



Minutes/Actes:

Meeting No: 46/70
Date: 07 January 2020
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Virtual
Quorum: 10/17 Units

46th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate at 13:25 with 09 Units present. The Chair Camille McKenzie chaired the meeting and Secretary Sherif Mohamed took notes. Units present were: 06, 13, 17, 21, 22, 24, 27, 29, 30, 31, and 33. The 1st and 2nd VP were in attendance.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Chair Camille McKenzie wished the Council members a happy new year and called for better communications within the Union through the new year to ensure meaningful support to our constituents prior to the end of the 46th Staff Council's mandate.

She also called for the Council members to explain how their different departments handled the closure of the building due to the recent snowstorm. The Council members discussed the different procedures that take place in their different areas and agreed that a clearer message from management should be shared with all staff in such circumstances. The Chair called for the leadership to negotiate a unified procedure for building closures to prevent having different procedures in different areas.

The agenda was adopted without changes with 07 items.

2. Adoption of previous minutes

Minutes for the 67th, 68th, 69th meetings and minutes for the 5th emergency meeting of the 46th Staff Council remain pending.

3. Reports by Units

The Deputy Chair Ramona Kohrs informed the Council members that a staff-management meeting took place in the Department of Global Communications (DGC) in which possible restructuring exercises in the Department were discussed.

Winryck Ford (Unit 22) stated that the restructuring is being made with a promise that no staff members from the affected areas will lose their jobs and that those affected staff will be moved to other areas in the Department.

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 06) made comments on the [recent message published on iSeek](#) from Rosemarie McClean, the Chief Executive of Pension Administration and Pedro Guazo, the Representative of the Secretary-General for the investment of the assets of the UNJSPF. She also made reference to a new P5 post that was established by the General Assembly (GA) and is now announced as a temporary job opening (TJO) with very specific requirements. She finally questioned the necessity to hire someone temporarily and the use of very specific requirements which draws suspects that a specific candidate is being prepared to occupy the post.

The Deputy Chair expressed concerns towards the fact that Pension Fund management has been reducing the number of Pension Fund staff in the Fund's office in Geneva – an office that serves retirees in Europe, Africa, Middle East, etc. She also expressed concerns towards the reports of the hiring process of the P5 post mentioned above and questioned the need to announce it as a TJO. She finally expressed her dissatisfaction towards her recent experience with the Pension Fund.

Regarding the restructuring situation in DGC, the 1st VP Aitor Arauz Chapman informed the Council members that such restructure was not mentioned in any of the GA relevant resolutions and suspected that such restructure would take place this year. Regarding the P5 post issue in the Pension Fund, the 1st VP asked for the information of the advertised post so they can inspect the matter and, if needed, raise the matter with the management of the Fund.

Karina Loktionova (Unit 29) informed the Council about the DGACM Staff Representatives' meeting with Ms. Sevil Alirzaeva, the Executive Officer of DGACM, in which several issues were discussed including, but not limited to: the renewal of G4 visas. She also informed the Council about the GA's decision to increase the productivity of translators and described the adverse effects of such decision on the well being and morale of our translators.

The 1st VP and the Deputy Chair commented on the way that the 5th Committee operates, specifically the way of adopting and revising draft resolutions and thought that such working methods result in damaging decisions such as the decision regarding the productivity of translators, mentioned above.

From his experience, the 1st VP explained to the Council how the 5th Committee usually work and informed the Council members that a more transparent and regulated way in adopting resolutions in the 5th Committee should be discussed with the Chair of the Committee and welcomed the Deputy Chair's call to have the Staff Management Committee (SMC) involved in this regard.

Michelle Rockcliffe suggested that the SMC should request and work on formalities that would allow staff representatives from the SMC in the informal meetings of the 5th Committee pertaining to HR and budgetary issues in which additional information is provided to the Committee by management without the knowledge of staff

4. President's Report and Summary of Communications

No report was shared.

5. Executive Board Report

Nothing was raised.

6. UNSU Finances

The Treasurer Jaime Garreta shared the financial statements for the month November 2020 with the Council members and in his absence, the Chair asked if there were any comments on the financial documents. Nothing was raised.

9. AOB

The Deputy Chair announced that a long serving DGC staff member passed away last Tuesday and asked those who know the staff member and wish to attend the funeral to contact her.

Michelle Rockcliffe informed the Council that a call for volunteers for the membership of the Health and Life Insurance Committee (HLIC) was made and suggested that this member should at least be a long standing dues paying member and preferably a former staff representative and pointed out the critical importance of the membership of this Committee. She also reiterated the importance of having direct access to the informal meetings of 5th Committee to deliver the voice of the staff before last minute decisions were made. The Deputy Chair and the 1st VP supported this approach.

The meeting adjourned at 15:10.