

UNITED NATIONS STAFF UNION
SYNDICAT DU PERSONNEL DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES**45th STAFF COUNCIL/45ème CONSEIL DU PERSONNEL****Minutes/Actes**

Meeting No: 45/79
Date: 14 February 2019
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Room E
Quorum: 16/27 Units

45th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate at 1:30 pm with 16 Units present. Council Chair Camille McKenzie chaired the meeting and UNSU Secretary Aitor Arauz-Chapman took notes. Units present were: 3, 11, 13, 14, 17, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 33, 37, 38, 39. The meeting was recorded and a copy deposited with the Union administrator.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

2. Adoption of minutes of previous Council meetings

Minutes of meeting 77 and 78 were pending.

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

The EB report had been distributed via email. The President was absent and had not circulated a report. The First Vice-President Patricia Nemeth reported on the previous day's info session on GSDM. Given the high turnout and many questions, there was no time to address the second item on the agenda, "Delegation of Authority", which would be dealt with at an additional session the following week.

4. Statues Retreat

Unit 25 Rep. thanked Council members who had taken part in the previous retreat. The Council agreed to hold an additional retreat on Saturday 16 February. An email would be circulated to confirm numbers.

5. Status of Elections

The Chair invited Council members to examine the apportionment lists that had been circulated and raise any concerns with the Polling Officers. Sarah M'Bodji (Unit 31) raised a concern about 12 DGACM staff members that were residing in OICT, serving Helpdesk functions. Assistant Treasurer Rosemary Lane clarified that the same applied to certain posts in other departments. The Apportionment lists were based on payroll data, which could not be changed.

William Bly (Unit 23) suggested preparing a transfer session for the new Leadership and Council. Sarah M'Bodji suggested creating a Microsoft Team group that could be easily expanded to new members. The Secretary recalled that the Council's initial work plan including preparing a "handover package" with all the relevant information, which could be deposited with the Team Assistant, to avoid information being held hostage by the outgoing team.

6. GSDM and Management Reform

Francisco Brito invited Council members to read the GSDM report, including references to the new locations and functions included in the scheme. He was encouraged by the good turnout at the previous day's info session, which demonstrated staff's eagerness to get involved in the matter.

7. Communications

Rapporteur Camille Beydon underlined the need to update the Union's website prior to the elections. She asked for volunteers to help overhaul the website and make it more relevant to staff. William Bly volunteered. He would receive access credentials and agreed to coordinate with the EB on any updates required.

Assistant Rapporteur Kenneth Rosario asked how the panel scheduled to report to staff on Accountability and Delegation of Authority the following week was determined. Had the Council been involved in designating the speakers? Sarah M'Bodji expressed the concern that officials who intended to run for office could use Union events to raise their profile. Assistant Treasurer Rosemary Lane recalled the rules barring candidates from using Union facilities for campaign purposes. Marie Delbecque (Unit 26) referenced the Statutes and Regulations and confirmed that the prohibition applied to the "entirety of the election process", which should be understood to begin on 14 February, with the circulation of the Call for Nominations from the Polling Officers. Concern was expressed about the President organising a series of events, with no confirmation or participation from the Council.

The First Vice-President offered to cancel the event to avoid any perception of impropriety. William Bly and Unit 25 Rep. felt the briefing was valuable and should be maintained, but suggested the panel be opened up to all speakers with relevant knowledge. The Council agreed to support the information session on Accountability and Delegation of Authority. Assistant Rapporteur Kenneth Rosario agreed to join as a speaker. The First Vice-President would seek additional speakers.

The Assistant Treasurer agreed that events organised with the Council's endorsement should be authorised, but also expressed concern for potential candidate who did not have access to the Council's platform or Broadcast. The Secretary suggested that the Polling Officers could offer broadcast space in equitable conditions to all candidates.

A debate ensued about Delegation of Authority and Accountability. The Secretary General's definition of accountability remained unclear. It was dangerous for a greater delegation of authority to enter into effect without

a solid accountability framework to go with it. There was a risk that the Key Performance Indicators designed under the Delegation of Authority system could result in discrimination in hiring processes.

8. Catering Committee and Survey

François Charlier (Unit 3) reported on a recent meeting of the Catering Committee. While the committee was initially intended to meet every month, it was now meeting every three months, which was not ideal. The Procurement Division had decided to extend Culinart's contract despite the Committee's strong feelings on the matter. Their position was to delay the decision on extending the contract until the results of the survey were in. Instead, the Administration had renewed the contract for three years, despite the fact that there was the option of renewing year by year. They had also issued a tender without consulting the Committee. They later claimed that no offers were received, when the Committee had learned that 5 offers were received. The Committee was shocked to learn that the UN was obtaining income from the catering services. The Committee had claimed a victory by administering the survey, which was formerly managed by Culinart itself. Mr. Charlier encouraged everyone to complete the survey. William Bly pointed out the problem of being forced to use the catering vendor for any event organised at the UN. François Charlier replied that the vendor claimed that the extra catering arrangements were the only way they had of recovering the losses from the staff cafeterias. The Rapporteur suggested drafting a message to staff, presenting the Committee's position and encouraging them to reply to the survey and explaining why it was important for them to take part. Sarah M'Bodji recalled that the cafeteria was not currently sustainable in its practices. François Charlier agreed to draft a message to staff.

The Assistant Rapporteur recalled that the garage administration was also used as a source of income. He pointed out that the contractor was making USD 25,000 at the Delegates' Lounge every Friday night, with support from 5 security officers against the DSS budget.

9. Staff nominee for ABCC

Nominations were coming in and being recorded by the Team Assistant. Shirley Abraham (Unit 37), Sarah M'Bodji (Unit 31), Unit 25 Rep. and Rosemary Lane would review the applications and make a proposal to the Council.

10. Reports by Units

Assistant Rapporteur Kenneth Rosario had identified that 271 staff members who had been absorbed by the Secretariat from the UNDP as a result of Integration were absent from the apportionment list. He would follow up with the Polling Officers.

The meeting adjourned at 14:45.