

OCTOBER 20TH 2014
Special General Meeting Minutes
M-C B201 5:00pm

Chair (Moderator) Alex David-Uraz call meeting to order, time 5:16pm.
Minutes taken by Stéfy McKnight

** Type Attendance Sheet to be sent to National Convention

1. Quorum Check

Chair calls on Information Officer for quorum check.

Information Officer: Quorum Check: **30**
Composite Local 1: 30 Composite Local 2: 0

Chair: Call for a motion to accept membership check. Motioned by MaryClaire Pappas (Art History) Seconded by Stephen Smith (History)

Discussion? None

Outcome: Motion Carries

2. Introduction

Chair: Introduction of the chair Alex David-Uraz and introduction of PSAC 901 Executive and rules of order. Discussion questions will be directed to the Chair.

3. Adopt Agenda

Chair: Call for motion to amend agenda. Table (move to the end) the Election for Vice President Postdoctoral Fellow.
Motioned by Nathan Townend (Cultural Studies) and seconded by Stephen Smith (History)

Discussion? None

Outcome: Motion Carries

Further discussion? None

Chair: Motion to approve meeting agenda with the election of Postdoctoral Fellow being tabled to the end, Motioned by Nathan Townend (Cultural Studies) and seconded by Stephen Smith (History).

Outcome: Motion Carries

4. Reading of the PSAC Statement on Harassment by Equity Officer MaryClaire Pappas (Art History).
5. Adopt Minutes from the Last SGM September 18th 2014

Chair: Call for a motion to approve minutes from the last SGM (September 18th 2014). Motioned by MaryClaire Pappas (Art History) Seconded by Nathan Townend (Cultural Studies).

Discussion? None

Outcome: Motion Carries
Approval of last meetings Minutes

6. Elections for National Delegates

Chair turns the floor over Chief Returning Officer Stephen Smith (History) to explain the election process.

Chief Returning Officer Stephen Smith (History) calls that the President Craig Berggold claims the first of 3 positions of National Delegates, to attend the PSAC National Convention. Motioned by Sarah Budd (Art History) Seconded by Christo Aivalis (History).

Outcome: Motion Carries

Craig Berggold is acclaimed

Chief Returning Officer calls for nominations for the second position of National Delegate.

Name: Mary-Claire Pappas (Art History) Nominated by Craig Berggold (Cultural Studies) Seconded by Gabriel Cheung (Art History) Mary-Clair stands.

Name: Christo *** Nominated by Chris Cochrane (Mechanical and Material Engineering) Seconded by MaryClaire Pappas (Art History)

Chief Returning Officer: Second call for nominations for the second position of National Delegate.

Final Call for nominations.

Chief Returning Officer closes nomination .

Matthew Scribner (English): Point of information, Can we give speeches now and the person with fewer votes becomes the third delegate?

Craig Berggold: Point of information, one these two persons will be the second delegates, and the third must be nominated.

Chief Returning Officer: The delegates are ranked.

Travis Skippon (Mechanical Engineering): Point of information, can we not nominate everyone and rank them by votes?

Chief Returning Officer: We must vote each time.

Chief Returning Officer invites nominees to give a one minute speech.

First Nominee MaryClaire Pappas (Art History): The reason why I want to go is because we are trying to pass a resolution on gender neutrality that I am passionate for.

Second Nominee Christo Aivalis (History): First co-Chief Steward of the local, represented young workers, wants to attend convention because attended many labor conventions in the past and can bring a lot of experience. Has attended labor convention and likes the atmosphere and debate. He can bring a lot of experience, resolutions with DCL, bring perspective.

Membership Vote

MaryClaire Pappas is elected as the Second National Convention Delegate.

Chief Returning Officer calls for nominations for the Third National Delegate Position.

Name: Pansee Abou El Atta (Cultural Studies) Nominated by Nathan Townend (Cultural Studies) Seconded by MaryClaire Pappas (Art History) Pansee stands.

Name: Christo Aivalis (History) Nominated by MaryClaire Pappas Seconded by Travis Skippon (Mechanical Engineering)

Chief Returning Officer: Second Call for nominations for the third position

Chief Returning Officer: Final call for the third National Delegate position.

