

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF GRAIN AND
GENERAL SERVICES UNION (ILWU CANADA) held via Zoom at 2:30 p.m. on
January 21, 2022**

Participants:

GSU president - Jim Brown
GSU vice president - Michelle Houlden
GSU vice president - Sheila Tran
GSU general secretary - Hugh Wagner

These minutes reflect the disposition of the Convention. It should be noted that each agenda item and matters which arose, were thoroughly discussed and often vigorously debated. In the interest of brevity, however, in most instances the final result is the only aspect recorded.

The purpose of the meeting was an update on GSU administrative matters, finances and expenditures.

Wagner reviewed the preliminary financial statements for GSU as at Dec. 31, 2021 which had been distributed in advance of the meeting (*copy attached*). He indicated that while the statements showed an operating surplus of \$128,000 for the fiscal year the numbers were subject to adjustments and the year-end audit.

It was observed that while the hiring of an additional staff representative would increase the payroll costs by approximately \$100,000 for a full year, there was sufficient money in the operating surplus and retained earnings to cover the additional costs.

The executive committee was advised that the 2021 audit would begin on February 14 and likely be completed by the middle of March.

The meeting turned to a discussion of scheduling the 2022 annual meeting of the Joint Executive Council. It was agreed that plans would be made for a mid to end of March in-person meeting with JEC members being able to opt for online participation in response to the state of the omicron wave and the associated health risks.

Wagner advised the executive that Steve Torgerson and the staff were planning an online educational on steward and officer duties for February 24. In addition, there would be a concerted effort to host an in-person education forum prior to the end of June.

The executive was also reminded of the need to begin planning for the 2023 policy convention dates and location.

On the subject of the general secretary replacement process, the committee decided that since a new process had been adopted, it was important to follow it even if a particular staff candidate was the most likely prospect.

Accordingly, the committee decided that an advertisement for the job will be issued in early September with the intention of making a selection decision by the end of 2022. It was also decided that Wagner should draft an advertisement and, once approved, it would be distributed to GSU members, officers and staff as well as through provincial and national labour movement channels.

Wagner reported that the ILWU Canada convention was being held from March 29 to April 1 in Vancouver. He also advised that Jim Brown and he would attend as GSU's delegates, subject to COVID protocols.

The meeting turned to consideration of the CPI information provided by IUSU in relation to the December 2021 to December 2022 rise in the private transportation index which supported a 5.5 percent upward adjustment of the per kilometre rate for staff travel on union business.

MOVED by Houlden, seconded by Brown that the GSU staff travel rate be increased by .03 cents per kilometre to 61¢ cents per kilometre for travel on GSU business. Carried.

The committee reviewed the funding request from Women of the Dawn for their "Come and Eat" program.

MOVED by Houlden, seconded by Tran that GSU donate \$2500 to the Women of the Dawn "Come and Eat" program and \$2500 to the Saskatoon and District Labour Council summer snack program. Carried.

MOVED by Houlden, seconded by Tran that GSU send a bursary to the most recent WPP intern that is equal to the union dues paid by the individual for her time working at the paper. Carried.

Wagner raised the subject of his basic fee and proposed that it be increased by \$270 per month effective January 1, 2022 without increasing either the GST or monthly pension contribution amount.

MOVED by Houlden, seconded by Tran that Wagner's proposed fee increase be agreed to effective January 1, 2022. Carried.

Wagner advised that he might request early payment of his retirement allowance for tax purposes and the committee indicated it was open to considering a proposal as and when it is made.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

President

General Secretary

Attch:

Preliminary financial statements