



General Meeting Minutes

Room LB 322, 11:40 a.m. – 12:50 p.m., Tues, Nov 1, 2011

Chair: Tim Acton, President

A. Agenda Approval

Moved by Leonard George, seconded by David Lambert

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

Carried.

B. Introduction and Welcome New Members

There were no new members in attendance.

C. Approval of GM Minutes, Oct 18, 2011

Moved by Sandra Seekins, seconded by Lorraine Argatoff

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

Carried.

D. Announcements

1. Coordinators' Roundtable – Nov 8, 2011

The direction of the University will be the main discussion topic.

2. Retirement Info Session for Members Retiring Soon – Nov 25, 2011

Soon-to-retire members are invited to attend the meeting on Nov 25. In early December, there may be a general information session presented by the B.C. Retired Teachers Association.

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

The university's president will attend a general meeting on Nov 29 to address concerns and answer any questions members have.

E. Election of Faculty PD Committee Member

Mark Battersby volunteered to serve on the committee and was elected by acclamation.

F. Motion to Rescind the Meeting Block Motion (Carried, Oct 4, 2011)

The chief steward reviewed the process involved in changing the meeting block clause in the Collective Agreement. She said that motion can be addressed at either the Joint Standing Committee meeting or the bargaining table. She outlined the consequences and benefits of each.

Members discussed fully the potential advantages and disadvantages of each approach.

There was further discussion about the repercussion of the motion moving forward.

Motion to rescind:

That the motion of October 4, 2011, concerning the interpretation of section 3.3.3 of the collective agreement be rescinded.

Carried, with one abstention.

G. Lobbying in Victoria

The president reported on the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC (FPSE) presidents' council that took place in Victoria last week. He said presidents of the various locals met with the Minister of Advanced Education, Naomi Yamamoto. Tim observed that this government does not seem particularly committed to public post-secondary education. The minister talked about an international committee or board, for which the exact purpose was unclear. She was unable to disclose, prior to the official announcement, exactly who would be on the committee; however, it was noted that there would be no faculty members serving but there will be mostly administrators and two students (one undergrad and one grad). She stressed that attracting international students should *not* be considered an avenue for generating revenue. In relation to the large waitlists reported at some institutions, she noted that the private institutions were not yet full.

The funding formula was discussed, and even though the minister was at one time on the Capilano Board and although she agreed that Cap was underfunded, she said there would be no alterations to the formula.

The presidents were divided into two-member teams to meet with MLAs. The president and chief steward met with Jane Thornthwaite, the MLA for North Vancouver-Seymour, whose only concrete comment was that she agreed there was a lack of faculty representation on the international committee.

The president urged faculty members to contact their MLAs as voters and individuals. The unions are, of course, actively lobbying; however, individuals also need to take a stand and remind MLAs that we are voters.

The presidents also met with Adrian Dix and Michelle Mungall, critic for advanced education, who admitted there were money problems. They are interested in the issues and how best to manoeuvre. Adrian Dix is currently working on a platform document which will include ideas on educational expenditures.

Faculty members discussed their understanding of the political situation as it relates to education.

The president compared B.C. to Alberta and said the completion rates in training and apprenticeship programs are much higher in Alberta and the claim is that the employer and employee are involved 50/50 on how training and apprenticeship programs work.

H. Bargaining Update

The common table may get together in December to try to finish the 2010/12 round.

The government said in its throne speech they will not be referring to net zero the next round. To get money, they said that instead of mining collective agreements to unlock the value found within, institutions should unlock the "value in the sector." The Minister suggested consolidating facilities, meaning not all programs would be available at all locations. Students would simply need to travel to specific locations.

The chief steward predicts the next round will be ugly and intense.

The CFA bargaining team needs to meet soon to strategize, and will bring ideas back to the members.

The law only comes into play when the vote to strike has been taken, at which point there is a 90-day window to act. However, there is no legislation around having a vote to take a vote.

I. Retirees Benefits – Grievance Update

The university came up with a new interpretation, which was taken to grievance and has moved to arbitration. When the issue is resolved, an important issue will be to back-date the decision, so that the money will be repaid to anyone who is paying for their benefits in the interim. The arbitration process will take at least some months to complete, and possibly over a year.

J. Adjournment

Denis Dubord moved and Nanci Lucas seconded

That the meeting adjourn at 12:47.

Carried.