

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

45th STAFF COUNCIL/45ème CONSEIL DU PERSONNEL

Minutes/Actes

Meeting No: 45/74
Date: 10 January 2019
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Room A
Quorum: 14/27 Units

45th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate at 1:30 pm with 14 Units present. Staff Council Chair Camille McKenzie chaired the meeting and UNSU Secretary Aitor Arauz-Chapman took notes. Units present were: 3, 6, 11, 13, 14, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, 29, 33, 37. The meeting was recorded and a copy deposited with the Union administrator.

1. Adoption of the agenda

[Before the adaption of the agenda, the Chair Camille McKenzie welcomed Staff Council members back after the holidays and wished everyone a productive 2019.]

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

2. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meetings

Minutes of meeting 73 were adopted with minor changes requested via email by the First Vice President.

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

The EB report had been distributed via email. The President had not submitted a report.

The 1st Vice President Patricia Nemeth reported that FICSA had decided to join CCISUA in paying for an expert to support the GS Salary Survey Methodology Working Group, due to start its work during the week of 21-30 January. She would be able to report in the course of the work. She had called for volunteers for a "think tank" on G-to-P and received an excellent response.

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) pointed out that a summary of communication should be received even if the President did not attend meetings. The Council had been kept unaware of any communication for at least two months. Shirley Abraham (Unit 37) inquired about the reason for the President's absence. She believed the Council should hold the President to account regarding her attendance. Other Council members expressed concern regarding the President's attendance and repeated absence from meetings. Michelle Rockcliffe suggested advising staff to copy the Union generic address in their correspondence to the Union, to avoid issues falling through the cracks. The Secretary noted that the JNC had not met for three months, with no explanation from the President.

4. GSDM/Management Reform

No update in absence of Unit 38 representatives.

5. Status of elections

The First Vice-President Patricia Nemeth reported that the new staffing lists were expected from the Administration at the latest by the end of the month, at which point Polling Officers could proceed with apportionments. We would be using the same electronic voting service as in the by-elections, which was selected through a procurement process and offered preferential rates. The Secretary suggested that Staff Reps contact their unit chairs to verify they were still in place, and asked them to submit to the Council Chair the name of each unit chair so she could keep an updated list. William Bly (Unit 23) pointed out that some units may not have a Chair. The First Vice-President pointed out that they would be needed coming up to the election, so each Unit Rep should check they had a Chair and hold a Unit meeting if required. The Team Assistant offered to help book a room for any Unit that needed to hold a meeting.

6. General Meeting

The Council adopted the following agenda for the General Meeting:

1. Update on UNSU work
2. UNSU Finances
3. Update on the upcoming UNSU elections
4. Report to the GM by the Audit Committee (tbc)
5. Report to the GM by the Arbitration Committee (tbc)
6. UNSU governance and accountability
7. Q & A

The Council decided to use Sli.do to manage questions. Specific sub-items under the first item could be finalised closer to the date (possible items include: Common System, HLIC, Pension Fund, UN reform, Accessibility, G to P, GSDM etc.)

7. Update on 2nd Vice President

The First Vice-President reported that the OIOS had removed the Second VP's computer the day before. Michelle Rockcliffe asked the Chair to reach out the Arbitration Committee and confirm that a ruling would be issued before the General Meeting.

François Charlier (Unit 3) recalled that Cristina Silva was the coordinator for the inter-agency games and asked what the current status was. Assistant Treasurer Rosemary Lane clarified that the coordinator role was connected to the Athletics Club, not the Union.

8. Retreat to Finalize Statute and Regulation

The Council confirmed that it would hold a retreat on Saturday 12 between 10am and 4pm at UNHQ. The Team Assistant would attend and would procure breakfast and lunch catering for an estimated 10 people.

9. Staff Nominee to ABCC

The Assistant Treasurer would provide a description of the role for the First Vice-President to issue a broadcast calling for volunteers. It was urgent to cover the position.

10. Reports by Units

William Bly and Rosemary Lane (Unit 23) reported on mergers and rearrangements in their Department, with no prior consultation. They were alarmed by a statement from the Secretary General announcing a “dialogue” with Member States on how to do things differently.

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) reported that the Pension Fund had a new acting CEO since January. From the vantage point of staff rep and participant reps, they felt the person had been brought on despite not being qualified. The GA resolution (A/RES/73/274) was very positive and she encouraged Staff Reps to read it. There was a lot of construction going on in their building. She asked for guidance on how to respond. Colleagues working in Albano suggested that she contact Assistant Secretary Sherif Mohamed, who had managed the same issue in Albano.

The Secretary pointed out the dire situation of HR officers in the DGACM EO who were affected by the deferral of GSDM. All the people who could be placed already had, leaving a small group of people with a huge workload. He asked if there were other staff members in similar situation in other EOs. Ahmad Ismail mentioned the situation of staff members who were formerly supporting UNICs, and might now be merged with the EO. Council members expressed concern that no training had been offered to Staff Members taking on new functions, though Francisco Brito (ORHM) called for caution on the point, since many self-training options were available and staff members were expected to explore their own options. Unit 25 Rep. suggested raising the matter at the General Meeting.

11. AOB:

Kathryn Kuchenbrod (Unit 28) enquired about the status of the relationship with AFT. Rapporteur Camille Beydon suggested a meeting of the liaison officers to decide how to proceed.

Ahmad Ismail asked the First Vice-President for a clarification regarding the broadcast she had sent calling for volunteers for a think tank on G-to-P. She explained that there was a lot of work to be done on the matter and

she needed support. Ahmad Ismail's concern was that she had sent an email on behalf of the Union without consulting with the Council. He asked her to not use the UNSU Broadcast for her own purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 14:30.
