

# The OCFA Update

Okanagan College Faculty Association Newsletter

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## Delivery of the Update

The Update is now distributed electronically as a PDF file by e-mail as well as being available on the OCFA website.

April 1, 2011.

OCFA Council meetings are generally held once per month. If you would like to bring forward a particular item for consideration please contact one of your OCFA Council Exec members (see page 2 for the list). The next OCFA Council meeting is scheduled for 1:00-3:00 pm, Friday, April 8, 2011.

The OCFA Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2011 from 5:00-9:00 p.m. It will take place at the cafeteria at KLO in Kelowna and a full dinner with drinks is provided. The bar will be open at 5:00 p.m. with a buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by the meeting starting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

## Letter(s) to the Editor

The Update welcomes letters to the editor. We encourage you to write either in response to what you read in the newsletter or about other Faculty Association matters. Letters to the Update do not represent the opinions of the editor nor the OCFA Executive or Council. Please send letters as email to the Update editor Richard Christie at [rchristie@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:rchristie@okanagan.bc.ca). The preferred format is Word.

I wish to thank everyone for their submissions.  
Richard Christie, Editor



# President's Report

by Tim Walters

## OCFA Annual General Meeting

This year, our AGM will take place on Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> in the Kelowna cafeteria. The bar will open at 5:00pm, the always popular Infusions buffet will be served at 6:00pm, and the meeting will begin at around 6:30pm. Those of you who are new to the OCFA should know that this is customarily our biggest event of the year, and (most) folks aren't just there for the free dinner and drinks. In addition to our regular OCFA business, we also have an election of every position on the Executive, Council, and CARO. You'll be receiving nomination forms in the next few weeks, so if you or someone you know is interested in getting more involved with the OCFA in this way, the 27<sup>th</sup> is your night. We'll also have a bargaining update for you, which ought to be rather more immediate than usual since, as I type this, several institutions in our sector are poised for strike action. Mark your calendars, everyone.

## OCFA Bursary and Tony Williams Memorial Bursary

As I mentioned to you all via email a few weeks ago, the OCFA sponsors a bursary for relatives of our members each year who are attending OC. This year, we have been able to support five deserving recipients, so congratulations to the family members of Susan Cawsey, Derek Cook, Steve Doyle, Dan Ling, and Ellen Pederson whose applications are all successful. (De)-1

## New departments

Last week, the OCFA council approved the Dean of Science, Technology, and Health's request for the creation of the Sustainable Construction Management Technology (SCMT) department. As is the case with the two other departments we have recently approved (Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Interdisciplinary Studies), SCMT is awaiting confirmation of funding for next year.

As ever, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ~~get in touch~~ with me by email ([TWalters@okanagan.bc.ca](mailto:TWalters@okanagan.bc.ca)) or phone (250-718-4161).



## 2nd Vice President's Report

by Francie Greenslade

### Negotiation Committee membership (2010-11):

Francie Greenslade (English), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of OCFA, Chair of the Negotiations Committee (Local 3221 and Office PL 112) from Penticton,

Peter Murray (Physics and Astronomy), Chief Negotiator (Local 4268 and Office C 277) from Kelowna,

Nolan Fretz (Network Engineering Technology), Local 4497 and Office C 330B) in Kelowna,  
Sharon Josephson (Communications), VP of OCFA (Local 4294 and Office E320) in Kelowna,  
Michelle Nicholson (Business), Treasurer of OCFA, (Local 4608 and Office C 132) from Kelowna,  
and Tim Walters (English), President of OCFA, (Local 8251 and Office SA 116) from Salmon Arm.

### Contract Negotiation Report - Bargaining Update, March 2011:

As you've probably heard, things have been heating up in college sector bargaining. Vancouver Island Faculty Association is on strike after repeated attempts to bargain with the University were unsuccessful. The administration at VIU have shown little interest in bargaining in good faith, repeatedly cancelling meetings and stonewalling any attempts at discussion by using the "net zero" mandate.

The main issue for VIUFA is job security. In spite of VIU's new university status and waitlists for classes, cuts are being made to crucial programs and faculty layoffs are threatened.

