



The President's Column

July 2011

Summer Salutations!

I hope you are all enjoying your summer now that the fabulous weather has arrived and that thoughts of the too-fast approach of the fall semester are not clouding your “fun in the sun” too much. Although things are somewhat quieter in various sectors of the University, the Executive and I have remained active in attending to various issues that have arisen since the April AGM. Two matters particularly that I should report on to you now are the resignation of Marie-Claude Delorme from her position in the APBU and the upcoming AGM (part II).

Marie-Claude’s last day of work for the APBU was June 30th, 2011. After a brief return to work, she decided that moving on in her career would be for the best and hence informed me of her resignation on June 21st. Although the last few months of her full-time employment may have been somewhat rocky, Marie-Claude did serve the APBU well during her 6 years of service. I myself was impressed with her corporate memory, her expertise in handling the legal administrative details and her ability to liaise with outside agencies and conduct various research tasks. She fulfilled a valuable role within the APBU and was of great assistance to past presidents and executives. I, and the rest of the Executive, wish her well in her new endeavours.

With Marie-Claude’s departure, the Executive was left with the decision as to who would replace her. As you know, Chrissie Wiley had been working in the office on contract since January doing the various administrative tasks requested and required. While she had a fairly steep learning curve with respect to union operations and issues, she was eager to undertake the responsibilities assigned and learned very quickly what was required and how to carry out these various tasks. Given this, the Executive thought that it would, in fairness to Chrissie, offer her the right of first refusal on the job of APBU office assistant. She has accepted and we are now currently working out the details of

her employment contract. I know that many of you have already spoken highly of Chrissie and I hope that you will take the time to welcome her to the Bishop's community.

Now for the AGM (part II). As I reported to you in May, there were not sufficient members in attendance to make quorum at the AGM. It was therefore proposed by those members who did show up, that the elections for the 2011-2012 Executive could take place but that those election results would have to be ratified, as per the Constitution, at a follow-up AGM to be held in September. I am reminding you of this now because there are still positions in the union to be filled, having received no nominations for them by the nominations deadline. Those positions are:

Chief Negotiations Officer for the academic bargaining units;
3 members for the Faculty and Librarians Negotiations Issues Committee;
3 members for the Staff Negotiations Issues Committee;
and various staff stewards (specific details to follow)

I urge you to take the time between now and the September AGM to think about serving in these positions or persuading someone else to serve.

On that note, I'll leave you to scheme and dream and to enjoy the rest of the summer.

Jean
President, APBU