

Hello all:

The new APBU executive has been in place for almost two months now (my how the time has flown by) and I thought I would send you this email to let you know what we have been up to.

- 1) Joint Committee: The staff, faculty and librarian, and contract faculty joint committees have been meeting throughout these two months, having some success in resolving outstanding issues and continuing to work towards resolving others.
- 2) The Joint Job Classification Task Force has been established with members meeting twice a week, for a half day each time. I have been informed that the discussions are lively and open but that progress, while occurring, is slow. This is to be expected given the difficult nature of the tasks at hand. In order to speed things up, the committee is going to start meeting with an expert, Mr. Claude Gendron who has worked with the University of, and the City of, Sherbrooke unions on Pay Equity. He will act as a guide and resource and be with the committee for a couple of full days in mid-July. I can also state that the atmosphere within which the committee works is much improved over the last one and that the principal has maintained his interest in seeing that the work of the committee does get completed in a fair and timely fashion. Certainly, I will continue to monitor the committee's progress and work with the staff members to resolve any difficulties or roadblocks that occur, if that happens.
- 3) We have been working on drafting a mandate for a committee to review the APBU constitution and recommend any appropriate changes. This committee will seek to amend the constitution so that it is more in keeping with current realities, including changes in legal practices and obligations that have arisen since the last draft, and continuing the ethic of equality that is fundamental to the operations of the Association. Daron Westman is taking the lead on this, and you will likely be hearing more from him in the next few months.
- 4) As part of our goals for this year, we are working on developing better communications with the membership. As part of that and towards that end, Trygve Ugland, who is responsible for the communications portfolio, is investigating means to up-date and improve our web-site. I am hopeful that such improvements can be in place by the end of September. (But don't tell Trygve I said that!)
- 5) Daron and Marge Heggison have been working on up-dating our membership lists. They think that they have the staff and contract faculty lists pretty much up-to-date but if you know of anyone who did not receive this email, then please let us know because that will mean we missed some-one.
- 6) Christopher Stonebanks has been overseeing an audit of our finances. Apparently its been awhile since this has been done. It is expected to be completed by the end of August, after which time, we will know if we can afford a couple of Michoui's or dinner-dances. Let's hope the auditors find good things.
- 7) We almost have a full complement of staff stewards now for the Stewards Council. Justina has been actively seeking recruits. We need only one more to have a full complement and that is for the sports centre so if there is anyone there who would like to serve, please let Justina know.

I think that pretty well sums up the highlights of our efforts to date. Have a great summer and I hope to see you on walk-about,

Jean

Pres

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