47th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate at 13:35 PM EDT with 26 Units present. The meeting was recorded. Staff Council Chair Mr. Sebastian Cervantes chaired the meeting and Assistant Secretary Mr. Gregory Cornwell took notes. All members of the leadership were present.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Adopted as is.

2. Adoption of previous minutes

Minutes for meeting 47/04 were adopted.

3. Reports by Unit

Nancy Ye (Unit 19) raised concerns from her constituents over the subjectivity of G to P examination psychometric tests and asked if anyone had had feedback from staff.

Discussion on basis for adopting these tests within the selection process.

Questions over how psychometric tests conflict with talent management policies.

Aitor Arauz (President) reported that psychometric testing was an issue currently being considered by the SMC working group on Staff Selection and asked to include a dedicated item on testing, including for G-to-P, on a future Council agenda.

4. President’s report, summary of communications, report from ICSC

Aitor Arauz (President) informed the Council on the proceedings of the IASMN meeting in Montreux, highlighting the reports and relevant updates are on the Council’s Team subsite.
The President invited staff to provide comments on papers relating to the upcoming SMC meeting.

A request was made to ask the president to brief the council more thoroughly on missions undertaken on behalf of the Union.

5. Executive Board report

No questions or comments on the Executive Board report.

6. Staff Union finances

Meriam Gueziel (Treasurer) made a presentation on the draft resolution on the Union’s budget for the biennium 2021-2023.

Resolution was adopted following an increase to the allocated amount of funds for consultants and other experts.

7. Status and Additional Discussion on the Staff-Management Committee (SMC) Meeting as Previously Discussed in Special Session, 47/S02

Aitor Arauz (President) briefed on upcoming SMC.

• Papers have been submitted by colleagues regarding Pension Fund issues.
• Three more should be produced on G to P, data protection, and an initiative on voluntary transfer of annual leave.

Egor Ovcharenko (Unit 28) announced he would submit a paper on use of UN Laissez Passer for home leave travel.

Kenneth Rosario (Unit 15) would prepare a paper on security issues.


Aitor Arauz (President) highlighted importance of this item. Encouraged all council members to read the draft ST/SGB and give feedback. There is a two-week deadline.

9. Return to Campus and Phase 2 into the Next Normal


Point 9 and 10 were grouped together.
Concerns raised on responses from OSH Committee and lack of proper guidance and communications from the administration on vaccination status disclosure, FWA, exemptions and other related issues.

Additional concerns regarding the wearing of masks and differing standards between UN Staff and MS delegates.

Question on need for a survey of staff on vaccinations.

Aitor Arauz (President) suggested an updated resolution with added number of points. Draft available here;

Barbara Tavora Jainchill (Unit 23) called for special meeting Tuesday to vote on this specifically. Seconded by Simona Chindea (Unit 23).

Stephane Jean (Unit 11) will share a draft resolution he has prepared bringing together the various points made.

The virtual meeting adjourned at 15:15 EDT.