

The Update

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IN THIS ISSUE

SUBMISSIONS TO THE UPDATE

Notices and Upcoming Events

Winter Social Dates:

OCFA Service Acknowledgement

Bargaining Chair's Report

Bob Groves

[http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Assets/Departments+\(Administration\)/Faculty+Association/2014-19+OCFA+Collective+Agreement.pdf?method=1](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Assets/Departments+(Administration)/Faculty+Association/2014-19+OCFA+Collective+Agreement.pdf?method=1)

Get to Know—Rosalind Warner (Arts Rep)

Interview and Photo by Shelley Johnson

What brought you to your position of Arts Rep on the OCFA Council?
I am an active and engaged member of many OC committees, including Chair of CRPC-AFP, Co-Chair of the Internationalization Task Force, and former Chair of the Political Science Department for the last three years. I have been a Fellow for the Institute for Learning and Teaching, and a member of several other ad-hoc groups and projects, including the Disruptors' group, the AFP Research Hub, the Sustainability Committee, and the IT Steering Committee. I am a member of the Steering Committee for the local Chapter of the BC Council for International Cooperation, known as the Global Empowerment Coalition of the Central Okanagan [GECCO], and have been involved in events to raise awareness, educate, and activate interest in social and political justice issues in the community, especially among youth. I believe that members of the learning community that is higher education have an obligation, based on our

position of relative strength and privilege; to lead, serve and support the community to the best of our ability. I also really love long meetings.

What's your favourite thing about being on Council?
The long meetings.

What did you do before you came to Okanagan College?
I have been an OC employee for almost a decade, and worked for OUC, as well as several other Universities, on term teaching contracts in the 1990s, up until 2012.

Favourite book or movie and why?
Right now it's all Game of Thrones. I like the 'what-if' stories that take things to their extremes and absurdities.

The most embarrassing thing you ever did as a young adult?
Dressed up as a Buzz for Halloween.

Favourite quote ever?
Procrastination isn't the problem, it's the solution. So procrastinate now, don't put it off. ~Ellen Degeneres

One fact about you that our members

for the meeting, and then we headed over to the legislature to meet with Advanced Ed Minister Melanie Mark, as well as two of her deputies (picture below). Again, I was terribly impressed with the Minister's commitment to education as a force for positive social change, by her interest in social justice issues, particularly Indigenous issues, and also by her intelligence and forthrightness. She provided us with a copy of her ministerial mandate letter, she explained to us the various pressures she is under, and was frank about what she is and is not interested in doing, and very precise about how she prefers to be engaged, which is refreshing. Setting aside the fact that she is only the second Advanced Ed Minister to meet with us in a decade, I remain confident in our ability to work productively with her in ways that have simply not been possible before.

This event was followed by a wine and cheese reception we organized, which was attended by more than half of the BC NDP MLAs, and the vast majority of cabinet (including our Minister and her staff), and gave us the opportunity to build relationships with, and make our case directly to, decision makers in government. Note: all MLAs were invited.

With several members of the Non Regular Faculty Committee, FPSE President George Davison, and 1st VP Lesley Molnar, I attended a CAUT conference on Precarious Academic Work in Toronto (see photo below)

FPSE PC meeting with Minister Melanie Mark, BC Legislature.

CAUT conference on Precarious Academic Work.

Your Rights and Responsibilities Regarding Workplace Health and Safety

Jasmine Korok, Workplace Health, Safety, and Environment Rep

As an employee in British Columbia, you are bound by certain health and safety regulations such as the BC Workers Compensation Act (WCA) and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation ("the Regs"). The first legislation in BC regarding workers' compensation was passed in 1885, and required the worker to sue the employer in order to get compensation for workplace accidents. The WCA was passed in 1974 and is administered by the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB, or WorkSafeBC). The Regs came into effect in 1998 for the purpose of promoting occupational health and safety (OH&S) and protecting persons at a workplace from work-related health and safety risks.¹

Part 3 of the WCA is Occupational Health and Safety. It outlines the rights and responsibilities of workers, supervisors, and the employer (sections 115-117).²

There are 4 basic health and safety rights every worker in BC has:^{1,2}

1. Right to know

The employer must notify you of any hazards in the workplace that they know of or should know of. They must provide the training, supervision, and equipment that you need to work safely. They must ensure you are made aware of your OH&S rights and duties.

2. Right to participate

You have a right to be consulted about OH&S issues. You may participate in workplace health and safety through the Joint Occupational Health and Safety (JOHS) Committee. You have a right to report OH&S concerns to your supervisor and to the JOHS Committee.

3. Right to refuse unsafe work

You *must* refuse work you reasonably believe may endanger yourself or others. This includes when the work itself is unsafe, and also when the training and supervision is inadequate to work safely.

4. Right to be free from reprisal

You cannot be fired or disciplined for refusing unsafe work, contacting the WCB, or exercising any of your other workplace rights.

Alongside your rights are your responsibilities,² which are:

- To report any workplace health and safety hazards or violations you are aware of
- To use and wear appropriate safety equipment, devices, and clothing

To report the absence or defectiveness of any protective equipment, device, or clothing that would likely endanger yourself or others

To follow safe working procedures

To avoid engaging in conduct that may endanger yourself or others

To ensure your ability to work in a healthy and safe manner is not impaired by alcohol, drugs, or other causes

To refuse to perform unsafe work

To cooperate with the JOHS Committee (for example, during workplace inspections or investigations)

Your first point of contact in reporting any hazards, violations, and refusing unsafe work is typically your supervisor. You can always contact a member of the JOHS committee (such as myself) to raise your concerns or for advice.

References:

1. Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. (3.12, 3.13)

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/law-policy/occupational-health-safety/searchable-ohs-regulation/ohs-regulation>

2. Workers Compensation Act. (Sections 115-117, 128, 130, 150-151)

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96492_00

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[The official, printed version of the WCA may be obtained from Crown Publications]



Chief Steward's Report

Rod Watkins

Tony Williams' Memorial/OCFA
Bursary Recipients

