



acifa

Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association

Faculty Circuit

November - December 2010

President's Message

by David Hyttenrauch



Hard to believe it's December. November was a busy month for ACIFA activity for me. It started out with a great road trip which gave me a first chance to see the campuses and meet academic staff at Lac La Biche, Slave Lake, Grande Prairie and Fairview, to understand a little more about those campuses and communities, and a little more of what we have in common through ACIFA. Thanks to all of my hosts for your hospitality and the many good conversations we had. Starting in January and over the rest of this academic year, I hope to visit every ACIFA member institution and continue to get to know our membership.

I also attended the Western Regional conference of faculty associations and the Canadian Association of University Teachers' national Council meeting. CAUT continues to give us opportunities to meet and work with the other large provincial academic staff groups, FPSE in BC and OPSEU in Ontario, and at this Council CAUT hosted a working lunch for our three groups. These events always offer excellent opportunities to share concerns and expertise with other associations, many of them struggling with political and funding uncertainty and complex faculty-administration relationships. I always hear something useful about trends across the country, and learn something about how we can do things better or more efficiently or how to develop the capacity of local associations to address problems. January will also take me to Ottawa again for a workshop for presidents.

Terry Sway guided me through my first meeting with Connie Harrison, the Assistant Deputy Minister, a good beginning conversation about current trends in PSE in Alberta. The biggest concern is that the budget situation is not improving, with a spending freeze projected to continue for some years. This will clearly be a direct threat to programs and program quality if it isn't already. The ACIFA Executive and staff are working on a number of plans for developing a stronger, clearer advocacy message and looking at ways to build communities to convey it in 2011.

One of my good-news stories of 2010 is having the opportunity to work in new ways with academic staff from across the province and across Canada. What's your good-news story of 2010?

Wishing you the best for the holidays, and for 2011,
David

Submit your presentation for the 2011 Conference!

Benefits of pursuing the opportunity to present at the 2011 conference in beautiful Lake Louise include:

- Conference Registration fee reduced by \$100.
- Presenting at the exquisite Chateau Lake Louise.
- Opportunity to network with colleagues from across the province on the concepts and ideas presented in your session.
- 2 meals paid for presenters not registering for the conference.

Mark your calendar: deadline for submissions is **February 18, 2011.**

Space is limited so please apply early.

* Find the Call for Submissions on **page 2**

**Merry Christmas and
Happy Holidays!**



From ACIFA

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ACIFA

LAKE LOUISE 2011
"ALL ROADS LEAD TO LEARNING"

Call for Submissions

Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association
2011 Annual Spring Conference - May 29 to June 1, 2011

theme strands:

- 🌸 Health Avenue: (stress in the workplace, humour, wellness)
- 🌸 Environmental Trail: (activities, our working environment, etc.)
- 🌸 Connection Crescent: (education, technology, etc.)

* Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise *

hosted by the SAIT Academic Faculty Association



*The **Call for Submissions form** is available through your Faculty Association office and will also be on the ACIFA website (www.acifa.ca).

Please let us know (via devlinl@acifa.ca or 780-423-4440) if you have any questions about the conference session submission process. The ACIFA 2011 Conference takes place May 29 to June 1. Concurrent sessions run on Monday, May 30 and Tuesday, May 31.



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION form

ACIFA 2011 Annual Spring Conference

* Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise *
hosted by the
SAIT Academic Faculty Association

May 29 to June 1, 2011

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

[Please note that ACIFA welcomes non-members to its Annual Conference.]

Registration Deadline : May 11, 2011

Cancellations must be received in writing by May 13. Refunds, minus a \$50.00 processing fee, will be processed after the conference. Conference fee cannot be returned for cancellation after May 13, but can be applied toward a future conference. You are responsible for payment if you do not cancel and do not attend. Participant substitutes can be made at any time.

➤ Early Bird Registration Draw:

All paid registrations received by April 11, 2011, will be eligible for an early bird prize draw of \$250.00.

FEES

Full Registration includes \$475.00 \$ _____
reception on Sunday, keynotes and session registration, [non-members] \$525.00
Monday breakfast, lunch & banquet, and Tuesday
breakfast, lunch & barbeque.

