

Stewards Council Meeting  
Minutes January 20<sup>th</sup> 2015

Chair: Chris Cochrane  
Minutes: Stéfy McKnight

Proposed Agenda

- Update on the State of the Local (Craig)
- Departmental Issues
- Motions
- 1. Union Structure Committee
- 2. Website Research Committee
- 3. Reporting of Executive Minutes

Chair calls for a volunteer moderator. Elected Moderator is out of town due to family matters. No interest – Chair will moderate.

Chair calls to commence meeting.

Meeting: 5:40pm

Attendance: Suyin Olguin (ENGL), Andrew Law (ENGL), Stéfy McKnight (CUST), Nathan Townend (Unit 1), Pansee Atta (CUST), Denys Robinson (PHIL), Chris Cochrane (MECH), Travis Skippon (MECH), Chris Twigg (CHEE), Sarah Budd (ARTH), Alex Cormier (CHEM), Craig Berggold (Unit 1), MaryAnne (Ex-officio Trustee)  
Quorum Check: Quorum is met

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**1) Approval of Agenda**

Chair calls for review of the agenda and approval of the agenda.

**Motion:** Impose time limit of 2 hours on meeting

**Motioned by:** Nathan Townend

**Seconded by:** Sarah Budd

Discussion:

Denys Robinson: Two hours doesn't seem to be realistic for this work.

Craig Berggold: The more participation the better the union is. Can they not be moved-tabled to the next meeting? Union Structure Committee will probably take most of the discussion.

Denys Robinson: Opposed, for the (Union Structure Committee) committee to work it needs to be done before the AGM, on a time line because of budget.

Vote is called:

For: 7

Opposed: 4

Motion passes - Meeting will be adjourned at 7pm.

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Chair calls to Accept Agenda

Acceptance of agenda Motioned by Sarah Budd, seconded by Nathan Townend.

Motion approved unanimously.

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## **2) Update on the State of the Local (Craig)**

Craig: can we introduce ourselves, our departments?

*Everyone goes around and introduces themselves.*

Craig: We had a productive, executive retreat. Good things happened. Newsletter was posted yesterday. In the newsletter there are two job postings. Please pass copies of the posting around to departments and on bulletin boards? After our Treasurer report, we realized that there is money to spend so that we can realize some goals passed at the AGM. One of the major goals passed at the AGM was 20,000\$ for a childcare bursary. We spoke at the retreat about how will we get this bursary to happen? This is why we created the Childcare committee. We found 2500\$ in the budget for administration to hire. We would like to begin hiring people to make sure work is organized by someone. Next, Post doc job position. We are having difficulty getting postdocs to meetings. Trying to have a postdoc bbq, putting money towards a staffing initiative, precedents. Show the initiative that we need better, support administration for our members needs. So we are hiring an event planner to organize a postdoc event.

We are also looking into hiring a part time book keeper. There is a budget of 2500\$, to assist the Treasurer for a bookkeeper, incase we need an audit done. We are stressing this so we can come to the AGM and have a well presented budget. We are looking for outside assistance to do that. We have asked the Treasure to research a bookkeeper.

Academic sector retreat, incoming executive people to train them in their position coming forward. We can elect those positions at the AGM (if there are spaces available, open to membership). The retreat is May 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>. Three days of events, paid by the regional office. Local would be responsible for funding a social one night. Elected would write a report about how other locals have relationships with their Stewards and Executives. Other staff representatives at the other locals to talk about the other positions. Will get a full report. Newsletter just came out.

March 31<sup>st</sup> for the AGM.

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### **3) Departmental Issues**

Chair calls for departmental issues.

Craig Berggold: can we send out the Stewards name on the newsletter?

Stéfy McKnight: The list is posted on the website, but can definitely be sent out.

Stewards indicate general agreement with their names being distributed.

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### **4) Motions**

#### **Motion: Union Structure**

Motioned by: Denys Robinson

Seconded: Travis Skippon

Be it resolved that the PSAC 901 Steward's Council strikes an open Committee reporting to the PSAC 901 Steward's Council and with the following structure:

1. The Committee shall investigate the organizational structure of the local in terms of staffing and executive book offs
  1. Consider the business of the local
  2. Consult with other locals on best practices
2. The Committee shall produce a report for the Steward's Council and the Executive on
  1. The advisability of staff hiring
  2. The advisability of Executive Book Offs
3. The Committee shall be open to all PSAC 901 members of good standing
4. The Committee shall meet as often as it deems fit, with one week's proper notice
5. The Committee shall meet within one week of being struck
6. The Committee shall choose its own chair at its first meeting
7. The Committee shall produce a final report for the Stewards Council by the last Stewards Council meeting prior to the 2015 AGM. The report should be sent out at least one week prior to the Steward's Council meeting.
8. The Committee shall operate on a consensus model wherever possible. If consensus cannot be reached on a matter, the Chair will conduct a vote by hand if possible or by ballot if they deem necessary. The Chair will be the deciding vote in the case of a tie.
9. The quorum for the committee shall be three, including the chair.

Denys Robinson: PSAC 901 does not have any full time or part time staff members. There is a lot of work running this organization. Standard practice, did research on other

local practice, to have a staff administrator, staff reps, to have these people as employees of the union to help carry out this work. Two lines of investigation, 1) Executive bookoffs, have a line in the contract, that says the union has the right to pay the university. Usually the chair, the university would pay the TA, TF'S to do the work. Other local has a bookoff and staff except for Lakehead – they have less TA's. Someone could go to the office to do bookkeeping. Separate from what I've seen, advisable, Good that the Executive are coordinating effort as seen in the newsletter. Best knowledge from CUPE local.

