**Minutes, PSAC local 901 Annual General Meeting; October 29th, 2020**

**Recorded by:** Lesley Jamieson

**Meeting called to Order at: 4:02pm**

**Moderated by:** Brittany Bonnis

President welcomed attendees and described the election procedures

Discussion:

Craig Berggold: will the election allow votes from non-attendee registrants for the meeting

Stéfy McKnight: No, only those who attended the meeting itself and heard nominee statements.

Election of Secretary:   
Lesley Jamieson self-nominates, seconded by Adam Schipper, passed with 2 abstentions, 1 opposed.

1. **Quorum Check**

Doug Yearwood reports that 3 members are in attendance: 33 from unit 1 (13 Research assistants), 3 members from unit 2. Confirmed that meeting had achieved quorum.

1. **PSAC Statement on Harassment was Read by: Rohit Revi**
2. **Land Acknowledgment was read by: Rohit Revi**
3. **Rules of Order were reviewed by: Brittany Bonin**
4. **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda (moved by Rohit Revi, seconded by Tanya Iakobson, carried with one abstention)

1. **Approval of Minutes from the 2019 AGM**

Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 2019 AGM (moved by Astrid Hobill, seconded by Doug Yearwood, carried with 5 abstentions)

1. **Executive and Stewards’ Council Reports**

Executive Reports and Stewards’ Council Reports were considered.

Discussion:

Craig Berggold: at last years’ AGM the membership voted to increase the social justice budget with the intent to consider a childcare campaign. What has equity officer done to forward the childcare campaign, and how can that be a priority going forward?

Rohit Revi: the social justice committee met and considered launching a postcard campaign on this issue; there has been a network of worker parents built up through the childcare bursary administration. The transition report from Rohit will highlight this as an important issue

Motion to accept the executive and steward council reports (Moved by Skylar Kovacs, seconded by Canan Sahin, carried with 1 opposed, 2 abstentions)

1. **Bylaws Committee Report**

Stéfy McKnight briefly outlined some of the changes being proposed in the report and their rationale. Major changes pertain to how the AGM is called, elections, and pay for CRO and moderators.

Executive compensation has been an ongoing question in the local, and this year the bylaw change was proposed to recognize the executive’s service as labour and not as expenses without receipts.

Motion to approve the Bylaw Committee Report: (moved by Marshall Timmermans, seconded by Luna Yang, 34 in favour, 3 abstentions, carried)

Discussion:

Craig Berggold: asked about the process for becoming a delegate to attend PSAC conferences and conventions violates the current practice that allows members to apply to conferences as individuals.

Stéfy McKnight: The intent of the bylaws change was to put into place a procedure to elect delegates, which is practice.

Motion to Remove 6.5.7 from the report to refer back to the bylaws committee for consideration (moved by Craig Berggold, seconded by McKnight, 29 in favour, 2 opposed, 8 abstentions)

1. **Union Structure Committee Report**

Rohit Revi reported from the union structure committee; this committee was struck at the last AGM to consider how to use the budget surplus and to reconsider the executive roles and compensation. Recommendation to develop a line item for solidarity actions; this has increased capacity for the local to show support for sibling locals. Recommendation to restructure the childcare bursary committee to become a more broad bursary committee to support equity seeking members, to address the budget surplus question. Recommendation was made also to horizontalize the workload of executive members.

Motion to accept the Union Structure (Moved by Hashavardhan Thyagarajan, seconded by Ethan Mitchell, carried with 4 abstentions)

1. **Bursary Administration Committee Report**

Rohit Revi Reported from the Bursary Administration Committee; this committee was directed by the membership to use the surplus to better support members and to support bargaining. The 3 recommendations from this committee. Firstly, a UHIP reimbursement bursary to offset the expense discriminatorily charged to international student workers; Secondly, a general hardship bursary for members from equity-seeking groups, the administrations of which would help us to understand issues facing equity-seeking 901 members leading up to bargaining. Thirdly, a bursary to support trans members who face financial challenges related to documentation changes and gender-confirming medical procedures

Motion to accept the bursary administration committee report (Moved by Samantha Twietmeyer, seconded by Hashavardhan Thyagarajan, carried with 7 abstentions)

Discussion:

Craig Berggold: Asked for the rationale for the “first come first serve” element of the UHIP refund bursary allocation process, and whether this process would apply to all the proposed bursaries.

