

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALBERTA COLLEGES & INSTITUTES FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS

ACIFA 2015 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Awards
 The ACIFA Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Awards program application process is in progress.
 The deadline for submitting to the ACIFA office is November 27, 2015.
 Please contact the ACADFA office if you have any questions about the 2015 award.

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

CLIMATE SURVEY

Please complete the ACIFA Climate Survey that was emailed to you.
 The survey will close on Friday, December 18th, 2015 at 11:45 pm.
 Contact ACADFA or ACIFA if you have any questions.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS (CAUT)

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

THE FOLLOWING WRITTEN REPORTS WERE PRESENTED
AT THE ACADFA EXECUTIVE MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2015

President's Report - Alex Link

There hasn't been a great deal of activity since our Fall GM, so this report should be fairly brief.

New Executive Member

Thanks to Mark Clintberg for agreeing to be the Academic Council Representative to ACADFA Executive!

Graduate Mentorship Workload

I signed an LoU formalizing compensation and workload assignment for Graduate Mentors, to be in effect until the end of June.

Chief Librarian Position

We seem to have come to an agreement with regard to the Chief Librarian workload and compensation LoU language. At the time of this writing, I have a meeting scheduled with HR to discuss it. My thanks to the NAC team for its helpful input.

Negotiations Preparation

I met with the NAC team and LRO Terry Sway to begin preparations for bargaining in early November.

ACIFA Presidents Council

I attended this meeting in Edmonton on October 17. Most of the day's conversation was taken up with discussing the province's proposed revisions to the PSLA. The province asked ACIFA for a recommendation with regard to *how* the right to strike (and the employer's right to lockout) ought to be captured in the PSLA. There was little debate, as the room was largely in agreement that the province is unlikely to make significant changes to the PSLA in the short term, and is opening the Act simply because of this legal imperative

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-faculty should not be covered by the Labour Relations Act, given the potential for chaos in such a move.

For example, in BC, such a transition meant all provincial contracts were renegotiated from scratch; furthermore, Al Brown (SAIT LRO) noted that the Labour Relations Act exposed Associations to what in his experience is regular and costly litigation. There was general satisfaction with the PSLA.

-the PSLA should acknowledge the right to strike/lockout, and reference the Labour Relations Act for the mechanisms by which strikes/lockouts are governed

-while the PSLA should allow the option of strikes/lockouts, it should not force that option into Collective Agreement dispute resolution mechanisms, should individuals associations be satisfied with the arbitration models of dispute resolution they already have

-the ACIFA response should mention its dissatisfaction with the unilateral right of Boards to determine Association membership

Other items discussed at ACIFA Presidents Council include the ongoing turmoil at NAIT, Red Deer, and Northern Lakes Colleges. Also, it was heartening to see that the ACIFA executive is aware of our funding disparity, and plans to mention the issue in meetings with government when appropriate.

Other Things

I participated in meetings with faculty and administration, including consulting with individual Members with regard to vacation entitlements, hiring processes, leaves, pay equity, and retirements, as well as fielding questions not directly tied to the contract. I also attended the most recent Board meeting.

I wrote to the Ministry of Advanced Education simply to introduce myself, and received a reply indicating that the Minister would like to visit ACAD some time in the near future.

ACADFA NAC Chair - Chris Frey

Three points:

1. NAC's meeting with sessional and permanent faculty took place as scheduled, October 15, with Terry Sway attending. A list of ideas for negotiations was compiled.

2. NAC met with Terry on November 4 to begin intensive discussions regarding negotiations. ACADFA President Alex Link attended assist NAC and Terry with consideration and preparation of LoUs for collective bargaining.

3. NAC will meet with Terry on December 9 to commence intensive consideration of articles in the Collective Agreement and compile a list of bargaining points.

FPAC Rep - Tyler Rock

Sabbatical Applications Update

The FPAC committee met to review Sabbatical applications on Oct. 26th. Two members of the committee were not in attendance. In the meeting it was decided that all members of the committee needed to weigh in on the ranking of the proposals. The importance of an expeditious process was identified and voiced by two members of the committee. These comments were made in the context of the length of the process last year, and a resolve to ensure a quick result for the faculty members who applied this year.

It was decided that since the members in attendance were there and prepared for the meeting that there would be an initial discussion and that in the interest of brevity that the other absent member's feedback on ranking the proposals would be solicited by the chair enabling a quick follow-up meeting to facilitate working through any additional or arising issues.

The FPAC committee members in attendance had a fulsome conversation about the nature of the weighting and criteria. Followed by a discussion of the proposal submissions. There was strong sense of consistency within how the proposals were ranked by individual committee members with only a few outlying concerns. The members in attendance came to consensus on ranking the proposals.

Unfortunately the chair of the committee is still awaiting a response from one absent member of the committee and the follow-up meeting has not been held.

Academic Council Rep - Mark Clintberg

This was a productive and expedient meeting, although attendance was relatively low, which raised some questions about achieving quorum. Ultimately this was resolved and it was determined that quorum had been achieved.

New Standing Rules for AC were introduced by Chair Chris Frey, which include ten guidelines primarily focused on tools for organization and discussion.

Three appointments were approved. Chris Frey was appointed Chair of Academic Council by M. Carol Ryder (Chair of the Board of Governors) and Dr. Daniel Doz (President). Alex Link was appointed Vice Chair. John Cavelli was appointed AC Agenda Committee Faculty Representative.

ACAD Student's Association representative N. Collins-Hryciuk outlined the election of new ADADSA representatives, discussions with ACAD to secure consistent scheduling of Show + Sale, and the hiring of Sarah Grodecki as General Manager.

Standing Committee Reports were reviewed with no discussion or questions.

Three motions were passed, including: Academic Strategic Plan; Grading and Progression; and Grade Appeal.

ASP

Discussion related to the ASP included notes from faculty member, John Cavelli, who requested that the document include a statement about ACAD's commitment to training its students in research areas connected to climate change and sustainability. Associate VP Research & Academic Affairs, Alison Miyauchi agreed to integrate this material into the document, and explained that the ASP's mention of 500 graduate students by 2026 is aspirational.

Grading and Progression

During discussion a faculty member asked for clarification about the document's requirement that instructors submit grades within two days of the final day of class - as to whether this is a change in policy. Marianne Elder, Associate VP Student Affairs responded that this is not a change to ACAD policy. This quick turn around on grading seems to raise issues for SCCS who will be grading final papers and assignments from large numbers of students.

Grade Appeal

Discussion by student, Ben Gough, questioned the necessity of such a detailed document for dealing with Grade Appeals in a relatively small institution. Kim Goslin, Curriculum Co-ordinator proposed that the hire of an ombudsman could assist in resolving Grade Appeals.

Three items were brought to AC for information: Student Conduct Procedure, APG Update, and ACAD CIP. The SCP document has been updated to clarify committee structures and timelines. A noteworthy element of the CIP is that ACAD's current aboriginal student body is currently 11%, which is relatively high for an urban campus.