



e-BULLETIN: MAY 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACADFA EXECUTIVE ELECTED AT AGM (2 YEAR TERMS)

President - Alex Link
Secretary - Heather Huston
Negotiations Advisory Committee Chair - Chris Frey
Communications Officer - Laurel Johannesson

CONTINUING EXECUTIVE (1 YEAR LEFT IN TERM)

Vice-President/Treasurer - Mitch Kern
Faculty Professional Affairs Committee (FPAC) Rep - Tyler Rock
Grievance Advisor - Jeff Lennard
ACADFA Rep to Academic Council - Justin Waddell
Board of Governors Rep - Ian Fitzgerald
Sessional Rep - Diana Sherlock

THANKS

SHELLEY OUELLET & AURORA LANDIN
for volunteering to review ACADFA's 2014/15 financial records

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE PRESENTED AT THE ACADFA EXECUTIVE MEETING MAY 5, 2015

President's Report - Alex Link

I'll try to keep today's report brief.

First, welcome to all the returning members of Executive and especially to Laurel, our new Communications Officer.

I contacted Al Brown, the SAFA LRO made available to us through ACIFA, to ask about whether and to what extent we might respond to increases in Critical and Creative Studies class sizes. I have not heard back yet.

In the coming months, we'll continue to focus on revising the Academic Administrators LoU with respect to dues payment and potential Association membership for senior academic administrators, and with respect to establishing some kind of program representation.

I was consulted on a workload reduction issue, which seems to have proceeded smoothly.

I attended CAUT Council in Ottawa Apr. 30 - May 3. The discussion was wide-ranging. Approximately 200 delegates from across the country attended, representing—either directly or through regional affiliate associations such as ACIFA—faculty and others such as clinicians and librarians, from nearly every postsecondary institution in the country.

Points of interest from the Council include:

A through presentation on the Harper budget by Jim Stanford, son of our own BoG member Jim Stanford. The presentation focused upon how the presentation of the federal budget conceals what, in his opinion, is Canada's worst economic performance in 70 years.

A discussion of the creation of faculty positions that do not include research/practice in workload, justifying lower compensation. The problem is that of course faculty are likely to research anyway in order to remain current and employable; by not requiring it, institutions are simply not compensating it. To this end, some institutions have created "teaching only" positions (that, in some instances, later develop a requirement that faculty research pedagogy). On Friday May 1, OCADU posted a sessional teaching position in design described as "teaching only;" which consists of a slate of 5 courses compensated at the standard rate, plus a service requirement to comprise 30% of overall workload, that comes with a stipend equal to 18% of the payment for one course.

Lots of discussion of Bill C100 in Nova Scotia, which would give administrations the right to declare an emergency that, in turn, would allow government to suspend all grievances including the right to strike, and to restructure programs.

CAUT issued a policy statement on "trigger warnings" which, put simply, distinguishes between clinical triggers as a symptom of PTSD which would require accommodation, and uncomfortable material in the classroom, which is a right of academic freedom.

A special presentation on administrations turning to inexpensive cloud computing, google mail, etc. which does not guarantee privacy/protection from data-mining. The outsourcing of email is going to arbitration at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

A presentation on the federal government's plan to fund "market driven research" and corporate interference in research through the muzzling of unpopular findings.

Discussion of the threats posed by Bill C51 to academic freedom, by criminalizing the "glorification of terrorism," whatever that might mean and empowering CSIS to disrupt actions it might not like, e.g. preventing travel to a conference it thinks might "glorify terrorism."

Bill C377, if passed next fall, would compel us to make our finances available to admin, and to track all time spent on Association activities.

Growing discussion of the extent to which "content delivery" is pedagogical in nature and therefore protected by academic freedom. For example, changes to how students and instructors interact at Athabasca.

Websites such as Course Hero and OneClass let students post course material online, including your own handouts, and potentially misrepresenting you, raising questions about Intellectual Property and academic freedom with respect to the accurate and appropriate dissemination of your material.

Concerns over the extent to which your course content is your intellectual property.

CAUT cases across the country include a prof claiming he was fired for awarding a minimum grade to students merely for attendance; a prof facing discipline for posting a blog critical of the research ethics of colleagues; a group of economics profs at U Manitoba being marginalized by a larger group of differently minded profs to the point that their jobs are endangered; UBC requiring faculty to claim the rights to their intellectual property annually or they forfeit it (resolved); the Athabasca president (formerly of U Sask) ignoring Council's demand that the changes to student/instructor interaction be studied before implementation, potentially violating both academic freedom and the PSLA.

A recent arbitration finding with respect to Brock stated that administrative policies must be evaluated according to the same principles for fairness, due process and natural justice as would be found in a court of law.

I met with representatives from NSCADU and OCADU. Neither president attended. The delegates did not have very much helpful information to work with, and so I will try and get in touch with the presidents myself. I did learn, though, that OCADU Chairs are Association members, and that NSCADU's president, our former VPRAA, is rather popular there.

Faculty Professional Affairs Committee (FPAC) Rep – Tyler Rock

Creative Research Funding

After it was brought to my attention during the last General Meeting that there may be an upcoming deadline for Creative Research Funding, I reviewed the guidelines and Application forms. On the deadline for Creative Research Funding, I reviewed the April 15th deadline for Creative Research Funding that has passed. I brought this up with the committee chair of the Professional Affairs Committee and he is inquiring with the office of Research and Academic Affairs about why the call did not get circulated, and whether the call can be opened in the near future.

FPAC

The April 15th deadline for FPAC funding applications has passed and the most recent submissions have been reviewed. Four applications with a total request of \$8,539.19 were reviewed. Four applications were funded to a total of \$4343.00.

The discrepancy in the total amount funded vs the amount requested was a result of funding requests that were ineligible under the guidelines, and also requested amounts that exceeded the \$3300.00 maximum award per faculty per academic year.

Negotiations Advisory Committee (NAC) Chair – Chris Frey

A negotiations committee has been formed. Thanks to Karl Geist, Natali Rodrigues and Justin Waddell (alternate) for agreeing to undertake this important job.