Here's an excerpt from a VIU student's recent editorial in the Nanaimo Daily News: "The VIUFA, on the other hand, is telling us that they started with 41 bargaining items that they've



## Replacement on Scale.

All employees including those with part-time contracts go up one step on the salary scale each year until they reach step 1 (article 33.4). When a term employee is offered a continuing appointment they do not simply stay at their current salary step. Instead they are repositioned on the salary scale based on

1. their qualifications and experience prior to OC employment according to the criteria in article 34.3 to the maximum initial placement of step 7, unless this is waived by the OC President, and
2. their experience at OC while on term appointments counted on a full-time equivalent basis and added to the placement determined in step 1.

As a result of this repositioning on scale when a continuing appointment is offered a term employee with lots of part-time work they may find their annual salary has dropped a few steps on the scale. Fortunately the benefit of a full salary without the .89 discount factor used in the part-time salary formula along with a full 12 months of employment will offset the decrease in annual salary. Plus part-time employees have benefited from full step increments each year of employment while on part-time contracts.

If you are an employee on part-time contract make sure you are getting a step increment each year. Check your contract against the salary scale in the collective agreement before you sign it each year.

# Pension Advisory Office's Report

by Douglas Birtwistle

## UPCOMING COLLEGE PENSION PLAN RETIREMENT SEMINAR

The BC Pension Corporation is putting on a retirement seminar for College Pension Plan members on Thursday, 31 March from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at Power Concepts, located at 1203-Enterprise Way in Kelowna. According to the website, the seminar is now full. You can still register to get on a wait list by visiting the BC College Pension Plan website. You will be notified by email if a spot opens up. Due to the popularity of the event, I will ask HR to organize another seminar for the fall of 2011.

For those of you fortunate enough to be registered for the seminar, make sure to bring your most recent Member's Benefit Statement with you. The seminar is advertised as being more "hands on" and "personalized" than it used to be. You should have received the statement a month or so ago by office mail. If you cannot find it, you may be able to print off a copy of the statement by selecting My Account on the website and following the instructions. The My Account service will be used by individual members during the seminar, so ensure that you are able to access it prior to attending. If you have not yet accessed My Account on the website, your username and temporary password can be found in the personal information section of your Member's Benefit statement. It is also recommended that you bring a calculator to the seminar.

If you want to check out the Seminar Handbook that will be used during the session, it is available online at the BC College Pension Plan website. Click on Pension Information Seminars (under "Resources") and you should see an icon of the Seminar Handbook.

## Call for Boycott of Koch Industries

by Rod Watkins, Salmon Arm Steward

Please boycott Koch Industries products.

- x Koch Industries is the [second largest privately owned corporation](#) in the United States.
- x It is owned by billionaires [Charles and David Koch](#)
- x They are [behind the attacks](#) on unions in Wisconsin and other states.
- x They [contributed \\$43,000](#) to Governor Scott Walker's 2010 campaign.
- x They spent another [\\$3.4 millions on attack ads](#) against his opponent.
- x In a prank call [Walker revealed his indebtedness](#) to the Koch's.
- x Now Walker has started [paying the Koch's back](#)
- x And last night (March 9) Walker's union busting bill [possibly illegally](#) made it [through the Wisconsin Senate](#)
- x And today was [passed by the state Assembly](#)

Please boycott Koch Industries products.

Those of us who cannot vote in Wisconsin can still take action: Don't buy Koch Industries products. Attached on the next page is a list of Koch Industry Products.

Print it and paste it to your fridge. Send it and this email to everyone you know.

If you wish, you may boycott [other major contributors to Walker's campaign](#)

Here are a few additional background links for your consideration:

[How You Can Boycott the Kochs](#)

[Boycott Koch Industries Facebook Page](#)

[Boycott and Defeat Koch Industries Facebook Page](#)

[Koch Funneled \\$2.1 Million to Governors Battling Unions](#)

[The Koch Brothers' Vast Right Wing Media Conspiracy](#)

In Solidarity, Rod Watkins (Philosophy), Okanagan College Salmon Arm.  
Salmon Arm Steward, Okanagan College Faculty Association (OCFA).

