

The Update



Issue 3 2016/2017

March 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|----|
| Status of Women Report..... | 2 |
| Get to Know | 3 |
| Precarious Academic Labour Conference | 4 |
| HRIS Report | 6 |
| Submission to the Editor | 7 |
| Upcoming Events | 8 |
| Council and CARC members..... | 10 |

SUBMISSIONS TO THE UPDATE

The Update welcomes letters to the editor, upcoming event notices, or other submissions. I encourage you to write in response to what you read in the newsletter or about other Faculty Association matters. Letters to the *Update* do not represent the opinions of the editor nor the OCFA Executive or Council. Please email submissions to the Update editor Amy Cohen at acohen@okanagan.bc.ca. The preferred format is MS-Word.

COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

OCFA Executive meetings are generally held once every two weeks. OCFA Council meetings are generally held once per month. If you would like to bring forward a particular item for consideration please contact one of your OCFA Council or Exec members (see last page of this newsletter for the list of your representatives).

DELIVERY OF THE UPDATE

The *Update* is now distributed electronically as a PDF file by e-mail as well as being available on the OCFA webpage at: http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Campus_and_Community/employees/ocfa/update.html

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

RULE OUT RACISM WEEK

March 20th-24th

RIPPLES FOR STANDING ROCK TEACH-IN

Kelowna Campus Lecture Theatre

March 22nd, 7:00-9:00 pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Kelowna Campus Cafeteria

Monday, May 1st, 5:30 pm

FREE FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

Film: Hannah Arendt

May 4th, 7:00 pm, Room B112, Kelowna campus

PRECARIOUS ACADEMIC WORKERS CONFERENCE

May 5th-7th, Kelowna Campus

Status of Women Representative's Report

Ann Marie McKinnon

Okanagan College graduate Tina Miller (Nisga'a Nation) and Mary Song (Carrier Nation) joined together to organize Kelowna's 6th Annual Women's Memorial Vigil to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in Canada. The event was held at the Kelowna Courthouse on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. The 6th Annual Women's Memorial Vigil included local leaders, organizers, and community teachers.

This year, the OCFA Status of Women Committee helped out with this annual event. It is held on Valentine's Day each year to honour the memory of Indigenous women, including trans and two-spirit women, who have died as a result of physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual violence.



Photos taken by: Sheila Martial Ridden Roots Practitioner /Roots Celebration Coordinator, Metis Community Services Society of BC - Kelowna.

Get to Know – Steve Weber



Get To Know is a series of interviews of OCFA Executive and Council with accompanying photographs. Now we are going to get the inside scoop on what Exec and Council members are really like!! Interviews conducted and photographs taken by Shelley Johnson, the Business Faculty Liaison Council member.

What brought you to your current position of Non-Continuing Faculty Representative on the OCFA Council?

SW: I was approached by members of the Salmon Arm faculty to run for the Salmon Arm campus representative. When a vacancy came up for the Non-Continuing Faculty position, I was approached by the President and 1st Vice President to run for it.

What's your favourite thing about being on Council?

SW: The amazing people that I work with. I really love that we debate, there are very diverse viewpoints, and that there is respect in the room, even though we may disagree.

What did you do before you came to Okanagan College?

SW: I taught in the US for six years in the English department at the State University of New York at Albany.

Favourite book or movie and why?

SW: As an English professor it is almost impossible for me to choose just one. But for me, the book would be *Gravity's Rainbow*, by Thomas Pynchon and the movie would be *The Thin Red Line* by Terrence Malick

The most embarrassing thing you ever did as a young adult?

In general I find that the character and behaviour I exhibited as a teenager to be very embarrassing. Not at all professorial in my discussions and beliefs.

Favourite quote ever?

SW: It is from Albert Camus's *The Plague*. "Thus each of us had to be content to live only for the day, under the vast indifference of the sky." But again, just a note that is very hard to have just one favourite!!

One fact about you that our members might be surprised to know?

SW: I love playing soccer. I play on a College soccer team with a bunch of students. They don't seem to mind playing with a few old fogies.

