INTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 18, 2022
2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

GCR (UC 2001) and Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Chair: Sherry Herchak for Roshni Antony (AVP, Human Resources); Kathy Pozihun (VP Administration & Finance); David Barnett (Provost & VP Academic); Yamandeep Malhi for Lahama Naeem (LUSU); Jason Freeburn (LUTA); Gautam Das (LUFA); Pat Larin (SchII); Jack Drewes (IUOE); Rahul Parameswaran (GSA); Greg Croft (USW); Siavash Hosseini (CUPE); Dave Andreason (OPSEU)

Regrets: Heather Spivak (Unifor); Alexis Paulusma (COPE)

Recorder: Kylie Williams (Human Resources)

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Kathy Pozihun that the agenda been approved.
Seconded by Gautam Das. All in favour. ***Carried***

2. Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting of September 20, 2022

Moved by Jason Freeburn that the minutes be approved.
Seconded by Yahmen Malhi. All in favour. ***Carried***

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Questions for Senior Administration

Gautam inquired about any planned changes to the masking protocol.

5. Roundtable

Patrick Larin (Schedule II) – Work continues with Roshni and the executive council to update the Schedule II terms of reference. The executive council plans to bring it to the membership and University community in November.

Dave Andreason (OPSEU) – Though short staffed and busy TSC is making progress in the return to campus influx. Dave noted a large amount of e-waste that has accumulated over the last 2 years.

Greg Croft (USW) – Security Services is having their first staff meeting in a number of years. Greg added that USW continues to experience a significant staffing shortage.

Kathy Pozihun (VP, Administration & Finance) – Kathy and Roshni have been meeting with each union to informally check in. She reminded everyone about the Employee Experience Survey and asked everyone to encourage their members to participate. The survey period will be extended by one week to ensure the opportunity to participate. The Christmas holiday closure is being discussed by administration. More information will be shared soon. This weekend is Homecoming in Thunder Bay. Events will include ceremonies, awards activities and sports. The budget situation remains very complex, as enrollment challenges have continued. Kathy & David will share a comprehensive budget update at the next meeting of the IRC. Financial statements for 21/22 have been approved by the Board of Governors and have now been posted to the website. Should there be any questions Kathy would be happy to address them.

Yamandeep Malhi (LUSU) – Yaman announced the start of the faculty and staff food drive. Departments have been provided with a donation box; monetary donations were also welcome. Yamen will send an email address for those interested in making an e-donation. LUSU will collect donations each month and a winner. This week a fall festival is being held outside of the Ryan building with farm animals, photo opportunities, a hot chocolate bar and food truck on site. The Outpost kitchen is planned to open the first week in November. Additional information on upcoming events can be found on LUSU's social media.

Jack Drewes (IUOE) – IUOE members are in the midst of changing buildings from cooling to heating. There continues to be a variety of discoveries with the return to campus in these unused spaces.

Gautam Das (LUFA) – No update.

Siavash Hosseini (CUPE) – No update.

Rahul Parameswaran (GSA) – GSA hosted a get-together in the CASES grad lounge where 150-200 students attended. This week they are hosting another event in the same location in collaboration with RBC.

David Barnett (Provost & VP Academic) – Lakehead was able to attend the Ontario University fair in person for the first time in a few years. Recruitment activities, both in person and virtual, are in full swing. It is hoped that there will be more Winter term starts with new students arriving once immigration challenges have been resolved.

Jason Freeburn (LUTA) – LUTA hosted their general meeting over the reading week, where pension and the Employee Experience Survey was discussed. Jason asked for more information on the electronic monitoring policy. There was concern that the details in Appendix 1 were not specific enough and cause more questions. Kathy confirmed that the starting template for this policy came from the Council of Ontario Universities, and it is intended to be high level. She welcomed any suggestions on how to make the policy clearer. It was suggested that TSC could provide a session to provide more information and address concerns.

Sherry Herchak (Human Resources) – No update.

6. Other Business

Dave provided feedback that Helpdesk has received from students regarding the new phone system and Student Central. There is no opportunity for callers to leave a callback number. This results in students (who may be calling long distance) sitting on hold for long periods of time.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.