

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

45th STAFF COUNCIL/45ème CONSEIL DU PERSONNEL

Minutes/Actes

Meeting No: 45/26
Date: 16 November 2017
Time: 1:30 pm
Venue: CR 7
Quorum: 12/16 Units

45th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate at 1:30 pm with Staff Council Chair Camille McKenzie in the Chair and Kathryn Kuchenbrod taking notes. The meeting was recorded and a copy deposited with the UNSU Administrator.

Two guests from AFT, Raoul Altidor and Marian Fadel Faltaoos, were present at the invitation of the Staff Council to observe the meeting to see how we worked together. Barry McKenzie, invited representative of the Polling Officers, was present. Francisco Brito was present as an unofficial representative for OPPBA.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted with no changes.

2. Adoption of Minutes of previous Council meeting

Minutes for meeting 25 were adopted, pending the review of a statement that Meriem Harbi (Unit 28) said was misquoted in the minutes. The Chair suggested that her comments be reviewed on the recording and corrected if necessary.

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

The President gave a summary of her recent travels.

4. UNSU finances

The Deputy Treasurer had no updates to report.

5. Security

Ken Rosario (Unit 39) briefed the Council on a serious situation regarding “underage drinking and reckless behaviour” by staff members and their guests at the North Delegate’s Lounge on Friday nights. Recently a security officer was assaulted. That incident is currently under investigation, but he stated that DSS officers have to deal with a wide range of situations on a regular basis, which puts them at risk. Previous attempts to raise the issue with managements have not been successful. Mr. Rosario said that it has to do with a contract with an outside vendor. He would like to write a letter to management expressing the brewing problem.

6. Presentation by AFT Partners

Raoul and Mariane discussed a portion of their report, the Organizing Plan, based on consultation with the Leadership and Camille Beydon, as well as Michelle Rockcliffe regarding the Pension Fund. Several trainings and sessions have been given for the staff at large, and Michelle expressed the need for additional trainings in which people can ask questions. The report also contained information about union building, full staff representation, leading to majority support for the Staff Union.

Michelle Rockcliffe offered to give a talk on pension issues to interested Units.

7. Polling Officers

Barry McKenzie gave an update on the work of the Polling Officers. He said that because one resigned and there were currently only seven, they were not quorate and there for the work was suspending. A long discussion ensued about quorum. The Statue and Regulations does not give a specific number of Polling Officers, only that there should be no more than 12.

Barry said that establishing an Arbitration Committee would have to occur before a by-election. Ken objected, saying that there was no Arbitration Committee for the last election.

Marie Delbecque (Unit 26) stated that the Regulations stated that the composition of the Units should not change for by-elections. Barry McKenzie countered that the lists were not complete or correct, and it was the responsibility of the Polling Officers to verify and correct the lists before a by-election could be held. Aitor Arauz Chapman (Unit 29) suggested there be an expedited process for units that have an uncontested candidate.

8. OPPBA Staff Members

The Second Vice President gave an update on OPPBA, saying that they had agreed to designate as focal point Ondre Baronette (Unit 33) who said that OPPBA is looking for Staff Union representation urgently, and we should do everything we can to help.

9. Litigators

The President that she had a list of potential candidates for Staff Union litigator. Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) objected to the manner in which the selection was being handled, that it did not conform to UN procurement standards. There was additional discussion about the previous council's lawyer, Mr. Irving.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Items remaining on the agenda for the following meeting were:

- Council inputs for JNC agenda.
- Reports by Units
- Special post allowance on UNDT judgments on equal pay for equal work
- Conference Room signage showing Staff Council meetings as [Closed].