Rohit: The suggestion from the member was that migrant members, which is a quarter of the grad student population. We couldn’t distribute a bursary to all students; the application process would involve consideration of priority-criteria. The considerations raised by Craig would be passed along to the next equity officer.

Rohit Shukla: If all international students applied, then it would be unduly onerous for the committee members to evaluate 500 applications on the basis of need.

1. **Budget Committee Report**

Marshall Timmerman Reported on behalf of the Budget Committee. The budget sent in the AGM package did not include the summer spending, due to a formatting error. The budget reflects the changes that had to be made for the union to operate during the summer/COVID times without having had our usual AGM, creating an interim summer budget. The budget lists our income sources, including employer contributions, levies, and union dues. Expenses are also listed, and Marshall discussed the proposed budget for this year. Recommendation that future budget committees take a more “empirical” approach to how we set income expectations based on previous years.

Motion to Approve the Budget Committee Report (moved by Craig Berggold, seconded by Doug Yearwood, carried with 9 abstentions)

Samantha Twietmeyer: Requested a clarification about the changes made to reduce the surplus, won’t the new bursaries simply drain the surplus over time, and how do these account for potential income shortfalls

Marshall: No the new bursaries are only for one year, so they will only continue if they are renewed next year; they are not recurring expenses, and we won’t be relying on the surplus for ongoing expenses. The dues shortfall is difficult to account for, since we can’t predict how many TAs there will be from year to year.

1. **Labour Scholarship Committee Report**

Motion to accept the labour scholarship committee report (moved by Ethan Mitchell, seconded by Katie Coleman, carried with 5 abstentions)

Stéfy McKnight spoke to the history of the bursary, the process of choosing the recipient, and the difficulties associated with the timeline and the need to recognize the labour of adjudicators.

1. **Executive Officer Elections**

The chair ceded the floor to MaryAnne Laurico, to serve as a Chief Returning Officer.

Maryanne declared all positions of the 901 executive vacant (President, Vice President Community Relations, Vice President Postdoctoral Scholars, Vice President Research Assistants, Information Officer, Treasurer, Co-Chief Steward, Co-Chief Steward (Grievances), Equity Officer, Occupational Health and Safety Officer.

Nominations for each position were opened

**Nominations for President: Rohit Revi;** With no further nominees, Rohit Revi was acclaimed

Nominations for VP Community: Doug Yearwood; With no further nominees, Doug Yearwood was acclaimed

**Nominations for Vice President Postdoctoral Scholars**: Ramjee Kandel; With no further nominees, Ramjee Kandel was acclaimed

**Nominations for VP Research Assistants:** Hannah Hunter; With no further nominees, Hannah Hunter was acclaimed

**Nominations for Information Officer:** Brittany Bonnis, Katie Coleman

Katie Coleman was nominated by Doug Yearwood, seconded by Samantha Twietmeyer

Katie stands for the election and addressed the AGM, as did Brittany Bonnis; Their names will appear on the e-ballot on October 30th.

**Nominations for Treasurer:** Ethan Mitchell; With no further nominees, Ethan Mitchell was acclaimed

**Nominations for Co-Chief Steward:** Harshavardhan Thyagarajan, Sanjeev Dahal

Both Harshavardhan and Sanjeev addressed the AGM; Their names will appear on the e-ballot on October 30th.

**Nominations for Co-Chief Steward (Grievances):** Canan Sahin; With no further nominees, Canan Sahin was acclaimed.

**Nominations for Equity Officer:** Prerna Subramanian, Judith Ogwuru

Judith Ogwuru was nominated by Marshall Timmermans, Seconded by Doug Yearwood

Judith stands for the election and addressed the AGM, as did Prerna; Their names will appear on the e-ballot on October 30th.

**Nominations for Occupational Health and Safety Officer**: Luna Yang; With no further nominees, Luna Yang was acclaimed.

1. **Announcements**

Rohit Revi addressed the floor to thank the outgoing executive members.

Craig Berggold mentioned the importance of the AMS foodbank

Astrid Hobill: Announced that there is a vigil for Anthony Aust being organized for Sunday 4pm, Springer Market Square.

**Meeting Adjourned at 6:35pm**