



General Meeting Minutes

Room LB 322, 11:40 a.m. – 12:50 p.m., Tues, Nov 15, 2011

Chair: Tim Acton, President

A. Agenda Approval

Moved by Sue Gardner, seconded by Mark Battersby

That the agenda, as displayed on the overhead and posted on the website, be approved.

Carried.

B. Introduction and Welcome New Members

Cheryl Kramer, disability services advisor, was introduced and welcomed.

C. Approval of GM Minutes, Nov 1, 2011

Moved by Melanie Fahlman-Reid, seconded by Carlos Reyes

That the minutes, as posted on the website, be approved.

Carried.

D. Announcements

1. Stewards Meeting – Nov 22, 2011

The chief steward will be absent and the non-North-Vancouver member at large will chair the meeting, where the discussion will be about RPT top-ups, which was the subject of yesterday's bulletin.

2. President Kris Bulcroft - Attending General Meeting – Nov 29, 2011

The president encouraged members to attend, ask questions, and vocalize their concerns. Consultation and accreditation, he predicts, will be among the themes.

3. Vancouver Sun Run – Early Bird Deadline Feb 17, 2012 – Race Day April 15, 2012

Motion:

Melanie Fahlman Reid moved, Michael Fleming seconded

That the CFA show its support by reimbursing faculty members their \$45 registration fee, regardless of their payment method.

Carried.

Note: The membership asked to vote on the Sun Run motion today rather than add it to the next agenda.

Contact team leader John Wilson or the CFA office for more information.

4. Status of Women Committee Update

Dec 6 is the [National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women](#). There will likely be a film shown on campus.

5. United Way Events:

See today's agenda for details of the events on Nov 18 and 22, 2011.

E. Laserfiche

This is a searchable database to be housed at FPSE. The major cost appears to be \$3,500 up front and a further \$500 per year for two users.

There were many questions about the subscription offered by FPSE.

- What exactly would \$3,500 pay for?
- What is the setup cost for the actual site?
- Has FPSE, as a collective, absorbed some of the locals' cost or are they offloading part of the cost to locals?
- Are the two users static or can at least one user (searcher) be interchangeable?
- Who does the scanning?
- Would our scanner be adequate?
- What are the alternatives?

Everyone agreed these questions needed to be answered before considering a vote.

F. Bill 18

The president reviewed his interpretation of the Bill, which states, in part, that members of local executives as well as negotiating committee members could not be on institutions' boards. He said were the bill to pass, our two current and very active Board reps Frank Harris and Stephen Williams, for example, would not be able to serve on the Faculty Association executive, and they would be barred from joining the negotiations committee. However, it has generally been CFA practice for the past-president, who is a member of the CFA Executive, to serve as our Board rep. Bill 18 would make this impossible.

So far, 400 letters have been sent to the Minister, including ones from FPSE, CAUT and CFA..

The president encouraged everyone to send letters to MLAs and the Minister of Advanced Education and opened the floor to discussion.

Some believed this was simply a shotgun approach to quash a rabid union voice or possibly union voices and views in general.

A member suggested emailing MLAs and asking them to propose an amendment in committee.

Question: Can a board member be removed? Answer: If the bill passes, any board member can be removed if two-thirds of their peers vote in favour of removal.

Another theory was that there is a bigger game in play, such as the removal of unionized faculty.

Mark Battersby recommended that our Executive speak to our Board representatives to see whether it would be advisable to put a motion forward disallowing this aspect of the Bill (i.e., that union executive members cannot be Board members).

John Wilson moved, Mark Battersby seconded

That the local go officially on record as being opposed to the bill.

Carried, with one abstention.

G. Academic Freedom

We are not a member of the Assoc of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) but are trying to become one. The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), of which we are a member, says that regarding Academic Freedom, the AUCC language is quite good around issues like teaching and researching, but not as good regarding faculty's relationship and responsibility to the institution where they are employed. CAUT says that AUCC's language would essentially prevent faculty from speaking out against their employer.

There was discussion in the room as to whether this was about publicly criticizing your employer, which is covered by law, or about whether faculty would not be allowed to speak against objectionable guest speakers, for example, such as neo-Nazis or George Bush.

It was noted that having something in the Collective Agreement has more strength than having something written in policy and that we should be wary of doing anything that will narrow the scope of Academic Freedom.

AUCC will be changing its bylaws to add something around academic freedom that is in line with its new policy for people who may be applying for membership, which we intend to do around October 2012, which means we may be faced with the question of aligning with this.

AUCC is not an accrediting body but membership apparently brings with it more granting capabilities and other benefits.

Academic Freedom is part of our negotiation package and there is tabled language. At the same time there is language being developed which we might find counter to academic freedom.

The president encouraged everyone to give some thought to the issue and to review the exchange of letters between CAUT and AUCC. He also suggested people look at the Academic Freedom language posted on AUCC's website (AUCC.ca).

H. Adjournment

Towser Jones moved, Chris Gratham seconded

That the meeting adjourn at 12:32 p.m.

Carried.