Monday or Tuesday only registration \$275.00 \$ _____
includes keynote, sessions, breakfast, lunch and banquet(Monday) or
barbeque (Tuesday)

Extra tickets for your guest(s)

- complete meal package(s) for your guest _____ X \$295.00 = \$ _____
(includes banquet ticket and BBQ ticket)
- Monday banquet ticket(s) only , for your guest(s) _____ X \$ 60.00 = \$ _____
- Tuesday BBQ ticket(s) only , for your guest(s) _____ X \$ 60.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Special dietary requirements: _____

Return completed form with payment [cheque payable to ACIFA] to:
ACIFA #412, 10357-109 St., Edmonton, AB T5J 1N3 or by email to: devLinL@acifa.ca
phone: 780-423-4440 FAX: 780-423-4515

- ☼ Delegates are responsible for making their own accommodation arrangements:
@ The Chateau Lake Louise ➤ book via phone: 1-800-441-1414
➤ ask for the ACIFA conference RATE and indicate the nights you are staying



enjoy the conference



As Vice-President, External, I am our delegate to CAUT. Since the last newsletter, I have attended the Western Regional Conference held in Edmonton October 29-30 and Council in Ottawa November 26-28.

CAUT Council

Council is the decision making body of CAUT and meets twice a year. New and revised CAUT policies and model collective bargaining clauses were discussed. A host of committee reports and CAUT Executive reports and presentations were heard. There were two panel discussions, one on higher education in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza and the other on recent developments affecting post-secondary education in Great Britain and the United States.

Jim Turk, Executive Director of CAUT, presented the results of the latest CAUT Harris/Decima poll in which 2,000 adult Canadians were surveyed by telephone between November 11 and November 21, 2010. The results are considered accurate within plus or minus 2.2%, 19 times out of 20. As in past polls, a majority think spending on post-secondary education should be increased even if it means paying higher taxes. Most are worried that the government isn't doing enough to ensure access and 48% of respondents say that the most important thing governments can do is to lower tuition fees. A majority of 55% oppose freezing faculty salaries.

Jim said, "These numbers demonstrate that Canadians are concerned about the quality of post-secondary education and want the government to do more to improve access." And he added, "The majority also understand that imposing wage freezes on academic staff, as some provinces are trying to do, will just further erode quality."

CAUT Western Regional Conference

The opening session was a report on the UBC governance case. This began with an extensive Senate report that recommended it become more proactive with respect to its statutory mandate over academic governance (the UBC Senate has about 90 members, 36 of whom are faculty). Subsequently, the Senate passed a policy on student evaluation of teaching that was in conflict with provisions of the Collective Agreement. The Faculty Association filed a policy grievance that went to arbitration. UBC argued that Senate policies cannot be the subject of arbitration because they are outside the Collective Agreement and in March, 2008 the arbitrator agreed by ruling that he did not have jurisdiction over the policy and so, even if it were inconsistent with the Collective Agreement, he would not be able to provide a remedy that interfered with it.

The Association appealed to the British Columbia Court of Appeal, contending that the arbitrator had erred in rejecting their principal argument that UBC was a single entity employer whose constituent parts, including the Senate, were bound by the Collective Agreement. They submitted that the Senate is not a separate, unaccountable entity and that the Collective Agreement must prevail. Because of the importance of the case, both CAUT and AUCC were granted intervenor status. The Court of Appeal upheld the arbitrator's award on April 20, 2010, finding that there is a clear division of powers between the Board and the Senate in the University Act and that the Board could not bargain away the Senate's authority over academic matters. The Association was ordered to pay UBC's costs.

The boards of other BC universities have moved aggressively in an attempt to take advantage of the Court of Appeal's decision. For example, on May 25, 2010, the Board Chair of Kwantlen Polytechnic University wrote the Faculty Association to say:

As we were formerly subject to the College and Institute Act, it is possible that there are some current provisions in the collective agreement that were bargained in good faith at the time but that deal with areas that may now be under Senate's exclusive jurisdiction, or that require Senate's advice or approval.

