess with the following motion, adopted unanimously:

"Motion to suspend Staff Council meetings during the month of August except in case of urgent matters"

The Secretary was charged with circulating a calendar to record Council Member's availability during August.

6. Arbitration Committee

Unit 25 Rep. inquired if the Unit Chairs' call for volunteers for Polling Officers had been put on hold and if so why. VP2 explained that she and the President had instructed the broadcast to be put on hold due to concerns regarding the minutes and quorum of the Chairpersons' first meeting. She was also concerned that the process would be less inclusive if held during the month of August. A meeting with the Unit Chairs was scheduled at 3pm to clarify the situation.

Unit 26 Alt. was concerned that obstructing the work of the Union Chairs and delaying by-elections could further damage the Union's reputation. VP2 argued that a rushed process could also damage the Union's reputation.

A debate ensued about the authority to issue or block broadcasts. VP2 defended that Leadership should have exclusive control over the Union Broadcast. A number of Staff Representatives disagreed, arguing that the Union

was both Leadership and Council. VP2 recalled that the EB had agreed that henceforth broadcasts would be circulated with Leadership, the Council Chair and Secretary.

The Council adopted the following motion, with six votes in favour and two abstentions:

"Bearing in mind the importance of the establishment of Union bodies including Arbitration Committee and Polling Officers, the Staff Council requests that the call for Polling Officers be issued immediately and expresses dismay at the unilateral decision by Leadership to put the announcement of hold."

Remaining items on the agenda were waived due to lack of time.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.