Chief Returning Officer calls on first nominee Pansee to speak a minute on her behalf.

Pansee Abou El Atta (Cultural Studies): Currently on Exec, VP community Affairs. Participates at labor council meetings. She is up to date about what is happening PSAC generally and in the Kingston region specifically.

Membership Vote

Christo is elected as the Third National Convention Delegate

Chief Returning Officer calls for nominations for the Fourth National Delegate Position.

Name: Pansee Abou El Atta (Cultural Studies) Nominated by Christo Aivalis (History) Seconded by MaryClaire Pappas (Art History). Pansee stands.

Name: Chris Cochrane (Mechanical and Material Engineering) Nominated by Christo Aivalis (History) Seconded by Nathan Townend (Cultural Studies) Chris stands.

Chief Returning Officer: Second Call for nominations for the third position

Chief Returning Officer: Final call for the third National Delegate position.

Chief Returning Officer calls on first nominee Chris Cochrane to speak a minute on his behalf.

Chris Cochrane: I am one of the two Co-Chief Steward. I would be a good representative at this convention. DCL. Autonomy is important and the gender neutrality motion is important.

Membership Vote

Chief Returning Officer: Number of ballots in the ballot bag does not match the number of members in the membership present.

Craig Berggold (Cultural Studies): No foul play is suspected.

Chief Returning Officer calls for a re vote

Pansee is elected as the fourth National Convention Delegate

5:55 three members left, Quorum is now 27.

Chief Returning Officer calls for nominations for the first alternate National Delegate position.

Name: Chris Cochrane Nominated by Craig Berggold (Cultural Studies) Seconded by MaryClaire Pappas (Art History) Chris stands.

Chief Returning Officer: Second call for nominations.

Chief Returning Officer: Final Call for nominations.

Chris Cochrane is acclaimed first alternative National Delegate.

Chief Returning Officer calls for nominations for the second alternative National Delegate.

Name: Danyel Haughten (Gender Studies) Nominated by Craig Berggold Seconded by MaryClaire Pappas. Danyel stands.

Chief Returning Officer: Second call for nominations.

Chief Returning Officer: Final call for nominations.

Danyel is acclaimed second alternative National Delegate.

Chief Returning Officer calls for nominations for the third alternative National Delegate.

Name: Stéfy McKnight Nominated by Nathan Townend Seconded by MaryClaire Pappas. Stéfy stands.

Chief Returning Officer: Second call for nominations.

Chief Returning Officer: Final call for nominations.

Stéfy is acclaimed third alternative National Delegate.

Chief Returning Officer calls for nominations for the fourth alternative National Delegate.

Name: Denys Robinson (Philosophy) Nominated by Chris Cochrane Seconded by Craig Berggold. Denys stands.

Chief Returning Officer: Second call for nominations.

Chief Returning Office: Final call for nominations.

Denys is acclaimed fourth alternative National Delegate.

Chief Returning Officer: Call for a motion to destroy ballots. Motioned by Christo Aivalis (History) Seconded by Gabriel Cheung (Art History).

Membership Vote

Outcome: Motion Carries

6:00 two members have left, quorum is now 25

7. Resolutions

First Resolution

Title: Self-determination of Directly Chartered Locals

Resolution submitted on behalf of PSAC Local 901, and Passed at the Special General Meeting, October 20, 2014.

Whereas: PSAC Directly Chartered Locals (DCL) and Component Locals have a common struggle to fight against austerity;

Whereas: Directly Chartered Locals comprise a significant percentage of the PSAC national membership;

Whereas: Directly Chartered Locals have structurally different relationships with the PSAC (as reflected in Service Agreements) than Component Locals;

Whereas: Many Directly Chartered Local Bargaining Units joined PSAC because of the DCL structure;

Whereas: Directly Chartered Locals have had opportunities to join Components instead of becoming DCLs at the time of union certification;

Whereas: Provisions exist for Directly Chartered Locals to join Components;

Be it resolved: that the PSAC National Board of Directors respect the self-determination of Directly Chartered Locals in relation to Component or non-Component status; and

Be it further resolved: that the PSAC Constitution reflect the self-determination of Directly Chartered Locals in relation to Component or non-Component status by adding a **Subsection 13 to Section 11, Directly Chartered Locals, their Jurisdiction, Authority and Rights**, proclaiming that “a DCL shall retain the right to remain a DCL and the right to apply to join a component.”

