

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Minutes

October 28, 2010

12:30pm-2:30pm

Friedman 153

Open Forum Discussion – The regular portion of the meeting was done at 1:30 – the meeting was then opened to all CUPE members on campus so guest speaker CUPE BC President, Barry O’Neil could address all locals.

1. **Roll Call of Officers** - Nancy Forhan (President), Edita Michalek (1st Vice President - Grievance Chair), Susanne Lester (2nd Vice President - Contract Chair), Cheryl Kinkaid (Treasurer), Eleanore Wellwood (Job Evaluation Chair), Richard Hare (Health & Safety Chair), Joan Treleaven (Sargeant-at-Arms), Frans Van de Ven (Business Agent), Valerie Nickel (CUPE Rep)
2. **Adoption of Agenda (as amended)**
M/S/C Joel Kobyłka/Shehnaz Motani
3. **Adoption of Minutes** of September 30/10
M/S/C Clarice McCord/Sheila Penty
4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
 - a. **Nominations for Local Officers:** Communications Committee Chair -- none/CF; Diversity Committee Chair – none/CF; Recording Secretary – none/CF; Treasurer -- Cheryl Kinkaid was sworn in as Treasurer; 1 Sargeant-at-Arms – none/CF; 2 Trustee positions (terms ending December 31 2011 and 2012) – none/CF
 - b. **Nominations for the BC Federation of Labour Convention Delegates** – Close and Vote: Susanne Lester, Joan Treleaven, Shehnaz Motani, Roweena Bacchus, Karen Ranalletta, Edita Michalek and President Nancy Forhan will all attend the BC Fed convention on behalf of CUPE 2950.
 - c. **NOTICE OF MOTION**
M/S/C Executive
That we use \$100.00 as donation for each guest speaker to a GMM instead of swag
5. **Unfinished Business - none**
6. **Executive Report** – Nancy reported that she is going to a grandma, Jennifer who some of the Local know is having her first baby!
7. **Business Agent’s Report** – Frans reported that 16 bargaining unit members in IT Services were given layoff notices and out of that 16 – 12 were offered M & P positions. The Union has challenged this through the jurisdictional process. The School of Music is using non-union employees to do work similar to what our members do in Theatre and at the Chan Centre. The Union is waiting for more information from the employer on this issue. Frans was at an intervention where a member dealing with psychotic episodes was sent home with a letter to their doctor requesting medical clarification on whether the member is fit to work. Frans also attended a disciplinary meeting where a member was making long distance phone calls on the university’s bill. He also reported that we have not set a date to meet with the employer about bargaining a new collective agreement.
8. **Treasurer’s Report** – Cheryl reported that she just received the financial statements for August and September. We are in a good financial position and solicited responses on what to spend the surplus on.
9. **Committee Reports:**
 - ◆ Chief Shop Steward
 - ◆ Communications Committee – Nancy reminded the members to check out our new Facebook page.

- ◆ Contract Committee – Susanne reported that there is no race to the bargaining table given the PSEC mandate of 0% for 2 years. The Contract Committee has not agreed to any dates to meet with the University yet..
- ◆ Diversity Committee
- ◆ Education Committee
- ◆ Grievance Committee
- ◆ Health and Safety Committee – Richard reminded members of the University Safety Day (November 24) where the topic will be Violence in the Workplace. The Lunch and Learn on Fitness in the Workplace – exercises you can do at your desk was well attended and very successful. The H & S Committee will be running another Lunch and Learn session on Ergonomics soon.
- ◆ Job Evaluation Committee – Eleanore reported that the JE Committee will be reviewing system anomalies as well as working on the creation of 2 or 3 new benchmarks. This will not affect the pay of the newly created benchmarks.

Barry O’Neill – President of CUPE BC - CUPE BC is 85,000 members strong.

Barry asked if anyone has heard of the word “procurement”? A good example is the Olympics and how if you looked at any product in the Olympic Stores – not one product was made in Canada. His neighbour on the Island, who is a 5th generation local farmer, was telling him how 15 years ago the farm produced 92% of what was sold locally, now it’s down to 4%. The government and big businesses seem obsessed with the privatization of our public services. They claim that public services are too expensive and that it’s absolutely necessary to privatize those services to become more “efficient” and that privatization would result in a higher level of service to the public.

In fact, when we look at services that have already been privatized the opposite is actually true.

It’s imperative that the labour movement “think outside the box” and find different ways of doing things. CUPE has done this by inviting the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade to meet and discuss how we can work together. Historically labour and business may not have agreed on most issues, but what is not being said is what we do agree on, such as the importance of strong communities.

CUPE is also looking at different ways to reach the public and address concerns that we all have, not just as CUPE members, not just as union members but as families and members of our communities.

The newest initiative is part of the larger Sustainable Communities campaign. CUPE’s “10% shift” campaign will be rolled out across the province in Jan. We believe that if enough people consciously change their spending patterns so that they spend 10 per cent of their household budget on locally-made products, the local economy will thrive.