

INTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2023
2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

GCR (UC 2001) and Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Chair: Roshni Antony (AVP, Human Resources); Rob Bell (COPE); Mehran Aziminezhad (CUPE); Kathy Pozihun (VP Administration & Finance); David Barnett (Provost & VP Academic); Jason Freeburn (LUTA); Dave Andreason (OPSEU); Gautam Das (LUFA); Alexis Paulusma (COPE); Ariadne Jevnikar (GSA); Greg Croft (USW); Yamandeep Malhi (LUSU); Kelly Fettes (SchII)

Regrets: Patrick Larin (SchII); Heather Spivak (Unifor); Jack Drewes (IUOE);

Guests: Dr. Gillian Siddall

Recorder: Katherine Mends (Human Resources)

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Dave that the agenda was approved.
Seconded by Jason. All in favour. **Carried**

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting of July 18, 2023

Moved by Jason that the minutes be approved.
Seconded by Dave. All in favour. **Carried**

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Gautum asked if there is an update on the Blue ribbon panel. Kathy said that there are no updates yet and that the last she heard was that the report would be at the end of summer.

- Gautum inquired about the new veterinary school and if the University and the funding to be received by the government. David said that the intention is to hire faculty, staff and support that will be covered under the operational dollars. Lakehead will deliver the first 2 years for the program and the last 2 years will be delivered at the University of Guelph.

4. Questions for Senior Administration

- Alexis inquired about enrollment numbers and if the goals are being met. Kathy said that we are monitoring enrolment carefully and are currently below budget target.

5. Round Table Discussion

Kelly Fettes (Schedule II) – Kelly communicated that the Wellness Committee has now put on two successful events that were both well attended. The next event is scheduled for Christmas. Kelly communicated that the Committee has had discussions with Heleena in regards to taking over the Christmas Tree event this year.

Kelly noted that the CAAT pension plan emails have been informative and that there has been good feedback among schedule 2 employees.

Dave Andreason (OPSEU) – Dave communicated that the internet outages we have experienced are related to the WIFI expansion project and a series of updates that we are doing. TSC is looking for ways to mitigate the issues.

Jason Freeburn (LUTA) – Jason shared that the field schools are starting in less than 2 weeks. Jason also shared that he has heard good feedback about the roll out of CAAT.

Mehran Aziminezhad (CUPE) - Mehran expressed concerns with the Internet connection stability, and asked Dave if there is a chance to improve the internet stability.

Dave said that they will have to do a reset every 3-5 days and that it is unavoidable at this time.

Yamandeep - Yamandeep shared that the renovations in the Outpost are still ongoing with an estimated opening date of September 5th. The Study is expected to reopen at the beginning of September.

Alexis - Alexis noted that COPE conciliation is happening at the end of September.

Gautam Das (LUFA) - Gautam asked if there is a way to access food services on campus on weekends. Gautam suggested in the future having a designated place for food on weekends. Yamandeep said that they can explore food options.

Roshni Antony (Human Resources) - Roshni shared that HR is busy processing the GA's and part-time contracts. HR has 3 new employees in the office. USW and COPE negotiations are ongoing and we are reopening negotiations with OPSEU and CUPE in October.

Dr. Gillian Siddall (President) - Dr. Siddall expressed that she is happy to be coming to the IRC meetings. Still learning about all of the unions and groups on campus and getting to know the employees at Lakehead.

David Barnett (Provost & VP Academic) - Expressed that faculty is preparing for the fall term. David expressed that there is excitement about having more people in residence and that they are continuing to monitor enrollment.

Kathy Pozihun - Kathy informed the Committee that Lakehead is currently under a third party review that the ministry has asked us to keep confidential. This review was a requirement from the government as a result of receiving one-time sustainability funding in 2022-23. The Nous Group was contracted to conduct this review and we are hoping to have a report by early fall. Kathy expressed that this is a good way to demonstrate how efficient and responsible we have been with our operations over the past several years.

Dr. Siddall added that at her previous university, this process was positive and turned out very well.

Jason asked Kathy if we have covered our deficit every year. Kathy noted that we have used all of our carry forward funds to cover previous shortfalls.

Other Business

Jason Freeburn - Jason expressed that he has had a few employees ask if they have heard anything from our new President. Jason noted that he believes employees want to hear from Dr. Siddall directly.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.