



Minutes/Actes:

Meeting No: 46/23
Date: 21 November 2019
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Room E
Quorum: 10/17 Units

46th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was not quorate at 01:30 pm and accordingly the meeting started without a quorum. Deputy Chair Ramona Kohrs chaired the meeting and Secretary Sherif Mohamed took notes. Units present were: 6, 14, 21, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31. The First Vice-President was in attendance.

1. Adoption of the agenda

Due to the lack of quorum the agenda was not adopted. Accordingly, the Deputy Chair recommended to proceed with items of the drafted agenda which did not need a quorum starting with Item 3 "President's Report and Summary of Communications" followed by item 4 "Reform of the Statutes and Regulations".

2. Adoption of previous minutes

Due to the lack of quorum, minutes for meetings 21 (*version revised by the 1st VP*) and 22 were not adopted.

3. President's Report and Summary of Communications

The 1st VP Aitor Arauz apologized for not having a written report and verbally addressed the Council on the events of the past week. He updated the Council on the recruitment process and the interview with a candidate held on Tuesday. Concerns were raised about the fact that only one candidate was interviewed, including a question about evaluating the candidate's loyalty to the aims of the Union. Patel Nobel (Unit 14) suggested to have another informal setting with the candidate to raise these concerns.

The 1st VP said that the Union had arranged with DOS and DSS to have a Holiday Party on 13 Dec 2019. The event is a UNSU event which is authorized now (1 to 3). The Leadership will get back to the Council to decide on the logistics of the event. Sebastian Cervantes (Unit 22) asked what would happen if the candidate rejected the offer, and it was mentioned that we will get back to square one.

4. Executive Board Report

No EB meeting this week.

5. UNSU Finances

No discussion under this item.

6. Reformed Statutes and Regulations

The Chair welcomed the former members of the Working Group on Reforming the Statutes and Regulations who attended the meeting to advise the Council on the progress the WG achieved by the end of the 45th Staff Council mandate. Kegham Tamamian (a former staff representative) introduced the changes made by the WG.

Kegham Tamamian informed the Council that the former WG consisted of all staff representatives of the 45th staff council who held dedicated meetings other than the regular Council meetings to be able to make decisions on behalf of the Council as a whole. He described the lengthy discussions and processes which took place to come up with the current product. He also mentioned that the former WG aimed at ensuring clarity and to remove contradicting rules.

Answering a question to justify the change to the mechanism of electing the leadership team, Kegham Tamamian explained how the WG focused on creating rules that ensure continuity of business when things go wrong given the situation with the leadership team of the 45th Staff Council.

He further explained that the WG tried to simplify and streamline the rules governing the work of the Union to enable it enough flexibility to move forward with the interests of the staff. He pointed out the changes made to the elections process as an example.

Kathryn Kuchenbrod (Unit 31) inquired about the adoption process for the reformed Statutes and Regulations. Kegham Tamamian explained that once the new WG approve the changes, the reformed version should be sent to the office of legal affairs for any further revisions, and eventually the final product should be shared with staff-at-large to be approved by a referendum.

Marie Delbecque (a former staff representative) suggested to have a meeting with staff-at-large to explain the changes and the rationale behind them.

Sherif Okasha (Unit 28) seconded Marie's suggestion and called for sharing these changes with members of each unit. He emphasized the importance of considering clarity

and streamlining the content. He also raised some concerns regarding the content of the new reformed Statutes and suggested to add some additional rules and attach them to the reformed Statutes and Regulations. He also supported the idea to elect the Unit Chairs in the same ticket as staff representatives.

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 6) suggested to add this matter to the agenda for the upcoming General Meeting.

Assistant Secretary Sarah M'Bodji suggested conducting meetings parallel to the Staff Council meetings to discuss the reformed document in more details and to explain the rationale behind the introduced changes to the new staff representatives.

Karina Loktionova (Unit 29) suggested to have a meeting with the former members of the WG to learn more about the changes.

Kegham Tamamian suggested that the Secretary, in accordance with RES/46/05, call for the first meeting of the WG to get the process moving.

The Secretary informed the Council that the substantial changes introduced were made to fill gaps and to ensure accountability and continuity of business as explained by Kegham Tamamian above. He also mentioned that most of the original text remained untouched. He thought that one or two full-day meetings would be enough to complete the work on this matter.

Michelle Rockcliffe suggested to set a strict timeline to make this document ready at least 6 months prior to the elections of the upcoming Council.

The Deputy Chair asked the Secretary to circulate the previous versions of the Statutes and Regulations for the reference of the Council.

The Secretary will share with the Council a number of possible dates (preferably after the holidays season) to agree on the best date for a full-day meeting of the WG (*the Council*) to start the work as explained above.

Marie Delbecque suggested to plan for a weekend to ensure that we can bring the former members of the WG without having to request time release.

The Deputy Chair suggested to find a date that works with all, preferably after the end of the "austerity measures".

The Secretary suggested dates in January 2020 and explained that a request for time release can be made by the Union Leadership to release the former members of the WG to attend these upcoming meetings.

7. Reports by Units

The Rapporteur Coralie Tripier informed the Council about a situation of a staff member with a disabled dependant concerning the cost of special education and inquired if the Union can offer any help in this regard. She also raised concerns regarding the process of “lateral move” which happened in the Verbatim Section and called for more transparency when such practice is used for hiring.

8. AOB

The Chair informed the Council about a draft resolution on the Pension Fund Investments shared by Michelle Rockcliffe and invited her to introduce the draft resolution to allow the Council enough time to think about it before voting on it in the Council’s upcoming meeting.

Michelle Rockcliffe explained the rationale behind the draft resolution and explained the concerns regarding the investment of our funds. She thought that the information shared in the Pension Fund information session required a Council resolution.

The Deputy Chair suggested to include a paragraph in the resolution to call for the management of the Fund to not involve fossil fuels corporations in the Fund’s investment plans.

The item will be added to the next meeting’s agenda for further discussion and adoption.

The meeting adjourned at 14:45.
