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Ignite Conference: “Innovation, Challenges and Change”

By Martin Marshall, ACIFA VP Professional Affairs

The IGNITE conference was organized by the various student associations throughout Alberta, and the topic was to look at the future of Post-Secondary Education (PSE) in Alberta. ACIFA was a sponsor and as such was allowed to send five representatives to the conference. There were five executive members available to attend most of the conference.



The opening remarks for the conference were given by the Hon. Thomas Lukaszuk, Deputy Premier Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education. He said nothing

specific about the government's future plans for PSE, other than that he was working hard to learn the portfolio having been appointed the minister only the week before. However, the threads of the speech were centered on three main words in my opinion. Innovation, Challenges and Change.

The keynote address from Phil Fontaine I found disappointing. He had some very good points and made them from the aboriginal perspective which is different but I do not believe unique. Many of his points could have been related to the issues at hand but he never voiced the connections. While I enjoyed listening to him I think it missed the mark.

The minister was not present for the rest of the conference however it was very interesting. There was a variety of topics for presentation and group discussions. I have outlined the sessions that I had the privilege to attend below:

- MOOC's (Massive Open Online Course) and the effect of MOOCs on the future of education. There was some concern that MOOCs might replace traditional PSE eventually and so eliminate jobs. What I got from the conversation was that this would be a long way off, if ever. The quality just is not there for a free and loosely instructor involvement. The biggest concern I think that needs to be monitored is if and when recognized institutions start granting credits for MOOCs toward degrees and how many would be acceptable for a PLAR type credits.

(Continued on page 2)

ACIFA 2013 Annual Spring Conference

May 26 – May 28, 2013

at the Chateau Lake Louise

Be sure to Register and Book your room by April 25, 2013!

See Page 4 for details

(Continued from page 1)

➤ Access and costs of PSE – included an interesting presentation from a grad student from Quebec who explained the tuition fees in Quebec are equal to Alberta tuition rates of 1996. Discussion around who should pay

for PSE and how much. The predominant thought from the students was that the government should pay now and they will pay later when they pay taxes as productive citizens.

➤ Quality in education. There were two offerings in quality – research and teaching. I attending the teaching session. The main conversation centered on the training process for professors / instructors. This is a valid concept in my mind and it is place in other provinces. I think that any 'instructor' in PSE should have some education training. What form this takes is of course up for discussion. There were many views and thoughts around this idea.

➤ Student Loan access and repayment - Todd Hirsch from the financial sector suggested one creative way of collecting Student Loans could be by allowing a certain percentage of their income tax to be put toward their student loan debt until it was all paid off.

I had the opportunity to network with staff and students from all over the province such as the Provost of the UofC, the president of the UofA students association, and the lady who will be Advanced Educations person in charge of implementing the results based funding model. I also had the opportunity to meet the representative from the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA). If you would like to check out the conference this is the link to the conference webpage: <http://www.ignitealberta.ca>

It is going to be a very interesting time in PSE in Alberta in the next few years. I wold encourage you to keep track of the developments and statements by the minister. If you would like to discuss the IGNITE conference please talk to me. -- Martin Marshall, ACIFA VP Professional Affairs



Winner of the 2012 ACIFA Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award

The winner of ACIFA's 2012 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award is Brett McCollum, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Mount Royal University, for his project "Visualizing Molecular Geometrics with Handheld Touch-Screen Technology". Congratulations Brett! Details about Brett's project will appear in "Faculty Circuit" in the Fall of 2013.

Notice

ACIFA Annual General Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, MAY 28, 2013

TIME: 8:30 AM

PLACE: Mount Temple Ballroom,
Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

**How does your ACIFA
membership benefit you?**



[www.acifa.ca/about/ what-acifa-does](http://www.acifa.ca/about/what-acifa-does)

Nominations for ACIFA Executive Council

At the Annual General Meeting, held at the Chateau Lake Louise on May 28, 2013 (at the ACIFA Conference), three positions on the ACIFA Executive council will be open for election:

Vice-President Finance and Records: The Vice-President Finance and Records shall:

- a. be responsible for maintaining complete official records of the ACIFA
- b. ensure custody of minute books and records, which are to be made available for inspection by members on reasonable notice;
- c. arrange facilities for and ensure preparation and circulation of Agendas, Minutes and Notices of Motion for all Association Assemblies and meetings;
- d. report to the Executive Council as directed;
- e. be empowered to countersign cheques;
- f. administer the financial affairs of the ACIFA, as directed by the Executive Council and as restricted by the budget;
- g. at the Annual General Meeting, propose a budget for the fiscal year following his/her term of office;
- h. at the Annual General Meeting, present an annual report that includes an audited financial statement, by a qualified auditor, for the fiscal year ending March 31; and
- i. ensure custody of the corporate seal that is used to execute legal documents of the association.

