



The President's Column

September 2011

President's Column (Academic)

Well another month, another new management job created. I'd like to know where they are going to be put, perhaps in a trailer beside the one being installed for contract faculty? And what about the parking spaces they will need? With the number of new students expected to push our total numbers above that of the double cohort years, we can expect an even greater hassle about parking than we had last year. Yes folks, it's the beginning of a new academic year and things are shaping up to be just rollicking good fun for the union and its members. Mind you, its not that we didn't have fun over the summer, it's just that we had more time to enjoy it!

With respect to the trailer now gracing the parking lot by the library, the office allocation committee has been tearing its hair out the past few years trying to find office space for all the faculty and contract faculty. This situation has been aggravated by the fact that some offices were lost due to the construction of lab space and more office space was needed for contract faculty hired because of increased course releases for faculty. For all of these reasons, the administration decided that in order to meet the need for office space, a trailer had to be brought in. This trailer has five offices and will house up to 15 contract faculty people over the course of this year and possibly beyond.

Over the past few months, we have had to sort out a lot of issues concerning contract courses and overloads. Some of these have been "disputes" between contract faculty and faculty and others between the union and the admin. The result of this, is that we need to develop a clearer

understanding of "necessary expertise" in the Contract Faculty CA and of the hiring procedures to follow in situations of overloads.

As foretold in my January column, the APBU and the administration have been having some preliminary meetings with respect to the pension. We are now waiting for data from the pension committee's actuary that would allow us to analyze the state of the plan in regards to the current deficit. I'm certain news on the deficit will not be good but, do believe that we can pursue at least a few options to make this problem somewhat easier to bear.

As you may recall, there was no quorum for the AGM meeting in April. Consequently, those who were there decided to proceed with the elections and then have a ratification vote in September. Well its now September and I am scheduling the AGM *part II* for September 28th. Stay tuned for the official announcement and also for a renewed call for nominations for positions that were not filled in April. Those positions include the Chief Negotiations Officer for the academic units, the Faculty Negotiating Issues Committee, the Staff Negotiations Issues Committee, the Negotiating Teams for Faculty and Contract Faculty and members for the Staff Stewards Council. If you have any questions about these positions, their mandates and duration, please consult the constitution found at our website: www.apbu.ca.

Well the fall onslaught is upon us. Good luck with your various responsibilities and tasks and we'll meet up at the AGM part II, if not before.