Bi-Weekly Executive Meeting
PSAC 610

September 22, 2019
5:00 PM

Agenda

1. Approve the Agenda
2. Approve Minutes
3. Reports
   (a) Presentation of report from the President
   (b) Presentation of report from Postdoc Chair
   (c) Presentation of report from Chief Stewards
   (d) Presentation of report from President-Elect
4. Unfinished business
5. New business

Presentation of report from the President

Recent Tasks:
- Orientation week events were successful
- Presented at the Post-Doc Orientation
- Attended Campus Council
- Discussed future actions to support librarian and archivist bargaining with UWOFA president

Upcoming Tasks / Events:
- UWOFA support rally
  - UWOFA anticipates being in a legal strike position the week of October 7
- September 23 – Take back the night at Victoria Park
- September 27 – LMC at 2:00PM
- September 28 – Collective Bargaining Training.
  - UCC Room 59 9:00AM – 5:00PM
  - Members have to RSVP by Thursday in order to attend. This is a good opportunity to train our potential bargaining team and recruit people who are interested.

Action Items
Admin Chair
- Attend LMC on September 27 or find an alternate to take minutes.

Finance Chair
• Change the CRA contact info and authorization.
• Bring the taxes cheque to the bank. If you need someone to go with you contact the Admin Chair or the Post-Doc Chair to assist.
• Reconcile EHP and Financial Aid. Call the accountant if you are unsure of how to do this.

Communications
• Create a new banner and signs for the union. The banner and signs must say that we are the GTA and Post-Doc union.
• Update the website with upcoming events
• Contact the PAC about solidarity events with UWOFA

Post-Doc Chair
• Attend Collective Bargaining training on September 28
• Work with communications to contact all post-docs about the bargaining training

Bio-Chief Steward
• Attend LMC on September 27

Chief Stewards
• Four instances of claw backs have now been reported. Reach out to all of the stewards and document who has received claw backs and document the evidence. We have requested that the grievance be placed in abeyance until we discuss it at the LMC. We must find as many instances as we can to strengthen our group grievance.

Motion: Changing Union Pay Day

Whereas being paid at the beginning of the month has led to members of the executive getting paid and subsequently resigning without completing their duties to the union and

Whereas we should be paid based on the completion of our work

Be it resolved that the PSAC 610 executive be paid at the end of the month as opposed to the beginning of the month

Presentation of report from Administration Chair
• Update for FAC
  • The committee was unable to deliberate for last month’s applications
  • Will work on August and September when they meet this month
  • Should we send message to membership?
  • Because of this we won’t have updated numbers for where FAC stands
• Call-out for committees (Bylaws, Women’s, Foodbank)
  • We won’t have an updated members list until early October.
• Can’t do a call-out until then
  • drafted an email ready to send once we have the list
• Foodbank committee had one member leave
  • so I’ll be the tiebreaker if there is one
• Staff update
  • Now that Jessie is back and healthy, we can start using Astrid to cover any tasks that are needed for the Communications Chair.
  • Email Astrid if needed, but also simple tasks can just be handled by Jessie (ie emails)
• Food Support Update
  • We need more gift cards for food support
  • Valu-Mart says they are having issues with their gift card system.
    • Issue is with Lawblaws (corporate systems)
    • Not able to issue or even redeem gift cards until it is fixed
  • Just need to keep calling until resolved, no timeline has been given
  • Send email to members??

Presentation of report from Postdoc Chair

I am emailing postdocs personally to see if they are interested in joining the bargaining team, the response is not that great. Also advised Dicho to email the postdocs from the list we have. Also, reviewed the survey result, President, postdoc chief stewards and I should get together to review the survey and Identify important demands.

Also, we should change the meeting day and time, Sunday are not best for me as I have other commitments, can we have meeting during weekdays or may be Saturday.

Presentation of report from Chief Stewards

Physical Science Report

Some preparation works related to the Fall orientations were completed during the last few weeks. The last orientation session (in physical science section) was accomplished on Sept 16th. With thanks to Greg who helped with the presentation, these sessions are now all completed for the Fall. I suggest we discuss about the ECs feedback/comments on weak/strong points they observed in presentations or other aspects of this year’s orientation sessions so that we can plan better for the next times.

I had some comments/feedback as well as questions after the presentations mainly from the newly admitted graduate students which I tried to address them the best I could. However, I think we may find a better way to communicate and be in touch with the new students. Some of them had actually no idea or background about the union and were not sure if they can ever participate in union activities.
Except for the orientations, there were a few communications by a couple of members asking about benefits. I suggest we clear the benefits for this year (if not announced yet) and inform all the members for any updates in the current academic year.

**Social Science Report**

- **Update for FAC**
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- **Staff update**
  - Now that Jessie is back and healthy, we can start using Astrid to cover any tasks that are needed for the Communications Chair.
  - Email Astrid if needed, but also simple tasks can just be handled by Jessie (ie emails)
- **Food Support Update**
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**Bio-Science Report**

**Stewards Meeting**
I took minutes at the last stewards meeting. I have sent the minutes to the admin chair for dissemination.

**Current GTA Stewards in Biological Sciences**
Last meeting Ari asked how many people were officially signed up as TA Stewards and I wasn’t unsure. I have been encouraging people that verbally committed to hand in their forms. We now have 7 officially in the biological sciences but more have verbally committed that I will continue to encourage. I have reached out to multiple departments to see if anyone is interested in being a steward, and hope to get a few more this way.
Orientation
I filled in for Reza at the Geology orientation. While there, I tried to encourage attendants to join as a department steward. No one seemed interested, so I contacted our current Earth Science Steward, Nikol Posnov (a friend of mine), to find at least one more. Earth Science usually has 2-3 stewards spots.

$200 increase in pay grievance
Many people have not been getting their ~$200 pay increase as negotiated in our contract. I have and will be working with Ari on this grievance, which includes myself as a griever. Ari has asked me to start keeping a list of people I know that have not been getting the pay increase. Everyone I have spoke to in my department does not appear to be getting this increase.

Grievance Event
In order to find more people to add to this grievance, Ari and I were talking about having an event in the next couple of weeks that we could have people come out to and check their funding package. I ran this idea past the social committee for my department (which includes myself and our department stewards) and the best idea we were thinking was a board games night at the GradClub. If we do this, our student council will advertise the event and encourage people to go out. We would expect a good turnout from our department, but we should try to get as many departments/people as possible.

Interdepartment Solidarity Events
I was hoping to start hosting some interdepartment solidarity events. For example having many people come out before a sports game and talk about PSAC610 and then broadcast the sports game for everyone to see. Could potentially do something at the spoke if its not busy since they play many games there or we could just reserve a room and broadcast ourselves using a room with a projector.

Arts & Humanities
- Attended International Graduate Orientation with the President and the Finance Chair
- Met with SGPS briefly about a member holding 1.5 TAships this year. According to SGPS, this practice is not allowed, and a max of 1 TAship per semester is allowed. Ron Wagler assured the President and I that the member would receive compensation for hours worked plus a severance pay
- Continued meeting with a member in regards to difficulties accessing parental leave in a post-funding period. The member will most likely send a statement with the President to the upcoming LMC so that the university can hear that it is a struggle for those that are post funding to continue their studies and have a family