



Minutes/Actes:

Meeting No: 46/14
Date: 29 August 2019
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Conf. Room B
Quorum: 09/17 Units

46th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate with 11 units present at 13:30. Staff Council Chair Camille McKenzie chaired the meeting and Assistant Secretary Sarah M'Bodji took notes. Units present were: 06, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 26, 29, 30, 31. Three members of the leadership team were in attendance.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of previous minutes

No minutes were adopted. Meeting Minutes 10,11,12, 13 still outstanding.

The Assistant Treasurer commented that the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary were supposed to keep up. It was reported that Secretary was on leave and prior to that the Assistant Secretary had also been on leave.

3. President's Report and Summary of Communications

Assistant Treasurer Michelle Rockcliffe raised a concern about a broadcast issued on 26 August by the Union Leadership about the Pension Fund. She described the email as Union-busting and recalled 10 years of similar Unionbusting tactics.

The President replied that her intention with the Broadcast was merely to recognize the work of the Pension Fund colleagues who could have felt discredited by earlier communications. She explained her approach is always to listen to all sides and gather information.

The Assistant Treasurer responded that she was the expert and requested that the leadership team should always seek the experts' guidance. She stated that the leadership is not protecting or being here for staff. She invited anyone who was interested in the issues of the Pension Fund to inspect the numbers and see where the errors were. She

stated that the Fund is trying to set staff and Unions against each other and that the Leadership would ruin the Union by approaching Pension Fund staff without the presence or the guidance of the UNJSPF staff rep. She stated that we will have a big problem if the leadership team did not seek to protect the best interests of the staff

A Council member called to end the discussion and dedicate a special meeting for this subject. The motion was seconded. The Assistant Treasurer asked for a specific date for this special meeting and requested to make this soon. The Chairperson called the meeting to order and stated this topic was tabled.

Summary of communications

The SMC staff-side held a coordination VTC in which the joint statement for the GA was discussed among other things. It has been reported that the FSU completed its Union elections and that it now has a new Leadership team.

It was also reported that the USG for OCHA is implementing a decentralization agenda. It was reported that USGs (Head of entities) are able to perform such processes under the new DoA framework.

The Leadership team has been involved in supporting the OCHA staff reps in handling that situation. Concerns were raised regarding the risk of arbitrary or selective treatment of staff members during such a decentralization practice. It was reported that OCHA management responded positively to calls for consultations and currently the 1st VP is working intensively with the OCHA EO to set some guidelines that ensure transparency and fairness during the decentralization process.

Meeting with the SG on 11 September 2019: due to a mistake at the EOSG, the meeting will only be the Leadership not the whole UNSU Council. The Leadership had invited the SG to attend a Council meeting after the GA High-Level Segment.

The Assistant Treasurer asked that Leadership refrain from discussing the Pension Fund with the SG's office without her involvement.

It was also raised that the contract of the admin assistant would end on 6 September. The Leadership recommended an extension pending resolution of the issues surrounding the regular job opening.

The Assistant Treasurer pointed out that the hiring panel should have a member of the Council on it.

The Assistant-Secretary asked if a 4-month renewal was realistic and suggested that maybe 6 or 8 months was more realistic for the hiring process, plus this would be through

the new year and past the holidays. She called for the Council to be transparent and to show solidarity and try to assist the current occupant of the post with placement within the organization, if this was possible. All Council members agreed that she was a valuable member of the office team.

The Treasurer asked about the details of the post formerly occupied by Emir Husic. The 1st VP stated that when Emir vacated the post, the post disappeared from the organigramme and that the Leadership was working on reclassifying the post to a G5 level to make it more attractive to prospective candidates. It was reported that this was a long process, yet it was now at its final stages.

The Council agreed to consider a resolution for extension of the contract of the team assistant for an additional five months at the Council's following meeting.

4. Executive Board report

The Assistant Treasurer wished to correct errors in the report. She reiterated the need to follow proper procedure for EB notes.

The Rapporteur stated that she had some challenges with this specific report and that she would do her best to avoid this in future reports.

5. Staff Day Committee

It was reported that the Parade Committee was to meet that same day and that arrangements were being made in case of rain. It was also reported that sports received a high number of participants and that focal points are arranging the schedule of the games to accommodate these numbers. Statistics of participants were reported as follows: 49 teams representing 30 Countries. It was explained that the "Coffee with Security" needed further coordination. It was also reported that a coordination meeting with the Special Events about Logistics was expected on that same day. It was reported that the Food Committee selected the caterers for 600 people. Drinks will be facilitated by a Member State mission to be bought from the Duty Free. The Food Committee specified the need for 6-8 servers and called for hiring servers to serve drinks. Music: 3 bands and 2 DJs. Talent Show: 20 participants held the auditions. The Raffle: The Grand Prize (a new car) was reported to be located right outside the Staff entrance. Gifts from the Member States Missions: mostly drinks. The SG Office provided round trip tickets to Portugal. Information Desks: It was planned that the following will have tables at the Secretariat lobby: Ombudsperson, Staff Union, UNFCU, UNJSPF,(which was objected by Michelle Rockcliffe). Action point to send a sign-up spread sheet.

Question about safety and security and the access of guests to the Ball were raised. It was reported that these arrangements will be made and reported back to the Council. Assistant Treasurer reported an income of 15,000\$ from the sales of raffle tickets so far. A request for raffle tables was made and it was clarified that these tables make better sales when they are closer to the entrance.

Ending the Staff Day activities at 11 PM was raised again. Explanations about the rationale behind the time suggested by DSS and Special Events were made to the Council.

6. Administration of Justice

The Deputy Chairperson inquired about updates regarding the Administration of Justice. It was reported that 2 Judges were competing for presidency. A Special meeting for further discussion was requested, preferably if UNDT judges can be invited to one of the Council meetings. The president stated that there used to be open session but there have not been any recently.

Action point: hold a special meeting.

7. Support of Global Climate Strike

In reference to 23rd September Climate Summit, Council members raised concerns about whether staff were able to participate in the Global Strike for Climate Action launched by the young activist.

It was decided that the Staff Union investigate the framework governing similar global actions to decide whether or not it aligns with the United Nations and Staff Union vision, rules, and regulations. It has also been advised to get back to the Ethics Office on this.

8. Reports by Units

A petition on climate action has been circulated for the Council's review. Concerns were raised that the petition could be interpreted as an attempt for staff members to dictate Member States' political priorities.

9. AOB

No questions were raised.

The meeting adjourned at 15:05.