

**PDFA Executive Council Meeting
May 16, 2024
Teleconference Meeting**

Present: AKM Shahid Ullah, President
MD Shaheen, VP Internal
Alsayed Mostafa, VP External
Henry Prown, VP Communications
Razieh FirouziHaji, VP Operations
Shui Jiang, Member-at-Large

Staff: Kayanna Reff, Administrative Assistant
Joy Correia, Director of Operations
Christianne Nylund, Labour Relations Officer

Guest(s): Simran Kaur
Sarita Bassil
Thinh Nguyen

Regrets: Scott Harris, Communications
Terry Sway, Labour Relations Officer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 AM.

2. Land Acknowledgment

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the agenda for May 16, 2024 Alsayed/Henry
--

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approve the minutes for April 18, 2024 Razieh/Henry
--

CARRIED

5. Director of Operations/Labour Relations Officer Report (Joy Correia, Christianne Nylund & Terry Sway)

5.1. LRO Report (Christianne Nylund)

Terry continues to deal with an ongoing issue regarding the ownership of writings by a postdoc while employed at U of A related to Intellectual Property & Authorship.

Christianne is currently assisting a member who is advocating for their right to paid leave.

Shahid has requested that Joy, Christianne and Terry prepare a draft survey to send out to members in preparation for

bargaining.

6. Communications Strategist Report (Scott Harris) -Regrets; No Report

7. President's Report (AKM Shahid Ullah)

7.1. Executive Board Applications

MOTION: To appoint Simran Kaur as the New VP Finance All Approve	CARRIED
--	----------------

MOTION: To appoint Sarita Bassil and Thinh Nguyen as new Members-at-Large All Approve	CARRIED
---	----------------

7.2. Bookkeeping done by NASA

Shahid and Simran will meet with Kristine, the bookkeeper for NASA later in the day.

7.3. Meeting with Dr. Raivio; Dean of FGPS

During his monthly meeting with Dr. Raivio, Shaheed shared his concerns regarding the lack of scholarships and bursaries for postdoctoral fellows. This issue will be further discussed in upcoming monthly meetings with FGPS. They also discussed immigration concerns and updates on the Collective Agreement.

FGPS has agreed to sponsor a Paint Night for the PDFA. This will be held in June.

7.4. Summer Kick-Off BBQ and Paint Night

Shahid has suggested hosting a BBQ for PDFs at the start of the summer. This will be a family-friendly event and PDFs are welcome to bring their families. The proposed date for the event is June 7. He has asked Alsayed, the VP External, to coordinate the planning for this event.

Shahid has asked Razieh to confirm a date with the Paint Night host. The hope is to have the event held on May 28th, 2024.

Shahid has asked Kayanna to create an RSVP form for both events once she receives details from the executive board and to send the links to Scott to place in the newsletter.

7.5. Presidential Review Committee

The PDFA was invited to join the committee to review the current president of the University of Arizona, as he is up for re-election. The VP Internal for the PDFA, MD Shaheen, and Shahid joined the most recent meeting of the Presidential Review Committee and presented their feedback and concerns regarding the performance of the President.

7.6. General Faculty Council Appointment

The General Faculty Council (GFC) has requested a member of the PDFA sit on their council. The VP Operations, Razieh Firouzihaji has agreed to fill this appointment.

8. VP Finance Report (Vacant) – No Report

9. Member-at-Large Report (Shui Jiang)

Shui has finished her slides for her Mental Health talk. She has suggested that this be hosted via Zoom in the second week of July.

10. VP Operations Report (Razieh FirouziHaji)

Razieh is following up with the Paint Night Instructor to secure a date for the event. She has also suggested a Bowling Night as a group event for the PDFs sometime in August.

11. VP External Report (Alsayed Mostafa)

Alsayed had another meeting with the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge. They have decided to meet every three months to discuss the operations of each union and share achievements and ideas. They have also proposed having an in-person meeting once a year during the summer.

Alsayed wants to address the inclusion of transfer documents between unions in the bylaws.

Alsayed has expressed his desire for each position on the PDFA Executive Board to have individual email addresses. This will be discussed with the Communications Strategist at another time.

12. VP Internal Report (MD Shaheen)

MD would like to see if the Travel Award applications could be streamlined more, and winners could be contacted in a more expedited manner.

13. VP Communications Report (Henry Prown)

Henry's initial social media Spotlight feature requires adjustments as the image is not clear on mobile screens. The next spotlight post will be initiated and shared soon.

14. Other Business

There was no other business.

15. In Camera

There was no in-camera session.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 pm.

AKM Shahid Ullah, President & Chair

Kayanna Reff, Administrative Assistant