45th Staff Council Resolution

Suspension and reconsideration of the partnership between UNSU and the American Federation of Teachers

The Staff Council,

Recalling rule 4.8.7 of the UNSU Regulations, according to which it is the responsibility of the Council to decide on affiliation with other organizations and joint bodies,

Recalling also article 7.1 of the Statute, according to which the Council shall determine the Union’s operational policy,

Taking note of its resolution no. 45/08, adopted on 25 May 2017, whereby it authorized the President to sign a new Unity Agreement between the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and UNSU, valid through 25 May 2019, based on the understanding that “the parties are free at any time during this period to commence discussions leading to the amendment by mutual consent of the terms, conditions, and duration of th[e] agreement”,

Taking note also of the fact that, on 22 June 2017, the Council decided to appoint Council members as liaison officers to AFT and agreed that its liaison officers would be present at meetings with AFT, and that, on 6 July 2017, it elected 4 Council members to assume this role,

Recognizing that the partnership with AFT has been beneficial to the Union and appreciating the amount of time and resources dedicated to the Union within the framework of the Unity Agreement,

Noting with regret, however, that its designated liaison officers were consistently excluded from meetings between the UNSU President and AFT officers and from all discussions regarding the terms and conditions, operational framework and evolution of the partnership,
Alarmed by the events that took place in the UNSU office on 18 December 2018 involving AFT officers, as recounted by the Executive Board in its report no. 45/50,

The Staff Council hereby:

Decides to suspend its partnership with AFT until the matters recounted by the Executive Board in its report no. 45/50 are settled and all its concerns are addressed;

Decides to reconsider the terms, conditions and duration of the agreement between UNSU and AFT;

Calls upon its designated liaison officers and the members of the Executive Board to engage with AFT officers with a view to finding a mutually agreeable solution.

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