

THE CONFLUENCE

The Camosun College Faculty Association Newsletter

Volume 6 - Issue 4 - March 8, 2017

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Message from your President

Who's on First?

March already...time flies when you are having (fun) to learn everything for the first time. We all know what that is like...first day in the classroom, first day teaching a new class, first exam. There are lots of firsts in this career we have chosen; I think that is what keeps it so fresh.



Some of those firsts can come pretty fast and furious and feel a bit like a ride down a creek without a paddle. I will admit in my new role as President of the CCFA I had some very major support to help with that ride. An experienced and very collaborative Executive Team with a willingness to share made the trip much smoother than it could have been. And I cannot overlook the many "saves" thanks to Peg in the front office.

As well, everyone I have met with the College Leadership Team and Administration have been very helpful as I navigated my way through the nuances of my role and the building of relationships important when representing the faculty.

"There are challenges but I believe everyone at the College is striving for an environment of shared values and experiences that leave us fulfilled at the end of the day."

There are challenges but I believe everyone at the College is striving for an environment of shared values and experiences that leave us fulfilled at the end of the day. I attempt to do my part by taking your concerns forward in a respectful and collegial manner.

So with that in mind I would like to try another first. My first attempt at a second year as your President. There you have it; I've thrown my hat in the ring early so you have plenty of time to consider your voting options for the upcoming year.

If you are looking for more substantive reports on how the year has gone you are welcome to check out our Executive or GM minutes at any time.

Cheers,

Al Morrison

Camosun College Faculty Association

Spotlight on Professional Development



We are now coming to the end of the 2016/2017 fiscal year (April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017) and are looking ahead to a new year – in terms of PD, that is! The new PD year will start on April 1, 2017.

The 2016/2017 fiscal year has been a busy one with many excellent and energizing in-house and short-term PD activities: conferences, independent research, workshops, and programs of study. It is always impressive to see how these varied opportunities can inspire and help faculty maintain currency in their fields which they then pass on to the students in their classes. As Bruce McCormack from the school of Access says, “I very much appreciate the good work of the members of the P.D. Committee because they make professional development possible.

For example, PD funding supported me in going to Brazil in 2016 to work with a colleague on several excellent class-related projects.

The experience was inspiring, and I was later able to share my new ideas with my students at Camosun.”

The faculty members who embarked on long-term activities are wrapping up their projects for this year. Some are just finishing Masters and Doctorates while others are in the midst of their projects so have applied to continue. The PD Committee has just finished reviewing the applications for the 2017/2018 fiscal year, so we can look forward to some more worthwhile PD activities, both continuing and new.

Please see the following link for PD information and recently updated forms with the new amounts for per diems and mileage: <http://camosunfaculty.ca/professional-development/> **Please download these forms and save them to your desktop since you cannot fill these in directly on the website.**

- Elizabeth West

PD Fund Guidelines: <http://camosunfaculty.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/PD-Guidelines-Final-November-2016.pdf>

Who is eligible?

If you are a term or continuing faculty member, you are eligible to apply for short-term PD funds. If you have been a continuing faculty member for at least two years, you are eligible to apply for long-term funds available each year and reviewed in February.

What is eligible?

Short-term funds include conferences and courses, self directed activities such as research, print materials, and professional memberships. In-house activities and pre-approved funds are also available.

When can you apply?

Short-term, in-house, and pre-approved activities are considered throughout the year at bi-weekly PD Committee meetings. Faculty members must apply at least one month prior to the activity. Long-term applications are considered in February.

Where can you apply?

Send your application signed by you, your chair, and the dean to the CCFA Office. (Young 221). If you have questions, contact Peg Ford in the CCFA office (FordP@camosun.bc.ca or 250-370-3655), Elizabeth West, PD Chair (loc. 3691 or west@camosun.bc.ca) or your school representative who is on the PD Committee.

Educational Policy Meeting



I had the pleasure of attending the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators (FPSE) meetings and Spring Exchange in late February.

I have been the Camosun rep on this committee for five years now and continue to be invigorated with the great work that is being done by educators across the province. I have had the opportunity to Chair this committee for the past few years and have stepped aside as Chair as my role will be changing a bit here at Camosun.

On the Friday evening I attended the Educational Policy meeting as a representative for Camosun. This group explores many issues relating to how institutions make policy decisions and the effects of those decisions on students and faculty. One of the main tasks that we have been exploring over the past year is the issue of scheduling and specifically how scheduling is done with software such as the Infosilem software that we use here at Camosun.

Faculty from all of our member institutions have expressed a number of concerns when it comes to the use of scheduling software. These include it having adverse effects on student schedules, putting certain courses 'at risk' due to the scheduled times, ignoring the law when it comes to reasonable scheduling accommodations and many more. Our group continues to explore this issue and will be distributing a survey for faculty feedback across the province in the coming months. The goal of this feedback will then be used to enhance or create specific language to address the concerns in the next round of bargaining.

"Faculty from all of our member institutions have expressed a number of concerns when it comes to the use of scheduling software."

The other issue that was explored in our Friday meetings was the issue of International Education and the way it is being used by our provincial government and institutions as a funding 'cash cow' (or the more politically correct 'money bovine'). The concerns are many but primarily the concern is that these students are paying extremely high fees and those fees are not being put back into the supports international students require to be successful in their coursework. This is of grave concern at many institutions including here at Camosun where we have continued to enroll international students without having basic housing in place to support these students.



