



41st Staff Union Council 2023-2024

Ref. SU-41-EB-12

Executive Bureau Minutes of the 12th meeting

Held on 14 June 2023 at 9 a.m.
via MS Teams

Adopted on 7 July 2023.

Members of the Executive Bureau:

ABDELLAOUI Naima	<i>Present</i>	GONZALEZ Pablo	<i>Present</i>
BALI Mohamed	<i>Present</i>	HERMELINK Ursula	<i>Absent</i>
MARTINEZ Begoña	<i>Present</i>	JOHNSON Laura	<i>Present</i>
DUPARC Philippe	<i>Absent</i>		

President of the UNOG SU:

RICHARDS Ian

Present

Vice-President of the UNOG SU:

SMITH Bradford

Present

The meeting began at 9 a.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes as reflected below.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 11th meeting

The minutes of the 11th meeting were adopted without changes as recorded in the Union secretariat.

3. Special education grant

The case was raised of a colleague who, as a parent with a child with disability, saw it extremely difficult to afford the appropriate education for their child in Geneva under the constraint that the limit of the Special Education Grant (SEG) imposed. The colleague sought out the assistance of staff representation to reach out to other parents who may be in similar situations with the view to lobby relevant stakeholders to raise awareness of this issue.

A discussion followed among EB members. It was noted that public alternatives for special education in Geneva were overwhelmed and somewhat poor in terms of services offered, where private alternatives were very expensive. While all public options should be exhausted, including reaching out to a number of non-profit associations that could help streamline special education into the public school system and help with individual cases wherever possible, the current insufficiency of public alternatives and very high costs of private ones remained an issue.

The EB agreed to put out a call to parents with children with disabilities to gather their feedback and bring them together in exploring special education alternatives and ways forward.

4. Next Council meeting

The EB agreed to call for the next Council meeting on 28 June at 1:15pm.

5. SMC working groups

The EB was informed that discussions at SMC working groups remained on the policy against retaliation and administration of justice.

6. Any other business

- In the context of an upcoming SHP Open House townhall, it was confirmed that the agreed club and fitness spaces in the E building renovation plans remained in place.
- There were no news yet from management on securing a larger prayer room; to be followed-up.
- The financial situation of OHCHR was noted to be difficult where a number of fixed-term appointments were being renewed only for a short period of time; a downsizing exercise in the field was expected to

happen next year; the Uganda office had recently closed and local staff were being let go; and it remained doubtful whether the High Commissioner would be able to go ahead with his “2.0 vision” that would see jobs decentralized (i.e., moved to field locations) which would require funds.

- d. Regarding UNOG’s call for volunteer, non-vetted, non-professional translators to translate UN webpages, staff representation mounted an argument against this which led to management taking a step back and withdrawing the call.
- e. The question was raised about the possibility of changing the rules on part-time work. Discussions were had in the past at the level of SMC to allow different percentages of work (a management proposal) but was rejected by staff to avoid the increasing precarity that would come from the different implications.
- f. It was noted that carpeted floors were being installed in the historical buildings which was noted detrimental to the work of colleagues who had to use carts to move equipment around, especially in IT. The issue would be followed-up with colleagues.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.