



ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS NEW YORK

Summary of the 431st Meeting of the Governing Board

Thursday, 28 April 2022, 10:30 a.m.

22nd meeting held virtually

- President Dietz began his Report by welcoming back Velimir Kovacevic who had been away on leave to spend time with his family who was visiting from Croatia. He continued his Report informing on the latest policy giving access to retirees having passes to the United Nations Secretariat building starting the first week of May 2022. It was noted that while the UN had taken steps toward re-opening gradually with in-person working and events, AFICS/NY needed to be extra careful and conservative, and it was highly recommended that any retirees entering the Secretariat building continue to wear masks bearing in mind that UN-System retirees were in the group most vulnerable to COVID and its new variants.
- President Dietz continued his Report advising that in response to AFICS/NY's formal request to establish a focal point within the UN Administration for AFICS/NY related matters to ensure that we continue to be provided the maximum level of services granted in the past and to foster our close relationship between AFICS/NY and the UN Administration, Ms. Catherine Pollard, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and Mr. Atul Khare, Under Secretary-General for Operational Services had designated two liaison contact persons.
- President Dietz further informed that as of March 2023, the UN would no longer be leasing space in the DC-1 building and that AFICS/NY would have to move its offices.
- With regard to AFICS/NY representation on the UNSPC dealing with the review of awards in disability cases, President Dietz informed that Ms. Robin Dellarocca and Mr. Steve Avedon had graciously agreed to serve on the committee replacing Mr. Federico Riesco and Mr. Fernando Astete. Lastly, President Dietz informed that the UNFCU was going to hold a Zoom meeting on 16 May 2022 to specifically address concerns of retirees.
- President Dietz referred to a letter dated 19 April 2022 from FAFICS President Marco Breschi on the cancellation of the FAFICS Special Session convened for 23 May 2022 and the response thereto of 25 April 2022 from the Chair of the BAFUNCS Executive Committee, Robert England which had been circulated to all the members of the AFICS/NY Governing Board on 26 April 2022. The subject led to a spirited discussion by the Governing Board members expressing strong disappointment of the reason for the abrupt cancellation of the May Special Council meeting scheduled for 23 May 2022. The Governing Board expressed very strong support for all the comments and observations made by BAFUNCS and agreed that the reason provided for the cancelling of the 23 May 2022 Special Council to enable a new President to be elected who would take forward the implementation of the new Rules of Procedure, in particular with regard to FAFICS representation on the Pension Board, its Committees and Working Groups, was unconvincing and that it occurred without consultation with FAFICS Member Associations. It was also felt that this action effectively stopped the enormously appreciated momentum generated during the February

2022 FAFICS Special Session which not only adopted the new Rules Procedure by consensus, but also called for their rapid implementation. The Governing Board ended its discussion by requesting President Dietz to write to the FAFICS President as soon as possible to convey its views on the matter.

- President Dietz informed that time was running short to schedule the 2022 AFICS/NY Annual Assembly in June 2022 and that he was actively exploring the possibility of securing a large conference room while fully mindful of the concerns expressed about having a meeting of a group most vulnerable to COVID and its new variants. President Dietz also recalled that the Annual Assembly had the practice of extending invitations to a number of speakers such as the CEO of the UNJSPF, the Representative of the Secretary-General for Pension Investments (RSG), perhaps the Secretary-General himself and Catherine Pollard which would require coordination. Also, if there were to be an in-person meeting, the wearing of masks would be a requirement for all participants. He will be in touch soon to have a final decision on the scheduling of the Annual Assembly.
- The Nominating Committee had worked during the whole month of April to identify candidates for the Governing Board Election for 2022. The election would be carried out by the vendor, Election Services Corporation, (ESC) in a hybrid fashion, as was done last year, i.e., online and through mail-in ballots. The voting period which was going to be carried out starting from Monday, 2 May 2002 through Tuesday, 31 May 2022. A timeline for the election process including three email reminders (13, 23 and 31 May 2022) was agreed with the vendor. Results of the voting were to be provided by ESC in early June to be communicated to the Annual Assembly.
- The HLIC committee had been meeting regularly over the last two months to review renewal process for the period covering July 2022 to June 2023. The performance of the health plans i.e., Empire Blue Cross, Aetna, Cigna Dental and Cigna Worldwide were reviewed and that renewal process was now concluded. Based on the review of the plans performance including the total number of claims received last year, it was noted that thus far the claims were now reaching 2019 levels in terms of expenditures. Based on the review and bearing in mind the possible impact of inflation on future medical costs, at this stage it was not anticipated that there would be any increases in premiums for 2022 or perhaps only a small increase in the case of Empire Blue Cross and Cigna Worldwide Plan. It was anticipated whatever small increases would provide some buffer in the level of increases that might happen for next year. The Committee also reviewed number of special hardship cases with the approval of most cases and with request for more information on other cases. The HLIC would resume regular meeting sessions twice a month and eventually once month and it was noted that the Committee was now headed by a new Chair from staff committee side.
- The Co-Chair of the Pension Committee informed that she was continuing working on training sessions. She would be interested to know what topics would be of further interest as we try to have our Pension Committee informed and provided with the best information. Also, with all the social media emphasis on the wolves of Wall Street and outsourcing, we should all be better informed about the potential benefits of outside management, and the scary risks now of inflation and cyber security. With respect to a recent Pension Board meeting representing the FAFICS delegation she informed that she participated in a meeting of the Pension Secretariat who informed

that they had made wonderful advances in accepting information from the internet, so retirees/staff do not have to mail in a paper letter with their information. Unfortunately, she informed that she cautioned of the dangers of using insecure internet connections to transfer personal bank information with respect to the issue of the transmission of personal data and insisted that before the Pension Fund Secretariat go all out in implementing this mode of transmission that that they make sure that there is access to a transmission mode that does not reveal personal data and bank account information to hackers who are operating in full force. Co-Chair President Dietz informed that, on May 10th, the Pension Committee had scheduled a meeting to discuss benchmarking and how to measure performance for large entities such as the UNJSPF and outside managers in managing large entities.

- Concerning FAFICS, a number of comments were made by the Governing Board members on the high degree of respect that FAFICS has earned on the Pension Board. It was noted and affirmed by many members of the Governing Board that FAFICS's representation, expertise and contributions over the years are highly respected and have continued to be highly respected.
- The Meeting ended at 12:30 pm.