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AUFA COMMUNICATOR

Acadia University Faculty Association Newsletter

AUFA Homepage: www.caut.ca/aufa/

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THE AUFA PRESIDENT COMMUNICATES



At the November meeting of CAUT Council, the following motion was brought forward:

“**THAT CAUT** give notice to the Administration and Board of Acadia University that, unless Professor Colin Wightman is restored to his position as a Full Professor at the University, with suitable redress for the actions the Administration and Board took against him, censure will be imposed at the April 2009 CAUT Council meeting.”

This motion passed with no contrary votes and one abstention (mine). Between now and April, CAUT will continue its efforts to reach a settlement with the administration, and the AUFA Executive, on the direction of the membership as expressed unanimously at the November general meeting, will do all it can to persuade the administration to seek a resolution before censure is invoked.

If censure is invoked, CAUT will advise its members:

- not to accept appointments at a censured institution;
- not to accept invitations to speak or participate in academic conferences

there;

- not to accept any distinction or honour that may be offered by that institution.

Censure also means that CAUT will:

- refuse to accept advertisements for positions vacant at an institution under censure in the *CAUT Bulletin* or on the CAUT website;
- widely publicize the dispute in the media and in the *CAUT Bulletin* and other publications;
- bring the censure to the attention of associations of academic staff in other countries, request that they publish an account of the dispute in their journals and ask their members to respect the censure;
- bring the censure motion to the attention of post-secondary student organizations, the Canadian Labour Congress, and other appropriate groups;
- encourage academic disciplinary associations to refuse to carry advertisements for or hold events at censored institutions.

If censure is invoked, it is not lifted until the situation that gave rise to it is addressed to CAUT's satisfaction. Memorial University, the last institution to be under CAUT censure, remained under censure for some ten years (1979-1989). It was not until the Social Science Federation of Canada and the Canadian Federation for the Humanities refused to hold the Learned's (as the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences was then known) at Memorial because of the censure situation that Memorial's administration agreed to a settlement.

We will be updating the membership on the situation at the next general meeting on Tuesday, January 20 at 4:30pm. In the meantime, I would remind you of AUFA's blog at <http://acadiaufa.wordpress.com> where we post timely news items of interest to the Canadian post-secondary labour community. We even scooped CAUT on the results of the two censure motions passed at CAUT Council.

Also in January, we will host the first of a series of talks on topics of relevance as we approach another round of collective bargaining. On Tuesday, January 27 from 11:30 to 12:30 (location TBA), Vicky Smallman from CAUT and Geoff Martin from the Mount Allison Faculty Association will join us to discuss issues facing part-time faculty members and some of the strategies that have been effective in securing and protecting rights for this shamefully exploited group of the professoriate.

I hope you have all had a restful holiday break and have returned refreshed and ready for the "interesting times" that lie ahead.

Erin Patterson

REPORT FROM THE CAUT DEFENCE FUND ANNUAL MEETING

On October 18, 2008, the CAUT Defence Fund met in Fredericton, NB for our annual meeting. Spirits were high as we celebrated the tentative settlement at Brandon University only two days before. This was the third strike (and settlement) since the summer.

The day began early with an orientation breakfast for new Defence Fund reps. We learned that the DF was founded in 1978 and presently has 39 academic staff unions as members. We also learned that for the first time since the infamous York strike of '97 the DF assets have declined.

The general meeting started immediately afterwards with 67 delegates in attendance. As in all general meetings, there was a lot of "book-keeping" to attend to, including acclaiming Larry Hale from UPEI as our president for a second term. Bargaining reports

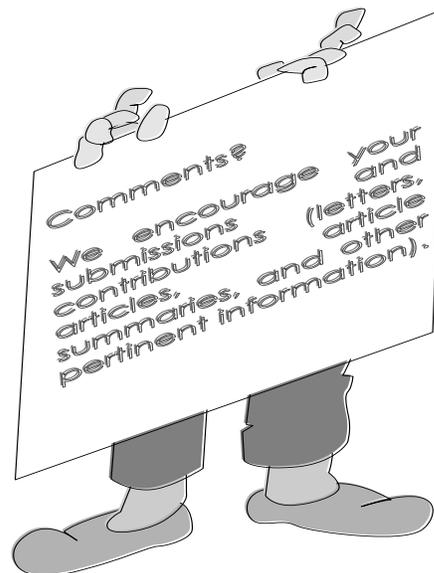
from the members confirmed my feeling that bargaining has become more difficult in the past years. Let us hope that the pendulum will soon swing back to more harmonious relations. After these reports, our colleagues from Laval requested the approval of funds in advance of an expected strike. Although Laval has not been a full member of the DF since 1994, they still have cognate status and thus access to funds based on their contributions in the past. As well, we had a lively discussion regarding a proposed change to the signing authority for the fund, which was soundly defeated out of concern that the DF could lose control of its fund. An improved motion was passed that addressed the practical issue of finding two people to sign a cheque, while protecting the independence of CAUT-DF from CAUT. Also, we discussed why the Fund has decreased and what we can do to protect it. Causes of the decline include an increase in the number of strikes in the past few years and the weak performance of investments in general. Solutions may include increasing dues, which have been set at \$5 per month per member since 1992, or changing the types of investments to increase yield. Both of these ideas will be discussed by the investment committee over the coming year and recommendations will be presented at next year's AGM. However, we did agree to leave the strike benefits paid by the DF at \$77 per day for the coming year and not apply a Cost-of-Living adjustment.