Under the University Act, the Board does not have power over matters that fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Senate. If, in the future, the Senate, in carrying out statutory powers vested exclusively in it adopts educational policies that conflict in whole or in part with the collective agreement, or if the collective agreement language were successfully challenged based on a conflict with the Senate's exclusive statutory powers, those parts of the collective agreement that infringe upon the Senate's exclusive jurisdiction will be void and of no effect.

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CAUT Update continued from page 4

As a result, bargaining meetings scheduled for this fall have been replaced by protocol discussions in which the two parties are attempting to agree on what they can bargain on. This is despite the fact that the Court of Appeal's ruling does not seem to apply to Kwantlen because the Senates of the new special purpose, teaching universities are given less authority in the Act than the UBC Senate.

There is no danger of this happening in Alberta under the present legislation. Unlike the University Act of British Columbia, Alberta's Post-Secondary Learning Act specifies that an academic staff association shall be established and that it shall have the exclusive authority, on behalf of the academic staff members, to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the board of the public post-secondary institution. The Act also states that the board shall, subject to any existing agreement, prescribe the terms and conditions of employment of academic staff members.

Best regards,
Gerry

Dr. Gerry Cross
Vice-President External, ACIFA
President, Mount Royal Faculty Association

NAC and PAC Meetings – November 2010



The ACIFA Negotiations Advisory Committee (pictured left) at the November 20, 2010 meeting at Hotel Arts in Calgary.

Back row (left to right):
Ryan Kaupp, Gerry Cross, Trevor McIvor,
Andy Whyte, Jonathan Withey, Paul
Hawthorn, Joe McFadyen, Alex Link, Sean
Hillman, Doug Spurgeon, Michael Crowe

Front row (left to right):
Shannon Neustaeter, Libero Ficocelli, Reddy
Ganta, Dave Purkis, Gloria Ulry, Terry Sway,
Brian Dort, Al Brown

The ACIFA Professional Affairs Committee (pictured right) at the November 20, 2010 meeting at Hotel Arts in Calgary.

Back row (left to right): Laurie Newsham,
Dave McCallum, Rod Corbett, Tracy
Fawcett, Tim Rasmuson, Rita Halma, Lorna
Perry, Anne-Marie Silvius

Front row (left to right): Cynthia Zutter,
Laurie Guglich, Elaine Mullen, Amy Saitz,
Jacquie Flood, Erwin Ens

Not pictured: Connie Olstad, Wanjiku Kaai,
Tanya Rusnak





**2011 Award
For
Innovation in Teaching**

The aim of the Award for Innovation in Teaching is to recognize and encourage the use of innovative and creative teaching methods and design which lead to improved student learning.

This province-wide award attracts both recognition and a financial award of \$1,500 for the faculty member or team and \$500.00 for the faculty member's faculty association. Certificates of Commendation will be awarded to the two runners-up.

Eligibility

The Award is open to all ACIFA members. The nomination may be for an individual or a group/team. Nominations for the Award are made by colleagues with the consent of the innovator(s). Nominations must adhere to the *Format for Applications* below.

An innovation which has already received this Award cannot be resubmitted the following year. Innovations which have been unsuccessful but have received a Certificate of Commendation are eligible for resubmission, within the context of the guidelines, the following year.

The Nomination Process

Each participating ACIFA member association will conduct a nomination and selection process at the local level, in accordance with the guidelines in this document, to select **up to two nominees** to be submitted to the ACIFA Awards Committee. The ACIFA Awards Committee, established by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA, will select the winner of the award from nominees put forward by each of the participating local faculty associations.

Selection Criteria

- The extent to which the innovation has had a practical outcome that improved teaching, learning, curriculum design, and/or assessment.
- Evidence of student satisfaction and learning outcomes.
- Evidence that the innovation was successfully integrated into the total learning process for the relevant course of study.
- The potential for the innovation to be applied to different fields of study
- The extent to which the innovation made effective and efficient use of resources.

