



e-BULLETIN: October 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACADFA FALL GM

**Tuesday October 3, 2017
6:30 PM
ROOM 371**

ACADFA EXECUTIVE REPORTS

ELECTIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

1 SECRETARY (2 Year Term)
1 ACADEMIC COUNCIL REP (2 Year Term)
3 HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE members (1 Year Terms)

Volunteers

3 FACULTY EVALUATION APPEALS COMMITTEE members (2 Year Term)
4 FACULTY EVALUATION PROCEDURE WORKING GROUP

OUR MEETINGS ARE CONVIVIAL & INFORMATIVE with LIVELY DISCUSSIONS!

**CEPARS DELI PLATTERS
AND DRINKS FROM THE ACADFA BAR WILL BE PROVIDED**

ALBERTA COLLEGES + INSTITUTES FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS (ACIFA)

Facing Forward
Anna Beukes, President, ACIFA

The task ahead of ACIFA in the coming year is to help prepare Associations for the reality of living under the Labour Code. Residing under the Code (as opposed to the Post-Secondary Learning Act) brings with it many firsts.

For the first time ever Faculty Associations are required to file their constitution and bylaws with the Labour Board.

ACIFA's Negotiations Advisory Committee (NAC) has a meeting scheduled in October to work through the bylaws and constitutions of each Association, to ensure language compliance to the Code. Under the guidance of Al Brown, acting LRO for ACIFA, Associations will be assisted in aligning their documents with the requirements of the new legislation which we now reside under.

In addition to helping all member associations prepare to function in a new legislative environment, ACIFA continues to engage the provincial government. We continue to advocate and emphasize the importance of a well-functioning post-secondary education system in ensuring the well-being of our society and the prosperity of Alberta's citizens and communities.

CAUT (Canadian Association for University Teachers) has declared October 22 to 27 as [fair employment week](#). The purpose of fair employment week is to draw attention to the increased casualization of academic work. Precarious academic work remains an issue for many faculty members. Raising awareness about this issue and pushing back against unfairness is what fair employment week is about. Last year, ACIFA made short videos in which temporary, part time instructors shared their story and their plight. If you are a sessional/part time instructor who is willing to speak on camera, please let me know.

ACIFA is a volunteer-based organization whose success depends on involvement from faculty members. If you are interested in serving on one of ACIFA's committees, such as our Negotiations Advisory Committee (NAC) or our Professional Affairs Committee (PAC), please check out [the ACIFA website](#) to see what it entails and let your Faculty Association President know you are interested.

We are a couple of weeks away from putting out the 'Call for Presentations' for the next ACIFA Conference. It will be held at the Jasper Park Lodge on May 13 to 15, 2018. We would love to see strong attendance there again.

Best wishes for another successful academic year.

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<http://www.acifaweb.ca>

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS (CAUT)

<http://www.caut.ca/>

CAUT Bulletin

The Value of Liberal Arts

<https://www.caut.ca/bulletin/2017/09/value-liberal-arts>

ACADFA EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Sessional Rep - Mark Giles

As we head into this year what has become a looming issue is the threat of shrinkage at the college. If the programs are shrunk sessionals will be the first to go. ACADFA needs to be prepared to ensure that members are treated fairly; ACADFA needs to be proactive in determining what supports -- practical, emotional, professional -- it can offer members who are affected.

A concern is that senior and experienced sessional staff will be not offered contracts, but rather admin will recruit those with less experience and/or credentials that can be hired at the lowest salary step.

Related to this is the impact LTAs will have. LTAs shrink the sessional pool and also can quickly have an impact on ratio.

While those who get LTAs will be in more secure positions, I believe ACADFA needs to be vigilant. Admin could definitely use shrinkage and LTA appointments to drive wedges among the membership, pitting permanent faculty and LTAs against sessionals, LTAs against permanents, sessionals against LTAs. This could destabilize solidarity for next round of bargaining.

Notes of interest: CAUT is undertaking a sessional survey; in Ontario there are signs of interesting shifts in govt attitudes to academic contract workers; some in the US are calling for adjunct and contract faculty to be recognized as full partners in PSE.