

Local 653 2012- Annual General Meeting President's Message

It is coming to the end of another academic year and time to reflect on the successes and challenges of 2010-12 and the opportunities for 2012-2013.

I feel the successes achieved were modest. Our staffing numbers have remained relatively stable for now, but with three to potential four faculty vacant positions in the next academic year, it will be a struggle to convince the College on the need to replace the vacant positions.

Full Time Faculty Numbers

The comparison of staffing numbers between full-time and part time professors is everyone's concern. The non-full time numbers are continuing to rise dramatically compared to new full-time. We have close to 83 full-time professors, triple that in the number of part/partial load/session professors. Almost 80 per cent of fall 2011 and winter 2012 semesters faculty were teaching on a non full time basis.

Vacant Full-Time Faculty Positions

Two full-time faculty members' positions will be vacant on June 30; 2012. The challenge is to get all these positions replaced for the next academic year. It is the intension of the union to fight for all replacements.

Grievances

The union local has three grievances en route to arbitration hearing. One is about the LEID position, the other about the reduction of the coordinator positions, and the last is about workload assignment outside article 11.

China Project Workload – Faculty & Benefits

Some of our full time faculty are now being asked to engage in work in China. While assignment may be perceived a free vacation, faculty members need to know the implications on their benefits, especially the short Term and Long Term Disability. Our collective agreement and article 11 is only valid in the province of Ontario. There is no benefit coverage for out-of province assignment, let alone out-of-province assignment/s. Members, on out-of- country assignment are on their own, and they should be asking for benefits coverage prior to departure to out-of –assignment

Quality Education Meeting

This past Friday, June 1, 2012, I had the opportunity to attend the Quality Education forum jointly sponsored by OPSEU and CAUT. It was well attended by faculty members from other colleges, and university professors for our universities. It was very informative. Discussion centered on academic freedom, and lack of it for college faculty. We are not alone, when it comes to management changing grades, dictating evaluation methods, etc.

Lad Shaba, President, Local 653