
Council Summary

UTFA Executive Minutes

Friday, April 23, 2021

Zoom Conference Call

1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Chair – T. Zorić

Present: K. Adamson, M. Attridge, K. Banning, A. Giacca, R. Gillis, J. Macdonald, B. McDonagh, J. Nogami, D. Roberts, S. Rupp, H. Sonne de Torrens, M. Stapleton, T. Zorić

Regrets: A. Braun

Also present: R. D'souza (Special Project Senior Strategic Communications Director and Policy Analyst), M. Horban (Business Officer), K. Johnson (Executive Director), H. Nowak (General Counsel), C. Penn (Senior Administrative Assistant), D. Puscas (Communications Officer), J. Thiessen (Executive Assistant)

T. Zoric called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

1. Approval of the agenda: The agenda was approved as distributed.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
 - a. April 9, 2021 *
 - i. Executive minutes
 - ii. Council summary

As there were no changes to the April 9, 2021 Executive minutes, they were approved as distributed.
 - b. April 22, 2021
 - i. Executive minutes
 - ii. Council summary
3. Business arising (not elsewhere on the agenda): There was no business arising.
4. Report of the Vice-President, University and External Affairs (20 min)
 - a. Laurentian University

R. Gillis provided an update on the CAUT's and OCUFA's efforts on behalf of Laurentian University.

T. Zorić reported that faculty association presidents of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Region wrote an open letter of solidarity with Laurentian to Ross Romano, Minister of Colleges and Universities.

The members discussed the number of cancelled courses at Laurentian; its severance of ties to three federated colleges and other institutions; and how UTFA could put additional pressure on the provincial government to provide additional funding. It was agreed that M. Attridge should write a letter of solidarity with these smaller institutions.

R. Gillis noted that part of this campaign is also about preventing further damage to other universities.

b. CAUT Censure Motion (with T Zorić)

i. Update.

R. Gillis reported on the meeting of CAUT Council. It approved a motion to censure U of T, unanimously except for the abstention of UTFA.

The members discussed the information presented at CAUT Council, the feedback UTFA has been receiving, how the censure was being reported in the news, what censure means, and how it would affect U of T.

T. Zorić noted that our statement is on our website. She said that censure is in place for six months and can be lifted if matters are resolved to CAUT's satisfaction. Resolving the Association grievance with the Administration may help that happen.

J. Nogami assumed the chair.

5. Report of the President (45 min)

a. AGM (with K. Adamson)

i. Updates

T. Zorić thanked the staff for their hard work to get the AGM Newsletter out on time.

ii. Outreach

T. Zorić reported that Council will be asked to email a personalized invitation to their constituents.

b. Joint Committee agenda

T. Zoric said that the following items are on the Joint Committee agenda:

- i. Meeting with Chris Lang – GRP
- ii. Bill 124 – Salary Anomaly Adjustments
- iii. Office Space Policy
- iv. WSIB – Use of External Consultants
- v. Investigation Practices
- vi. Anti-Black Racism Task Force Report
- vii. Medical Accommodation – Fall 2021

The members discussed the issues underlying these agenda items.

c. OISE's Climate Action Plan *

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

d. Academic Citizenship Award

The members discussed the terms of the UTFA Award for Academic Citizenship, the steps needed to reactivate the award, the nomination process, and publicizing it on our website.

It was decided that the Membership Committee, in concert with the VP-UEA, would prepare a proposal for Council on the steps required for an award to be presented.

e. Association Grievances

T. Zorić said that she had no further updates since updating Council on these grievances.

f. UPP Events in May

i. Purpose

T. Zorić reported that the UPP is holding two information sessions in May on the SIPP (Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures).

M. Stapleton said that changes to the SIPP, -are made by the Board of Trustees. Ethical investing is certainly on the table and will be included in the investment policy statement. The SIPP is legally required to address such investing, even if it only says that it is not engaged in it.

The members discussed outreach UTFA could take to encourage members to attend these townhalls.

ii. Ongoing need to clarify roles and responsibilities.

g. Executive Committee dates to the end of June

- i. Friday, May 7, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- ii. Thursday, May 20, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- iii. Thursday, June 10 – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- iv. Tuesday, June 29 – 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

6. Break: timed item 2:00 p.m. (10 min)

T. Zorić assumed the chair.

7. Report of the Chair of the Teaching Stream Committee (10 min)

a. Teaching Stream Faculty membership in SGS (with H. Sonne de Torrens)

D. Roberts said that members have asked about the decision-making process at the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) around membership for Teaching Stream faculty. The default is partial membership, which does not allow you to supervise PhD students by yourself or to be the Dean's representative on PhD examinations. He has asked the Dean of SGS what the criteria are to determine which Teaching Stream faculty qualify for full membership and which qualify for partial, and who makes those decisions. He has not heard back.

T. Zorić said that further discussion at a future meeting is needed for a better understanding of the process.

8. Report of the Vice-President, Salary, Benefits, Pensions, and Workload (15 min)

a. SBPW Bargaining (with T. Zorić)

Motion by T. Zorić, seconded by B. McDonagh, that the meeting go in camera. **Carried.**

Motion by T. Zorić, seconded by B. McDonagh, to return to the regular meeting. **Carried.**

9. Report of the Chair of the Nominating Committee (5 min)

a. Update and next steps

J. Nogami reported that the committee will provide Council a slate of candidates by May 1.

10. Report of the Executive Director (5 min)

a. Staffing update

K. Johnson reported that D. Puscas submitted his resignation We will miss him and we wish him well in building his business.

The members showed their appreciation through applause.

D. Puscas said that he enjoyed working with everyone.

K. Johnson also reported that R. Schmelzer has been taking an accounting course. She has worked very hard and done very well.

T. Zorić said that it is important for UTFA to invest in staff and celebrate when they are doing well.

11. Other Business

a. UTFA Executive Meetings

See above.

b. UTFA Council Meetings – 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

i. Tuesday May 18, 2021

ii. Wednesday June 23, 2021

c. Annual General Meeting – April 27, 2021 - 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment

Motion by J. Nogami, seconded by B. McDonagh, that the meeting adjourn. **Carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Chris Penn

Senior Administrative Assistant