Vice-President Professional Affairs: The Vice-President Professional Affairs shall:

- a. chair the Professional Affairs Committee;
- b. fulfill such other duties and responsibilities as are assigned by the President; and
- c. present an annual report to the Association.

Executive Vice-President: The Executive Vice-President shall:

- a. assume the role of the President of the Association should the President be unable to fulfill the duties of the President's Office;
- b. report to the executive as directed;
- c. shall assume the role of Chair of the Presidents' Council at the request of the President; and
- d. be empowered to countersign cheques.

Nomination Form: ACIFA Executive Council Elections, Annual General Meeting 2013

Positions open:
Executive Vice-President
Vice-President Professional Affairs
Vice-President Finance and Records

We, _____ of _____
(name of nominator) (college/university/institute)

_____ of _____
(name of nominator) (college/university/institute)

Nominate _____ of _____

For the position of _____

(signature of nominator)

(signature of nominator)

(signature of nominee)

Send nomination form to: the ACIFA office #412, 10357 - 109 Street, Edmonton, AB T5J 1N3
fax: 780-423-4515

2013 ACIFA Conference



Session List

- [1] Exploring the "Flipped Classroom"
- [2] Facing Forward with Clarity and Transcendence: Why Einstein maintained that imagination is more important than knowledge
- [3] Your Defined Benefit Pension Plan: Efforts at Sustainability
- [4] Rock, Walk and Talk around Lake Louise (Activity Session)
- [5] What Your Banker Doesn't Want You to Know – Credit Cards, Mutual Funds and Personal Investments
- [6] Creating a Campus Community: The Impact of Mental Health on Student Success
- [7] Economic Inequality in North America: Who should be paying attention?
- [8] Transforming Fatigue and Renewing Passion Through Mindful Body Practices
- [9] Podcast This! Making and Using Podcasts for Learners
- [10] Let's Face It: We All Have Different Languages of Appreciation
- [11] A Journey of Possibility: Fostering Intercultural Understanding through Professional Development at a Community College
- [12] Mobile Learning Team Mashups
- [13] Facing the many Faces of Teaching and Learning using Open Space
- [14] The Academic Face & The Volunteer
- [15] Challenge Yourself to be More Happy (Or, Put on a Happy Face!)
- [16] Gentle Yoga
- [17] Academic Freedom in the Digital Age
- [18] Socializing with Feathered Friends and Fragrant Flora (Activity Session)
- [19] Exploring the Gifts and Faces of Grief: Meaning Making and Transformation
- [20] Citizen Solutions: Engaging the Global Citizen in Biodiversity Conservation
- [21] Aural Perception and Sight Playing: Neglected Skills in the Music Studio
- [22] Sing Along with Basement Bob
- [23] The Role of PAC in Promoting Scholarly Dialogue Among Faculty: A Community College Experience
- [24] Real-time Online Learning
- [25] Time for an Academic Facelift – Teaching versus Training
- [26] Distance Learning – One College's Story
- [27] Celebrate Your Inner Grammar Geek! A workshop using web 2.0 technologies to put a future face on grammar in a college communications classroom
- [28] Using iPads for Learning: What do students really think?
- [29] Getting Off to a Good Start: Facing the New
- [30] The interdisciplinary nature of physics: From biology to social sciences.
- [31] Creating Real-World Context in the Classroom
- [32] Facing Academic Dishonesty: Perspectives from the Classroom, the Administrative Office, and the Office of Student Judicial Affairs
- [33] Re-Thinking Professional Development: Supporting Ongoing Learning at Work
- [34] Designing and Teaching a Block Course
- [35] And Yet More Elephants: Handling the Controllers

2013 ACIFA Conference Registration

The Registration Form for the **ACIFA 2013 Annual Spring Conference** can be found Online at:

<http://event-wizard.com/2013ACIFAConference/0/register>



Payments for Registration and Meal Tickets may be made by **Cheque, Paypal, or Credit Card.**

Payment will be accepted only after Online Registration has been completed.

