



Minutes/Actes:

Meeting No: 46/01
Date: 02 May 2019
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Room 2727
Quorum: 15/17 Units

46th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate with 12 Units present at 1:30. Ms. Camille McKenzie, outgoing Chair of the 45th Staff Council chaired the meeting as per the UNSU Statutes, and 1st Vice-President Aitor Arauz-Chapman took notes. Units present were: 6, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33. All three members of Leadership were in attendance.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with no changes.

The Chair welcomed all members of the 46th Staff Council. She invited them to make a brief round of introductions and wished them the best in their new functions.

2. Election of the members of the Executive Board

The 1st Vice-President provided Council members with some background on the procedure for the first meeting. The outgoing Chair would preside over proceedings until the new Council Chair was elected. As outgoing Secretary, he has happy to take notes and draft the minutes of the first meeting. The 1st Vice-President proposed electing the Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer at the first meeting, as the positions were required for the Council and the Union to get to work. He suggested postponing the election of Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Rapporteur and Assistant Rapporteur to the following meeting, in order to allow new members to be informed of the functions and consider running. The meeting accepted his suggestion.

The following officers were elected by acclamation:

- Camille McKenzie (Unit 13), Chair.
- Ramona Kohrs (Unit 21), Deputy Chair.
- Jaime Garreta (Unit 18), Treasurer.
- Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6), Assistant Treasurer.

The names were incorporated into the resolution **RES/STC/46/01**.

Sergio Pires Viera (Unit 24) asked the Leadership to circulate a description of the pending positions.

3. Draft Resolution regarding the CCISUA General Assembly meeting in Beirut

UNSU President Patricia Nemeth provided an overview of the composition and functions of the CCISUA Federation, which was one of three in the UN system. CCISUA represented the Federation members at the meetings of the ICSC. CCISUA was due to hold its annual Assembly to renew officers in Lebanon later in the month of May. The President hoped to be re-elected as CCISUA Vice-President for conditions of service, which would provide her access to the ICSC.

Michelle Rockcliffe was willing to run for the position of CCISUA Treasurer. She had been a member of the CCISUA Finance committee in recent years. She hoped to be elected Treasurer in order to renew the Federation's financial management. The Vice Presidents wished to travel to the CCISUA GA in order to build connections that would allow them to get involved in work with sister Unions. The following CCISUA meeting would be held in New York.

The First Vice-President introduced the respective draft resolution.

The Council voted unanimously to include Michelle Rockcliffe's name in the resolution.

Second Vice-President Francisco Brito pointed out ST/IC 2001/43 Amend. 4, which modified the amount of terminal expenses for official travel. The terminal expenses were corrected accordingly.

Sergio Pires Viera proposed adding a rationale for the travel of the fourth member. He suggested amending the resolution to add "(as candidate to CCISUA Treasurer)" after Michelle Rockcliffe's name. The amendment was adopted unanimously.

Ellis Maronie (Unit 14) asked what the benefit was for UNSU to hold the position of CCISUA Treasurer. Michelle Rockcliffe replied that it allowed us to exercise oversight of the Federation's expenses.

The resolution as amended was adopted with 12 votes in favour and 1 abstention as **RES/STC/46/02**.

4. Draft Resolution on UNFCU Accounts

The Chair introduced a draft resolution authorising the change of signatories for the UNSU account at UNFCU. The names of the elected Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer would be added to the draft.

The Resolution was adopted unanimously as **RES/STC/46/03**.

5. Preparation for the General Meeting in June

6. Initiatives and priorities for the term

(both items were merged in the course of the debate)

The President announced that she had convened a Townhall meeting with all staff for 15 May. Her intention was to keep it casual and hear from staff. She would provide a summary of the SMC meeting in Sarajevo, based on the draft report. The Council would also need to convene a General Meeting for the adoption of the Budget and presentation of the Work Plan. She proposed the date of June 12.

Michelle Rockcliffe requested that the General Meeting agenda include issues such as pensions and health insurance. The President suggested that the GM could also be used to answer questions and concerns raised by staff at the Townhall.

The 2nd Vice-President encouraged staff reps to hold Unit meetings. He asked reps to mobilise their unit members in order to provide a strong message at the first Townhall meeting. Michelle Rockcliffe suggested that all Unit reps hold meetings and invite one or two members of the Leadership to attend. We also needed a membership drive. And we also needed to recover the fun element of the Union's work. Sergio Pires Viera asked how we could mobilise people. Many were sceptical and some only came to the Union when they had a problem. The Leadership should present a long-term perspective of their goals. Yogesh Sakhardane (Unit 26) pointed out the importance of unit reps forwarding Union messages to their constituents. Messages were better received when they came from somebody who was familiar. The 2nd Vice-President underlined the importance of an active flow of communication between Leadership and staff reps. Sherif Okasha (Unit 28) suggested that reps forward Council minutes to their units. He also suggested a presentation on Union activities at Staff Day.

The President asked Staff Reps to mobilise specifically around the following issues:

1. Memorial service for fallen colleagues, she asked reps to encourage their unit members to attend

2. GS classification panel – she needed an alternate.
3. Training for members of investigation panels established under ST/SGB/2008/5 on Harassment, Sexual Harassment and Abuse of Authority.

Sarah M'Bodji (Unit 31) proposed a teambuilding exercise for the new Council and social events to build rapport. Ramona Khors (Unit 21) recalled that OHRM offers facilitated teambuilding sessions. Shirley Abrahams (Unit 17) pointed out the importance of continuing to build up the Union within units. It was essential for reps to make the gestures to demonstrate they were present and available.

Michelle Rockcliffe reminded Leadership that she has received a request from a staff member from Comoros for support after the cyclone. She hoped the Council could vote on a resolution of support after the extreme climate events in Mozambique.

Ramona Khors recalled that Cornell University has the number-one school on industrial relations. We should reach out to them to request a session on how to mobilise and organise.

Sergio Pires Viera pointed out the importance of making a distinction between the work of the Council, which was not necessarily relevant to staff at large, and the issues that really affected them. A fluid dialogue between reps and Leadership was essential in order to craft a clear narrative for the Union.

Michelle Rockcliffe recalled the need to renew the Legal Assistance Committee.

Sherif Okasha volunteered to prepare a survey to hear staff's perceptions of the Union.

Ramona Khors asked about time release – the President would follow up with letters once the Executive Board was established. Ms. Khors also pointed out that the apportionment in her Department was contrary to structural logic. The Leadership encouraged all reps in the department to represent their constituents in the most reasonable way possible.

7. AOB

No issues raised.

The meeting adjourned at 14:40.
