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UTFA Newsletter is published by:
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REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

From the President

In the remarks that follow I review two recent and significant policy changes and mention a few of the initiatives planned for the rest of the year. I invite you to read the brief reports submitted by members of UTFA's hard-working Executive Committee. You will find a list of this year's excellent group at http://www.utfa.org/nl1601.

Policy change

The revised Memorandum of Agreement (July 1, 2016) is now in effect. It changes significantly the way in which UTFA and the University administration will negotiate policy change in the future. Note the revised Article 6 here: http://www.utfa.org/nl1602.

We will now use a facilitation/fact-finding process with public reporting to reach agreement on policy matters. Note that policy change is never subject to arbitration. For the upcoming round of bargaining, the Executive Committee will seek UTFA Council's approval to negotiate changes to both the librarians' policy and the part-time appointments policy, and perhaps others.

You will recall that changes to the MoA, the tenure review process, and the teaching stream appointments policy were negotiated as part of the SJAC process that began in 2012–2013 under then-president Scott Prudham. The SJAC process brought the teaching stream new titles, a regularized search and appointment process, and stronger language on discipline-based scholarship. In the fall term of 2016, I served as chief negotiator on the last segment of the SJAC teaching stream talks, in which the UTFA team (Claude Evans, Jun Nogami, Terezia Zoric, and I) negotiated a new policy on promotion to the rank of Professor, Teaching Stream. UTFA Council approved this new promotion policy in October, and it has now been approved by the relevant committees of Governing Council.

Part-time appointments policy

This policy is long out of date, and it does not reflect advances in human rights. Working closely with the Appointments Committee Chair, Michael Attridge, Vice-President, Grievances, Terezia Zoric, and the Teaching Stream Committee Chair, Kass Banning, I will lead on the negotiation for improvements to this policy. UTFA would like to see a policy

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that allows for tenure and continuing status for those who can work only part-time. Currently, most of the approximately 200 faculty represented by UTFA who are part-time are in the teaching stream.

See Part G, Faculty and Administrative Staff in U of T's Fact & Figures (2015) for a breakdown of numbers in the various categories of instructors and librarians at U of T: http://www.utfa.org/nl1603.

Pension reform

UTFA continues to work actively on pension reform, which has been driven in part by the high levels of debt in our current pension plan. I am grateful to Paul Downes for his continued leadership on this front. UTFA is monitoring OCU-FA's model, which would feature multiple university employers and a governance structure that would include representation from CUPE, Steelworkers, and faculty associations as well as university administrations. UTFA has made no commitments to any one plan model, and we will explore all options. Our goal is to protect our defined benefits pension plan.

In the new year, UTFA will work through its various committees, including the Salary, Benefits, Pensions and Workload Committee and the Membership Committee, to launch an education campaign on pensions. Look for notices of a pension town hall, pension FAQs, and focus groups on pensions.

In my presidential campaign I emphasized the importance of our pension plan. I am particularly concerned about a) the governance structure of any proposed model, especially in a jointly sponsored plan, in which risk would be shared, and b) the robustness of the plan against future obligations. Pension literacy is of the utmost importance, and I am pleased to see that colleagues on the Executive Committee and UTFA Council are committed to educating members about pensions.

International reach

Last summer, shortly after taking office, I urged UTFA's Executive Committee to embrace what I referred to as a more international reach in the issues we pursue. I was prompted to move in this direction as a result, in part, of the imprisonment of Homa Hoodfar in Iran. Professor Hoodfar is a retired academic from Concordia University. Her imprisonment resonated with UTFA's longstanding commitment to academic freedom, gender equity, and human rights. Along with other faculty associations in Canada, UTFA responded to the Concordia Faculty Association's appeal for funds in support of a campaign to secure Professor Hoodfar's release. UTFA was just about to embark on its own initiatives for Professor Hoodfar, including a speakers event on the U of T campus, when she was freed. I am working with Arsalan Kahnemuyipour, Jennifer Jenkins, and Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi on an early February event that will include Professors Homa Hoodfar and Payam Akhavan (McGill), a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague. UTFA will sponsor the part of the program on academic freedom. Details of date, time, and venue will be announced as soon as they are confirmed.