Chair: call for motion to adopt first resolution. Motioned by Craig Berggold Seconded by Nathan Townend.

Chair calls for discussion.

Craig Berggold: Can the resolution be amended?

Chair: Motion can be amended.

Denys Robinson (Philosophy): When dealing with locals, questions that they bargain in concert in some sense? Attempting to push DCL's into components?

Craig Berggold: Some components within PSAC would like to see, to be service to agreement, Components receive union servicing through staff, regional and national staff, some locals wish they had more money -not happy with servicing. We as PSAC 901 joined because we have more autonomy. Part-time, requires us to have more flexibility.

Denys Robinson: We don't fit in a component?

Craig Berggold: PSAC 901 does not want to be a component, we are asking for self-determination. If some DCL's want to become a component then we have the say.

Christo Aivalis (History): Decides if we want to be a component, it would be our choice, traditional at the convention, component structure doesn't work for us, it is designed from the federal government, the document itself is about self determination not the merits. Internal democracy, we have the right to self-determination.

Travis Skippon (Mechanical Engineering): Resolution essentially trying to urge PSAC to honor the existing agreement.

Craig Berggold: components are bringing their own resolutions.

Chris Cochrane: The motion as written, leaves itself to interpretation. Is it possible to rephrase it to say ad this section and the wording, to the constitution.

Craig Berggold: We would have had to move on this sooner, rather than one local if we wanted the constitution changed.

Stephen Smith (History): Can we make amendment – include a protection?
Be it further resolved: that the continued protection include: be amended to a provision to preserve the existing self – determination of DCL. Table discussion?
Motioned by Stephen Smith (History) Seconded by Christo Aivalis (History)

Chair: Further discussion to table?

Membership Votes

Outcome: Motion Carries

Second Resolution

Title: Gender Neutral Language In Personal And Public Address

2. Resolution submitted on behalf of PSAC Local 901, and Passed at the Special General Meeting, October 20, 2014.

Whereas: the Labour movement has historically been responsible for lifting up the struggle for equality, and:

Whereas: Public Service Alliance of Canada (hereafter PSAC) is committed to promoting, and embodying, an inclusive and non-discriminatory society, and:

Whereas: the designations “brother” and “sister” once captured a sentiment of inclusive identity, today we recognize a far greater diversity in gender expression and identity.

Whereas: “gender expression” has recently been added (2012) to supplement “gender identity” in the existing grounds for discrimination under the Ontario Human Rights Code:

Be it resolved that: the PSAC will retire the public use of the designations “brother” and “sister” in the singular or plural form. PSAC will consider these designations as inappropriate in the discharge of all of PSAC’s public business.

Be it further resolved that: individual members will be actively discouraged from the use of said designations in customary greetings.

Be it further resolved that: in extension to the aforementioned retirement of the designations “brother” and “sister,” that alternative forms of personal and collective address be determined, such as “members”, which satisfy the terms of inclusive language in the present context.

Chair: Call for motion to adopt second resolution. Motioned by Nathan Townend
Seconded by MaryClaire Pappas.

Chair calls on Nathan Townend to speak to the resolution.

Pansee El Abou Atta (Cultural Studies): The resolution doesn’t suggest alternatives, I don’t want to alternatives to be more offensive. Maybe use the word members?

MaryClaire Pappas (Art History): I support adding a clause that is gendered neutral and will put forward a motion.

Motion to use “members” as gender neutral term when addressing membership. Motioned by MaryClaire Seconded by Danyel Haughten (Gender Studies).

Craig Berggold: “Collective address to be determined as members”.

Chair calls discussion.

Stephen Smith: I am against amendment, why the term members? Collective address, that satisfies collective agreement. Add something that is positive language.

