

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

45th STAFF COUNCIL/45ème CONSEIL DU PERSONNEL

Minutes/Actes

Meeting No: 45/41
Date: 5 April 2018
Time: 1:20 pm
Venue: CR E
Quorum: 10/16 Units

45th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate with 10 units present at 1:30 pm, with Council Chair Camille McKenzie in the Chair and Assistant Secretary Daniel Burden taking notes. The meeting was recorded and a copy deposited with the UNSU Administrator.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted with the addition of item 5 “Report on UNSPC Participants’ Reps meeting”.

2. Adoption of Minutes of previous Council meeting

Minutes of meetings 37, 38, 39 and 40 were pending, with apologies from the Secretary.

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

The EB meeting report for 20 March was circulated, with no questions addressed to it. Unit 25 Rep. asked for the EB report to be circulated within the same week. Assistant Rapporteur Thomas Chacko agreed to speed up the process.

UNSU President Bibi Kahn had distributed a summary of communications via email and took questions. Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) enquired about a statement by ABCC, who claimed there was no backlog on pensions, when at the same time they often enquired with the Pension Fund about advances paid on delayed actions. The President replied that the ABCC was attempting to justify staff members’ complaints by saying they had no backlog, just “pending cases”. She had asked them to provide more information on their caseload.

4. UNSU Finances

No report in absence of the Treasurer.

5. Report on UNSPC Participants' Representatives meeting

Michelle Rockcliffe reported on the meeting of participants' representatives, on the basis of a circulated written report. They held a productive meeting with USG DM and ASGs OHRM and OCSS. She was hopeful that for next year the organisation would fund an equivalent meeting. The Pension Fund had finally admitted to having 15,000 cases in backlog. In a haste to resolve the cases, the Fund was writing off claims for people they could not get in touch with. The issue should be raised at every SMC meeting. The representatives had made concrete suggestions to the USG. The iPass system was developed to carry out automatic follow-ups, but it was not being used correctly. Andraž Melansek (Unit 17) inquired about co-funding from other staff unions. Michelle Rockcliffe would follow up.

6. Resolution on CCISUA GA Meeting

The First Vice-President Patricia Nemeth introduced a draft resolution to fund travel for the CCISUA GA in Bangkok. The agenda was not yet finalised. The President believed that only people with a substantive contribution to make should travel, and this should be the standard procedure in the future. Marie Delbecque (Unit 26) agreed and felt it was excessive to send 5 people. She supported travel for the President, First Vice-President and Kenneth Rosario for Security, but felt it was important for one member of Leadership to stay in New York. Michelle Rockcliffe recalled the importance of other members attending in order to build knowledge and capacity in the group and called for the Pension Fund to remain on the agenda. Rosemary Lane (Unit 23) and Andraž Melansek believed it was important to have an Agenda before delegates were nominated.

Kenneth Rosario (Unit 39) expressed his frustration at the lack of response he had received from the CCISUA when he had raised issues to them as Safety and Security Advisor. He intended to run for the position of VP for Safety and Security. He felt that UNSU should have a greater representation on the Bureau. We should have at least two VPs, considering we contribute 10 times more than other unions, receiving very little in return. The delegation should be equipped with a strategy adopted by the Council. Positions should not be left at the discretion of individual delegation members.

The Council voted first on an amendment to the draft Resolution authorising travel for only the President and First Vice-President. The result was 5 in favour, 5 against and one abstention. The Chair used her casting vote against.

The Council then voted an amendment to the draft Resolution authorising travel for the President, First Vice-President and Security Advisor. The result was 6 in favour, 1 against and 4 abstentions.

The resolution was adopted as RES/45/29 with an amendment to authorise travel for the President, First Vice-President and Security Advisor, on the understanding that other delegates could be designated once the agenda was issued.

7. Resolution on FICSA Training

The President introduced a draft resolution authorising funding for her to attend a workshop on staff reclassification offered by FICSA in Geneva. Right now in New York there were already 90 posts slotted for reclassification. As President of the Union she felt it was important for her to attend. She suggested at least one other Council member attend.

On the combined trip to Brindisi, she reported that she had attempted to address the issue at HQ. She had met with USG OHRM to request training for the affected staff member so they could opt for positions in Valencia. There was no need to travel to Brindisi for the time being. The resolution was amended to that effect.

Unit 25 Rep. believed it would be more cost effective to bring a trainer to New York. The President agreed, provided there was sufficient time to prepare the course. Given the current crisis situation, she felt it was important for her as President to have the best possible preparation on the matter.

Andraž Melansek (Unit 17) asked why the training was offered by FICSA and no CCISUA. He suggested asking HQ staff to share information on the matter. He called for a better investment in knowledge. Ondré Baronette (Unit 33) supported the idea of investing in knowledge and bringing the trainer to New York, in order to obtain the maximum benefit for the Council. Michelle Rockcliffe supported the idea of another person attending along with the President. Rosemary Lane recalled her suggestion to invite XXX from DESA, an expert on the issue, to provide training for the Council locally.

The draft resolution was amended to remove the travel to Brindisi for a total provision of USD 6000. The resolution was adopted as RES/45/30 with 8 votes in favour and 3 abstentions.

Michelle Rockcliffe recalled her request for the Council to see a roster of 3 litigators in order to make a decision.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.