

# SMUFU Spring General Meeting

## Minutes

Date: April 24, 2025

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 PM

Location: Atrium 101/Zoom

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### 1) Call to Order and Welcome (C. Conrad)

- Introduction of the incoming executive and thanks to previous executive and members of various Union adjacent committees
- SMUFU Executive Committee for 2025-2026, effective May 1, 2025:
  - Cathy Conrad, President
  - David Bourgeois, Vice-President
  - Claudia De Fuentes, Treasurer
  - Mohita Bhatia, Recording Secretary
  - Tim Stretton, Member-at-Large
  - Leslie Digdon, Member-at-Large
  - Leo Hao, Member-at-Large
  - Luke MacDonald, Co-Chair, Grievance Officer
  - Diego Rojas, Co-Chair, Grievance Officer
  - Bui Petersen, Lead Negotiator

### 2) Approval of the Agenda (C. Conrad)

**Motion:** Approval of the Agenda. (Conrad, Al Zaman, Carried).

### 3) Minutes of last years' Annual Spring Meeting

**Motion:** Approval of minutes from April 24, 2024. (Conrad, De Fuentes, Carried).

### 4) President's Report (C. Conrad)

- Discussion related to new policy whereby SMUFU will endeavour to purchase goods and services from local, unionized, and if possible, cooperatives.
- Discussion of past events, including the 50th anniversary celebration of SMUFU and various solidarity events supporting other unions and groups in their actions.
- Discussion of the union's 'representation' activities, including grievances, support to faculty members in other matters and political actions.
- Discussion of SMUFU's new website. Link was shared.
- Discussion of various challenges facing Saint Mary's University.

### 5) Treasurer's Report (C. De Fuentes)

- Discussion of the implemented policies, including those that aim to streamline the management of funds.
- Discussion of the reduction of legal costs as SMUFU has increased its use of free services available through CAUT. Assistance provided by SMUFU's labour relations employee has also minimized our use of paid legal support.
- It was reported that there have been no significant legal costs since 2023.
- Discussion of a new by-law whereby unspent funds from the operating budget shall be placed in SMUFU's defense fund.
- **Motion:** To accept SMUFU 2025 - 2026 budget as presented. (De Fuentes, Rojas, Carried).

## 6) Committee Reports/Updates

### Grievance & Arbitration Report - Co-Chairs - (D. Rojas/L. MacDonald)

- Discussion of grievances 2024-02, 2024-03, 2024-04, and 2025-01. Grievance 2024-02 has been resolved while 2024-03, 2024-04, and 2025-01 are still active.
- Regarding the committee's composition, it was reported that the two co-chairs have agreed to serve for another year. Some members' terms are ending though some may continue to serve. A request for additional members was put forth.
- ***Motion:*** To accept the Grievance and Arbitration Report as presented. (Soucy, Crooks, Carried).

### Bargaining Report - (B. Petersen)

- Discussion of survey sent to members and meeting with departments and individual members.
- The Employer shall not confirm their negotiation team until the new President and Provost are in place.
- Plan to send another survey to members in the future.
- B. Petersen discusses the members serving on the 'negotiation preparation' team and possible composition of the negotiation team.

## 7) Trust Report (R. Konopasky)

- R. Konopasky gave a report. It is available for viewing.

## 8) Other Business

- Discussion of Tenure and Promotion workshop being offered and the end of April. C. Conrad will provide membership with information regarding the content of annual reports and its implications for tenure and promotion.

## 9) Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Conrad  
SMUFU President

David Bourgeois  
SMUFU Vice-President