Communication

- UTFA will solicit proposals from design firms for the redesign of our website. The goals will be improved communication with members, more intuitive organization of information, and a stronger graphic presence that conveys the mandate UTFA carries as one of the country's largest faculty associations.
- We will use a professional survey firm for all surveys we conduct this year, including the salary, benefits, pensions and workload survey, the part-time appointments survey, and the librarians' survey.
- UTFA will carry out communication campaigns in both digital and print formats for all its activities, including any salaries, pensions, or policy negotiations, speakers series, Association grievances, and participation in the Annual General Meeting.

Salary and gender

Early in the new year I will seek the support of UTFA Council for an initiative for redressing U of T's gender salary gap. The data we have gathered so far are compelling. Other universities such as Waterloo, McMaster, and Simon Fraser have undertaken successful gender gap salary reviews in recent years. You can read about them here:

- Academic women at UWaterloo get salary boost after study shows gender wage gap (OCUFA): http://www.utfa.org/nl1604
- University of Waterloo boosts female faculty pay after wage gap uncovered (Globe and Mail): http://www.utfa.org/nl1605
- An Analysis of Gender Equity in MUFA Faculty Salaries (McMaster University): http://www.utfa.org/nl1606
- Gender Disparity in Faculty Salaries at Simon Fraser University (SFUFA): http://www.utfa.org/nl1607

The ad hoc steering committee for this initiative comprises the following members of UTFA Council: Lisa Austin, Kathy Bickmore, Claude Evans, Roy Gillis, Azita Hojatollah Taleghani, Linda Kohn, Ken MacDonald, Cynthia Messenger (chair), Katharine Rankin, Kathleen Scheaffer, Vicki Skelton, Judith Taylor, and Terezia Zoric.

Blog

I am introducing a President's blog, which will appear every Friday and will feature a news update, an excerpt from policy, a link to a useful site or article, or a few ideas that might interest our members. Here's the first one. It offers a link to a very good history of achievements in salaries/benefits/pensions bargaining at UTFA from 1977 to 2005: http://www.utfa.org/ nl1608.

To conclude, I would like to thank all of the UTFA staff for their skill and support during my transition to the presidency.

—Cynthia Messenger, President

Salary, Benefits, Pensions and Workload

On November 25, we submitted a notice of intent to bargain to the University administration. To remind you, in the last round of negotiations, your bargaining team worked hard to secure several gains in salaries, benefits, and workload policy, including the following:

- Salary increases to match inflation, despite the Ontario government's attempts to keep salaries to a 0% increase
- Increased PTR for all streams
- Increased minimum salaries for librarians
- Improved vision care and complementary health benefits, plus expanded coverage to include dietitians, osteopathy, occupational therapy, and acupuncture
- Increased Professional Expense Reimbursement Allowance (PERA) for all streams
- Tuition waiver for Ph.D. studies
- Increase in pay while on Research and Study Leave to 87.5% of normal salary

Preparations are in the works for the next round of negotiations, and the following bargaining team was approved at the December 12 meeting of UTFA Council:

- Linda Kohn, Vice-President, University and External Affairs; UTM Biology
- Ken MacDonald, Vice-President, SBPW; UTSC -Human Geography
- Cynthia Messenger, President; Innis College

- Writing and Rhetoric Program
- Katharine Rankin, UTFA Council representative, Psychology, Geography; Department of Geography
- Kathleen Scheaffer, Chair, Librarians Committee; Librarian, Faculty of Information Studies
- Kent Weaver, Chair, Retired Members Committee; Retired Member
- Terezia Zoric, Vice-President, Grievances; OISE/ UT - Department of Sociology & Equity Studies in Education

Please watch for the bargaining survey, which will appear in your inboxes early in the new year. We appreciate the effort you put into completing it and sharing your views on issues that are important to you and to the university at large. They are critical in the process of shaping bargaining priorities and positions.

