

## SCFA GM – Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** October 23, 2025

**Room:** 1995 6 Ave C, Castlegar (Visitor's Centre)

**Zoom Link:** <https://selkirk.zoom.us/j/67206828572>

**Attendees:** Jessica Adrain, Jamie Bliss, Jonathan Buttle, Leesa Dean, Becky Deane, Melody Diachun, Celina Duarte, Lisa Gates, Doug Henderson, Josh Massey, James Nichol, Jason Nichol, Pablo Pastor, Leeza Perehudoff, Allyson Perrott, Leanne Reitan, Erin Rodier, Alison Salo, Dylan Sargent, Jocelyn Schroeder, Todd Solarik, Ellen Strelaeff, Jonathan Vanderhoek, Kim Verigin, Victor Villa, Phani Wootla

**Online:** Katie Comrie, Aubrey Demchuk, Renee Harper, Linda Harwood, Jeff Landry, Takaia Larsen, Danica Weager

**Chair :** Allyson Perrott

**Recorder:** Celina Duarte

Called to order: 4:03 pm

#	Item	Discussion	Outcome/Action
	<b>Territorial Acknowledgement</b>	Provided by the Chair.	
1.	<b>Additions to Agenda / Approval of Agenda</b>	<b>Moved:</b> Leesa Dean <b>Seconded:</b> Celina Duarte <i>Carried.</i>	
2.	<b>Approval of Minutes of last meeting</b>	<b>Moved:</b> Dylan Sargent <b>Seconded:</b> Kim Verigin <i>Carried.</i>	
3.	<b>Officer Reports / Standing Committee Reports</b>		
	President's Report – Takaia Larsen	<p>Takaia extended regrets at not being able to attend and shared congratulations to the SCOPE award winners recognized following the meeting.</p> <p>She continues to communicate updates through OnStream submissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The College faces a \$4.9 million deficit, projecting approximately 20 position reductions (theoretically ½ of the reductions resulting from a \$9M deficit last year), primarily within UAS Business and Resort Management.</li> </ul>	

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost-reduction measures for next year will distribute impacts across business areas and bargaining units. No leadership team reductions have yet occurred, though structural changes are anticipated.</li> <li>• The closure of the Victoria Street Campus and the Kootenay School of the Arts (KSA) was unexpected and deeply felt. Members are encouraged to support affected colleagues and apply lessons learned from last year’s layoffs.</li> <li>• Provincially, FPSE lobbying will take place in November with outreach to ministries beyond Advanced Skills and Training, ensuring wider awareness of PSI impacts.</li> </ul> <p>Linda Harwood acknowledged Takaia’s transparent communication; Takaia expressed appreciation for the entire SCFA Executive Team.</p> <p>Jonathan Vanderhoek will provide further bargaining updates.</p>	
	VP Contract Administration & FPSE Contract Admin Review – Shannon Shah	Shannon was travelling and will provide an update later.	
	VP Negotiations & FPSE Bargaining Coordination Committee Rep – Jonathan Vanderhoek	Jonathan summarized recent developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A protocol agreement was signed in August.</li> <li>• Bargaining continues with sessions scheduled through December–February, though scheduling has been challenging.</li> <li>• Many locals have not yet begun bargaining; progress often follows BCGEU outcomes.</li> <li>• Supporting BCGEU job action helps reinforce shared public-sector mandates.</li> </ul> Jonathan commended the SCFA Bargaining Committee for its time and diligence.	

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<p>VP Member Engagement – Leesa Dean</p>	<p>Leesa reported an active and collaborative bargaining experience and invited more members to participate.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership engagement: ~60 individuals (appx. 30 % of membership) participated in lunch clubs and meetings.</li> <li>• Lunch clubs serve as venues for sharing member questions and concerns with JLM meetings—many related to marketing processes and departmental autonomy.</li> <li>• KSA mugs and tote giveaways honoured the KSA community following the closure announcement.</li> </ul> <p>Door-prize winners: Ellen Strelaeff, Linda Harwood, Katie Comrie, Aubrey Demchuk.</p> <p>Reports from Standing Committees will be attached once received.</p>	<p>Discussion of new engagement ideas: “<i>Wellness Walks</i>” and online creative forums with Erin Rodier.</p>
<p>Treasurer – Kim Verigin</p>	<p>Finances remain in good standing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current balances: \$109 K (operating) and \$581 K (strike fund); approximately \$43 K added monthly.</li> <li>• A recent meeting of local treasurers discussed strike-fund logistics and benefits coverage during job action.</li> <li>• Based on current calculations, the local could sustain ≈12.7 days of strike pay.</li> <li>• Exploring banking options beyond Stellar Vista Credit Union due to transaction issues.</li> <li>• Treasurer’s handbook forthcoming.</li> </ul>	
<p>Secretary – Celina Duarte</p>	<p>No report at this time.</p>	
<p>College Board Observer – Pablo Pastor</p>	<p>No open session updates; the most recent closed session addressed the KSA closure.</p>	