Saturday night we were treated to a reception at the hotel courtesy of the Faculty Association of the University of St. Thomas. Afterwards, dinner lasted many hours as we exchanged stories of academia, unions and life.

For the first time in many years, our meeting continued into Sunday morning. We met for another two hours before adjourning until our next AGM in Windsor (Ontario). Topics for Sunday included the election of committee members, the report of the investment committee, and a farewell to a long-serving member from Manitoba.

So, despite driving the same one-way circuit in downtown Fredericton three times before figuring out how to get to the hotel, and then 9.5 hours of meetings in one day, it was wonderful to have the opportunity to meet people from across the country and share our experiences. I came back with a renewed sense of the importance of the DF and our own AUFA. As a bonus, despite the cold, I did NOT get stuck on the Cobequid Pass!

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine Stanley
DF Representative for AUFA



IN MEMORIAM

Michel Bailet (16 November, 1936 – 5 November, 2008)

Michel Bailet first joined the Faculty at Acadia in 1967 and was a prominent member of the French Department for many years. Michel received his Doctorat-ès-Lettres in 1972 from the Université de Lausanne in Switzerland (French and Italian Languages and Literatures) and was a specialist in Twentieth-Century French Literature with a keen interest in the Fantastic in the Arts. His principal publication, *L'Homme de verre*, offered a critical reinterpretation of Boccaccio's *Decameron* in the light of the French 'Nouvelle Critique'. Michel served his Department and the University in many capacities, notably as member of the Executive Committee of Senate, on the University Review Committee, and as Head of the Department from 1972 – 1977 and Acting Head from 1991 – 1992. In 1985, Michel spent a semester as Honorary Visiting Professor of French at the University of Manchester. Michel's life-long devotion to the teaching of French Language and Literature won him high distinction. In 1995, the year before he retired, Michel was awarded the title of Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques. This order was originally created by Napoléon Bonaparte in 1808 to honour eminent members of the University of Paris and is one of the world's oldest civil awards. Originally, the Palmes Académiques were given only to teachers or professors residing in France, but in 1866 the scope of the award was widened to recognize major contributions to the expansion of French language and culture throughout the world. Michel Bailet's accomplishments brought honour and distinction to the Department of French and to Acadia University.

Janice Best

Remembering Gabriel Fischer

As most members of AUFA will know, our colleague Gabriel Fischer passed away last May, at the age of eighty-five. Gabriel was a strong supporter of our association, an engaged teacher, and a progressive voice on and off campus. The tragedy and horror of the Holocaust brought undeniable cogency to Gabriel's teaching, which urged especially Nova Scotia students to become vitally alert to the world beyond their home towns. His view that peace studies needed to be near the centre of an adequate liberal education led to a course financed from anonymous friends of Acadia, in the best tradition of the Acadia Spirit. Like AUFA members here during and those who followed his time at Acadia, Gabriel was courageous in defence of his commitments, standing up and being heard on issues of human dignity and economic justice. With Lois Valley-Fischer, with whom he shared a deep, loving and progressive relationship, Gabriel brought to campus some remarkable guests of international standing, leaving students with poignant examples of the life of the politically attuned intellectual and of the political actor governed by just causes and principles. Hopefully, as Acadia turns to the future, the values Gabriel Fischer professed will only be strengthened.

Greg Pycz

James Dean Snowdon
1947-2008

Jim came to Acadia in the summer of 1980, to teach for one year as a sabbatical replacement; he never left. Born in Sackville, NB, Jim was educated at Mount Allison University and the University of New Brunswick. His entire teaching career was spent in Acadia's service, as he filled a number of full and part-time positions over the years, as well as through Distance Education. He ceased his official connection with Acadia only a few months before he died. As a teacher, Jim was very popular with students, as he provided challenging, informative and interesting courses. He taught primarily in the area of Canadian history, occasionally straying into American history and Canadian-American relations, as need arose. Over the past decade or so, he assumed responsibility for teaching the two Perspectives on Canada courses, which are the core of our Canadian Studies programme. Although doing so was never part of his paid responsibilities, Jim was always ready to assist students other than his own with advice and suggestions, and to take on the burden of thesis supervision. His contribution to the student life of the department was truly significant.