Format for Applications: 2-3 page limit plus appendices

Please provide information in the following format:

1. Innovator/project team details: name(s), position, and college/institute
2. A description of the innovation
3. The rationale for implementing the change
4. The outcomes of the innovation
5. The wider application of the innovation in post-secondary education
6. Names and signatures of two nominees
7. Any supporting documentation to be attached as appendices

Continued on page 7

Judging Panels: provincial and local

Five members elected on an annual basis from and by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA will select the final award winner and up to two runners-up from the nominees submitted by the local faculty associations. The local faculty association judging committees are to be selected and structured by the local faculty association as they deem appropriate for their association.

Mutual Obligations

The ACIFA Awards Committee will undertake to award the winner of an Innovation/Creativity Award in Teaching with:

- An announcement in the winner's local newspaper and the ACIFA newsletter
- \$1,500.00 made available to the winner and another \$500.00 to the winner's faculty association
- A formal presentation at the ACIFA Annual Conference
- Coverage of expenses for the winner to attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to receive their award.

The Award winner will be expected to:

- Attend the ACIFA Annual Conference to accept the Award
- Agree to submit for publication in the ACIFA newsletter a description of the innovation and its successful implementation before the end of the year in which the Award was won.

Application Dates

Applications must be submitted to the faculty member's faculty association by the date set by the local faculty association. Each Association's selection process must be completed in time to submit their nominee to ACIFA by **February 25, 2011**.

The ACIFA Awards Committee will make the final decision by the third week of March to allow sufficient time to arrange for the recognition of the winner at the ACIFA Annual Conference.

*The 2011 award is sponsored and administered by
The Alberta Colleges and Technical Institutes Faculties Association
Johnson Inc. Insurance
and
The Alberta Public Post-Secondary Education Trust Fund.*



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Annual ACIFA Climate Survey



The annual ACIFA Climate Survey, distributed electronically through your faculty association office by mid-November, is a valuable tool for the tabulation and analysis of the views of academic staff members across the province concerning working conditions and attitudes within their respective institutions.

The Climate Survey asks individual academic staff members to indicate level of agreement on a scale of 1 to 5, with thirteen statements such as:

Senior administration communicates openly with faculty.

I have the resources I need to do my job effectively.

The president of this institution provides effective leadership.

In addition, local academic staff associations may also take the opportunity to include further questions specific to their own institutions.

The relatively high response rate from ACIFA members and the continuity from year to year of the thirteen core survey questions provide a strong foundation to assist academic staff associations in discussions with their administration regarding key areas of concern within their institutions.

A comparative, cross-institutional score chart for each of the thirteen system wide questions will be published in the ACIFA Faculty Circuit next spring.

Please fill out your survey by **5:00 p.m. December 17, 2010.**

Member Associations

Alberta College of Art and Design Faculty Association
Bow Valley College Faculty Association
Grande Prairie Regional College Academic Staff Association
Grant MacEwan University Faculty Association
Keyano College Faculty Association
Lakeland College Faculty Association
Lethbridge College Faculty Association
Medicine Hat College Faculty Association
Mount Royal Faculty Association
NAIT Academic Staff Association
NorQuest College Faculty Association
Northern Lakes College Faculty Association
Olds College Faculty Association
Portage College Faculty Association
SAIT Academic Faculty Association

The views expressed in Faculty Circuit are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect ACIFA's policies and positions.

Please address all inquiries and submissions to:
Kerri Sway, Administrative Officer
Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association
412, 10357 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3
P (780) 423-4440 F (780) 423-4515
E kerri.sway@acifa.ca W www.acifa.ca

Upcoming ACIFA Dates

February 4, 2011 – Executive Council – Edmonton
February 5, 2011 – Presidents' Council – Edmonton
March 4, 2011 – Executive Council – Edmonton
March 5, 2011 – Professional Affairs Committee and
Negotiations Advisory Committee
– Edmonton
April 2, 2011 – Executive Council – Edmonton
May 29, 2011 – Presidents' Council – Chateau Lake
Louise
May 31, 2011 – Annual General Meeting – Chateau
Lake Louise
May 29 – June 1 – Spring Conference – Chateau
Lake Louise