The Saturday portion was the FPSE Spring Exchange which discussed provincial policy issues and the open The Doors campaign being done through FPSE which will continue in its goal of making education access a wedge issue in the upcoming provincial election. Please visit <http://www.openthedoors.ca/> to find out more about tuition rates and issues across the province.

- In Solidarity; Blair Fisher

Charitable Donations

The CCFA has a charitable donations budget line of \$2000. If you are supporting an organization that fits the CCFA guidelines please feel free to submit an application for funding by April 30.



Our Place Donation

In 2016 CCFA made a donation on your behalf to Our Place. Our Place offers a sense of belonging to Greater Victoria's most vulnerable citizens. They provide a home, nourishment and hope through living, sharing, learning and worshipping together.

Cheryl Morgan, Development Coordinator at Our Place reported that the CCFA donation was used for someone desperately in need of dental care. She had a cracked tooth that was about to get worse and much more expensive. It had been that way for over a year and it was causing a lot of irritation. They were also able to give her a full round of hygiene and polishing. It was the first time she had had her teeth cleaned in about 6 years. She was greatly relieved and extremely grateful for all the help that she was able to receive.



Guiding Principles for Charitable Donations:

1. We support initiatives that are consistent with CCFA goals outlined below.
2. We support initiatives in which Camosun College Faculty members are actively involved.
3. We support initiatives in which our labour partners are involved.
4. We are guided by cost-effectiveness.
5. In no particular order, we are interested in the following:
 - ◆ Situations in which oppression and misuse of power are apparent
 - ◆ Education initiatives
 - ◆ Human rights
 - ◆ Poverty
 - ◆ Green initiatives
 - ◆ Initiatives that move a community forward

"It was the first time she had her teeth cleaned in six years."

First Time Ever

I enjoyed my first year on the Executive Team. The best part is definitely meeting new people from all over the college. And many of these people held roles I didn't even know existed. The Executive Meetings are actually a hoot (and we get stuff done too). I attended the Executive Meetings and my main job seemed to be to learn and ask questions. I also volunteered on a couple of sub-committees such as the one related to SD Connect and their meetings often conflicted with my teaching schedule. As a result I can't say I was a lot of help on that front. But again, I learned a lot from the meetings I attended.



I was struck by how everyone is here at the College with the students as their focus. We are all going in the same direction. When I'm in my instructing silo I feel more isolated and don't have that same awareness of the comradery with all of the employees of Camosun College.

I hope to be back on the Executive or serve in some other way when I return in September 2018 after my sabbatical.

Thank you to the Executive for educating me and thank you members who informed me and helped me during the year.

- Tana Kristjanson,
Member-at-Large



A Friendly Reminder...

A friendly reminder to help out our CUPE colleagues. If you rearrange the classroom, remove chairs or tables; please put the room back to its original format. Each custodial employee is covering a lot of real estate in a day and we need to assist where we can.

*Thanks,
Al Morrison*

Lifelong Learning

Camosun has been my home for nine years as the Program Coordinator for Continuing Education in HHS. I get excited about the new and the different; my world view is flavoured by a wonderfully chaotic symphony of ideas and knowledge. My lifelong learning has included languages, movement education, leadership, and information

“It’s an honour to serve CCFA members who help students from all kinds of backgrounds achieve their goals.”

systems. Fittingly, I recently completed an interdisciplinary Masters in Integrated Studies through Athabasca University. One of my aha moments took place in a course about labour education taught by Ingo Schmidt. This course highlighted not just the activism efforts that led to labour rights, but the key role of adult education in labour education and the impact of the loss of curriculum regarding labour over the past few decades. As I’ve spent my career in health and education, both fields that employ mainly unionized workers, I am motivated to contribute to CCFA and to help raise the profile of labour rights.

- Val Montague



New Face in the CCFA Office

Autumn Frimann is originally from Denmark, where her career mainly focused around accounting. After arriving in Vancouver eight years ago, she has worked as a wildlife rehabilitator, bicycle mechanic, yoga instructor, and



helped manage an indoor air quality business. She is always looking for opportunities to learn something new, an attitude that she is bringing with her to the CCFA office as the new Administrative Services Coordinator. In her spare time she enjoys running, playing racquet ball, cooking foods from all parts of the world, and reading every book she can get her hands on. If anyone needs help in pronouncing the word HYGGE correctly, please drop by the office anytime for a chat.

Save the Date

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday May 5th from 1.00 to 2.00 pm at Interurban Campus in the Culinary Arts Classroom Restaurant.

The meeting is followed by wine, cheese, and appetizers.



Camosun College Faculty Association

Your 2016—17 Executive

<u>Al Morrison</u>	BUS	President
<u>Chris Ayles</u>	AS	Vice President
<u>Valerie Montague</u>	HHS	Secretary
<u>Blair Fisher</u>	AS	Treasurer
<u>Judith Hunt</u>	ACCESS	Contract Management Chair
<u>Tanya Kirkland</u>	ACCESS	Contract Negotiation Chair
<u>Elizabeth West</u>	ACCESS	PD Committee Chair
<u>Emrys Prussin</u>	AS	Member At Large
<u>Shannon Black</u>	BUS	Member At Large (Term)
<u>Tana Kristjanson</u>	BUS	Member At Large

CCFA Administrative Services Mon.-Fri. 8:15 AM - 3:30 PM Y221

Phone: 250-370-3655

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Please visit our [CCFA website](#).