

FACULTY CIRCUIT

Election Issue

November 2004

Alberta Colleges & Institutes
Faculties Association

acifa

Serving college and technical institute faculty

It's Your Future! A Message from the President of ACIFA

Ho-hum...another election in Alberta – with the usual, predictable results. With Premier Klein poised to take a convincing fourth term victory, it would seem that talking about reinvestment in post-secondary education is a waste of time. After all, the agenda has been set and it is just a matter of going through the motions of the electoral process. But an election is more than just the time we cast our ballots. This is the time to make our elected officials accountable and to pose the questions they might otherwise brush off. What better time to ask a politician to listen than when public scrutiny can make or break a career. This is our opportunity to ask the tough questions; to demonstrate the seriousness of our conviction; to get our elected officials thinking about our concerns; and, most importantly, to shape future policy through our collective voice.

Our collective voice comes in two powerful forms. The first is through our member associations. This year, we are witnessing the most powerful joint lobbying I have ever seen. Students, alumni and faculty from universities, colleges and technical institutes have joined forces to promote the need to reinvest in post-

secondary education. Think about the collective voice of over 200,000 students and 10,000 faculty, not to mention thousands of alumni. This coalition has come together promote awareness through radio and TV ads, brochures, posters, and a killer website (www.wiseup.ca). Have a look at this website – see the results of our collaboration.

The second, and most potent voice is through our individual members. If our message is to have any meaning, politicians must hear it many times. Every member who asks a candidate to explain or rationalize their views on post-secondary education not only deserves an answer, but also puts our issues at the front and centre. Imagine the impact on our candidates if every one of our members asked even one question of each of their local candidates. Go to (www.wiseup.ca) - look at the sample questions for candidates – then ask them!

When we set out to build this coalition, we were under no illusion that we would bring down or create a new government. What we do have is an opportunity to be heard. This is your opportunity to be part of the change we need to see. If skyrocketing tuitions, lack of capital funding, looming skills shortages, erosion of quality, etc. are problems you see at your institution, help us to help you.

- Deryle Generous, ACIFA President

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POST-SECONDARY FACULTY AND STUDENTS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

ACIFA has joined with other organizations representing post-secondary faculty and students across Alberta to co-sponsor a non-partisan campaign - 'It's Time to Wise Up!' - which is designed to make post-secondary education an issue in the November 22nd provincial election.

The province-wide campaign, which was launched publicly at a media conference in Edmonton on November 4th, has been put together by an extraordinary coalition of provincial associations for college and technical institute faculty (ACIFA) and students (ACTISEC); university faculty (CAFA) and students (CAUS); and the graduate students (AGC). Together, these groups represent some 200,000 post-secondary faculty and students - a very powerful lobby group.

The message to candidates and voters - 'It's Time to Wise Up!' - focuses on the urgent need for major re-investment by the provincial government in Alberta's public universities, colleges, and technical institutes. By design, the 'Wise Up' campaign seeks to emphasize the positives - the socio-economic benefits of post-secondary education; the gilt-edged return on the investment of public funds in our (world-class) system; and given Alberta's 'debt-free' status and large surpluses, the unmissable opportunity we have in this province to realize our goals by investing in affordable, accessible, high-quality post-secondary education for all Albertans.

The key is FUNDING. Whether the issue is skyrocketing tuition, crushing student debt loads, or institutional deficits, cutbacks and layoffs, the answer is adequate, sustainable government funding of our public post-secondary system. The coalition partners have agreed that this

goal of moving PSE up the provincial agenda by increasing awareness of PSE issues among candidates and voters. The 'Wise Up' campaign does not seek to downplay the crisis facing PSE in Alberta today; but it does try to avoid carping as much as possible, and instead to promote a major re-investment by the government in post-secondary education as the wise and responsible option for securing the province's future.

The centerpiece of the coalition campaign is a dedicated website - www.wiseup.ca. We are urging all our members, and the general public, to visit this site for background on post-secondary issues, questions for candidates, the latest campaign news and events, links to party platforms, and much more!

The campaign has also produced brochures and posters, which the coalition partners have sent out for distribution by their local associations. "It's Time To Wise Up!" TV and radio ads will air province-wide beginning the week of November 8th.

Watch for all-candidates forums focusing on post-secondary issues which are being organized jointly by local faculty and student associations. (See the website for details.) Individual members of our associations are urged to get involved in these and other campaign events, and to take the 'Wise Up' message directly to their candidates.





ACIFA 2005 MORGEX Award for Innovation in Teaching

The aim of the MORGEX 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 three 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).

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 a nominee 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.

Judging Panels: provincial and local

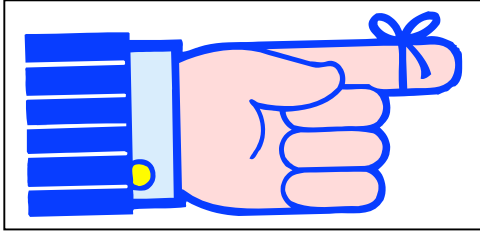
Five members elected on an annual basis from and by the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA will select the final award winner and three runners-up from the nominees submitted by the local faculty associations. The local faculty association judging committees are to be selected and structured by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

Application Dates

Applications must be submitted to the faculty member's faculty association by the date set by local faculty association. Each Association's selection process must be completed in time to submit their nominee to ACIFA by February 20th.

ACIFA Awards Committee to make final decision by mid-March to allow sufficient time for the recognition of the winner at the ACIFA Annual Conference.

FURTHER DETAILS and FORMAT for APPLICATIONS available on the ACIFA website www.acifa.ca



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**ACIFA Annual Conference
2005**

**100 Ways to / 100 Years to
Celebrate Alberta**
Showcasing Education:
Stimulate * Create * Agitate

**Radisson Hotel and Conference Center,
Canmore
May 29 – June 1, 2005**

**We invite submissions from prospective
presenters for Conference sessions
related to one of the following themes:**

- ✓ **Historical perspective on post-secondary education in Alberta: where have we been? where are we now? where are we going?**
- ✓ **Creating a classroom that stimulates and agitates students.**
- ✓ **Ensuring that post-secondary education is showcased in a way that celebrates our successes and helps to create a culture of life-long learning and appreciation for knowledge.**



TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Please complete an ACIFA 2005 Session Proposal Form, available from your academic staff association office or on our website at www.acifa.ca.

**RETURN TO:
Lynn Devlin, Executive Officer,
ACIFA,
#412 10357 – 109 Street,
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 1N3
devlinl@acifa.ca**

***DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS*
January 7, 2005**

Editorial Content

The views in the Faculty Circuit are those of individuals and do not necessarily reflect ACIFA's policies and positions. Please address all inquiries and submissions to:

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Member Associations

Alberta College of Art and Design Faculty Association
Bow Valley College Faculty Association
Faculty Association of Medicine Hat College
Grande Prairie Regional College Academic Staff Association
Grant MacEwan College Faculty Association
Keyano College Faculty Association
Lakeland College Faculty Association
Lethbridge Community 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