

The OCFA Update

Okanagan College Faculty Association Newsletter

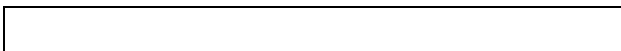


OCFA Council meetings are generally held once per month. If you would like to bring forward a particular item for consideration please contact one of your OCFA Council or Exec members (see page 2 for the list).

Dates and locations of the two remaining **OCFA Socials this Fall** are now confirmed as follows:

Salmon Arm: Friday, September 30th, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Setter's Pub,

Penticton: Friday, October 14th, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. on campus at OC Penticton, room TBA.



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

<http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/administration/ocfa/update.html>

OCFA Executive meetings are generally held once every two weeks. If you would like to bring forward a particular item for consideration please contact one of your OCFA Exec members (see page 2 for the list).

The **OCFA Fall General Meeting (FGM)** is scheduled for Friday, November 4th, 2011 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in *Infusions* at the Cafeteria at KLO in Kelowna. Beverages will start at 5:00 p.m. followed with a buffet dinner and the meeting starting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

The *Update* welcomes letters to the editor. I encourage you to write either in response to what you read in the newsletter or about other

President's Report

by Tim Walters

Hope your academic years are off to a good start, and that the transition from summer to the world of work wasn't too jarring. In the space below I'd like to update you on some things the OCFA has been working on in the past few months, as well as highlight some upcoming initiatives that you might be interested in.

FPSE AGM

Before breaking for summer vacation, I was very fortunate to be able to travel to the FPSE Annual General Meeting in Prince Rupert with several hard working members of your OCFA council: Chief Steward Sharon Josephson, Bargaining Chair Nolan Fretz, Secretary-Treasurer Michelle Nicholson, and Arts Representative Matt Kavanagh. As ever, this meeting provided many valuable opportunities for dialogue with our colleagues from colleges and universities across the province. FPSE passed several motions that may impact us in the upcoming years (you can read the entire minutes via the following link: <http://www.fpse.ca/files/uploads/AGM2011minutes.pdf>). Highlights included:

- Raising the FPSE strike pay (which exists in addition to our own robust defense fund) from \$40 to \$60 a day, and shortening the eligibility period to begin payment on the 4th

Penticton Social: *Location (on campus) TBA, Friday October 14th, 4:00-7:00pm*

Fair Employment Week: *Locations TBA, October 24th-28th*

Fall General Meeting: *Infusions, Friday November 4th, 5:00-8:00pm*

Finally, I'd like to once again to encourage any of you who have any good ideas about what your Association could or should be doing (or doing differently), or who would like to be more involved with the OCFA, to get in touch with me at any time (TWalters@okanagan.bc.ca) or phone (250-718-4161).

1st Vice-President's Report

by Sharon Josephson

Collective Agreement Review Committee (CARC) Report:

Submitted by Sharon Josephson, Chief Steward
Contact: Kelowna E320; ext. 4294; cell 250-718-6387

Your campus stewards:

Penticton: Sharon Mansiere, Biology, ext. 3234
Kelowna: Norah Bowman-Broz, English & Women's Studies, ext. 4215
Vernon: Gill Green, Geography, ext. 4801
Salmon Arm: Rod Watkins, Philosophy, ext. 8215

Your stewards are your first point of contact if you have any questions or concerns about the collective agreement, generally, or about your working conditions, specifically. We're here to ensure the College acts according to the agreement and to help resolve any disagreements that may arise between you and the College. Please feel free to call or email us.

Placement on the salary scale:

It's that time of year again when people get hired for less than they're worth. Article 34 lays out a formula for placement on scale but it's common for people to be placed below the step they are entitled to. Please have a look at your placement on the scale and give us a call if you need explanation of the formula.

2nd Vice-President's Report

by Nolan Fretz

Negotiations Committee (CARC) Report - Bargaining Update, September, 2011:

Submitted by Nolan Fretz, 2nd Vice President, Negotiations Committee Chair
Contact: Kelowna C330; ext. 4497; cell 250-718-6385

As many of you are aware, our current contract expired some eighteen months ago and we have been bargaining with the College and the province ever since. With the exception of

Treasurer's Report

by Michelle Nicholson

The Faculty Professional Allowance fund started the year with \$7,088.38, the College made its annual contribution of \$35,000, and the fund earned \$22.74 interest bringing the total funds available to \$ 42,111.12. A total of 132 faculty members submitted claims which at the original \$350.00 maximum came to \$43,115.50. Since this exceeded the available funds the committee had to reduce the maximum claim amount to \$330.00. This brought the balance down to \$41,090.57 using up most of the balance carried forward and all of this year's funds.

As of August 31, 2011 we are right on budget for membership dues \$ 179,099.24 and under budget for expenses \$161,767. We have interest income of \$4,319.76 and a gain on investments of \$24,187.71. This gives us a total excess or revenues over expenses of \$45,839.02. If anyone is interested in seeing the Associations books please drop by me new office E224 Kelowna campus.

Human Rights and International Solidarity Report

by Marlo Edwards

As your OCFA Human Rights and International Solidarity officer, I'm helping organize a screening of the documentary Will the Real Terrorist Please Stand Up (Saul Landau, 2010). Check here for more info on the film: <http://realterrorist.wordpress.com/about/>

The screening will be in the OC theatre, Saturday Oct. 8, 7pm. Award-winning director Landau will be present to discuss the film, the Cuban 5, and the US government's strategic use of the term "terrorism" in general.

Please let me know if you would like to be involved in any way.

I'll be forwarding a poster shortly, and would appreciate you spreading the word amongst your students.

PPC Canada

Employee and Family Wellness Programs

PPC Canada is a long established (since 1977) Employee and Family Wellness Program provider with a reputation for quality with integrity. A pioneer in the field of Employee and