Precarious Academic Labour Conference



From **May 5th-7th**, Okanagan College Faculty Association and Okanagan College will be hosting the conference *Precarious Academic Labour in the Age of Neoliberalism*.

This conference is funded through FPSE's Open the Doors Campaign and is being organized by a committee of OCFA faculty members including Steve Weber, Melissa Munn, Priscillia Lefebvre, Tim Walters and Rod Watkins. Conference registration is free, and we hope many of you can attend.

The keynote address will be given by Dr. Jamie Brownlee of Carleton University, author of *Academia, Inc.: How Corporatization is Transforming Canadian Universities*.

The following conference description was written by Steve Weber.

The rise of contingent labour in all industries as a consequence of neoliberal policy priorities coincides with the fact that, for decades, the number of courses that are taught by contingent faculty at colleges and universities has increased dramatically. This ongoing shift constitutes an existential challenge to our sector and profession, and is in complicated ways related to other critical

issues in our sector: dwindling government support, increasing tuition, the desire to subordinate education to market demands, the role of faculty unions in shaping the profession, and so forth.

Research on the state of higher education is largely in agreement that after decades of decline, higher education is now firmly embedded in a profound crisis. The source of this crisis is commonly identified as "corporatization," "managerialism," "instrumentalism," or "neoliberal economics." While discussing this crisis, educators and theorists identify the increasing reliance on precarious academic labour as only one symptom among many in this crisis of higher education. This conference is an attempt to re-focus this dissection of higher education. That is, rather than seeing the increase of sessional/adjunct professors as one symptom among many, we propose an investigation that sees the increasing reliance on precarious academic labour as fundamentally central to the current crisis in higher education, relating all other symptoms to this one of precarious labour.

Aside from obvious funding pressures, one of the major reasons for these changes is the fact that many people are unaware of the

current situation in higher education and the dangers it poses. For this reason, this conference's pursuit and dissemination of knowledge in this area is essential to resisting the increased reliance upon, and exploitation of, precarious academic labour. The implications of such a shift are vast, and require investigation. The goals of this conference, then, are to provide the most comprehensive picture of higher education's increasing use of precarious labour in our area to date, and to formulate solutions to this crisis in our sector so that this analysis can provide an academically rigorous basis upon which to argue for systemic change.

Potential questions to be considered:

- In what way does corporatization, neoliberalism, instrumentalism, or managerialism support the increasing reliance on PAL (precarious academic labour), and resist improving work conditions for PAL?
- What is the relationship between pedagogy and PAL? Are there pedagogies that lend themselves to increasing reliance on PAL? Are there pedagogies that are inherently resistant to the increasing reliance on PAL?
- What are some potential solutions to the increasing reliance on PAL, knowing that its increase is due to neoliberal ideology?
- What are the adverse health effects related to PAL?

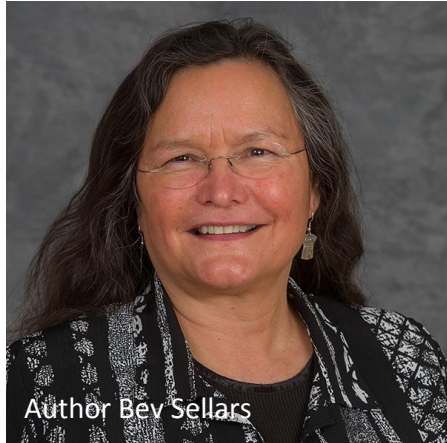
- How has the greater apparatus for evaluating PAL affected the work conditions for, and the increase of, PAL?
- How are rising tuition costs tied to the increasing reliance on PAL?
- How much data on PAL is currently available, and how has this availability affected the increasing reliance on PAL?
- What myths do we have regarding PAL and academia in the 21st Century, and how have these myths affected the increasing reliance on PAL?
- How can we raise awareness about the increasing reliance on PAL? (This question relates to the fact that most students and their parents think that their professors are of the tenure-stream ilk.)
- In what ways are PAL expected to offer free labour in the form of uncompensated service, teaching, and research in order to make up for poor work conditions?

