



Department Representatives Bulletin

Following is a recap of the Department Representatives meeting of February 6, 2019.

The meeting was chaired by the President, Paul Rogers.

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

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

Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources and Information Policy

President, Paul Rogers reported that one of the Association's general concerns with the University of Calgary administration is over lack of proper consultation with us on the development of various policies that impact academic staff members.

He noted that this is well-illustrated by a recent (and current) case involving the "Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources and Information" policy. The Administration initiated the movement of this through the University's formal governance system before adequate consultation with the Association, despite the draft policy containing content they ought to have known to be of significant concern to us.

He reported that he intervened with the University's General Counsel to have the process delayed, and we are now discussing these concerns with the policy developers.

Rogers noted that the Association is hopeful that our major concerns will be addressed before the policy resumes its flow through the governance system, but should this not come to pass, the Association might be coming back to the Department Representatives, and directly to members, to mobilize broader opposition to the language in the policy.

Major concerns are about:

- Violating academic freedom
- Violating the Collective Agreement
- "Big Brother" monitoring of academic staff communications and activity.

Bargaining

Nigel Caulkett, Faculty Association Principal Negotiator, introduced the rest of the Negotiation Team: Hamid Habibi (Biological Sciences) and Sheila Miller, (Faculty Association Executive Director). Caulkett reported that the Bargaining Team is currently preparing to open the bargaining process. Related to that he noted the results to date of the Faculty Association's recent "Bargaining Survey".

He noted he is here today to listen to the Department Representatives regarding potential bargaining issues.

Caulkett encouraged the Department Representative (and the membership) to continue to provide their thoughts on bargaining to the Faculty Association office.

Academic Performance Report (APR)

Don Kozak, Associate Executive Director, reported on the negotiations related to the new APR. There had been some difficulties earlier on as the Administration seemed to be acting unilaterally. However, after the Association reminded them that this had to be negotiated, discussion got back on track. The two sides are close to an agreement. As time is of the essence and the discussions have not fully concluded, the agreement will likely include the idea that this year's APR is an interim version to be used this year only and that negotiations would resume next year. In Medicine only, the old Academic Report Online (ARO) will continue to be used this year only.

Following this year's cycle, the Association will be gathering feedback from the membership on the APR form before resuming negotiations on a permanent APR form.

Provincial Budget Consultations

Paul Rogers reported that he attended the Ministry of Advanced Education consultation process for the upcoming Government of Alberta Budget including representatives of faculty associations across Southern Alberta.

He notes that there was a presentation highlighting Alberta's fiscal and economic outlook following which the Minister stressed the Government's high level objectives for Budget 2019: (i) protect and support vital public services; (ii) enhance market access and diversify the economy; and (iii) mindfully manage expenses.

Rogers noted that the Minister asked for the thoughts of the participants on: (i) what are the top priorities given limited dollars; (ii) how can

costs be contained so that access to PSE can be increased; and (iii) what would you like to see in Budget 2019?

Rogers noted that the key points made/issues raised by the participants included: need for stable/predictable funding; need for unrestricted funding (as opposed to that targeted at specific subjects); funding for Grand Prairie Regional College and Red Deer College associated with their status change; administrative bloat; Government of Alberta interference in the bargaining process; poor Government consultation with faculty associations; the need to invest in academic staff complement; providing funding for the indirect costs of research; institutional surpluses and lack of transparency; and "restrictions" on academic staff representatives on boards of governors.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Thursday March 21, 2019

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location:

Education Block (EDC)

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