



Minutes/Actes:

Meeting No: 46/08
Date: 20 June 2019
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Conf. Room A
Quorum: 13/17 Units

46th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate with 12 Units present at 13:30. Staff Council Chair Camille McKenzie chaired the meeting and Secretary Sherif Mohamed took notes. Units present were: 06, 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32. The 1st VP was in attendance.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of previous minutes

Minutes for meetings 6 and 7 were adopted.

3. President's Report and Summary of Communications

The 1st VP Aitor Arauz Chapman introduced the circulated report highlighting the participation of the leadership team to the Field JNC meeting and mentioned the difficulties that UNSU had in addressing the issues of the national staff members in the field who are associate members of UNSU. The leadership team asked management to take all the necessary measures to avoid – during any downsizing exercise - separating current staff at the missions, including job fairs and placing staff in other entities within the duty station, among other measures. He also highlighted the importance of reaching out to as many field staff associations as possible to better coordinate unified positions prior to future Field JNC meetings.

The 1st VP also briefed the Council on the news received from the President regarding the deliberations of the ICSC Working Group on review of the GS Salary Survey Methodology. The WG had addressed the methods of collecting data and the effects of changing such methods on the existence of the Local Salary Survey Committees (LSSCs). Notably, the President had obtained the reinstatement of a separate salary survey for Security staff.

The 1st VP informed the Council on a VTC regarding a review of the ST/AI on medical evacuation. Unions generally welcomed the introduction of provisions for non-emergency

medical evacuation, which would allow staff members in the field to obtain treatment not available at their Duty Station when they travelled home or to a third country. However, representatives of the Medical Service did not consider the plan realistic, given a number of difficulties in the application of such proposal. No agreement was reached at the VTC and the review of the ST/AI would continue.

4. Executive Board report

Kathryn Kuchenbrod (Unit 31) inquired about the 2nd item on the EB report which stated that there were no invoices to be approved. The Assistant Treasurer Michelle Rockcliffe explained that in the absence of invoices to be paid, the EB report usually states that there was nothing to be approved.

5. UNSU Work Plan and Budget

The Treasurer Jamie Garreta presented the proposed budget and explained its areas of income and expenditures line by line. He mentioned that the estimates were made based on the performance of the 45th Staff Council's budget. Michelle Rockcliffe explained that the increase in the budget allocations for the Staff Relief Committees was a result of two requests for support received by the Union in relation to natural disasters in Comoros and Mozambique. She also highlighted that the allocated amounts for the Staff Day expenses were decreased.

The 1st VP requested to delete the income line from the MetLaw Legal Plan. It was agreed to remove the line. The 1st VP also inquired about the details of the two requests for support in relation to natural disasters. Michelle Rockcliffe mentioned that she previously circulated the two requests with the leadership team, and that she will send them again.

The 1st VP communicated the President's request to reduce the amount budgeted for the affiliation to CCISUA to reflect the amount pledged during the Federation GA, until a mid-point review is made as previously explained, which was supported by a similar suggestion made by Sergio Pires Vieira (Unit 24) who requested some sort of performance indicators before increasing the pledged amount.

Michelle Rockcliffe defended her previous position regarding the reduced pledge which she said would negatively affect the UNSU's influence within the Federation and requested that the Council reconsider raising the pledged amount at the mid-term review. Esteban Casin requested some sort of a performance report to be able to assess the value of our affiliation with CCISUA in order to be able to justify such costly contributions. The 1st VP mentioned that it was not easy to measure the performance of the advocacy work of such federations and that he believed in the importance of UNSU's affiliation with

CCISUA. However, he also believed that a reduced UNSU pledge would send a message to the CCISUA Bureau to rethink their spending trends in areas like travel.

The 1st VP also communicated the President's request to increase the budget allocations for travel by 5000 USD annually, in order to provide some margin to travel to missions in support of local staff, if required. The Council rejected the proposal, but agreed to make an equivalent increase to the travel line in order to overcome a reduction made by management to the funding of Union officials' travel to attend the annual face-to-face meeting of the SMC.

Ashley Rode (Unit 21) inquired about a mention of membership drive on the outreach budget line when there was a separate budget line for the membership drive. Michelle Rockcliffe stated that the mention of the membership on the Outreach line would be removed.

Rama Ahmed (Unit 30) inquired about upcoming training plans in relation to a budget line on training. The Council agreed to set a training plan for the staff representatives.

Sergio Pires Vieira raised concerns regarding the difference between the income and expenditures of the Union, which led to withdrawing supplemental funds from the Union's reserves to balance the budget. The Council discussed this matter, including the small number of dues paying members (almost one fifth of the total number of staff) as well as the need to be vigilant in consuming the budgeted amounts.

In the absence of a quorum at 14:45, the Council decided to hold an emergency meeting on Monday 24 June 2019 to continue the discussion and to adopt the Union's budget and workplan.

The meeting adjourned at 14:50.
