UNITED NATIONS STAFF UNION



SYNDICAT DU PERSONNEL DE L'ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

Minutes/Actes:

 Meeting No:
 46/79

 Date:
 11 March 2021

 Time:
 13:15 - 14:30

 Venue:
 Virtual

 Quorum:
 11/17 Units

46th Staff Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting started without a quorum at 13:30. The Chair Camille McKenzie chaired the meeting and Secretary Sherif Mohamed took notes. Units present were: 06, 13, 14, 17, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 30, 31. The Leadership team was in attendance.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with 8 items.

2. Adoption of previous minutes

Minutes for the 78th meeting of the 46th Staff Council were adopted.

3. Reports by Units

Nothing was reported.

4. President's Report and Summary of Communications

Michelle Rockcliffe (Unit 06) inquired about the meeting of the Field Joint Negotiations Committee (FJNC) that the Leadership attended. She also asked about the SMC staff side meeting mentioned in the report. The 1st VP Aitor Arauz Chapman explained that the FJNC meeting only covered two items in the agenda and that not much was discussed regarding the CIGNA issue. The 1st VP briefed the Council on the CIGNA issue faced by the field staff, including the lack of accredited physicians, reliable services, and proper medical facilities as well as other issues with coverages and patients' responsibilities, which should be further discussed at a future meeting of the Committee in the presence of experts from CIGNA.

On the SMC staff side meeting, the 1st VP informed the Council that the representatives of the Unions have met to discuss and strategize the SMC's different priorities and to agree on the best way forward. He stated that the meeting was not very productive given the disagreement on the order of each of the approximately 17 priorities identified by the attendees.

5. Executive Board Report

Nothing was raised.

6. UNSU Finances

Michelle Rockcliffe inquired about some income entries in the latest financial reports. The President Patricia Nemeth will consult with the Treasurers and report back at the earliest.

7. Consultation on Phase 3 "Next Normal"

The President explained that a draft report has been developed, which received comments and edits from the different stakeholders and that further edits and changes would be introduced until the report is presented to the SG by the end of March 2021.

8. AOB

Regarding the vaccination of the UN staff members, the President Patricia Nemeth expressed dissatisfaction towards the lack of solid steps from management to include UN staff as in the priority groups.

In this regard and given the recent updates regarding the vaccination in NYC, the 1st VP advised staff to check their eligibility as 'public workers' starting 17 March 2021.

The Council members discussed and shared their experiences with the different vaccination options available in some of the tri-state area, including the different eligibility criteria.

On a different note, regarding the Task Force Against Racism (TF), the 1st VP explained that the TF was looking for statisticians in different areas to gather and analyze data needed for its work. He invited the Council members to spread the word among their constituents.

The meeting adjourned at 14:06.