

General Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2026 | 5 p.m. | COTR Cranbrook Campus Room S208 and Zoom

Attendees *(Total in attendance 37 members):*

In Person: Sheena Svitich, President; John McDonaugh, VP; Andrea Hyde, Chief Steward; Kevin Boehmer, Chief Bargainer, Larry Maki, Member at Large; Joan Kaun, Treasurer; Pam Bailie, Member at Large, alternate; and Pamela Hellewell, Executive Assistant, Tim Ross, James Wishart, Dave Dick, Allison Platt, Kathy Nelson, Kristie Krisher, Lynn Wood, Noelene Terblanche, Jeff Quinn, Patti Thygesen - **17 voting members**

Zoom: Amanda Goforth, CORFA Member at Large; Jennifer Ham(CBK), Lauren Anstey (CBK), Barb Eckersley (CBK), Dawson Bernard (CBK), Amber Petersen (CBK), Nathan Dueck (CBK), Ben Hellewell (CBK), Amber Kostuik (CBK), Caley Ennes(CBK), Heather Wik (CBK), Dave Wan (CBK), Jen Siemens (CBK), Katie Bures (CBK), Anna-Marie Rautenbach (CBK), Sarah Osberg (CBK), Dare Sokoya(CBK), Leanne Caillier-Smith (Fernie), Jenny Gutzman (Fernie), Colleen Weatherhead (Invermere). - **20 voting members**

1. Order of Business called to order at 5:04pm

a. Territorial Acknowledgement -*Sheena Svitich, President*

Sheena acknowledges that we are meeting on the traditional homelands of the Ktunaxa people where we work, live and enjoy the beautiful outdoors.

b. Approval of the Agenda - *Sheena Svitich, President*

Motion: to approve the February 10, 2026 CORFA General Meeting agenda as presented.

Moved by Joan K, seconded by Kevin B. carried.

2. Minutes of Previous General Meeting - *Sheena Svitich, President*

a. General Meeting November 4, 2025 (link)

Motion: to approve the November 4, 2025 CORFA General Meeting minutes as presented.

Moved by Kevin B, seconded by Allison P. carried.

3. Introduction of Current Executive - *Sheena Svitich, President*

4. Reports

a. President's Report - *Sheena Svitich*

Sheena gave a verbal report, providing updates on provincial and local matters.

Provincial Updates

FPSE conducted lobbying in Victoria in November, meeting with various ministers with emphasis on the funding crisis due to loss of international students. The Post-secondary review was announced, and is now delayed until early April, FPSE and other unions provided feedback for the review. As well local MP lobbying has begun through CAUT.

Local Updates

CORFA executives met with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT) about the college budget on December 15th, but still finding it difficult obtaining budget information from the college. The College Town Hall was January 26th, next one is February 23rd. Reminder to send Sheena your questions if members would like Sheena to ask questions on members behalf. As well working on membership contact list and planning CORFA's 50th anniversary and attending Faculty Labor Management meeting scheduled for tomorrow (Feb. 11).

b. Vice-President Report - [John McDonough](#)

John gave a verbal report highlighting key areas of focus. John continues to attend the monthly EKDLC meeting as well as all the college and committee meetings regularly. A couple main projects are the 50th Anniversary/AGM/Member Recognition (more info below) and member tracking/phone tree.

c. Chief Steward Report - [Andrea Hyde](#)

Andrea gave a verbal report highlighting some key issues the Stewardship are working on. There have been 4 faculty members that received layoff notices, one layoff was rescinded after a grievance was filed. One main factor in all this has been the layoff process has not been followed properly by the employer.

Andrea walked the members through the layoff process once a letter is given. The affected member(s) present solutions to the employer, next steps include canvassing for voluntary departures and union advocacy. The union still has not received the financial information justifying the layoffs as requested.

d. Chief Bargainer Report - [Kevin Boehmer](#)

Kevin gave a verbal report providing updates on upcoming bargaining.

