



Department Representatives Bulletin

Following is a recap of the Department Representatives meeting of November 16, 2017.

The meeting was chaired by the President, Sandra Hoenle.

For further information on any item, please contact the Faculty Association office:

Email: faculty.association@tuca.com, phone: (403) 220-5722

CAUT Defence Fund

Sheila Miller, Executive Director, reported that Faculty Association delegates had recently attended their first CAUT Defence Fund meeting. She noted that it quickly became apparent that the entry of Alberta-based associations could create significant changes for the Defence Fund.

Miller noted that not only did entry of the Alberta institutions provide a huge infusion of members (and thus dues) into the fund, there were also a number of policies and practices where existing thinking would need to be challenged and reviewed.

CAUT Report on Enbridge/Governance

Sandra Hoenle, President, noted that the CAUT Report on Enbridge had been released and that the Association's Executive Committee had discussed the issues. She stated that the Report raised important issues about governance that should not be ignored, particularly as it appeared that the Administration was neither engaging with nor responding to the recommendations in the CAUT Report.

Hoenle also noted that the issues raised in the CAUT Report reinforced a number of concerns the Association has raised in the past about the problems of governance within the University. The Association has asked the provincial government to address these issues as part of their current review of governance. A copy of the letter sent to the provincial government is on the website.

Change in Staff Complement

Miller reported that the Faculty Association had recently updated the information paper regarding the state of the staff complement at the institution.

Copies of the paper were circulated.

Miller stated that the numbers reinforced the Association's position that there was massive growth in the areas of legal counsel, human resources, and other components of the administration who are not academic staff.

Miller noted that the Association might view this differently if the numbers showed that this was about increasing administrative support in the departments so that academic staff were not overly burdened with these tasks. She stated that it was alarming that the growth of academic staff was not keeping up with the growth in student numbers.

Bargaining

Principal Negotiator Professor Paul Rogers updated Department Representatives on the current status of bargaining and said we were back at the bargaining table.

Pension

Rogers reported that the 2018 values of the YMPE (Yearly Maximum Pensionable Earnings) and Pensionable Salary Cap have now been determined:

- YMPE = \$55,900
- Pensionable Salary Cap = \$163,992.22

Rogers said that the recent practice of the Board of Trustees was to have an actuarial valuation completed every two calendar years. Following this practice, an actuarial valuation of the plan to the end of calendar 2016 has been completed. The new valuation requires some changes in plan contribution rates, which means members will be seeing a small increase from 1st July 2018 onwards.

Full details on the new actuarial valuation, and associated changes in contribution rates, could be found in the actuarial valuation report which would be available by the end of the year on the UAPP website.

Rogers also noted that an updated version of the Retirement Planner has “gone live” and should be accessible to all UAPP members.

Essential Services

Rogers provided an update on the status of Essential Services negotiations. The Faculty Association recently hosted a Town Hall meeting in Medicine with one of the key issues being the essential services negotiations

Next Scheduled Meeting

February 8, 2018

12:30 pm to 1:30 pm

Location: TBA