The various structure, serving from looking at other amendments. Timing: should be brought to the AGM for budget, come back to the Stewards council. Budget amendment motion to hire an executive. This needs to be completed in time so it can be put in front of the AGM with proper notice.

Travis Skippon: It's a good motion and I support it.

Leah: Is there anyone who is looking at participating in this committee?

Denys: I didn't solicit interest until had more information and motion passed.

MaryAnne: Brought up things that can't be possible. Like book-off. May want to coordinate with the bylaw committee. This has a different structure than CUPE. If you need help, I have resources and I can help.

MaryAnne: Implemented Honorarium: instead of putting on one position, it's on multiple. Like a TA-ship. Wont have to hold a TA ship. I don't have to be an active TA to be a local. If you want resources or to talk more, I can help you with resources.

Nathan: Motion, to add : 2. For the committee to report to the Executive and the Stewards Council.

(in response) Denys Robinson: when I meant report, I meant that the committee would have to report to the Stewards council formally. (bylaw). Executive are good at going to Stewards council. You can add it to the motion as a friendly amendment.

**Motion to amend:** Committee will report to the executive

**Motioned by:** Nathan Townend

**Seconded by:** Denys Robinson (amendment deemed friendly)

**Motion to amend:** Change terminology from "he/she" to "they"

**Motioned by:** Sarah Budd

**Seconded by:** Denys Robinson (amendment deemed friendly)

Craig Berggold: Strike open committee, is that open to the whole world?

Denys Robinson: any member to the PSAC in good standing. Found in the next line of the motion.

Craig Berggold: I wanted to clarify that those two are linked.

Nathan Townend: Question of information: #4, "as much as it deems fit". Based on bylaws, need to give some notice to meetings.

Denys Robinson: The committee shall meet as often as it deems fit, based on the members of the committee.

Maryann: Suggest putting a minimum?

Denys Robinson: The committee would have to meet several time, maybe they rather only meet up a couple of times, then do email correspondence.

MaryAnne: Based on the bylaws, it has to be a week prior notice.

Craig Berggold: Both are in the bylaws, but should be clearly stated in the motion.

"4. The Committee shall me as often as it deems fit, with one week's proper notice",  
Friendly amended.

Chair calls for discussion.

Craig Berggold: Question, should there be a quorum of Stewards for this meeting? The more members involved, would have better support at AGM. Concerned, by the way the committee is structured that it is constructed by a limited amount of people. More Stewards should be involved.

Denys Robinson: Clause, set the membership at 5 people, then anyone else can join. Everyone who shows up can be a member. Quorum, could be 5 members. 3 non-Executive or 5 members.

Travis Skippon: Setting a quorum unnecessary. I've Been on bylaw, and was only 3 people and has more power to affect the going on of the union that this committee. This committee is making a report, the bylaw makes bigger decisions.

Craig Berggold: Point of information, there were 6 people at the last bylaw committee.

Leah: I don't think there needs to be a quorum, we wont get 5 people.

Craig Berggold: forward motion, support to Denys that there would be 5 people.

Denys Robinson: There has to be enough interest to hit. At other university there isn't 7000 members and 5 is reasonable, then 1400 members, 3 more sufficient. Friendly Amend motion of a quorum of 3.

Craig Berggold: Do you want me at those meetings? Broadening to make more support. 1500\$ towards 40 000 on the executive, this is a political decision of the direction of none hierarchal manner. This opposes that.

Sarah Budd: Quorum that high wont make that many people go. It doesn't make sense.

MaryAnne: The President has accountability as ex-officio chair, of each committee. Which means if anything happens where someone needs to step in, the President can act as chair.

Chris Twigg: So are they quorum?

Chair: In general, no they do not vote either.

Denys Robinson: Advantages practical, more pleasant to operate in less hierarchical structure, having someone to have authority to move forward, tend to favor no hierarchical, should a staff member be hired? Person, group of person, one person. Management. It is difficult to have many people managing one person.

Advantage to having a worker. Unionized staff, the individual who choses, political smell test, executive, manager and worker with closely ideological goals who trade union interest. Grounds for solidarity, mediates potential problems that can occur. Good relationships at the local level.

MaryAnne: by nature hierarchical entities, didn't want a President, staff and management, serious accounts, executive is elected, this person needs to be a unionized worker, labor movement. Worker should be unionized.

Denys Robinson: Agrees.

**Motion to amend:** Committee shall have quorum of 3, including the chair.

**Motioned by:** Craig Berggold

**Seconded by:** Nathan Townend(amendment deemed friendly)

Motion passes unanimously.

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Chair: Point of order: Room is booked at 6:30pm.

**Motion:** Table remaining motions and adjourn meeting

**Motioned by:** Craig Berggold

**Seconded by:** Stefy McKnight

Vote is called. Motion Passes.

Steward's Council meeting adjourned at 6:33pm

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\* Errata:

## 5. OFFICERS

### 5.1 Executive Officers

#### 5.1.1 President

The President shall:

(6) be an *ex-officio* non-voting member of all councils and committees of the Local, except where specified as a full member;