As you look at the survey please also take the time to think about issues that are important to your colleagues. One of the core policy issues we will address in this round is the Policies for Librarians. We will be holding special consultation sessions for librarians as we move forward but it would be helpful if we all familiarized ourselves with the issues that librarians confront as they pursue their careers at the University. As an organization, we are librarians, full-time faculty in the teaching stream and tenure stream, part-time faculty, and contract faculty. We strengthen each other when we act for each other.

-Ken MacDonald, Vice-President

Grievances

UTFA, along with the Grievance portfolio, strongly supports the development of a comprehensive policy and program to combat sexual violence at the University of Toronto.

Throughout the summer and early fall term, UTFA's Sexual Violence Prevention Committee (consisting of President Cynthia Messenger, Equity Committee Chair Roy Gillis, UTFA in-house counsel Helen Nowak, and myself as chair) developed an extensive response to the University administration's draft Policy on Sexual Violence. Working on a compressed timeline, we solicited extensive feedback from faculty and librarians on UTFA's Grievance Committee, UTFA Council,

and the general membership; met with numerous subject-matter experts; and worked closely with Emma Phillips and other Goldblatt Partners lawyers to ask questions, raise concerns, and suggest improvements to the policy. I am grateful for the thoughtful comments and suggestions from all who participated in this important project, the diligent efforts of our committee, and the wise counsel of our lawyers.

As we analyzed the Administration's draft and synthesized feedback, our committee concluded that there was much UTFA could commend in the draft policy, including: that themes covered in the expert panel's recommendations were generally well covered; its wide applicability to a range of potential complainants; the distinction between reporting and disclosure; the expressed commitment to ensure consistency and equal, confidential, services and supports via a centralized system and policy; and the mostly successful efforts to use clear language.

UTFA also flagged major concerns. We gave the Administration detailed comments and suggested revisions designed to strengthen the draft policy by, among other things: enhancing the clarity of the policy by more clearly defining the scope of its application, as well as key terms; ensuring adequate training for individuals who may receive disclosures of sexual violence on how to appropriately support complainants, as well as their obligations; clarifying and strengthening due process protections, including where interim measures are imposed while an investigation is ongoing; ensuring that those appointed to investigate allegations of sexual violence are competent to carry out this responsibility and that they do so in a fair, impartial, and timely way; and affirming the principle of academic

The Administration's revised policy only partially addressed some of the issues we raised. UTFA has therefore reserved the right to grieve that the Sexual Violence Policy violates the MoA. Further, since the Sexual Violence Policy was not subject to negotiations with UTFA, despite the fact that it contains significant terms and conditions of employment that are subject to the facilitation/fact-finding process, UTFA also reserves the right to bargain revisions to the Policy through Article 6 of the MoA. The Administration has indicated an intention to develop a Companion Guide for the Policy, and we maintain that, to the extent that the Guide adds to or modifies the Policy, it is also subject to the facilitation/ fact-finding process, and therefore subject to negotiation with UTFA.

-Terezia Zoric, Vice-President

University and External Affairs

It's been a busy few months. I organized a September meeting at UTFA of the University of Toronto Employee Associations and Unions (UTEAU). Groups attending included USW Local 1998; CUPE Locals 1230, 3902, 3907, and 2484; OPSEU, IBEW, IUPAT, UNITE HERE 75, and APUS. Contracting out, upcoming bargaining, and pensions dominated the agenda. With USW 1998, I helped to organize a second UTEAU meeting at USW on December 7. In addition to the issues above, the Next Generation Committee of USW 1998 proposed new actions in support of renewable energy and of LEAP objectives at U of T. Childcare at St. George, labour conditions and fare wages for student workers, and Queen's Park's university funding formula were all on the agenda. Also, I attended meetings of both the OCUFA Board of Directors and the CAUT Council and participated in

CAUT's Parliament Hill Day, meeting with Adam Vaughan, M.P., Spadina–Fort York. UTFA's contribution to the CAUT Academic Freedom Fund was well appreciated and joined by at least one other large contribution.

