

Human Rights representative's Report to SCFA, April 2005

1. As SCFA human rights rep., I sit on PACHR (Presidents' Advisory Committee on Human Rights). PACHR has college-wide representation, and is chaired by Liana Zwick, Human Rights Advisor. Recently, the Committee has undertaken a scheduled review of the College Human Rights Policy and Procedures, #6000.1. As is usual with policy reviews, this will be circulated throughout the college for comment. PACHR has also been discussing the need for proactive college-wide educational activities on matters of discrimination, personal and sexual harassment.
2. I am also the SCFA rep. to the FPSE Human Rights & International Solidarity Committee, and have been reelected Chair of HRISC for the 2005-06 year.

Ongoing business at HRISC included:

- a review of the status of Local HRISC representatives vis-à-vis their standing on Local executive committees/councils. All FPSE Locals do not yet have an HRISC representative on their executive, nor an active reporting relationship.
- a review of the status of HRISC committees at each Local as a follow-up to the resolution passed by HRISC, October 2002, recommending to PC that Locals establish HRISC committees.
- reaffirmation of the FPSE's relationship with CoDevelopment Canada, including the annual financial support of two projects in Central America. Informing Locals of CoDev's projects and campaigns, promoting CoDev events with its southern partners, and organizing a delegation to visit a southern partner, were a few of the ways suggested to raise interest in and support for CoDev.
- review and monitoring of human rights issues at member Locals for provincial trends and policy development. Awareness of the CAUT Retirement Policy.

Resolutions forwarded by HRISC to FPSE Presidents' Council included:

- a resolution that only fair trade beverages be used at FPSE sponsored events (coffee, tea, hot chocolate); that Coca Cola products be boycotted; and that member Locals be encouraged to implement equivalent policies at their respective institutions.
- a resolution calling on member Locals to urge their institutional administrators to implement the Positive Space campaign on their campuses; and that informed counselling be available to faculty, staff & students.
- a resolution supporting the rights of War Resisters to refugee asylum in Canada.

SCFA might take a leadership role at the college re fair trade beverages, and in supporting a Positive Space campaign. I would be pleased to provide more information on CoDev activities, and how SCFA members could become more involved.

3. I have also been very active with World Views @ Noon this past year, working with students and staff to organize events on human rights and social justice issues, local / national / international. World Views contributes to the college mission of “empowered, effective citizens”. And, the good news is that the Registrar has committed to providing annual core funding of \$500 for World Views programming.

Lunch time & early evening presentations were made, issues were explored:

- Cristel & Francisco on Chilean Diversity in Parks & Reserves, and on the Selkirk-Chilean exchange program
- Tai, on the long US occupation of Okinawa
- Tay, on his walk along the Pacific Crest and Continental Divide trails
- Bud Godderis, and the School of the Americas Watch
- Helene, on her 6-month walk on the Appalacian Trail
- Rosita Escobar, labour rights/human rights in women’s work, Guatemala
- Hilaria Supa Huaman, human rights among the Quechua First Nations, Peru
- Percy Schmeiser, farmer activist vs. Monsanto and GM canola
- Carly, and Factory Farming
- Travis, and removing land mines in Bosnia
- Ricardo, and democracy & dissent
- Sweat Shop vs. Fair Trade in a fashion show
- Vegan & vegetarian cooking, Iron Chef style

Films were shown: Motorcycle Diaries, Being Cariboo, 2 current Japanese-Russian films on communities affected by Chernobyl [Nadya’s Village & Alexei and the Spring], Crapshoot, Amnesty International Film Fest, Baraka, AIDS in Africa, etc.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions for imaginative, enlightening World Views programming, please let me know.

Future plans for World Views include:

- working more closely with the Mir Centre committee, with the student group, Students for Global Justice, and with other active social justice community groups;
- starting a regular Amnesty International club on campus;
- garnering interest among students & staff at other campuses in World Views programming.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Ball