Nathan Townend: We can use “members” as till such time as a form of address is determined.

Sarah Budd (Art History): Recommend the use of member.

Travis Skippon (Mechanical Engineering): Decided that if we don’t want to offer member as the form of address, change it to such as...

Chair calls sub motion to offer member as a form of address until another form of address is determined. Motioned by Travis Skippon (Mechanical Engineering) Seconded by Stephen Smith (History)

Chair calls Further of discussion with sub amendments

Membership Votes

Outcome: Motion Carries

Chris Cochrane (Mechanical and Material Engineering): Speak against amendment, “be it further resolved that”, should have a separate section.

Motion to “be it further resolved that” have separate section. Motioned by Chris Cochrane Seconded by Stephen Smith.

Membership Vote

Outcome: Amendment Carries

Craig Berggold motion to change the title to “Gender Neutral Language in Personal and Public Address”. Motioned by Craig Berggold, Seconded by Chris Cochrane.

Chair calls for discussion – none.

Membership Vote

Outcome: Motion Carries

Chris Cochrane motions to amend, the last sentence of “be it resolve” section. Motioned by Chris Cochrane Seconded by Travis Skippon (Mechanical Engineering)

Chair calls for discussion. None

Membership Vote

Outcome: Motion Carries

MaryClaire Pappas (Art History) motions to change the word “also” to “further”. Motioned by MaryClaire Pappas Seconded by Chris Cochrane.

Membership Vote

Outcome: Motion Carries

Chair calls for further discussion.

Denys Robinson (Philosophy): Has an amendment like this be brought to the national what was the response. The language, can be concerning. Message could be lost.

Nathan Townend (Cultural Studies): By matter of principle it has to be put forward.

Craig Berggold Motions to edit the final line. Motioned by Craig Berggold Seconded by Stephen Smith

Chair calls for further discussion.

Membership Vote

Outcome: Amendment Carries

Chair motions to bring the resolution to the National Convention as it is now written and submit it by the deadline, October 27th 2014. Motioned by Nathan Townend (Cultural Studies) Seconded by MaryClaire Pappas (Art History).

Chair calls for further discussion. None

Membership Vote

Outcome: Motion Carries.

Matt Scribner (English): Point of order, do resolutions have to be passed at a SGM?

Stéfy McKnight (Cultural Studies): Yes.

Craig Berggold motions to take the first resolution off the table. Motioned by Craig Berggold Seconded by Stephen Smith

Membership Vote

Outcome: Motion Carries

Christo Aivalis (History) amendment to add title “**Title: Self-determination of Directly Chartered Locals**”. Motioned by Christo Aivalis Seconded by Chris Cochrane (Mechanical and Material Engineering)

Chair calls for discussion. None

Outcome: Motion Carries.

Chair calls for further discussion.

Second amendment

Christo amends to remove period, and add “by adding a Subsection 13 to Section 11, Directly Chartered Locals, their Jurisdiction, Authority and Rights, proclaiming that “a DCL” shall retain the right to remain a DCL and the right to apply to join a component”. Motioned by Christo Seconded by Stephen Smith.

Chair calls for discussion

Chris Cochrane: Is it clear that the conditions of DCL should have the right?

Christo Aivalis: Retain the right, no condition, we have the right to be a DCL.

Denys Robinson: if they retain, they have the rights to remain, grammatical.

Adam Saifer (Cultural Studies): Has to be right to determine.

Christo Aivalis: No, it is a right.

Membership Vote

Outcome: Amendment Carries

Chair calls motion to submit the first resolution as amended to the National Convention. Motioned by Craig Berggold Seconded by Nathan Townend.

Membership Vote

Outcome: Motion Carries

8. Post Doctoral Election

Chair: Do we have a Postdoctoral Fellow in the room?

Chief Returning Officer: As there are no postdocs in the room, there is no way we can declare a postdoc on this floor.

Chair calls to adjourn the meeting at 6:49pm. Motioned by MaryClaire Pappas
Seconded by Stéfy McKnight (Cultural Studies)

Meeting Adjourned