Jim also took an active part in other aspects of the life of Acadia. He was a strong supporter of departmental activities, always willing to serve on committees or lend a hand when required. He took a leadership role in the Planter Studies Committee and the publications and conferences that committee undertook in the past twenty years.

Jim had a passion for the material culture of the Maritimes (and for the Maritimes!), and was an acknowledged expert on the subject, especially of 18th century furniture from the region. This was the focal point of his writing and public addresses, and he added significantly to his field of interest. He was a part-time antiques dealer, and a regular in recent years on the Canadian Antiques Road Show on CBC television. He was always very generous with his knowledge and advice to those of us who knew far less about art and antiques than he.

Above all else, Jim was a wonderful friend. He was outgoing by nature, with an impressive memory for faces and names. He loved informal chats over a coffee at the Merchant, or during lunch in the BAC fourth floor lounge. He was almost always "up," filled with energy and enthusiasm. Never once, in those last difficult months, did I hear him complain, or be anything but positive, believing until the end that he would somehow beat the cancer that had appeared so suddenly in September 2007 and which ravaged his body so quickly and so terribly.

Although at the last not even his indomitable spirit was enough to stop the disease, Jim left a significant legacy in the friends whose lives he touched, in the students whose careers he influenced, and in the department that he helped to shape. He will be sadly missed.

Jim died on 12 April 2008, and was survived by his wife Susan, daughter Sarah, stepchildren Bree-Ann Lightfoot and Carey Blair, two grandchildren, numerous relatives and a wide circle of friends. A scholarship in Jim's honour has been established at Acadia, for which donations are gratefully received.

Barry Moody



DATES TO REMEMBER

The following are some important dates to keep in mind as quoted from the *Twelfth Collective Agreement*:

◆ **January 31**

The President shall communicate the Board's decisions on renewal . . . no later than 31 January. . . [Art. 12.75(a)]

◆ **February 1**

The Head shall write a letter to each part-time Employee commenting on the

discussion that was held regarding teaching development. For fall-term courses, this letter shall be submitted by 1 February. . . [Art. 15.66]

There shall be two deadlines per year for the receipt of [research monies] applications . . . 1 February. [Art. 25.55(c)(ii)]

Employees shall . . . confirm acceptance of an offered leave by 1 February. [Art. 24.20]

The Employee shall . . . accept or reject any offer [leave of absence] by 1 February. [Art. 24.71]

A more comprehensive listing of dates can be found on AUFA's website:
www.caut.ca/aufa/dates.htm

THE ACADIA UNIVERSITY CLUB GOES PAPERLESS!

Too many trees are being felled and many excellent arguments have fallen...not on deaf ears. Keeping up with "the Joneses" on the main campus with regard to a perceived environmental 'arms race' is a battle that the UClub aims to win by setting the standard. Take note: UClub members will now receive an electronic invoice (some call it a 'bill') via email. If you did not receive an e-invoice this past month, please contact the UClub through the website. Take another note: next to invoice mail outs, the paper towels for hand drying have now been replaced by real (but not monogrammed) hand towels! [Sub-Note: TP will remain...for now...]

Let the race continue.

UClub Executive

Not a member? Get involved! Events booked right through to May!

uclub.acadiau.ca

Trevor Avery

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *AUFA Communicator* is the newsletter of the Acadia University Faculty Association (AUFA) and is intended to keep its members and the Acadia Community up to date and informed. The *AUFA Communicator* is published quarterly during the academic year and serves the following purposes:

1. to provide a means for the free exchange of ideas, views, and issues relevant to the AUFA and the Acadia community
2. to provide feedback and information useful to the AUFA to maintain its effective operation in fulfilling the objectives of the AUFA and its membership
3. to provide documentary records of matters pertaining to the AUFA
4. to serve all the functions of a newsletter

The Communicator Committee, under the direction of the AUFA Executive, takes responsibility for the contents of the *AUFA Communicator*. The opinions expressed in authored articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Communicator Committee. **We encourage your contributions (letters, articles, article summaries, and other pertinent information).** Anonymous material will not be considered for publication; however, under special circumstances, the *AUFA Communicator* may agree to withhold the author's name. The Communicator Committee retains the right to edit and/or reject contributed material.

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