



Minutes/Actes:

Meeting No: 46/03
Date: 16 May 2019
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Conf. Room D
Quorum: 10/17 Units

46th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate with 8 Units present at 1:35. Staff Council Deputy Chair Ramona Kohrs chaired the meeting and Secretary Sherif Mohamed took notes. Units present were: 6, 14, 18, 21, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31. All three members of Leadership were in attendance.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of previous minutes

Minutes for meetings 1 and 2 were adopted. The Deputy Chair pointed out that the names of some staff representatives were misspelled in the minutes and signature sheet.

3. President's Report and Summary of Communications

The President Patricia Nemeth briefed the Council on a meeting with the managers of iSeek who offered enhancements to the Staff Union part on the iSeek page as well as the support of the Graphic Design Unit to give the Union a consistent visual identity and to reach more staff.

The 1st Vice President Aitor Arauz Chapman explained that the Union's part on iSeek is similar to the parts allocated to all major departments and therefore called for the discontinuation of the Union's website (u-seek). A discussion on the feasibility of the website took place and it was decided to further discuss this matter later.

The President informed the Council that she attended a VTC meeting of the SMC Working Group on Staff Selection and Mobility.

She also mentioned the Union's first town hall meeting and praised the attendance rate. Assistant Treasurer Michelle Rockcliffe called for more work to increase the participation of staff in the Union's activities.

A discussion regarding the feasibility of webcasting the Union's activities (townhall and/or general meetings) took place including concerns regarding the anonymity of Union participant's especially when they raise questions or concerns and the consequences of having Union officials' statements on tape. It was decided that the EB discuss this matter in their meetings and bring it back to the Council under a dedicated agenda item.

The President mentioned that on Wednesday 15 May the Leadership team attended a social event with the global network of Ombudspersons and on Thursday 16 May she met with the ICSC to discuss Security salary survey issues.

She also reported that the 2nd Vice President Francisco Britto and the Treasurer Jaime Garreta had a meeting with the Treasurer of the 45th Staff Council for a handover of accounts and financial records.

4. Executive Board report

The report of the 1st EB meeting had been circulated by email. There were no questions.

5. Draft Resolution on Executive Board

The revised draft resolution was adopted unanimously.

6. Draft Resolution on CCISUA contribution

The Deputy Chair readout the resolution. The Assistant Treasurer noticed that the pledged amount was less than the last UNSU contribution. The President explained that contributions were discussed within the CCISUA Bureau and that the proposed amount was found to be suitable. The 1st VP mentioned that the system of pledging contributions without having an approved budget didn't seem right. The Assistant Treasurer asked for a standing mechanism to determine the amounts of contributions to different affiliations.

Sherif Okasha (Unit 28) made a motion:

To postpone the vote on the resolution until the newly appointed staff representatives learn more about the work of CCISUA

Sergio Pires Vieira (Unit 24) seconded the motion and requested the leadership to share basic information about matters involving such big expenditures.

The President explained that she will attend CCISUA 34th General Assembly on the week after, and that she seeks to be re-elected as the VP for conditions of service on the

CCISUA Bureau and the importance of timely pledging the contributions which would help determine the number of seats UNSU can occupy on the CCISUA Bureau.

The 1st VP shared basic background information about the work of CCISUA with the Council members via email and mentioned that postponing the vote on the resolution would prevent the UNSU delegation from effectively represent the Union at the CCISUA GA. The President promised to share the final agenda of the CCISUA GA with the Council members as soon as it is finalized.

Sherif Okasha asked the Council to vote on his motion.

The motion was not adopted (2 votes in favour, 5 votes against, and no abstentions).

The Council moved to vote on the draft resolution.

The resolution was adopted by 7 votes in favour, 2 votes against, and no abstentions.

1st VP assured the Council that he took note of the need to share information about such expenditures well in advance.

7. Draft Resolution for payment of voting services

The Assistant Treasurer recalled that the final amount of the election services provided to elect the 46th Staff Council might be higher than the amount mentioned in the draft resolution and wondered if there might be a second invoice from the voting company. The 1st VP provided a breakdown of the cost and confirmed the final amount mentioned in the resolution.

The Assistant Treasurer recalled that the 45th Staff Council previously approved the invoiced amount and therefore no need to adopt a new resolution.

The Chair suggested deleting the first operative paragraph and suggested some changes to the second and third operative paragraphs including a referral to illogical apportionments in the Library area.

The Council decided to postpone its consideration in the resolution until amended.

8. Draft Resolution on Joint Bodies, Working Groups and Committees

The Deputy Chair pointed out that the draft resolution contained vacancies on different committees and working groups. She also noticed that background information about these committees and working groups was not shared with the Council.

The 1st VP recommended suspending the consideration of the resolution until further information about the final composition of the SMC Working Groups is received from the SMC Secretary.

The following nominations were made:

- Sergio Pires Vieira was nominated as an alternate representative to the Classification Appeals Committee.
- Yogesh Sakhardande (Unit 26) was nominated as an alternate representative to the General Service Classification Appeals Committee.
- Karina Loktionova (Unit 29) was nominated as an alternate representative to the Joint Harassment Prevention Board.
- Jason Charles (Unit 13) and Lucelenia Pimentel (Unit 32) were nominated as representatives to the Cafeteria and Catering Committee.

The Chair encouraged the Council members to send further nominations to the Secretary. It was decided to suspend the consideration of the draft resolution until further nominations were made.

9. Draft Resolution on Statutes Review

Sergio Pires Vieira inquired about the purpose of involving non-staff-representatives in the work of the Working Group. Kathryn Kuchenbrod (Unit 31) mentioned the important role non-staff-representative experts previously played to advance the mission of the Working Group under the 45th Staff Council.

It was agreed that the TORs of the Working Group remain the same.

The Assistant Treasurer asked that all who were involved in the work of the WG be invited to its first meeting, and also asked the Council to send the final version of the reformed Statute and Regulations to the Union's Legal Counsellor, George Irving, to check it before it is submitted to the Office of Legal Affairs.

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

10. Cafeteria Price Increase

The President explained that the 10 percent increase is owed to inflation (3%) and sustainability charges (7%) and that the Union objected the increase.

The Deputy Chair pointed out that the increase related to inflation is not proportional to the inflation in the markets and that the other 7 percent increase related to “sustainability” does not make sense.

Ashley Rode (Unit 21) asked for more transparency from the Cafeteria and Catering providers regarding the recent raise and other expenses in general. The 1st VP mentioned that the providers don't share information with the Cafeteria and Catering Committee and that the matter should be discussed with management.

11. Reports by Units

Sherif Okasha mentioned inquiries from his constituents about whether or not the Union's townhall meetings were considered official business and other inquiries about the difference between townhall and general meetings.

The President mentioned that townhall meetings are for general dialogue with the staff to collect their concerns and answer their questions, while General Meetings are the meetings where the membership take decisions that directs the work of the Union.

The Assistant Treasurer mentioned that Union's townhall meetings and information sessions should be considered official business, and suggested that a text in this meaning be included in the reformed UNSU Statute and Regulations.

The President promised to raise the matter with managers of DMSPCS and to request a confirmation from them that all the activities of the Union are considered official business.

12. AOB

Coralie Maeva Tripier (Unit 30) asked for more punctuality regarding the start and end times of the Council meetings. She also shared with the Council that she forwarded her comments on the proposed Environmental Policy of the UN to the 1st VP who asked the Council members to forward theirs - if any - before the deadline.

The meeting adjourned at 14:50.