Kudos to Terezia Zoric, VP Grievances, and the Grievance Committee on the UTFA response to the University's proposed Sexual Violence Policy. I continue to work with our President and the Membership Committee on looking outward to international issues and to that end toward bringing speakers to events for our members. We invite suggestions for a C.B. Macpherson lecturer on international or other topics.

—Linda Kohn, Vice-President

Treasurer

The financial status of the association is exceptionally strong. The audited financial statements show a surplus of \$449,382 for the year ended June 30, 2016, despite an investment loss of \$17,637. The average surplus over the last 10 years has been in excess of \$230,000, growing the association's assets from about \$2,000,000 to over \$4,300,000 during the same period. To put these numbers in perspective, average dues per non-retired member are close to \$1,000, but only about \$850 were needed on average over the last several years.

The year ahead looks at least as strong. Excluding investment returns, the 2016-17 budget approved by Council forecasts a \$358,000 surplus, and investment returns are in excess of \$95,000 in the first quarter. The longer term perspective also looks positive as the steady growth in membership—hence dues income—experienced over the last 10 years is expected to continue.

-Ettore Damiano, Treasurer

Appointments Committee

As many of you may know, the expansion of precarious academic labour is an urgent and top priority for faculty associations in the province. For the second year in a row, the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) has recognized precarity as a top priority. Last year, UTFA joined with other university partners to make representation to the Ontario Ministry of Labour's "Changing Workplaces Review".

This year, our focus is improvements to the part-time policy. The plan is to send out shortly a brief survey to part-time members inviting them to indicate areas of concern regarding

their terms and conditions of employment. This will be followed by small, UTFA-led focus groups on all three campuses to hear from the membership directly. The data gathered will then inform the policy revisions that UTFA will table. As the president has noted, she will lead on this negotiation, working closely with Vice-President, Grievances, Terezia Zoric, Teaching Stream Committee Chair Kass Banning, and myself. UTFA will be aiming for a policy that allows for tenure and continuing status for those who can work only part-time.

-Michael Attridge, Chair

Equity Committee

As an associate professor in the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development at OISE, I have had a longtime interest in equity and diversity issues. This is apparent in my research, teaching, and activism, on such topics as sexual orientation and gender identity, violence against women, HIV prevention, bullying in schools and the psychological impacts of hate crimes, and prejudice and discrimination. I have been on UTFA Council since 2005, and was elected to the UTFA Executive this past May.

I think the phrase "diversity, equity, and inclusiveness" best characterizes the vision I have for the Equity Committee. I am excited to bring to it my skills and enthusiasm, and I hope

to meet many of you through the various events UTFA is planning. This past summer has been a busy one for the Equity portfolio, and I have been involved, along with other UTFA Executive members, in the consultation process for the new sexual violence policy at the University of Toronto, in long term disability consultations, and in the UTFA statement on protecting the rights of trans members of our community. I look forward to sharing in our next newsletter more of the new and exciting initiatives that your Equity Committee is working on for all UTFA members.

-Roy Gillis, Chair

Librarians Committee

We have had our first three meetings, with eager new members, seasoned previous members, and representation from the three campuses. Ideas bubbled over and all were excited to get the community connection ball rolling. In forthcoming communications, we will be relaying the years of community input that was distilled and used as the guiding principles for the continuing work of the ACALP group. We want to know how the community rates the importance of these principles and will soon be circulating a short survey.

Please visit the Librarians Committee page on the UTFA website (http://www.utfa.org/nl1609) to see who serves on this committee. We are all able to answer any questions or refer you to someone who can. Additionally, we welcome your comments, questions, or suggestions regarding the current Policies for Librarians (http://www.utfa.org/nl1610) via the anonymous commentary/query page: http://www.utfa.org/nl1611. This information will help us integrate your thoughts. If you would like a response, please provide your name and email address in the boxes provided. If you would like to remain anonymous, this form supports that option too. Looking forward to a collegial, inclusive and transparent year.

