



Department Representatives Bulletin

Following is a recap of the Department Representatives meeting of May 10, 2018.

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

Universal Student Rating of Instruction (USRI)

President Sandra Hoenle reported that the Faculty Association Board of Directors had met with the Vice Provost (Teaching and Learning) Leslie Reid regarding USRI; she noted that Dr. Reid is looking into fundamentally changing both the USRI itself as well as how it is used.

Hoenle noted that the Board of Directors provided a long list of concerns about the USRI including its statistical reliability and validity, the implications for women and equity-seeking groups, and the way it is inappropriately used in tenure/promotion and merit.

Hoenle invited Department Representatives who wished to comment on the USRI or broader questions about student ratings to contact Dr. Reid to send in your comments. She noted that Representatives could put forward their comments to the Faculty Association as we will be continuing to meet with her as her review unfolds.

Dues

Treasurer and Vice-President John Baker reported that there would be a small reduction in dues this summer, as the "introductory fee" for the CAUT Defence Fund will be ending in June.

Baker also reported that the Faculty Association is in a strong position financially. He noted that the Board of Directors approved the 2018/19 Budget and that it would be a balanced budget.

Labour Relations Board: Intervenor Status

Executive Director Sheila Miller provided an update on previously reported matters pertaining to Intervenor Status on three cases before the Labour Relations Board (LRB). She noted that she had provided an affidavit in the matter of a designation application brought by **Northern Lakes College Faculty Association** relating to whether Chairs (Heads) should be members of the bargaining unit, with the Faculty Association's position that Heads should be in the Association. Miller noted that there were 3 matters before the LRB where the Faculty Association had sought intervenor status.

Designation Issues

Miller stated that the Association had been trying to work out issues related to the designation of academic staff at the U of C for a decade but had not been getting anywhere dealing with the Administration. She noted that there were constant delays and the Administration only wanted to deal with a few individuals, not the big picture issues.

Miller reported that the Association had therefore decided to write to the Board of Governors to ask that all Management and Professional Staff (MaPS) members (except for those in sensitive areas such as Human Resources) be designated as academic staff and therefore members of the Faculty Association. Miller noted that in many cases these individuals are engaged in academic work and are making academic decisions and they are all in the academic pension plan which creates a community of interest.

Miller reported that the Association has given the Board of Governors until the end of May to get back to us. She added that, at the same time, the Association has been contacted by AUPE as they feel some of the MaPS group may more appropriately be represented by them.

Miller noted that although the ultimate result is unclear this at least has forced the Administration to stop delaying this discussion and start dealing with the issue. She added that while the attention has been on the MaPS group, there were many other categories of employees at the U of C who should likely also be designated academic staff, such as non-credit instructors, graduate supervisors, researchers in institutes and centres, and so on.

Miller invited Department Representatives to let the Faculty Association know if they were aware of individuals who are doing academic work and should be in the Faculty Association.

***Thank you to all 2017-2018 Department
Representatives for your service!***