For more information or to register, please email: precariouslabour@gmail.com.

Conference registration is free.

Human Rights and International Solidarity Representative's Report

Norah Bowman



Bev Sellars: FPSE Human Rights Sponsored Speaker

Every year, FPSE's Human Rights and International Solidarity Committee sponsors a speaker to tour our member campuses and speak about a relevant human rights issue. This year we continue the theme of the work and recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, and one of our sponsored speakers is Bev Sellars.

Bev Sellars, former Chief of the Xat'sull First Nation (Soda Creek Band), current chair of FNWARM (First Nations Women Advocating for Responsible Mining), and author of two acclaimed books, came to Okanagan College Monday March 6th.

Sellars spoke at both the Vernon campus and Kelowna campus. In Vernon, she spoke to a class of literature students as well as faculty and staff and had a discussion about the ongoing effects of colonization.

In Kelowna, Sellars spoke in the evening to a packed room of about 60 people. Sellars spoke about colonization and in particular called for all people in Canada to take personal and political responsibility for stewarding our environment. Sellars criticized consumer culture for creating an insatiable appetite for natural resource extraction, and inspired a number of audience members to ask questions.

On Friday March 10th, Capital News journalist Barry Gerding published a two page story about Bev Sellars' visit to the Kelowna campus called "Saving a Culture." Gerding's article included photos and was remarkably thoughtful and detailed- great to see local media covering decolonial cultural events and indigenous culture. You can read the article here:

<http://www.kelownacapnews.com/news/fight-for-first-nations-survival/>

Film and Panel Discussion on Hannah Arendt

On May 4th at 7 pm (room B112, KLO Campus), the HRIS Committee will be screening the 2012 documentary *Hannah Arendt*, a film about Arendt covering the trial of ex-Nazi Adolf Eichmann. Arendt's writing about the trial was controversial. Today her work on human rights and her concept of "the banality of evil" influences discourse about justice, human rights, and genocide. This will be a free event, with a facilitated discussion following the film screening.

Submissions to the Editor

I Survived a Summative Evaluation

By Devin Rubadeau

During my 4th semester of teaching I was told that I would be having my first summative evaluation. Even though I knew the day was coming, I still started the winter term with a certain degree of anxiety. The summative process began early in the semester with a meeting with the Associate Dean. I was walked through the steps of the summative evaluation process, which would include both student and Dean evaluations of my teaching. The meeting with the Associate Dean was a great start to the summative evaluation, but it didn't change the nervousness I felt over having someone watch me teach my classes.

I spent most of the semester going about my business as usual, but not a day went by that I didn't think about when I would be receiving my first Dean's visit. Late in the term, I was confronted with a tough situation in one of my first-year classes. While marking, I found instances of cheating – three students had been sharing completed lab assignments with each other. The next time the class met, I put the students to work on their newest assignment, and asked to speak with each of the three students briefly in the hallway. As I conversed quietly with each student, the Associate Dean walked by, gave me a quizzical look, and sat at one of the empty lab desks. That was the start to my summative evaluation.

