



SCFA
FPSE LOCAL 10

On Stream

Newsletter of the Selkirk College Faculty Association

March 2009

*Please attend the
Selkirk College Faculty
Association*

Annual General Meeting

2009

*Thursday, April 2nd, Noon-
2, K11*

With Cindy Oliver, FPSE

President

Lunch provided

It's election time and the following positions on the SCFA Executive are now open:

- ✓ **VP Liaison (25% release)**
- ✓ **VP Contract Administration (25% release)**
- ✓ **College Board Observer**
- ✓ **Secretary**

What is 25% release? It means this is a paid position. If you are working full-time then you would let go of 25% of your duties so that you have time to do your work for the SCFA. If you have a part-time contract, you would likely take a 25% increase in your workload, and thus, pay.

What do these positions entail? For the official job descriptions go www.scfa.ca and look up our constitution. Or contact Tracy Punched with your questions. Here is the unofficial version.

VP Liaison - Basically, you help the President conduct the business of the association. You communicate with various committee members, sit on committees as needed, maintain contact lists, and exercise your journalistic flair by producing *On Stream*. No experience necessary, just an interest.

VP Contract Administration - You should have some experience for this position and more than a passing interest as you will become intimately acquainted with our collective agreement and spend lots of time negotiating with management.

College Board Observer - A great position for newbies and seasoned members alike. You get to

sit back and watch the open sessions of the College Board unfold. You can then pass on newly acquired wisdom to the Executive.

Secretary - Another great position for someone who wants to learn the ropes. You get to listen, take notes, and speak up when the mood strikes you.

Bonus! Come to the SCFA AGM and secure your spot at the FPSE AGM, May 19-22nd in Victoria, BC. This year's conference is titled 'Post-Secondary Education 2.0: Connecting Educators, Students and Communities'. This is a great chance to workshop, network, and become inspired!

Ponderings from the President

Are our budget worries over?

It looks like we have the final numbers for the 2009-10 budget for the College, and we have avoided the deep cuts that we faced at this time last year. Just a few months ago, we were informed about a looming \$700,000 deficit and the probability of vertical cuts resulting in the elimination or severe reduction of one or more programs at the college. After a last-second infusion of cash from the provincial government, the deficit for the upcoming year was eliminated. While the college announced that no layoffs would be necessary this year, we shouldn't forget that there actually was a reduction in the amount of work available to our members and across the campus in general. Most members on the Castlegar campus are aware of the reduction in staffing at the bookstore (against the wishes of both the SCFA and the college community as a whole) from 2 to 1 that took place at Christmas. Some staff took advantage of the voluntary workload reduction offerings. Also, a number of program areas saw a reduction in the number of either sections or labs that are offered for courses; this was handled without formal pink slips by eliminating a lot of the short-term contracts used to top up the work of part-time instructors.

Even though it looks like we will make it through next year with minimal cuts, there is still over \$400,000 left for the college to make up from the huge deficit for the current 2008-09 school year (which was spread over three years). If inflationary expenses aren't funded as well, we could be looking at another \$700,000 deficit this time next year.

Will SCFA dues be increased?

At the upcoming Federation of Post Secondary Educators (FPSE) AGM in Victoria in May, the new budget for FPSE will be voted on. Assuming it passes, the dues that we pay FPSE will increase by 0.05% from 0.85% to 0.90% of our gross salary. It should be noted that this is the first increase in the percentage of income sent to the main office in over 20 years, and is mainly due to an increase in legal fees over the past few years. The higher rate should end the series of deficits that have been taken out of the FPSE defence fund.

The good news is that the SCFA Executive feels we have enough money to not pass the increase along to our members. The union dues that are deducted from your paycheques next year will stay at 1.5% of gross salary. We also have one of the lowest dues rates among all colleges and regional universities in the province (most have rates closer to 2.0%). We'll continue to keep an eye on our books in case a small increase is necessary in the future, but there will be no change in dues for the upcoming academic year.

And finally, **the SCFA welcomes Brenda Smith, Manager of Co-op Education and Employment Services.** Brenda is not new to the college but she is new to us. After many years of discussion and negotiations, we have succeeded in reclassifying this position from exempt to the SCFA.

I hope to see all of you at our AGM on April 2nd.
--Doug Henderson

Your (current) SCFA Executive

President: Doug Henderson
VP Contract Administration: Lui Marinelli
VP Liaison: Tracy Punched
VP Negotiations: Lori Barkley
Secretary: Bev Onischak
Treasurer: John Stegman
College Board Observer: Victor Villa
Retirement Issues Officer: Duff Sutherland