Please order meal tickets in advance. Meal tickets will **NOT** be sold at the registration desk, as meal numbers must be reported to the hotel in advance of the conference.



Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements:

@ **Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise**
BOOK via phone: 1 866 540 4413

ask for the ACIFA Conference RATE and indicate the nights you are staying
Chateau Lake Louise has a booking deadline of April 25, 2013

Please note that a *non-refundable* room deposit (of first night plus tax) will be charged by the hotel 45 days prior to the event.

For the most up-to-date information about all things Conference, visit:

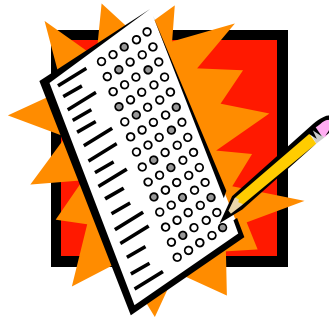
<http://www.acifa.ca/acifa2013>

Tweet with us!

Connect and share your insights on this year's ACIFA Conference using the hashtag **#ACIFA2013** !!



2012 ACIFA Climate Survey Results



About the ACIFA Climate Survey

Each year, ACIFA conducts a survey of its members across the province to obtain their views on working conditions and attitudes within their institutions. The survey's results are used to measure workplace climate over time and across institutions. The results help to inform faculty associations on emerging issues at their respective campuses. The results also provide an opportunity for faculty associations to discuss issues with their administrations.

The survey, which enjoys a relatively high participation rate, is self-administered and it consists of 13 standard questions.

The survey asks academic staff members to indicate their level of agreement with thirteen statements (see below), on a Likert scale of 1 to 5. A response of 5 indicates strong agreement; a response of 1 indicates strong disagreement; while a response of 3 is considered neutral.

Respondents are asked to answer the questions and return completed questionnaires back to their faculty associations before ACIFA tabulates all of the results. Respondents answer the survey anonymously.

2012 Results

Please see page 7 for the cross-institutional chart of the **Climate Survey 2012** Results.

2012 ACIFA Climate Survey Province-Wide Questions:

- 1: My institution demonstrates a strong commitment to improving my teaching skills.
- 2: My institution demonstrates a strong commitment to improving my discipline-specific knowledge.
- 3: I have enough time to attend to my professional development needs.
- 4: Senior administration communicates openly with faculty.
- 5: I am informed in a timely manner about important changes that affect me.
- 6: Input from faculty is sought AND seriously considered in decision-making at my institution.
- 7: Senior administration understands day-to-day challenges faced by instructors.
- 8: When making decisions, this institution refers to one or all of: a mission statement, a statement of goals, or a statement of values.
- 9: Outstanding performance by instructors is rewarded.
- 10: My institution demonstrates a strong commitment to my health and well-being.
- 11: Academic council has a meaningful impact on academic decisions.
- 12: The president of this institution provides effective leadership.
- 13: I have the resources I need to do my job effectively.

