

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

**45th STAFF COUNCIL/45ème CONSEIL DU PERSONNEL**

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**Minutes/Actes**

Meeting No: 45/28  
Date: 7 December 2017  
Time: 1:15 pm  
Venue: CR D  
Quorum: 12/16 Units

**45<sup>th</sup> Staff Council Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was quorate with 10 units present at 1:25 pm, with Staff Council Chair Camille McKenzie in the Chair and Secretary Aitor Arauz-Chapman taking notes. The meeting was recorded and a copy deposited with the UNSU Administrator. Eugenia Beldo, Francisco Brito and Jaime Garreta were present as focal points for OPPBA.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Aitor Arauz (Unit 29) suggested adding an item 4 "Agenda for General Meeting".

Andraz Melansek (Unit 17) asked for item 8 "Communications with the President" to be considered last, and recommended a special meeting on communication, since it was an enduring source of concern. Asked for details on the item, UNSU President Bibi Khan said she would explain the item when the Council came to it. Andraz Melansek objected to the adoption of the agenda, at which point the President left the room.

The agenda was adopted with the above changes.

2. Adoption of Minutes of previous Council meeting

Minutes for meeting 25, 26 and 27 remained pending.

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

First Vice-President Patricia Nemeth presented the summary record of communications. She added information regarding an email that had been circulated by some Department of Management Executive Offices saying that, in view of the freezing of Mobility, selection procedures would revert to ST/AI/2010/3. She had asked OHRM to make the same announcement at HQ, which the Administration had agreed to do.

She had sent the 2018 calendar with pay days to iSeek for publication.

Lobbying before the 5th Committee seemed to be paying off, in view of certain groups' statements.

Main points from the SMC VTC were:

- A comprehensive review of Mobility was under way, including the vacancy track and better accessibility for people with disabilities to testing and assessment.
- Pension Board was singing the same song. They claimed completion rates of 75% within 15 days.

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) appreciated the report but asked for it to be submitted in writing at least 24 hours in advance.

Marie Delbecque (Unit 26) asked for details on the follow-up to the meeting on Downsizing. VP1 Nemeth said the draft ST/AI would be discussed on an SMC VTC in January. The CCISUA Board had compiled all comments submitted.

Unit 25 Rep. and Marie Delbecque recalled Monday meeting's decision that the Union would call for reviewing the wording of the draft but not reopening the WG. They asked VP1 to confirm that was the position expressed by CCISUA. VP1 confirmed that CCISUA did not wish to reopen the WG for the time being.

Francisco Brito recalled that Bibi had promised to send the interim report on GSDM. He also questioned the accuracy of para 1 of the summary of communications.

#### 4. Agenda for General Meeting

The Secretary recalled the agenda items mentioned at the previous EB:

- Update on the SG's reform
- UNSU Finances
- Update from WG on Statute reform
- Update from WG on G4 visas
- Elections

Michelle Rockcliffe pointed out that end of the financial year was March, so there was no requirement to submit accounts.

Unit 25 Rep. pointed out that the G4 visa committee had its own chair, who could be invited to speak, though he doubted there would be any updates to report. Statutes review was work in progress, and there would be no update on that. The Council debated meeting times for the Statutes WG. He would attempt to schedule at different times.

Andraz Melansek recalled it was important for the Union to hear from Staff in the issues that affect them, given low representation on the Council. Sufficient time should be allocated at the GM to hear from the floor.

Michelle Rockcliffe recalled the difference between a General Meeting and the Annual General Meeting. The Chair felt 13 December was too close for adequate preparation. The Council decided to hold a General Meeting on 13 December and an AGM after March.

The Secretary introduced a draft GM resolution intended to streamline the holding of by-elections for unrepresented units and the Arbitration Committee by providing greater clarity on ambiguous articles in the Regulations.

The Chair encouraged all units to submit candidates to the Arbitration Committee when the nomination was called.

After a debate, the Council voted unanimously to submit the draft as a Council resolution to the General Meeting.

#### 5. UNSU Finances

No update was given in the absence of the Treasurer.

#### 6. Security

No update was given in the absence of Kenneth Rosario (Unit 39).

#### 7. Resolution on organizing a workshop on the UN Justice System

Unit 25 Rep. felt it would be a more rational use of resources to bring trainers to NY instead of individual members travelling overseas. He also felt it was important to include staff at large in UNSU activities. He suggested a survey on how staff would like to communicate with the Union, including asking them to suggest training they would like to receive. Answers would provide a good basis for discussion. The Union should not be afraid to include SMs in its activities.

Michelle Rockcliffe alerted that the situation would change once the Council had a full complement. It was risky to establish precedents in the current situation that could change in the future.

Daniel Burden (Unit 34) inquired if authorisation was not needed from FICSA to use their trainer. He also asked for credentials for this person.

Chandana Mutucumarana (Unit 30) recalled that the training budget for the year was exhausted. He suggested bringing the trainer to provide training for staff reps, plus a seminar session for staff at large.

Michelle Rockcliffe suggested redeploying funds from other lines.

The Chair suggested keeping the item on the agenda for future discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.