- Kathleen Scheaffer, Chair

Membership Committee

Get involved with UTFA in 2017!

In the coming year we are renewing our outreach to UTFA members. We will be sponsoring public talks, as well as smaller focus groups targeted to three policy areas: part-time faculty appointments, modernized policies for librarians, and possible pension reform.

Speakers series

UTFA's speakers series "Whose University Is It?" begins with two events in the winter term. The first will address pressures for the monetization of research, with speakers on copyright issues, the drive toward patents for scientific discoveries, and the question of ownership of teaching materials on university electronic platforms. For the second event we are considering a panel on governance, focussing on the findings in the forthcoming report from OCUFA on best practices across the university sector in Ontario.

In early February UTFA is hosting a panel on the vital issue of academic freedom featuring Professor Homa Hoodfar of Concordia University, who was recently released from imprisonment in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Payam Akhavan, an international lawyer and professor at McGill.

These are collegial and social events as well as academic discussions. Come, and bring your colleagues, too!

Focus groups

A new round of bargaining is coming up and we are moving

ahead with focus groups on pressing issues, including those around part-time faculty and the need for modernized librarian policies.

The policy governing terms and conditions of employment for librarians has not been changed significantly since 1978. We are seeking to eliminate discrepancies between the treatment of librarians and faculty. Please pay attention to this and talk to librarians about their current policies. It's eye-opening!

Another issue to tackle is precarious labour in the university. We will begin in this round by addressing serious inequities in the policy governing part-time faculty.

As well, much is happening on the pensions front. In January we hope to start a series of informal discussions in departments and units to help you become more familiar with the main issues. A town hall on pensions will build on the ongoing discussions and set out the emerging options for reform. It is vital for you to become engaged in this process. It concerns a potentially significant change to the U of T pension plan, and all members need to be aware of developments and their implications.

If you and your colleagues wish to set up a focus group in your department on any of these issues, contact me at jl.jenkins@ utoronto.ca.

—Jennifer Jenkins, Chair

Retired Members Committee

November 24 Event

David Ticoll gave an intriguing presentation about the future of autonomous vehicles suggesting, among other things, that they would be i) all electric (think of the environmental impact), ii) able to communicate with other AVs, as well as with pedestrians and cyclists (think V2X), and iii) an integral part of transportation services (think no longer a private possession). There are implications for seniors, people with mobility issues, and those who will never acquire a driver's licence. The presentation was followed by a lively Q&A session.

University of Toronto Pension Plan

You will have seen references elsewhere to a town hall to discuss the future of the University of Toronto pension plan. Those of you already drawing on a pension plan, U of T's or otherwise, are encouraged to attend and share your experiences and insights.

—Kent Weaver, Chair

Teaching Stream Committee

The Teaching Stream Committee convened on November 9 and mapped objectives going forward. Members voiced concern about the status of the process for advancement to full professor. This new promotion policy has been approved by the relevant committees of Governing Council. Next term, the Teaching Stream Committee plans to develop suggestions for what might be included in divisional guidelines for the promotion to full professor. UTFA's suggestions will be posted on the UTFA website for feedback.

In addition to the yearly spring workshop on promotion to continuing status in the teaching stream, a session will be specifically designed for members considering going up for promotion to full professor. UTFA has not yet learned when the first round of promotions to full professor, teaching stream will begin.

To facilitate best practices in the interim review (after the completion of year three) for full-time teaching stream faculty, UTFA's Teaching Stream Committee will study the language and procedures outlined in the PPAA with the aim of clarifying and interpreting requirements. We plan to produce a document that we hope will assist members and their committees to interpret extant policy and guidelines.

In recognition of the significance of the newly created rank of full professor in the teaching stream, and to celebrate the successful SJAC negotiations, which in no small measure helped improve and acknowledge the status of teaching stream faculty, a social is planned for Thursday, February 2, at Hart House's Gallery Grill, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please come out to applaud these landmark achievements and help plan future advances. RSVP to faculty@utfa.org.

