



## Department Representatives Bulletin

*Following is a recap of the Department Representatives meeting of February 12, 2020.*

*The meeting was chaired by Faculty Association President, Paul Rogers.*

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

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

### **Nominations for Election**

Paul Rogers, President reported that the Association issued a call for nominations for President and Chair of the Board, and for Members of the Board of Directors on December 10, 2019. The deadline for nominations passed on Monday February 10, 2020 and he informed the representatives of the names that will on the ballot that will be coming out soon. He noted that for personal reasons he has decided not to seek the honour of serving another term as President. He still has 20 weeks to serve as President and he will not be slacking off; from 1st of July he will still be on the Board as Past-President and he intends to actively participate as a voting member of the Board.

He provided the names of all the nominees:

There are two candidates running for President: David Stewart [Political Science/Faculty of Arts]; and Mary-Ellen Tyler [School of Architecture Planning and Landscape].

We have one candidate for the sessional representative, Polly Knowlton Cockett, who will be acclaimed.

There are 12 candidates running for 6 Board of Directors positions:

Marie-Andree Bergeron (School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures / Arts);  
Marcia Epstein (Communication, Media and Film / Arts);  
Hamid Habibi (Biological Sciences / Science);  
Kaela Jubas (Werklund School of Education);  
Ed Nowicki (Electrical Engineering / Schulich School of Engineering);  
Jessica Shaw (Social Work);  
Francine Smith (Physiology and Pharmacology / Cumming School of Medicine);  
Melanee Thomas (Political Science / Arts);  
Trevor Tombe (Economics / Arts);  
Justine Wheeler (Library and Cultural resources);  
Ian Winchester (Werklund School of Education);  
John Wright (Library and Cultural Resources).

### **Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program Vote**

Rogers noted that the Ballots for the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program are due by February 14, 2020 at noon. He encouraged all members to vote.

### **Policy Grievance Report**

This discussion was In-Camera.

## Deans' Surveys

Sheila Miller, Executive Director reported that consistent with the Board of Directors' policy, we will be conducting the decanal review survey regarding those Deans who are coming up for renewal as well as those who are at the two-year point in their term.

She noted that for this year there will be surveys in: Law, Veterinary Medicine, these are for renewal. As well, there will be two-year review surveys for: Haskayne, Libraries and Cultural Resources, Nursing, and the School of Architecture Planning and Landscape.

## Community Service Award Event

Rogers reported that Faculty Association Community Service Awards event will be happening on March 3, 2020 from 1:30 – 3 p.m. in the Blue Room of the Dining Centre.

He noted that the Award will be given to Dr. Mea Wang. Dr. Wang is appointed in the Department of Computer Science. Her community work has centered on outreach to school-age students to build a large and strong network in Calgary for Computer Science and entrepreneurship education, with a particular focus on female students interested in STEM and the Technovation program. Rogers encouraged all members to attend this event.

## University Budget

Rogers reported that the Government of Alberta's significant in-year funding cuts (for the University of Calgary's 2019-2020 fiscal year) have taken a significant toll in a number of areas of the institution. He reported that he was aware of the termination of a significant number of staff (non-academic staff) in a number of units including Arts, Engineering, and Libraries and Cultural Resources. The in-year response seems to be in alignment with

what was flagged by Administration at the Budget Town Hall back on November 20, 2019.

He noted that Administration is in the midst of developing the 2020-2021 budget and that he has no details on what this budget might include in terms of differential cuts (this sort of cut was also flagged at the November town hall meeting).

Rogers reported that all that has emerged publicly so far has been information on tuition increases for the next academic year (5%, 7%, 10%, or 15% mostly), along with increases in residence rates (2%) and parking fees (10%).

He reported that the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Packages (VRIPs) are also in development at different stages. The VRIP for academic staff is before the membership for ratification (as noted above) and he understands that the VRIPs for AUPE and MaPS staff are "close" to being completed.

He also noted that the Faculty Association remain very concerned about what the impact of funding cuts, and reductions in staff headcounts will be on the workload of academic staff.

Department representatives had deep concerns related to the increased workload and classroom size which seems to be a result of the current cuts being instituted by the University. With the layoff of administrative staff, their workload is falling on the shoulders of academic staff. They felt that some of these changes are not Fair and Equitable. Rogers noted that workload has been a bargaining issue for some time now and that the Collective Agreement (Article 12 of the CA) could have stronger language.

Department Representatives asked why there was no standardized Workload requirements for the entire University. Rogers noted that this is difficult due to the varied nature of the Faculties, Departments and even individual courses. Department Representatives were reminded that they are a valuable resource for the Faculty Association and that they should let the Faculty

Association Office know about changes being made in their respective faculties/departments.

### **Bargaining**

Rogers provided a brief update on the status of the next round of bargaining. He noted that we are still waiting to hear back from the Arbitrator in relation to the “wage reopener”. He reminded the Department Representatives that this arbitration took place in December and we have not received a decision yet.

### ***NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING***

***April 9, 2020***

***12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.***

***Location:***

***Scurfield Hall (SH 284)***