2012 ACIFA Climate Survey Results

ACIFA 2012 Climate Survey Results

Institution	Year	%	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12	Q13
ACIFA Provincial averages	2012	36	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.4	3.3	2.8	2.9	3.1	3.1	3.1
	2011	38	3.4	3.2	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	3.3	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.1	2.9
	2010	38	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.6	3.3	2.7	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2
ACAD	2012	35	2.3	2.6	2.0	2.5	2.2	2.8	2.2	3.3	1.9	2.5	3.1	3.0	2.3
	2011	53	2.1	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.0	3.3	1.9	2.3	2.6	2.9	2.2
	2010	43	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.3	3.1	1.7	2.4	3.2	3.4	2.2
Bow Valley College	2012	35	3.5	3.4	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.6	2.8	3.2	3.3	3.7	3.4
	2011	27	3.8	3.5	3.0	3.2	3.1	3.0	2.9	3.7	3.0	3.0	3.2	3.7	3.7
	2010	26	3.6	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.5	2.8	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.5
MacEwan University	2012	12	3.7	3.2	2.8	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	3.3	2.9	2.7	3.3	3.7	3.1
	2011	14	3.8	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.7	3.3	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.6	3.4
	2010	14	3.8	3.3	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.0	2.8	3.4	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.4
Grande Prairie	2012	34	3.6	3.4	3.4	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.6	3.3	2.9	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.3
	2011	44	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.6	3.0	3.6	3.2	3.8	3.5
	2010	19	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.7	3.2	4.0	3.3
Keyano College	2012	63	3.6	3.3	2.6	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.2	3.0	2.5	3.1	3.0	2.6	3.0
	2011	57	3.3	3.1	2.5	1.9	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.8	2.3	2.7	2.8	2.5	2.8
	2010	60	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.2	2.1	2.8	2.5	3.0	2.8	2.4	2.9
Lakeland College	2012	51	3.4	3.4	2.8	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.4	3.0	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0
	2011	38	3.4	3.5	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.3	2.5	3.1	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.2
	2010	34	3.7	3.6	2.9	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.9	3.2	2.9	3.2	3.1	3.7	3.4
Lethbridge College	2012	38	3.4	3.1	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.3	3.4	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.0	3.1
	2011	47	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.6	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.5	2.2
	2010	22	3.7	3.4	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.8	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	3.4
Medicine Hat Coll.	2012	37	3.4	3.3	2.8	3.0	3.2	2.9	2.8	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5
	2011	36	3.7	3.6	3.0	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.5	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6
	2010	37	3.8	3.6	3.0	3.1	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.5
Mt Royal University	2012	22	3.9	3.0	2.6	3.2	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.4	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.1
	2011	15	4.1	3.2	2.6	3.3	3.3	3.3	2.9	3.6	3.1	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.1
	2010	14	4.2	3.4	2.9	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.1	3.7	3.2	3.4	3.6	4.3	3.5
NAIT	2012	16	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.6	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.0	3.7	3.2
	2011	27	3.6	3.3	2.8	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.9	3.5	3.1	3.4	3.2	3.8	3.4
	2010	14	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.6	3.3	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.5	3.2
Northern Lakes	2012	29	3.5	3.5	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	2.7	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.4	3.0	3.8
	2011	47	3.7	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.2	3.1	2.8	3.6	3.3	3.7	3.2	3.3	3.8
	2010	54	3.7	3.4	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.5	3.0	3.6	3.3	3.3	3.7
NorQuest College	2012	35	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.2	2.1	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.9
	2011	40	3.1	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.2	3.0	2.3	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.8
	2010	58	2.9	2.8	2.3	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.3	3.2	2.3	2.5	2.6	3.4	2.9
Olds College	2012	66	3.7	3.7	2.8	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.3	3.4	2.3	3.0	2.9	3.2	3.2
	2011	49	3.7	3.7	2.6	2.8	2.4	2.4	2.4	3.4	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.9
	2010	76	3.4	3.4	2.6	2.1	2.6	2.1	1.9	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8
Portage College	2012	66	3.4	3.3	2.6	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.1	2.8
	2011	58	3.3	3.1	2.5	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.8	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.1	2.9
	2010	67	3.0	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	1.9	2.0	2.9	2.4	2.7	2.4	2.0	2.9
Red Deer College SAIT	2012	27	4.0	3.6	3.1	2.8	2.9	2.2	2.3	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.2	2.6	3.3
	2011	14	3.3	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.7	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.5	3.1
	2010	23	3.4	3.0	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.2	2.1	3.0	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.1
		35	3.5	3.1	2.5	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.1	3.1	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.2



Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Awards 2013

Purpose

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) refers to taking a systematic look at some teaching and learning practice and recording what was done, why it was done, collecting data, analyzing the data and reflecting on how the results might influence future teaching endeavors. If done carefully and thoughtfully, this type of research can improve an individual's teaching and provide guidance for improvement for others.

Research has the potential to generate genuine and sustained improvements in our colleges and institutes. It gives educators new opportunities to reflect on and assess their teaching; to explore and test new ideas, methods, and materials; to assess how effective the new approaches were; to share feedback with colleagues; and to make decisions about which new approaches to include in their curriculum, instruction, and assessment plans.