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<p>Retirement Issues Officer &amp; FPSE Pension Advisory – Jessica Adrain</p>	<p>Conference highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pension remains secure and inflation indexed.</li> <li>• New buy-back rules introduced—members should review eligibility for past service.</li> <li>• Members planning to retire are encouraged to review benefits using the online calculator.</li> <li>• Jessica is creating a retiree contact list to maintain connection with past members.</li> </ul>	
<p>Occupational Health &amp; Safety – Jason DaCosta &amp; Daryl Jolly</p>	<p>Flu vaccination clinics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oct 28 – Castlegar 9:30–3:30 (Side Pit)</li> <li>• Oct 29 – 10 St Cafeteria 10–2</li> <li>• Oct 30 – Trail Multi-Purpose Room 10–2</li> </ul> <p>Ongoing radon testing; most short-term readings &lt; 100 Bq/m<sup>3</sup>. Fire-extinguisher training available on request. Daryl preparing comprehensive follow-up on radon mitigation.</p>	
<p>Non-Regular Issues Rep – Erin Rodier</p>	<p>Written report submitted.</p> <p>Summary: FPSE meetings discussed layoffs, restructuring, and privatization concerns; advocacy for non-regular faculty inclusion in governance; variability in regularization criteria across locals.</p>	
<p>Human Rights and International Solidarity Rep – Pablo Pastor</p>	<p>Next committee meeting in November.</p>	
<p>Disability Management and Rehabilitation Rep – Jennifer Reid</p>	<p>Report submitted.</p>	

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	Status of Women and Gender Equity – Marla Gonzalez Plasencia	Not present. Brief written report submitted by Theresa Southam.	
	DRISC – Danica Weager & Melissa Dorey	<p>Danica shared updates on ongoing work within DRISC, including discussions about constraints on the committee’s function and shared governance within the college. The group also hosted an anti-racism workshop and continues to explore ways to make anti-racism and decolonization work more visible and integrated.</p> <p>Danica emphasized the importance of maintaining continuity and institutional memory for DRISC’s initiatives, noting that a comprehensive onboarding manual exists as a valuable resource for new and returning members. The next meeting is scheduled for the upcoming weekend, and Danica is happy to answer any questions.</p>	
	Academic Governance – Theresa Southam	Not present.	
	Climate Action – Lauren Rethoret	Not present.	
	SCOPE Committee – Ellen Strelaeff	Awards celebration following this meeting. Next nomination round opens January 2026.	

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<p>PD Committee – Josh Massey &amp; Jason Nickel</p>	<p>Josh and Jason reported that the Assisted Leave application deadline was extended to October 29, 2025 due to inconsistencies across official documents. They encouraged members to use their available PD funds, reminding everyone that unspent “common PD” funds are returned to the institution each year—a recurring frustration among faculty.</p> <p>There was discussion about eligible uses for PD funds, including the purchase of software and technology for teaching and professional development.</p> <p>Members were also invited to consider opportunities like Michelle Pierce’s outdoor learning conference in Norway, which will be hosted in a “tent city” environment focused on experiential education.</p>	
<p>Financial Audit Committee – Allison Lutz &amp; Ellen Strelaeff</p>	<p>Audit completed successfully. Kim Verigin commended for strong fiscal management.</p>	
<p>?’s and Comments:</p>	<p>Future scheduling: consider aligning meeting dates so committee reports occur <i>after</i> their respective meetings.</p> <p>Written reports received from approximately half the committees this round.</p>	
<p><b>4. Old Business</b></p>	<p>No items noted.</p>	
<p><b>5. New Business</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Special resolution: Be it resolved that the SCFA Constitution be updated to incorporate all amendments previously approved between 2004 and 2018 (by special resolution in 2018), so that the official constitution is brought fully up to date. Supporting Documents (sent via email):             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Summary of Approved Changes to the Constitution</li> <li>b. Marked-up Version of the Constitution (approved updates and amendments highlighted)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Moved:</b> Jessica Adrain    <b>Seconded:</b> Lisa Gates    <i>Carried.</i> Supported by 75 % majority</p>	<p>A Constitution Committee will be formed to oversee the consolidation and further updates.</p>

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	Job Action Committee – Member Recruitment	Meets every 2–3 months. Current members: Aubrey Demchuk, Pablo Pastor, Jonathan Vanderhoek, Jonathan Buttle  Additional volunteers welcome (minimum six preferred).	Todd Solarik, Jessica Adrain, Michelle Pierce,
		Set date for next meeting (Spring 2026 GM)	Move that executive will propose a date at a later date
6.	<b>Adjourn:</b>	5:29 pm	
7.	<b>Next Meeting:</b>	Spring 2026 General Meeting – Date TBD	