



Minutes/Actes:

Meeting No: 46/76
Date: 18 February 2020
Time: 13:15 - 14:30
Venue: Virtual
Quorum: 11/17 Units

46th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was quorate at 13:30 with 09 Units present. The Chair Camille McKenzie chaired the meeting and Secretary Sherif Mohamed took notes. Units present were: 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31. The leadership team was in attendance.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with 9 items.

2. Adoption of previous minutes

Minutes for the 73rd and 75th meetings of the 46th Staff Council were adopted. Minutes for 74th meeting remain pending.

3. Election of Deputy Chair

The Assistant Secretary Sarah M'Bodji suggested having an online farewell event for the former Deputy Chair Ramona Kohrs and praised her active participation in the work of the Staff Union. A date and time will be shared at a later time.

The Chair called for volunteers for the position of Deputy Chair. The 1st VP Aitor Arauz Chapman suggested to hold the elections next week to allow the Council members enough time to discuss the matter.

It was decided to hold the elections at the Council's next meeting.

4. Reports by Units

Nothing was raised.

5. President's Report and Summary of Communications

The 1st VP briefed the Council members on the meetings they attended in the context of the work of the Task Force against racism and the “New Normal” dialogues.

Sergio Pires Vieira (Unit 24) informed the Council that he shared input from his constituents regarding the “New Normal” with the leadership team, and that he would keep the flow of information as long as he receives updates from his unit. He called for the Council members to consider the many ideas collected from staff and to underline the most important/feasible ones.

The President explained that many ideas were communicated to the project managers and that they rather wait for the outcome documents before providing more ideas.

The 1st VP noted that, besides the many ideas that will make their way to the anticipated report to the Secretary General regarding the “New Normal”, there were more ideas that are worth exploring in other contexts.

6. Executive Board Report

Nothing was raised.

7. UNSU Finances

The Treasurer informed the Council that he received the Council's adopted resolution regarding stipend for interns and would proceed with the payments as directed.

8. Consultation on Phase 3 “Next Normal”

The 1st VP briefed the Council on the progress in this regard and promised to share updates in due course.

9. AOB

The Chair Camille McKenzie asked for more information about renewing drivers' licences in New Jersey. The President informed the Council that she was in touch with officials trying to get updates related to the anticipated legislation in NJ which is intended to alleviate the current burdens applied on UN staff in New Jersey. She promised to bring updates to the Council at the earliest.

Simona Chindea (Unit 24) informed the Council that spouses' work permit is also a source of concern to spouses of UN staff members given the long processing time, which is now doubled by the COVID-19 situation. She asked if this could be raised in the same context with the drivers' licenses issue. The President explained that a broadcast was sent by the Travel Unit regarding changes to the process of obtaining work permits for UN staff spouses and that changes in this regard were made by the host country.

The Rapporteur Coralie Tripier informed the Council about a meeting between the DGACM staff representatives and the USG regarding the department's budget proposal for 2022 and called for any advise from former staff representatives in approaching such meetings. From his experiences as a former DGACM staff representative, the 1st VP mentioned the many problematic areas in such discussions. For example, he advised to pay special attention to proposals to cut posts and to ensure that such proposals would not affect current staff members.

The meeting adjourned at 14:00.