Eligibility

These awards are open to all members of the Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association (ACIFA). All applications must include appropriate institutional consent to conduct the research.

Awards and Judging

The Alberta Colleges and Institutes Faculties Association (ACIFA) through The Alberta Public Post-Secondary Trust Fund will award up to two grants of \$1,000.00 each annually for research projects related to improving teaching and learning conducted by members of ACIFA. The award is intended to assist with materials and/or study costs associated with the research project.

The research project may span part or all of the 2013/2014 academic year but must not exceed that time limit.

Applications must be received by the ACIFA Office by September 15, 2013. Award winners will be notified by December 15, 2013.

Applications will be judged by a sub-committee of the Professional Affairs Committee of ACIFA.

Award recipients are required to present their project at the ACIFA annual conference following the completion of their research project and to write a summary article for the ACIFA newsletter.

Application is made by submitting a typewritten **Proposal for Research**. The guidelines for this proposal are listed below:

(Continued on page 9)

Proposal for Research Guidelines

1. Name address, phone number and e-mail address of researcher(s). If more than one researcher please identify lead researcher.
2. Name of college or institute you are a member of.
3. Designated teaching assignment and employment category.
4. Title of research project.
5. Purpose of research project. A brief statement explaining the question that will be answered by your study – what is it you want to find out? What brought this question to your attention?
6. Materials to be used in the study (instructional materials, assessments, other materials).
7. Data collection – describe the type(s) of data you will gather and your collection plan. It would be useful to include a step by step plan of what will be done.
8. Explain the process you will use to analyze and evaluate the data.
9. Describe how you plan to use and/or implement the findings of your study.
10. Describe your plan for sharing the results with the educational community beyond the requirements of the award.
11. Anticipated starting and completion dates of the research project.
12. Provide an abstract for purposes of publication on the ACIFA website. The top three applicant's abstracts will be posted.
13. A letter from the researcher's institution granting permission to do the research. Other supporting letters as the researcher deems necessary may also be attached.

Send an electronic copy of your **Proposal for Research** to: kerri.green@acifa.ca

If you have questions please contact:

ACIFA Senior Administrative Officer Kerri Green at kerri.green@acifa.ca or 780-423-4440

Winner of the Johnson Inc. Snowblower Contest



During the Fall of 2012/Spring of 2013, our partners at Johnson Inc. Insurance ran a contest especially for ACIFA. When members requested a quote for home and auto insurance, they were automatically entered to win a snowblower!

The winner of the snowblower was Kevin Seim, a member of the Faculty Association of Red Deer College. Congratulations Kevin!





Home and Auto Insurance

... with special discounts for ACIFA members.

Above and beyond extensive coverage, here are a few of the other ways we'll take care of you:

- Savings and discounts
- Exceptional claims handling
- 24/7 live customer support
- Identity theft coverage

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1-800-563-0677 | www.johnson.ca/acifa

**Special
Discounts
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JOHNSON 

Home & Auto Insurance

Home and auto insurance is available through Johnson Inc., a licensed insurance agency. Policies are primarily underwritten by Unifund Assurance Company (Unifund). Unifund and Johnson Inc. share common ownership. Eligibility requirements, limitations and exclusions may apply. CAT01.2013

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
Nothern Lakes College Faculty Association
Olds College Faculty Association
Portage College Faculty Association
Faculty Association of Red Deer College
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:
Lindsey Gilbert, Administrative Officer
Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association
412, 10357 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1N3
P (780) 423-4440 F (780) 423-4515
E lindsey.gilbert@acifa.ca W www.acifa.ca

Upcoming ACIFA Dates

May 4, 2013	Executive Council	Edmonton
May 26, 2013	Presidents' Council	Chateau Lake Louise
May 28, 2013	Annual General Meeting	Chateau Lake Louise
May 26 – 28, 2013	Spring Conference	Chateau Lake Louise

ACIFA's "Faculty Circuit" will return in Fall of 2013. Thanks for reading and have a great summer!!



Join the Conversation!

FACEBOOK:

<http://www.facebook.com/ACIFAcA>

TWITTER:

<http://www.twitter.com/ACIFAcA>

