

Local 653 2014- 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 2013-14 and the opportunities for 2014-2015.

Full Time Faculty Numbers

Getting more full-time faculty members still remains our biggest challenge. The ratio of full time faculty to non-full time faculty members is still an on-going concern for the local. The non-full time numbers are continuing to rise dramatically when compared to that of full-time. We have 75 full-time professors and this number will go down to 73 by the end of June 2014. Recall that we had 80 F/T two years ago. We have fifty (50) partial load faculty members as April 4, 2014. Part-time professor's numbers, those teaching less than six hours a week, stand at close to 150. The erosion of the academic bargaining unit work continues unabated. On the other hand we have witnessed a substantial increase in the number of administrators at this College.

Vacant Full-Time Faculty Positions

One full-time faculty member's position will be vacant on June 30, 2014 due to retirement. The union local will in earnest put up a fight to replace this position. We are still waiting for the 2013 vacant position of Abdul Hameed to be replaced in the welding department. Staffing and the need to increase our full-time complement will be our first priority this coming academic year.

Grievances

The union local has many grievances en route to arbitration hearing. Among them are that of Sara Munroe's vacant position and the vacant position of Wayne Challis. We have also pursued new positions in Vet Tech and Health Sciences programs. We see opportunity for F/T positions in School of Emergency Services, Business and Law Clerk programs. We will be consulting with co-coordinators in these programs to share with us pertinent information about non-bargaining unit staffing arrangements and their respective workloads.

China Project Workload – Faculty & Benefits

This issue still persists as I first reported it last year. Some of our full time faculty members are engaging in education works in China. While assignment may be perceived as a free vacation, faculty members need to know the implications on their benefits, especially the Short Term and Long Term Disability. Our collective agreement 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. Furthermore, we have asked the college to share with the local the China agreement

OPSEU Convention

The Opseu 2014 Convention is slated for May 7, 8 & 9. Suzanne and I will be in attendance. We will need to nominate the next alternate for the 2015 Convention at this AGM. This is not an election year for OPSEU. Therefore, Smokey Thomas will still be the president, while Edy Almeida retained his job as the VP/Treasurer.

Local and Provincial Demands Setting Meetings

Our local Demand setting on February 7, 2014 went really well. We had over 40 faculty members in attendance in all of the three campuses. All of our demands were prioritized and sent to OPSEU to be included in the booklet for the Provincial Demand Setting meeting.

The provincial Demand Setting meeting took place in Toronto on March 22, 2014. All the local presidents were in attendance. We were focused at this meeting, and were able to craft our final demand setting that the Bargaining Team will need to commence the next round of negotiation. I will have much to say about item at the AGM.

Thank you.

Lad Shaba, President, Local 653