

UCC Report – AGM 2014 OPSEU Local 653

The Union College Committee (UCC) is a sort of “catch-all” committee that deals with various issues that do not fit under the more specific guidelines of committees such as WMG or CESC. Here are some of the main issues that were discussed this year at the UCC meetings during the 2013-2014 academic year:

Timetabling

As we are all aware, the new timetabling process has been a fiasco, resulting in overworked support staff and often unworkable timetables. The union listened to your concerns (excessive late day/evening classes, ignored scheduling restrictions etc...) and brought them to management. A working group has been put in place to analyze and hopefully correct these issues. We will watch the situation carefully through the next round of timetabling.

PQAPA

Many faculty expressed concerns over the many demands being made of them in to satisfy the PQAPA audits. While many of these concerns were more applicable to the WMG, we did make it clear that management needs to respect faculty SWF's when assigning duties and scheduling meetings for PQAPA or any other reasons.

Haileybury Residence

The Haileybury residence was another disaster, and we used the UCC to get updates on the status of this project. In short the original contract for the building of the residence has been abandoned and the project has been rebooted with a new contractor.

Faculty Evaluations

The new faculty evaluation process has been discussed at UCC for well over a year now. We have consistently objected to the inclusion of student feedback surveys as part of the evaluation, but management has insisted on keeping them. There have already been several complaints and some grievances from faculty as a result of this evaluation process.

If you feel that your evaluation is inaccurate or was not properly done, discuss the situation with your manager. Failing mutual agreement, you do have the option to grieve the evaluation as an abuse of management rights. You are also not required to sign an evaluation that you do not agree with.

Academic Freedom Policy

Management presented their new Academic Freedom policy at the UCC. The union sought feedback from our member on the policy and presented this to management.