—Kass Banning, Chair

UTFA NEWS

AGM 2017 Announced

UTFA's Annual General Meeting will be held on April 6, 2017, from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Innis College Town Hall. Please attend and bring your colleagues.

OHRC Q&A on Gender Expression

In view of recent discussions and debates on campus about gender identity and expression, you may be interested in this recent Q and A from the Ontario Human Rights Commission, setting out its views on gender identity and pronouns.

Remembering Ursula Franklin

Professor Emerita Ursula Franklin died on July 22, 2016. Ursula was a distinguished member of the U of T community, and UTFA was honoured by her firm support. She gave an address titled "The University as a Habitat – Trying to Impart Information and Understanding" at our Annual General Meeting in 2010. UTFA was mentioned in the Principal's address, which opened the moving memorial on September 29, 2016, at the Toronto school named for Ursula. See U of T's tribute to Ursula here: http://www.utfa.org/nl1613.

UTFA Backs CAUT Academic Freedom Fund

At the November meeting of the CAUT Council UTFA presented a donation of \$25,000 to CAUT's Academic Freedom Fund.

Workload Adjudicator Chosen

UTFA and the University administration have reached agreement on a Workload Adjudicator: Professor Rafael Gomez. Prof. Gomez will serve from January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2018.

UTFA Approves Motion to Use Statement of Acknowledgement of Traditional Land

At the November meeting of UTFA Council, a motion by the Equity Committee Chair, J. Roy Gillis, to read a statement of acknowledgement of traditional land at UTFA Council meetings, UTFA committee meetings, and UTFA public events was approved. Consistent with the guidelines of the CAUT Guide to Acknowledging Traditional Territory, the acknowledgement of territory shows recognition and respect for First Nations Peoples, and is "only the beginning of cultivating strong relationships with the First Peoples of Canada." The statement was developed in consultation with First Nations House and its Elders Circle, some scholars in the field, and senior University of Toronto officials, and approved for use at the University of Toronto by the Ceremonials Committee of the Governing Council on June 16, 2016. It reads as follows:

I (we) wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

UTFA and Senior College

Two members of UTFA's Executive Committee sit on the board of Senior College (http://www.utfa.org/nl1612): Kent Weaver and Cynthia Messenger. Senior College sponsors talks, workshops, and meetings each year, including one impressive series that features eleven invited speakers (on a variety of topics) in each academic term.



Richard Freishtat Returns to the University of Toronto

UTFA is once again organizing events related to student evaluation of teaching. Last year we hosted a highly praised talk delivered by Richard Freishtat, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of California, Berkeley. This year Richard Freishtat will return to offer a workshop and a lecture.

—Claude Evans

Workshop for UTFA members Monday April 3, 3 to 7 pm

Strengths-Based Pedagogy (or How to Teach from your Strengths)

In this workshop, faculty members are prompted to reframe the ways in which they choose their pedagogical tools. Instead of trying to realize a false conception of teaching excellence, or being mired in the "traditional mode of the discipline," faculty members identify their own natural teaching strengths (secret: everyone has them), and learn how to infuse them into their specific courses. Teaching becomes more engaging for the faculty member and learning more engaging for students.

More information: http://www.utfa.org/nl1614.

Space is limited, so RSVP soon to faculty@utfa.org.

Public Lecture Tuesday April 4, 2017, 6 to 7 pm

How SETs Negatively Impact Advances in Learning and Pedagogy

The impetus behind this topic is the space where educational research, discipline-based education research, and advances in understanding how pedagogy and learning happen best converge with student experience and expectations. This lecture will explore the growing tension between advances in teaching and learning, how these do not align with student experience and expectations, and how SETs essentially punish faculty for advancing and innovating teaching. The over-reliance on SETs as a measure of evaluation serves to directly inhibit better and improved teaching practice and reinforce outdated modes that favour a learned approach to "doing school," versus a learned approach to learning.

More information: http://www.utfa.org/nl1615.

Space is limited, so RSVP soon to faculty@utfa.org.