



e-BULLETIN: March 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AGM
APRIL 21, 2015
Room 532

THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE PRESENTED AT THE ACADFA WINTER GENERAL MEETING MARCH 11, 2015

President's Report - Alex Link

Once again, by the time we meet I will have met with the President informally.

I have not met with the Office of Research and Academic Affairs since our last meeting, given that the AVPRAA has been off campus for about half that time.

We haven't received a response with regard to our proposed revisions to the proposed LoU on Rank or Titling. However, the college will proceed with rank anyway.

Sabbaticals have been announced. On a related note, I would like to continue to get a sense of what FPAC regularly disburses and to work toward having contractual language that takes the annual uncertainty out of whether and to what extent it will be funded. Doing so only makes sense, given the college's repeated claims to support our core business, which, in the context of developing future aspirations, must include research.

I was informed that there is some confusion as to the School placement of the Director of Research and Graduate Studies. After consulting with HR, I believe this matter can be cleared up with relative ease.

Hiring committees have begun to meet and, so far, there seems to be little complaint about the degree-equivalency mechanism, which applies government standards, in use.

I followed up with regard to some confusing wording in the permanent faculty postings with regard to letters of reference. The matter has been cleared up.

On March 9 I signed a revised Academic Administrators Letter of Understanding stating that only permanent faculty may be academic administrators. If an applicant to one of these positions is not a permanent faculty member, they must be interviewed and deemed acceptable for a faculty position first, then interviewed for the Chair position. The draft revision also states that individuals with previous i.e. sessional experience at ACAD may have an advantage.

I gave a brief summary of the climate survey at the Board of Governors meeting.

I made suggested revisions to the ACADFA Constitution, Bylaws, Policies and Procedures.

While discussions of program representation continue, there seems to have been no decision made.

In pursuit of a salary equity question, I was informed that HR will undertake an internal equity survey, reviewing starting salaries of new hires over the past several years to see whether initial grid steps were consistent with skills and experience. I suggested ACADFA have a representative present at the initial grid step placement, as we used to until around 2009, and HR seemed to have no objections.

I'll be attending ACIFA President's Council in Edmonton March 21.

We need to think about the upcoming elections at our AGM.

Sessional Rep Report - Diana Sherlock

Please participate in:

FIELDWORK: Artistic Research, Ethics and Academic Freedom

Alberta College of Art + Design Symposium

March 12-14, 2015

Newsletter Editor - John Calvelli

Many commitments made and some submissions, just prior to deadline. The Newsletter will feature 2 retirees, work related to the ACADFA symposium of Research and Academic Freedom, as well as more general work. Looks like it will be a good, and varied issue.

I will be retiring from my position as Newsletter Editor at the end of this term, after 4 years of contributing to ACADFA Executive in this capacity. It was a great thing to do and I hope has given our members some pleasure. Please ask your friends or nominate yourself to become the next Newsletter Editor. Keep in mind that each Editor is able to direct the Newsletter in particular ways, based on their own interests and approach.

Negotiations Advisory Committee (NAC) Chair - Chris Frey

Let the wild rumpus start!

- Maurice Sendak, "Where the Wild Things Are" (1963)

Lots to talk about but nothing to report. Hardly a wild rumpus, after all.

Faculty Professional Affairs Committee (FPAC) Rep - Tyler Rock

Creative Research Funding

This is a new funding opportunity that has resulted from administration integrating a number of pockets of research funds including the Graduate Studies Tuition Subsidy, and remaining Rawlinson funding.

The application date of January 30th has passed for this funding opportunity and the professional affairs committee will be meeting to review five Creative Research Funding Applications on Thursday March 12th.

FPAC

The FPAC committee reviewed eight applications for this current application cycle (Feb 15th to May 31st). Six of the applications received funding.

It was announced during this meeting by the outgoing chair of the FPAC committee that \$30,000.00 will more likely be the amount administration will allocate for FPAC, due to current budget restrictions, instead of the \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00 that was announced in September. Stable funding for FPAC was again highlighted as a priority by the chair and admin team present.

Sabbaticals

All parties who applied for Sabbaticals received notice of the status of their applications in February. Nine applications totaling 46 months were requested and reviewed. The committee ranked the applications and recommended seven applications to the 36 month annual maximum. 24 months of sabbatical were awarded to four applicants for 2015-16.

The office of the academic affairs indicated that the 24 months of sabbatical was in keeping with the number of sabbaticals granted annually over the past 5 years and the largest since 2009/10.

PERA

Professional Expense Reimbursement Allowance

PERA is the new acronym for the professional development money allotted to instructors. The Guidelines are in the process of being revised, and I was able to provide input on behalf of faculty. The admin group have since met to discuss the PERA guidelines and need to confirm a few more details before the new guidelines are posted. In general terms the list is less restrictive than the past.

In the last exec meeting it was suggested that there be a trackable system (ongoing account status for PERA funds) and unspent monies from PERA. I will look into this and also how they accrue as FPAC funds Article 16.03.

Travel Leave Authorization and Professional Leave

It was noted in the last executive meeting that it is challenging to find the form for approval for travel leave that has replaced the Professional Development/ travel leave form on infolab. It was also noted that there is not any up to date per diem information that accompanies the form. I will request that this will be rectified.

VP/Treasurer - Mitch Kern

Financial Report was presented and is available in the ACADFA office by request.