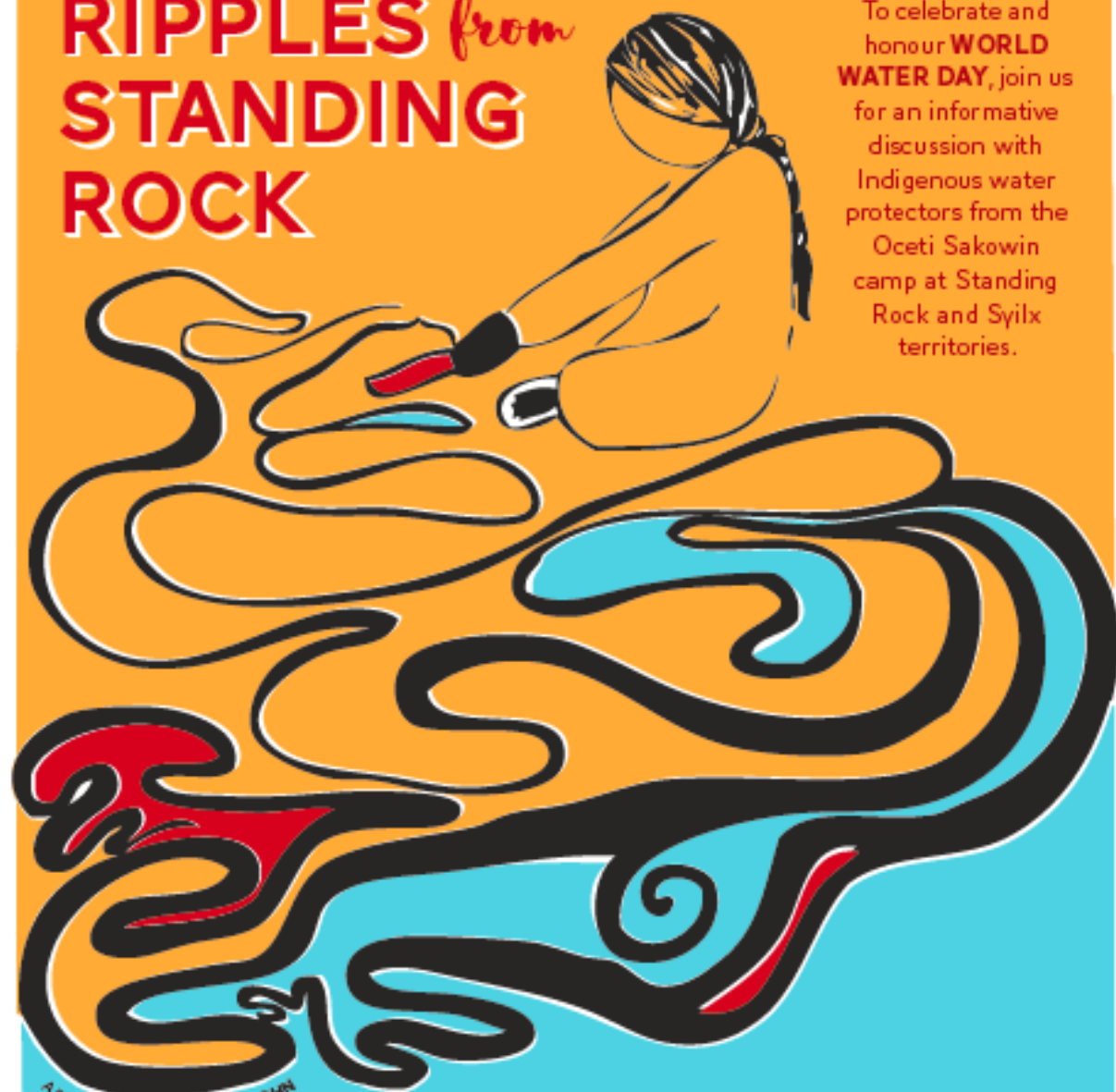
Despite the rather inauspicious start, the other classroom visits went well, and by the time the term ended, the Associate Dean had evaluated me in each of my three classes. A few weeks later I once again met with the Associate Dean, and we carefully went over every aspect of the summative evaluation. We discussed my community and OC volunteer efforts, my professional development commitments, and of course we talked about my teaching evaluations from the students and the Associate Dean. The feedback turned out to be excellent. I was complimented on my strengths, and with my help and agreement, we identified skills that could be improved. The entire meeting was conducted with the kind of kindness and professionalism that I have become accustomed to from my Deans. I received a satisfactory evaluation, but left the meeting feeling much better than “good enough”.

This winter semester I will have my third summative evaluation. I'm already a little nervous but also excited. I'm looking forward to demonstrating that I have taken the recommendations from my previous evaluations, and have further improved my teaching skills. The summative evaluation is not something to be feared, it's an opportunity. I am given time to prepare and teach the best classes I can, and I benefit from the wisdom and experience of educators who care about the students, the department, and me. Let's hope I can remember that when the Dean walks into my class!

