

**MUNFA General Meeting
October 19, 2016 @ 7:30 p.m.
Room EN-2006**

Dr. Basil Kavanagh (MUNFA President) chaired the General Meeting. Grenfell College participated by video conference.

1. Approval of Agenda

(G16:005) MOVED (J. Church/S. Curtis) that the Agenda be accepted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

2. President's Report

Dr. Kavanagh thanked members for attending and introduced the MUNFA Staff.

Dr. Kavanagh reported that MUNFA has adopted a new logo and mission statement to unite, advocate and advance, with a goal to advocate and advance the Union. MUNFA has also launched a new, informative website offering a variety of informative. There has been progressive changes in the MUNFA staff, with one staff member retiring and three new hires. MUNFA has administered surveys to the membership and there has been good responses to these surveys. We have found that the latest Provincial budget cuts have negatively affected a lot of people and there is a recognition that MUN Senior Administration has grown 14% in the last five years. Members feel that the core teaching and learning mission is being lost.

MUNFA has been active in union coalitions on campus which include NAPE, CUPE and the student unions. MUNFA is also involved with the Common Front NL which is a larger broad-based coalition of labour, community and social justice groups in NL.

MUNFA is working on the issue of intellectual property rights and an Association Grievance on a Research Participation Agreement remains a concern and is still outstanding.

Dr. Kavanagh noted that the Pension issue is very important and since the University have ceased paying into the Pension plan, he has filed 25 ATIPPA requests regarding spending at MUN and has received useful information back in response to the requests and gave examples of the information received.

3. Treasurer's Report

A) The Interim Financial Statement for 2015-2016 was distributed to the membership (IB 2016/17:06). The Treasurer, Dianne Taylor-Harding (QEII), reviewed the statement with the membership and noted that there are errors in the introduction of the statements that will be corrected. Taylor-Harding reported that in regards to the divestment of Fossil Fuel Investments, she has been advised by MUNFA's Financial Advisor that ¼ of petroleum based funds have been divested and we will continue to divest as the opportunities arise.

4. CAUT Defence Fund

Dr. William Schipper gave an oral report noting that the Defence Fund provides support to faculty associations when on strike. Dr. Schipper noted that the Defence Fund is in a healthy financial position and gave an update on the Fund. Since November 2015, the Defence Fund have approved strike support for ten faculty associations.

5. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2016

(G16:006) MOVED (J. Church/S. Curtis) that the General Meeting minutes of April 26, 2016 be accepted as amended.

MOTION CARRIED

6. Matters Arising from General Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2016

There were no matters arising

7. Collective Agreement Administration

A) Report of the St. John's Academic Freedom & Grievance (AF&G) Committee:

Dr. Jon Church gave a verbal report on the activities of the AF&G Committee, noting that the AF&G Committee remain as one of the most active MUNFA Committees. The Committee is here to serve MUNFA members with any questions or in issues that arise in relation to the Collective Agreement and Academic Freedom. Dr. Church gave a synopsis of cases that the Committee is currently dealing with and stressed the importance that all members have the right to union representation and urged members to contact the MUNFA if they have any issues. AF&G Committee Members have extensive experience in dealing with a variety of issues with the Administration. Dr. Church also noted that the Collective Agreement will expire on August 31, 2017.

B) Report of the Grenfell Campus AF&G Committee: Holly Pike gave a verbal report from the Grenfell Committee noting that there has been very little activity since the October General Meeting. The current issues they are dealing with are PDTER, remuneration for graduate supervision, computing issues and daycare issues.

C) Sexual Harassment Board Report: The membership received a written report from the MUNFA representative(s) to the Board. MUNFA Representative, R. Kelly also gave a brief report noting that MUNFA is currently seeking a male representative for the Committee. There is currently a review of the University Wide Procedures for Sexual Harassment Concern and Complaints and the revised Policy has been circulated to all constituent groups that make up the Sexual Harassment Board. The Board are working on feedback to revise the Policy. The Sexual Harassment Office delivered 46 education seminars to various groups on campus.

8. MUNFA Committee Reports

- A) MUNFA Pension Committee: There was a written report from the Committee. S. Butt (Chair 2015/2016) also reported to the membership on the status of the University Wide Pension Plan. Butt noted that R. Sweeny is the current Chair of the MUNFA Pension Committee for 2016/2017. Butt provided an update on MUN's deferral of the special payment (21M) to the Plan. The constituency groups of the Board of Regents Pension Committee have formed an Ad-Hoc Advisory Pension Sub-Committee to develop a strategy to reinstate the special payments which was brought to the Government. In June 2016, MUN received a letter from Government advising that they would no longer be giving special payments and MUN would have to restructure the Pension Plan into a Joint Trusteeship.

MUNFA has sought actuarial from Mondelis Actuarial Services and the MUNFA Pension Committee is finalizing the scope of the pension plan analysis to be done by Mondelis.

- B) MUNFA Scholarship Trust Fund Committee: There was a written report from the Committee including the names of the Scholarship recipients for the 2016-2017 Academic Year.

9. Other Business

- A) Make Muskrat Right: P. Vaandering - that as a Faculty Association would MUNFA be willing to act quickly to express support and solidarity for the people of Labrador regarding the flooding of Muskrat Falls which is scheduled to happen on October 20, 2016. Vaandering asked if we as a faculty association might be willing to express solidarity of aboriginal people of NL and Labrador.

Kavanagh advised that a 2/3 majority vote is needed to bring the topic to the floor for a discussion. The membership declined to vote with a secret ballot. Kavanagh called for the vote to bring the topic to the floor for discussion: all in favour/3 contrary minded votes.

- (E16:007) MOVED (D. Vaandering/E. Yeoman) that as a collective, MUNFA make a public statement indicating that:

At this critical moment in our province's history, and in keeping with the principle of respectful Nation-to-Nation relationships, MUNFA stands in solidarity with Labrador's communities and aboriginal peoples by offering our support for the Nunatsiavut Governments #MakeMuskratRight campaign. As such, we support its appeal that government:

- remove the wood, brush, vegetation, and topsoil in and around the Muskrat Falls reservoir before flooding;

- institute robust environmental and health protection monitoring and management in partnership with the Indigenous peoples of Labrador and with the support of an independent Expert Advisory Committee.

MOTION CARRIED

MUNFA will prepare a press release to be issued by 2:00 p.m. on October 20, 2017.

10. Adjournment

(E16:008) MOVED (J. Church/W. Schipper) that the General Meeting adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED

Signed by Robin Whitaker for Basil Kavanagh, President, MUNFA on September 13, 2017.