



*The President's Column*

**September 2011**

### **President's Column (staff)**

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!

At any rate, with respect to the posting of the manager for student services, I can inform you that this position represents the consolidation of two management positions that had previously existed (plus other responsibilities). The positions of Director of Nursing and Director of Counseling Services have been abolished and folded into this new position so, at least it does not represent an increase yet again of management positions.

As for the previous recent management postings, I can tell you that I have been haranguing various senior managers and administrators over the past few weeks, including the DSA, the VPs, and the Principal. The hope is that they will be more sensitive to staff needs and start to hire people or create positions that will respond to those needs, but we'll see eh?

I also suggested to the principal that he should make a greater effort to communicate directly with staff. Towards that end, he is proposing having lunch with groups of staff over the course of the year to get their views on

whatever issues are important to them. So if you get an invitation from the principal in the mail, that's what that is about.

As foretold in my January column to you, 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://www.apbu.ca). Please do consider running for any of the staff positions. They are crucial to ensuring effective communication between the executive and the members. The Staff Negotiations Issues Committee is particularly important because that is the committee charged with determining which issues should be put on the table for negotiation. Given the events of the past months with respect to the creation of copious management positions, the closing off of internal hirings and other such things, I would think that staff do have views on what should be negotiated and with what priority. It would be the job of this committee to solicit your views and develop a priorities list to carry them out.

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.