

**Agriculture Union  
National Executive Meeting**

**October 31 & November 1, 2009  
National Office**

**1. Call to Order**

National President Bob Kingston called the meeting to order; in attendance were Debbie Forsythe, Denis Sicard, Howard Willems, Fabian Murphy and Larry Budge.

**2. Opening Remarks**

Bob greeted everyone and made brief comments regarding H1N1; the office now has hand sanitizer lotion in common area.

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

- **M/S** – Murphy/Willems – That the proposed agenda be adopted.  
**UNANIMOUS.**

**4. Hours of Session**

The following hours of session were proposed:

October 31	9:00 to 17:00
November 1	9:00 to 17:00 or completion

- **M/S** – Sicard/Willems – That the proposed hours of session be adopted.  
**UNANIMOUS.**

**5. Approval of the September 2009 National Executive minutes**

- **M/S** – Sicard/Forsythe – Adoption of the September 2009 National Executive minutes. **UNANIMOUS.**

**6. Business Arising Out Of The Minutes**

From Item 6

Migrant Workers: Fabian does not have wording from Alan Pryde yet but will have it before Council meeting.

From item 7

Letter of confidentiality: still outstanding; Larry will get a copy for the Executive.

## **7. Financial Report**

The Executive reviewed the unaudited statements for the period ending September 30, 2009.

### **Investments**

- **M/S** – Willems/Sicard – That the investments coming to maturity before the next Executive meeting shall be reinvested at the best possible rate of return.  
**UNANIMOUS.**

## **8. National Office**

- Office renovations: completed

- Service Officer Workload: some progress has been made but at least three areas of concern remain: (1) PSST tribunals are taking up a lot of their time as many Council members did not take the PSAC training that we fought hard to set up; (2) some Council members continue to call Officers on issues that have already been addressed or that have been previously answered; (3) incomplete grievance files are being submitted by members/locals on a regular basis which means that the Officers are wasting valuable time running after missing info; to remedy this the Office has instituted a '3 strikes your out' policy.

## **9. Communication**

- Web: Debbie mentioned that our new web site was launched about a week ago; so far we're happy with the look and have received positive feedback to that effect.

- National Officers Handbook: Denis thanked Council members that sent in feedback; he met with Sylvie and Debbie Forsythe to sort out all the comments and will now discuss with his committee later in the week.

- KeyInfo revision: the H&S Collective Bargaining and General Standing Committees were tasked with revising relevant sections of the KeyInfo document and to provide feedback to Debbie and her committee.

## **10. CFIA Update**

- National Health Services Committee: As a result of Debbie's email to Bill Teeter, this new committee will address return to work medicals.

- Denis reported on a situation where 5 members in Montreal were suspended and there's now an ongoing investigation.

- Employment Equity: Howard gave a progress report; the working group has met once via conference call; a second will be scheduled to discuss next course of action.

- Compliance Verification System (CVS): Classification work is underway and we have meetings lined up with CFIA to discuss.

**11. AAFC update**

- Employment Equity: Howard reported that a first meeting took place and a draft will be sent out for feedback.

- GL Review: Debbie gave a progress report; it is moving slower than anticipated as some GL's were not provided with proper job descriptions and as a result desk audits are underway.

- PFRA GL Review: Work descriptions are done and Sylvie will be travelling to Regina in December to meet with members.

**12. CGC Update**

- One Operational Group: the job descriptions are done and the Steering Committee's work is now complete.

**13. CSPS/ PSC update**

**CSPS**

Progress report; at the up coming meeting in November we will discuss the National Master Standing Offer (NMSO), Employment Equity and Public Service Survey results.

**PSC**

Progress report; regarding numerous ongoing reorganizations Debbie reiterated that the only changes our members will see are changes to the reporting structure.

**14. DND update**

Progress report; the number of language students continue to dwindle in St-Jean and there's no apparent effort to find more. Making matters worse is that DND personnel in Colorado are receiving language training by a US firm. Debbie will set up meeting with DND to discuss.

**15. Negotiations update**

The TC table report is now in and Fabian's Committee Standing will report to Council.

**16. Work / Life Balance Training session – National Council meeting.**

Progress report; the training session will be delivered by Family Services Ottawa.

**17. National Farmers Union (NFU) Funding Request**

The Executive discussed a funding request that Bob received from the NFU.

- **M/S** – Willems/Sicard – That the NFU funding request be referred to the Social Justice Fund. **UNANIMOUS.**

**18. Human Rights (HR) Committee**

- Structure and Operations Review, regarding April 2008 National Council motion (Recorded Vote 11 and 12): Howard reported that he's moving forward with establishing a committee that will have the mandate to review the HR Committee's structure and operations and then present recommendations to the National Council.

- Annual Meeting: The annual meeting will be moved to January 2010.

- Human Rights Conference (resolution from 2008 convention): The National Executive strongly suggests that the conference takes place in 2010.

**19. Tracking Report**

The Executive reviewed the tracking report.

**20. PSAC H&S Conference**

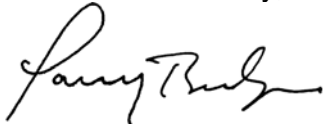
The Executive completed the delegate list for the PSAC H&S Conference.

**21. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18-20, 2010.

Having dealt with all agenda items the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by,



Larry Budge  
Administrative Officer