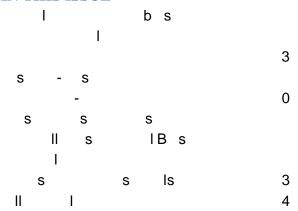
Issue 1 2014/2015

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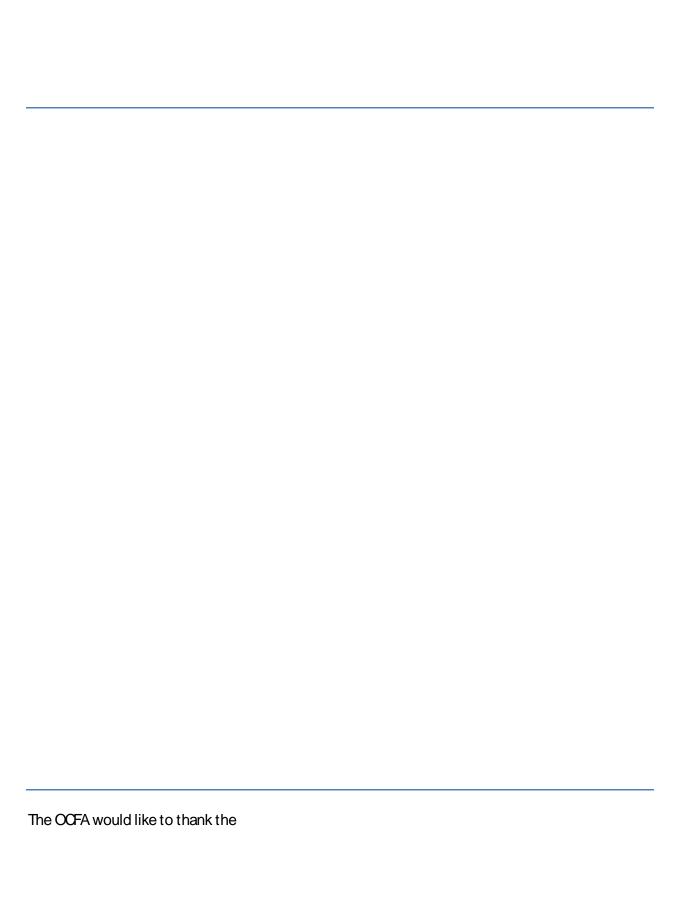


MEETING DATES

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Hopefully you were able to attend one of the three socials held in Kelowna, Penticton, and Vernon. The final social for the Fall semester is in Salmon Arm. Come out and enjoy food and drinks with colleagues.

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Tim Walters

THE UPDATE

1:

- Along with many members of the Council and the Executive, I was fortunate to be able to attend campus socials in Kelowna, Vernon, and Penticton to meet new OOFA members and reconnect with returning faculty. Many thanks to everyone who came out, and particularly to our local community representatives Alan Ilicic (Pentiction), Bob Groves (Kelowna), and Richard Christie (Vernon) for arranging such good nights for us all.
- Have developed work plans for the 2014-2015 year with the Executive and Council at our first meetings of the year, and I am convinced that these groups (both of which have a lot of new faces) are going to represent you very well in the year ahead. We currently have a few vacancies on Council, so if you are interested in being either our Health representative or

is involved.

- Rewrote and updated the OCFA handbook, which access here: http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Campus and Community/employees/ocfa.html
- Wrote solidarity letters to BCTF locals up and down the valley, walked with teachers in my community and helped provide faculty elsewhere with OCFA materials to support their solidarity outreach with the striking teachers, made a motion (which passed unanimously) to donate \$100,000 to the BCTF Hardship fund.

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 Participated in a series of productive meetings with OC President Jm Hamilton and VP Academic Andrew Hay about (amongst other things) the Management Evaluation Program the OCFA interested on working on these issues with us, and hope to be able to provide information about concrete developments in forthcoming issues of *The Update*.

- Attended the very productive but considerably less-fun-than-it-

Association. We advocate on behalf of around 300 faculty who work and teach at Okanagan College (OC). The college was established in the late 1960s as a community college. In the early 1990s its mandate was expanded to allow third and fourth year programs leading to an undergraduate degree. We became known then as Okanagan University College, a name and mandate that stayed in place until 2004 when we split into two separate institutions, UBC Okanagan and Okanagan College.

Like other colleges, OChas

intensive economy. If we make postsecondary education more difficult to access because of under-funding, BCputs itself at risk of not creating the skills, knowledge and learning opportunities it needs to succeed economically.

At a more fundamental level, however, the

share of the costs of post-secondary education raises the important question of just how public public post-secondary education is today. I know from colleagues at Thompson Rivers University, for example, that the provincial operating grant there accounts for less than 50 percent of total

post-secondary education becomes that blurry, the issues of access and affordability become that much more urgent. The 2015 budget has to begin addressing this serious

post-secondary education.

Before I detail the recommendations that we want the Committee to consider I want to focus a few closing remarks on some immediate system issues that many postsecondary institutions are facing. Although our college does not have a large English-as-a-Second Language training program, we benefit from the programs provided by those institutions that do. Successful ESL graduates move into our institution to pursue greater learning and career opportunities. The loss of provincially funded ESL will have an impact on those students and, therefore, the broader system. The cuts to ESL make no sense and the 2015 budget needs to restore the \$22 million that will be lost.

secondary education. The announcement was made several months ago and we have

yet to see much in the way of details on what re-engineering will look like.

In our view, the proposal rests on some worrisome concepts. The first is the move to re-direct 25% of the provincial operating grant into high demand career programs. Provincial operating grants are already deficient, so to talk about changes to the grant will certainly create additional problems. Then there is the concept of what gets counted in terms of a high demand career. Engineers, geologists, actuaries, accountants, health care technicians, these would all fall into the category of high demand careers, but how a student arrives at that credential can cover many different paths. Will the Ministry fund undergraduate liberal arts programs that a student takes on route to one of those credentials? The

becoming increasingly reliant on contingent or term faculty. A recent CBC documentary highlighted the problems that contingent faculty face, and the exploitation of this group is rapidly becoming *the* central problem facing my profession and the post-secondary

forced to work at multiple jobs to try and cobble together a full year of work, receive less pay for teaching the same courses, are unpaid for large sections of the year, receive diminished benefits, and so forth, despite typically having comparable qualifications and experience to continuing employees. Unless this government makes a greater commitment to funding post-secondary, term employees will soon teach the majority of the

courses offered at Okanagan College, as they already do elsewhere. The long term impact of this recent shift not only puts those faculty

members. We also learned that a number of staff also have wide access to some Moodle sites. We grieved that this is a violation of our and our students expectation of privacy when using school IT resources. The arbitration for this grievance is scheduled for the end of October. A related grievance, FAC13/11 grieved the updated IT policy issued by the College last summer. In this case, we grieved the assertion in the IT policy that any materials stored or transmitted through the schools servers become their property since that is a black letter violation of our copyright language. The College quickly amended the policy to respect our copyright, but as we investigated, we discovered other elements of the policy that are questionable. Again, one issue is privacy. The policy stated that no one has an expectation of privacy while using school equipment and IT

concerns we have with t have not had an official response, but I have been assured I will soon have one.

2. s: Amongst the other effects of the Infosilem rollout this last few months, has been a growth in the number of accommodation requests for scheduling changes. Because of this increase, at the FPSE CARC meeting, we spent part of a day discussing accommodations in particular, what are the employers and employees responsibilities. Anyone who i



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