

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

45th STAFF COUNCIL/45ème CONSEIL DU PERSONNEL

Minutes/Actes

Meeting No: 45/29
Date: 14 December 2017
Time: 1:15 pm
Venue: CR F
Quorum: 10/16 Units

45th 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.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Daniel Burden (Unit 34) asked for item 9 "Conference Room signage..." to be dropped, since it appeared repeatedly and was never addressed. The Chair felt it was important to retain it. Thomas Chacko (Unit 30) would speak to colleagues in MMS. Ideally the sign should read [Open to Staff].

The Chair spoke of the issue of an email from an OPPBA focal point commenting on the draft agenda. She had suggested that the Council hold a closed meeting without non-members present, due to the sensitive nature of the issues on the agenda. She clarified that OPPBA focal points were observers on the Council and would not be given the floor on other items than their own. The question of the confidentiality of the draft agenda was clarified. Rather than "confidential", it should be considered "restricted", though staff reps should feel free to share it with their units. President Bibi Khan recalled the meeting where the agreement was reached with OPPBA staff members to act as focal points. The Secretary would circulate the minutes of that meeting.

The Chair moved for items 6 and 7 be considered in closed session. The motion passed with 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

The Agenda was adopted with no other changes.

2. Adoption of Minutes of previous Council meeting

Minutes for meeting 25, 26 and 27 were adopted. Minutes for meeting 28 remained pending.

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

There had been no EB meeting that week due to various absences.

President Bibi Khan presented the summary record of communications as per her written report.

Marie Delbecque (Unit 26) appreciated the report but asked for it to be submitted in writing at least 24 hours in advance. The Chair endorsed the request. The President promised to do better, within the limitations of Leadership's busy schedule.

4. UNSU Finances

The Assistant Treasurer referred to accounts circulated by the Treasurer. She and Second Vice-President Cristina Silva would transfer balances from the Staff Day to the Union account.

5. Security

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

6. Discussion on legal advice reference to by-elections

7. Discussion on Resolution to amend the UNSU Regulations

Items discussed jointly in closed session.

After a debate on the situation of unrepresented units, the need for an Arbitration Committee and precedents of by-elections, President Bibi Khan offered to reach out to POs to ask for a timeline for by-elections.

8. Update on work with AFT

Michelle Rockcliffe and the Treasurer had held a lunch-and-learn session with Unit 28. They offered to replicate the exercise with other units.

9. Conference Room signage showing SC meetings as [Closed]

Thomas Chacko would follow up with MMS.

10. Reports by Units

No reports.

11. Any other Business

Marie Delbecque reported on Tuesday's meeting of the WG of Flexible Workspace. The WG's ToR called on it draw up broad principles for the implementation of FlexSpace at all duty stations. A first set of principles had been agreed on, and would be further revised. A completed draft should be ready by late January. She would keep the Council informed.

The Council agreed to hold an informal lunch at the Staff Union offices the following week. The next formal Council meeting would be held on January 4.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.