

MUFA NEWSLETTER

February-March 2015 - Volume 41.4 - Laura Parker, Editor

Annual General Meeting

Monday, April 27th, 2015

3:00 p.m.

Great Hall
University Club

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Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations
Union des Associations des Professeurs des Universités de l'Ontario

42nd Annual OCUFA Teaching & Academic Librarianship Awards for 2014/2015

PROGRAM

Each year OCUFA recognizes outstanding teachers and academic librarians in Ontario universities through its Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards. Since 1973 OCUFA has presented 389 awards. The recipients are selected by the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards Committee. Approximately 7 awards are presented each year.

CATEGORIES

Teaching, in the context of the OCUFA awards, embraces virtually all levels of instruction - graduate and undergraduate teaching, continuing education and faculty development. Similarly, proficiency in teaching may extend well beyond the classroom, the laboratory or the faculty member's office. Activities such as course design, curriculum development, organization of teaching programs and other significant forms of leadership are often important contributions to the instructional process. Those who excel in any of these are eligible for the OCUFA Teaching Awards.

Academic librarianship, in the context of OCUFA Awards, embraces all aspects of librarianship that contribute to the scholarly achievement of all members of the university community. Activities such as development and delivery of services, provision of educational materials, collection development and management and other contributions to academic librarianship are important to the intellectual functioning of the university. Those who excel in any of these are eligible for an OCUFA Academic Librarianship Award.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations are invited from individuals, informal groups of faculty or students, or both, and such organizations as local faculty associations, faculty or college councils, university committees concerned with teaching and learning, librarians, local student councils, departments, alumni, etc.

Guidelines to assist in organizing a nomination should be consulted by prospective nominators and are available on request from your Faculty Association Office, the Provincial Office of OCUFA, or the OCUFA website (www.ocufa.on.ca).

Nominations should include a covering nomination form (appended to Guidelines for OCUFA Teaching Award Nominations and Guidelines for OCUFA Academic Librarianship Award Nominations), a nominator's brief, and sufficient evidence, from as many sources as possible, to make it clear that outstanding work deserving of recognition has been done.

PROCEDURE

All submissions must be uploaded onto OCUFA's secured online submission system as a single PDF file at <http://ocufa.on.ca/?p=3991>. All inquiries should be directed to (416) 979-2117.

Deadlines for receipt of nominations:

May 22nd, 2015

Faculty Association Dues Holiday

Just a reminder that a dues holiday is in effect for the following pay periods:

MUFA Librarians
March 6 and March 20, 2015

Faculty
March 13 and March 27, 2015

A surplus of income over expenditures for this fiscal year is projected in the Nine-Month Budget review for 2014/2015. In addition, MUFA reserves continue to be in a healthy state.

The dues will return to their normal rate of 0.5% (5 mils), which is the lowest for any CAUT-member faculty association in Canada.

Don't forget, when you are preparing your tax returns, MUFA dues are tax deductible. This information can be found on your T4.



Welcome New Members

Ian Dworkin, Biology
Matthew Kwan, Family Medicine
Oleg Rubel, Materials Science

Classroom Hotline

Instructors should call the classroom hotline at extension **23073** for issues such as replenishment of chalk or erasers, damaged seats/tablets, no lighting, etc.

Email: clerks@ppims.services.mcmaster.ca

Website: Submit a work request thru the Facility Services AiM Work Management system via <http://aappsrvr.mcmaster.ca/facilityservices/> Automatic work status updates are provided when an email address is entered into the request.

➔ **It is important for all written correspondence to highlight in the description this is a Classroom Hotline request. This will distinguish the problem so it can be prioritized.** ◀

For scheduling issues or disconnects between class size and classroom capacity, call the Registrar's Office, at ext. 24453 or bookings@mcmaster.ca

The Classroom Hotline is answered Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Leave a message on the voice mail as a Customer Service Clerk may be assisting another Customer. Calls outside of these hours will be answered on the next business day. Immediate classroom emergencies that occur after 4:30 p.m. - such as no heat, locked classroom, broken water pipes - should be reported to Security at ext. 24281.

REMINDER

Benefit Year End: Please note, the benefit year end is June 30th. Please ensure all claims dated from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 are submitted to Sun Life prior to September 30, 2015. Late claim submissions will not be reimbursed.



Moving OCUFA's priorities forward: OCUFA's February Board meeting

On February 7th and 8th, 2015, OCUFA held the 145th meeting of its Board of Directors. At the previous meeting in October, OCUFA approved its priorities for the year: contract faculty and faculty complement; online learning; and university pension plans. The February meeting was all about ensuring that these priorities continue to move forward.

On the contract faculty/faculty complement front, a special panel session was held with contract and full-time faculty leaders from across the province. The panel, moderated by OCUFA Vice-President Judy Bates (Wilfrid Laurier) featured Jim Gerlach and Herbert Pimlott (also from Laurier) and Alison Hearn, President of UWOPA. The panel outlined the scope of the challenges currently faced by contract faculty, and concluded with a call for greater solidarity between full- and part-time faculty to achieve common goals- the preservation of the academic profession and the provision of high-quality university education.

Directors were also briefed on the We Teach Ontario initiative, a campaign designed to highlight the work of contract faculty and the challenges they face. This campaign launched on Feb. 25, 2015, and more information can be found at: www.weteachontario.ca.

The discussion on online education centred on the lack of faculty representation on the Ontario Online Learning Consortium (OOLC) Board of Directors. The OOLC was created by the Government of Ontario to increase online learning options in Ontario and is being run primarily by Colleges Ontario and the Council of Ontario Universities. The Board is currently top-heavy with administrators, and OCUFA's position is that a faculty leader – with experience in online learning, policy development,

and collective bargaining – should be given a seat in order to ensure the faculty perspective is heard. A draft letter calling for faculty representation will be prepared by OCUFA staff and circulated to member faculty associations. OCUFA will coordinate the letter-writing campaign.

As many of you know, OCUFA has been leading a project to examine the feasibility and advisability of creating a jointly sponsored pension plan (JSPP) for member faculty associations looking for new pension options. Directors were briefed on the progress of the project, which will be making recommendations in the summer of 2015. A discussion was also held at the Board meeting about the potential benefits and drawbacks of the project. As a result of the discussion, a group was created to look more closely at the government's proposed pension regulations. More information on the pension project can be found at www.ocufapensionreview.ca.

The 145th Board meeting was also an opportunity to recognize several individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the lives of professors and academic librarians in Ontario. At a special luncheon, winners of OCUFA's Status of Women Award of Distinction and Lorimer Award for Collective Bargaining were presented. The Award of Distinction winners are: Sandra Acker (University of Toronto); Melanie Campbell (University of Waterloo); Kathryn Church (Ryerson University); Haideh Moghissi (York University); and Marcia Rioux (York University). Winners of the Lorimer award are: Sheila McKee-Protopapas (Wilfrid Laurier University) and Edward Carter (University of Guelph).

You may have noticed that on the University Secretariat website, archived material is not available electronically any longer. If you are looking for meeting packages or minutes, you can request it from the University Secretariat office directly, or you can contact the MUFA office.