A TEACH-IN AND PANEL DISCUSSION ON WATER
PROTECTION AND INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY

RIPPLES *from* STANDING ROCK

To celebrate and
honour **WORLD
WATER DAY**, join us
for an informative
discussion with
Indigenous water
protectors from the
Oceti Sakowin
camp at Standing
Rock and Syilx
territories.



ARTWORK by AMBERLEY JOHN

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 22, 2017**

6-9 pm

**OKANAGAN COLLEGE THEATRE
STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING,
ROOM S104, 1000 K.L.O. ROAD,
KELOWNA**

CONTACT: ruthann.lee@ubc.ca

Okanagan College, UBCO Aboriginal Programs and Services, UBCO Equity and Inclusion Office, Alter Knowledge Discussion Series,
Institute for Community Engaged Research, UBCO Indigenous Studies Association



March 20-24, 2017

A week-long series of events focused on the need for greater literacy and conversation about race and racism within UBC and the greater community.

**For a list of all events, visit:
<http://diversity.ubc.ca/rule-out-racism-ubco/>**

Sponsorship for the week provided by:
Equity & Inclusion Office
International Programs & Services
Community, Culture & Global Studies Unit



Members of OCFA Council and CARC 2016-2017

Executive:

| | | Phone | Email |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| President | Tim Walters | 250-718-6387 | TWalters@okanagan.bc.ca |
| First VP, Chief Steward | Rod Watkins | 250-804-9973 | RPWatkins@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Second VP, Bargaining Chair | Bob Groves | 250-718-6385 | BGroves@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Treasurer | Doug Birtwistle | 250-718-4380 | DBirtwistle@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Secretary | Amy Cohen | 250-309-5698 | ACohen@okanagan.bc.ca |

Council:

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|----------|--|
| Faculty Liaison – Arts | Matt Kavanagh | Ext 4819 | MKavanagh@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Faculty Liaison – Business | Shelley Johnson | Ext 4446 | SJohnson@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Faculty Liaison – Health | Gurpreet Dhatt | Ext 4604 | GDhatt@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Faculty Liaison – Non-Instructional | Gilbert Bede | Ext 4751 | GBede@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Faculty Liaison – Science | Bruce Campbell | Ext 4784 | BCampbell@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Faculty Liaison – Technology | Reg Marte | Ext 4760 | RMarte@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Area Representative – Kelowna | Joe Hobart | Ext 4402 | JHobart@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Area Representative – Penticton | Francie Greenslade | Ext 3221 | FGreenslade@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Area Representative – Salmon Arm | Terry Kosowick | Ext 8234 | TKosowick@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Area Representative – Vernon | Jennifer Hobart | Ext 4484 | JAHobart@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Non-Continuing Faculty Rep | Steve Weber | Ext 8251 | SWeber@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Pension Advisory Representative | Randy Brown | Ext 4373 | RBrown@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Human Rights and International Solidarity Representative | Norah Bowman | Ext 4215 | NBowman@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Status of Women Representative | Ann Marie McKinnon | Ext 4327 | AMcKinnon@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Workplace Health, Safety and Environment Representative | Jasmine Korkok | Ext 4851 | JKorkok@okanagan.bc.ca |

Collective Agreement Review Committee (CARC):

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------|--|
| Kelowna Campus Steward | Alan Rice | Ext 4879 | ARice@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Penticton Campus Steward | Sharon Mansiere | Ext 3234 | SMansiere@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Salmon Arm Campus Steward | Terry Kosowick | Ext 8234 | TKosowick@okanagan.bc.ca |
| Vernon Campus Steward | Jeremy Lanaway | Ext 2214 | JLanaway@okanagan.bc.ca |

Get a copy of the Collective Agreement!

The 2014-2019 Collective Agreement is now available on the OCFA's website:

[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)

If you would like a hard copy of the CA, contact one of your representatives on OCFA council or executive (see contact information above)