

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

45th STAFF COUNCIL/45ème CONSEIL DU PERSONNEL

Minutes/Actes

Meeting No: 45/34
Date: 15 February 2018
Time: 1:15 pm
Venue: CR B
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

The Chair pointed out that items 8 and 10 "UNDT Geneva ruling on salary review" were repeated so 10 could be deleted. Marie Delbecque (Unit 26) requested that item 8 be moved to number 6. The Agenda was adopted as amended.

2. Adoption of Minutes of previous Council meeting

Minutes for meeting 33 were adopted with no changes.

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

1st Vice-President Patricia Nemeth ran through the abundant documentation that she had circulated regarding the SMC and Field-JNC. Unit 25 Rep. asked if any of the material was confidential or if it could be shared with unit members. The 1st Vice-President confirmed the documents could be shared.

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) pointed out that Pension Fund staff had not been included in the Staff Engagement survey. The 1st Vice President would follow up on the issue, though not much could be done for the current edition.

UNSU Secretary Aitor Arauz enquired about the GSDM interim report. Mitigation measures from the report had been adopted by the SMC. The GSDM Working Group would resume its work once the Secretary General's report was submitted to the ACABQ and 5th Committee.

4. General Meeting Agenda

The Secretary ran through the draft agenda for the General Meeting. Andraz Melansek (Unit 17) asked if there were any outreach measures foreseen to increase participation. Mériem Harbi (Unit 28) called on Council members to advertise the meeting with their unit members. Unit 25 Rep. asked that agenda items be allocated to speakers. Names were added to the draft agenda.

Unit 25 Rep asked about the 13 December resolution prepared by the Council for the General Meeting, and when it would be circulated to Staff for adoption at the meeting. Marie Delbecque (Unit 26) suggested dropping the paragraph about concurrent elections, since elections to the Arbitration Committee were already under way. She felt it was important to retain the paragraph stipulating that elections should be conducted under the same voter rosters. Andraz Melansek (Unit 17) recalled that the absolute priority was to get unrepresented units on the Council and he supported any common-sense measure that contributed to that. The First Vice-President expressed the concern that the meeting would not be quorate to vote on a resolution. Assistant Treasurer Rosemary Lane suggested inviting the Chair of the Polling Officers to answer staff members' questions. The First Vice-President had reached out the Chair and Secretary of the Polling Officers inviting them to attend. Ahmad Ismail (Unit 20) suggested adding a specific deadline. The Secretary felt it was important to retain the whereas section. He suggested re-drafting the resolution as a Council Statement for the General Meeting. Unit 25 Rep. suggest holding the resolution in case there were further delays, when it could be submitted to an Extraordinary meeting.

5. UNSU Finances

The Treasurer suggested postponing the resolution on Staff Day until 1 April, in order to align it with the budgetary cycle. The Assistant Treasurer also pointed out a number of deficiencies in the draft resolution, including the absence of an attached budget. Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) called for a date to be set, so preparations could start.

Unit 25 Rep. asked how much money was left on the training budget. The Treasurer replied that only USD 600 had been used for the FICSA training tuition. USD 4,400 were remaining. He clarified that travel for the training he and the Second Vice-President had attended in Vienna was covered from the travel budget. Therefore USD 9,500 remained for the biennium. Unit 25 Rep. also asked for the material received at that training to be shared with the Council.

The Treasurer also reported that a meeting was convened for the following day with the Staff Counsellor's office. Deficiencies were detected in the management of the Staff Emergency Fund. The Union had requested that the Fund be transferred to the Union. If the Fund was transferred, a board would have to be established to consider applications. The Assistant Treasurer expressed her doubts about the Administration's intention to transfer the Fund back to the Union, which would require the Union dealing with staff members' personal

issues, solvency, etc. She did not consider it was necessarily the most advisable way to proceed. Ahmad Ismail (Unit 20) supported reactivating the Fund, but believed a more detailed conversation was required.

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) asked about the absence of the CCISUA invoice from accounts payable. The Treasurer clarified that our finances were relatively simple and not structured around accounts payable / receivable. That did not mean there had ever been an issue with the CCISUA invoice, which would be paid as soon as it was received.

6. UNDT Geneva ruling on salary review

The Secretary reported on a meeting he and the Second Vice-President had with OSLA. Once it had become clear that the Secretary General intended to appeal the rulings, OSLA felt the timing was not right to file further complaints, but that it was advisable to wait until the UNAT issued its ruling. Unit 25 Rep. asked if there was a plan in place once a final ruling was issued. The Secretary replied that OSLA had seen the Union's draft message to staff and had no objections. They would initially try to speak to all staff individually themselves, but would ask for some practical support if they became overwhelmed. The Union's task would be to mobilise staff and refer them to OSLA. Ahmad Ismail (Unit 20) recalled that deadlines were not rigid, as the Tribunals had re-opened cases many months after the event, but all complaints needed to be filed individually. Treasurer Ibrahima Fayé felt that staff should still file individually even before the Secretary General appealed. Unit 25 Rep. warned against generating expectations that could be disappointed. The Council decided to notify staff about the UNDT rulings in a broadcast [included in General Meeting documentation].

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm. The next meeting would be on 22 February.