

e-BULLETIN: APRIL 2015

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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AGM  
APRIL 21, 2015  
Room 532  
5:00 PM

FOLLOWED BY A CELEBRATION  
FOR FACULTY WHO ARE MOVING ON TO A NEW STAGE OF THEIR LIFE  
AT BOTTLE HOUSE BEER PARLOUR  
(MEMORIAL DRIVE & 10TH STREET NW)

7 PM

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**THE FOLLOWING REPORTS WERE PRESENTED AT THE  
ACADFA EXECUTIVE MEETING  
APRIL 15, 2015**

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**President's Report - Alex Link**

I continued to have regular meetings with the President and the AVPRAA. At the moment, I have nothing substantial to report with regard to these conversations.

I signed a Letter of Understanding that measures permanent faculty workload in courses rather than purely contact hours, so as to prevent any possibility of increased workload emerging from adjustments that might be made to class duration in potential upcoming curriculum revisions. The Letter of Understanding also makes provision for marking/grading support in CCS classes of more than 50 students.

I consulted with SCEM on the creation of a Letter of Understanding to govern graduate student supervisory workload. I believe we've made some progress.

We held a Joint Consultation on April 14.

- We discussed the ratio, recognizing the ongoing attempt to meet contractual obligations in this regard and encouraged the college to continue to do so.
- We asked whether and in what way sabbaticals are publicized, and the administration decided it will make a public announcement of congratulations, soon; I believe it might be interested in formalizing these annual announcements.
- We also discussed the administration's decision to require that faculty wear academic gowns at convocation, which turned into a broader discussion of the need to keep alive discussions around freedom of expression and academic freedom. This, in turn, led to some discussion of the effectiveness of the recent symposium on artistic research, ethics, and academic freedom.

I consulted on an issue concerning FOIP and public safety. The matter seems to have been resolved.

I attended ACIFA President's Council in Edmonton March 21, where much of the discussion concerned the provincial budget, which had not yet been released. Other items of interest emerging from the meeting include

- discovering that our status as lowest paid faculty in the province is threatened by Bow Valley College, though for now we're still the champs
- NorQuest runs an 8-class training workshop in Moodle for its faculty
- the Province seems very interested in moving to a province-wide bargaining model for the post-secondary sector
- the Province seems interested in returning our right to strike to us, perhaps because striking would only poison us in the public eye anyway. It seems motivated to do so out of creating consistency across the public sector so that it can then remove the right to strike from public employees it deems "essential services"
- given that post-secondary in Alberta receives less than half its funding from the province, some institutions are beginning to ask whether government is more involved in how we operate than it has any right to be, and whether we might even properly be thought of as public employees
- government also seems to have a strong interest in closing or merging institutions.

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**Faculty Professional Affairs Committee (FPAC) Rep – Tyler Rock**

Applications for Creative Research Funding were reviewed by the Professional Affairs Committee on Thursday March 12th.

The committee reviewed five applications in total and after careful consideration one application was fully funded and another application was partially funded.

FPAC

The next FPAC application deadline is April 15th.

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**Newsletter Editor – John Calvelli**

The Newsletter is currently at the printer and will be in faculty mailboxes by the end of the week.

Many thanks to Patti Dawkins for her indefatigable work designing and producing the Newsletter over the last 4 years.

Many thanks to ACADFA and Executive members during my two terms for giving me the opportunity to serve our faculty colleagues and members in the capacity of Newsletter Editor.

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**Negotiations Advisory Committee (NAC) Chair – Chris Frey**

A year from now (April 2016) ACADFA will have commenced negotiations with representatives for ACAD's Board of Governors. Salary increases on the grid for Permanent and Sessional Instructors, increases to benefits, additions such as tuition for children of faculty, will be priorities. Final consideration of Letters of Understanding before folding them into the CA is another one. Attending to housekeeping items in the CA and considering additional negotiation items will start January 2016. Around the same time consultation with ACIFA Labour Consultant, Terry Sway, will commence. Determining NAC membership is underway.

I will be attending ACIFA's NAC Chair meeting, being held during ACIFA's Annual Conference (May 24-27).

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**VP/Treasurer – Mitch Kern**

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

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