Provincial Context

- BCTF signed a tentative agreement with no details released
- Expected wage increase of 3% per year over 4 years (12% total)
- Province has an \$11 billion deficit this year
- Finance Minister warned of significant cuts in the upcoming budget

Bargaining Approach

- CORFA is implementing "interest-focused discussion" for the first time. This approach allows for more meaningful conversations about issues.
- Key topics include workload, definitions of vocational/academic/career tech, class size, department heads and coordinators, non-instructional faculty, PD funds
- Our goal is to create a single, clear collective agreement document

Bargaining Meeting Schedule

CORFA and COTR bargaining starts February 25-27, with additional sessions in March, April, and May.

e. Finance Report - [Joan Kaun, Treasurer](#)

i. [CORFA Financial Statements & 2026-2027 Draft Budget](#) (link)

Current Finances

- \$739,000 in GICs, reinvested on January 19th
- Net income of almost \$10,000 as of December
- Projected deficit of \$2,800 by fiscal year end (April)
- Much better than budgeted deficit of \$33,775

Budget Planning

- Draft budget for 2026-27 shows tentative deficit of \$26,000
- Budget includes high release time that may decrease
- Final budget draft will be available by April 1st

5. Business Arising

a. Workload Inventory Recap- [Andrea Hyde](#)

Andrea presented findings from the faculty workload inventory survey.

Survey Findings

- Categorized issues as quick wins, deep fixes, and specific challenges
- Quick wins include student-athlete reporting, leave plans/timesheets, software approval process, onboarding/orientation, and FAME updates
- Deep fixes include Moodle issues, changing levels of support, accommodations, classroom technology, academic integrity, event planning, and communication
- Specific challenges include online students/courses and program coordinator workload

Next Steps

- Producing a report to take to Faculty Labour Management
- Aiming to quantify faculty time wasted on inefficient processes

b. [CORFA Logo Contest](#) (*link*)

Sheena discussed the CORFA logo selection process. Members can vote on logo options via the link in the agenda. Voting closes February 20th. Members can provide comments on preferred logos or suggest keeping the current logo.

6. New Business

a. **Collegial Governance & Academic Freedom Campaign** - *Andrea Hyde*

Andrea presented information on an upcoming campaign.

Campaign Purpose

- Promoting the importance of collegial governance through EDCO and the board
- Faculty have majority votes on EDCO, giving them a voice in curriculum
- Academic freedom allows faculty to exercise expertise and discuss controversial ideas
- Without faculty participation, the college can erode academic freedom

Campaign Plans

- Information will be distributed starting this month
- Potential speaker event in May
- Goal to build capacity, confidence, and desire to participate in EDCO

b. **FPSE Climate Action Standing Committee - Update** - *Lauren Anstey, Committee Rep*

Lauren provided information on some upcoming webinars. A two-part webinar series on "The Changing Climate of Work", the first webinar is on March 11: "Political, Economic and Social Challenges for a Green Transition" and the second webinar is on April 15: "Green Jobs, Skills, and Sector Transitions". Both webinars run from 3-4 pm Mountain Time. There will be more details coming soon.

7. Information

a. [CORFA PD Guest Speaker Event on March 3, 2026](#) (*link*) - *Patti Thygesen*

Patty presented information about an upcoming guest lecture. Janet Montague will present on anti-racism pedagogy on March 3rd with a focus on creating a sense of belonging in classrooms. The presentation will share research on Black students' nursing experiences. The event will run from 12-1 pm in the lecture theater (KC250), with time for questions until 2 pm. The event will be recorded if technology permits.

b. **CORFA 50th Anniversary & AGM** - *John McDonough*

John provided updates on the planning of CORFA's anniversary celebration combined with our AGM. Save the date of Friday, May 1, 2026 at the Colombo Lodge. The schedule includes AGM 4:30pm, followed by dinner, and games/tournaments. Alumni will be invited to join us after the AGM. There will be epic door prizes and draws. The planning committee is still working on the final details including a tree planting event at the main Cranbrook campus as well as a regional campus ceremonies.

8. Adjournment at 6:10pm