

The Update



Issue 1 2012/2013

September 2012

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MEETING DATES

Socials

The OCFA is hosting socials in all four regions over the next six weeks. Please come out and meet your area representative, campus steward, and Executive.

Kelowna Social: *Infusions*, Friday, September 21st, 4:00-7:00pm

Salmon Arm Social: *Setters Pub*, Tuesday, September 25th, 4:00-6:00pm

Vernon Social: *Location tba*, Friday, September 28th, 4:00-6:00pm

Penticton Social: *Location tba*, Friday, October 19, 4:00-6:00pm

The Fall General Meeting (FGM) is scheduled for 5:00-9:00 p.m., Friday, November 2 (Kelowna Campus Cafeteria, Dinner & drinks at 5 p.m., meeting at 6:30 p.m.).

OCFA Executive meetings are generally held once every two weeks. If you would like to bring forward a particular item for consideration please contact one of your OCFA Exec members (see page 2 for the list).

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 page 2 for the list).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Update* welcomes letters to the editor. I encourage you to write either 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 send letters as e-mail to the *Update* editor Chris Clarkson at cclarkson@okanagan.bc.ca. The preferred format is Word.

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/administration/ocfa/update.html>

Members of OCFA Council and CARC 2011-2012

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Human Rights and International Solidarity	Marlo Edwards	Ext 4861	MEEdwards@okanagan.bc.ca
Status of Women	Norah Bowman-Broz	Ext 4215	NBowman-Broz@okanagan.bc.ca

CARC:

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Service Acknowledgment

The OCFA would like to thank the following outgoing Executive, Council, and CARC members for their service: Tim Walters, Richard Christie, Joe Hobart, John Kenny, Gary Schwartz, and Gill Green. Thanks also for reviving the *Update*, Richard.

President's Report

Sharon Josephson

Welcome back, everyone, to a new year. I hope you all had a relaxing summer break and are not finding the start of the semester too taxing. Personally, I could use another month away...

In this first issue of our newsletter for 2012-2013, I'd like to update you very briefly on a few things I've been working on as well as let you know of some important events coming up in the next few weeks.

FPSE AGM

In May, I was fortunate to be able to travel to the FPSE Annual General Meeting in Whistler with past-President Tim Walters, and several members of your OCFA council: Secretary-Treasurer, Michelle Nicholson, Pension Advisory Officer, Doug Birtwistle, and Human Rights and International Solidarity Officer, Marlo Edwards. This meeting provided many opportunities for dialogue with our colleagues from colleges and universities across the province. FPSE passed several motions that may impact us in the upcoming years and developed an Action Plan which will guide the work of the federation in 2012-2013:

http://www.fpse.ca/files/uploads/Action_Plan_2012-2013_FINAL.pdf.

FPSE President's Retreat

In June, I joined presidents from all FPSE locals for a three-day retreat on Pender Island. Of particular interest at this meeting was a focus on bargaining strategy as well as on finding practical ways to increase solidarity amongst locals. As bargaining unfolds in the coming months, I hope we'll see the ideas from that meeting put into place.

Upcoming Fall OCFA Events

I'll be sending out more information about each of the following events as the dates approach, but please mark your calendars for the following not-to-be-missed socials and general meeting:

- **Kelowna Social:** *Infusions*, Friday, September 21st, 4:00-7:00pm
- **Salmon Arm Social:** *Setters Pub*, Tuesday, September 25th, 4:00-6:00pm
- **Vernon Social:** *Location tba*, Friday, September 28th, 4:00-6:00pm
- **Penticton Social:** *Location tba*, Friday, October 19, 4:00-6:00pm

- **Fall General Meeting:** *Kelowna Cafeteria*, Friday, November 2nd, 5:00-9:00pm

These events are a great way to get to know your colleagues and to meet members of the OCFA Executive and Council. As always, the food and drink is on us, as are taxi vouchers and reimbursements for childcare.

OCFA Bursary/Tony Williams Memorial Bursary

The deadline for the OCFA Bursary/Tony Williams Memorial Bursary is September 28, 2012. This award is open to family members of current or former OCFA or OUCFA member. Please encourage family members to apply. You can find the application form on the Financial Aid and Awards webpage: <http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/financialaid>

OCFA Handbook

Those of you who attended *Connections* might have picked up a copy of our new handbook. The handbook provides information about FPSE and our other provincial and national affiliations. In addition, it provides what we hope will be a helpful rough guide to our Collective Agreement. If you don't have a copy, you'll be able to pick it up at one of the socials or you can download it off of our webpage: <http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/administration/ocfa.html>. While on the webpage, please also make a note of the contact information for members of the Executive and Council. As always, thanks to Mike Minions for never saying no when we ask him to update the OCFA webpage.

OCFA Work Plan 2012-2013

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Exec and Council will have already started to put together a work plan for ourselves for the coming year. We hope to provide training sessions on topics such as governance and collegial authority as well as a workshop on conflict resolution. We're also looking at ways to better our communication with all of you and to connect more often with groups with particular concerns, such as department Chairs and term faculty members.

I'd like to hear from any of you who have good ideas about what your Association could or should be doing (or doing differently), or who would like to be more involved with the OCFA. Please get in touch with me at any time (sjosephson@okanagan.bc.ca).

First Vice-President's Report

Rod Watkins
Chief Steward

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Rod Watkins. I have been teaching at OC and a member of the Philosophy Department for 8 years. It has also been my pleasure to serve as the Salmon Arm Steward since OC was created. And at the May 2012 Annual General Meeting, I was elected to be your new Chief Steward.

We are also fortunate to have a great team of campus Stewards this year. Sasha Johnston, a member of the English Department, is your Kelowna Steward. Sharon Mansiere from Biology is returning as your Penticton Steward. Howard Hisdal of History is assuming the role of Vernon Steward. And my former position as Salmon Arm Steward is being ably filled by Terry Kosowick

from the Business Department. I want to thank all four of them for taking on this responsibility and agreeing to serve as our Stewards. If you have questions about the Collective agreement or concerns about the conditions of your employment, please do not hesitate to contact your Steward. We will do our best to answer your questions and successfully resolve any issues that arise.

I would also like to invite any members who went through the accrual rights selection process last Spring and Summer to contact me about their experiences. We are currently investigating the process the College employed to assure that it complies with the terms of Collective Agreement. Your assistance in that task is greatly appreciated.

On a final note, we have been in contact with Jeff McKeil of FPSE to invite him to the College once again to provide training sessions for our members. Last year, he gave talks on Collegial Authority as well as Governance. We hope to have Jeff provide these sessions again for new members and those who may have missed them last year. There may even be some additional sessions. We are planning for these to take place in October or November. I'll let everyone know as soon as the dates are finalized.

Second Vice President's Report

Nolan Fretz
Negotiations Committee Chair

Looking back to a year ago, I was telling you that "our current contract has expired" and that we were "bargaining with the College and Province." Today, I get to give a similar message. Our contract did, indeed, expire again last March 30th and we head into this fall with an expectation of bargaining new terms with the College and the Province. Taking on this monumental task for this round are:

Nolan Fretz, OCFA 2nd Vice President, Negotiations Committee Chair
Sharon Josephson, OCFA President
Chris Clarkson, OCFA Executive Member-at-large
Michelle Nicholson, OCFA Treasurer
Melissa Munn, Vernon Area Representative

Sharon, Chris and I will be joining other FPSE locals on September 22nd to discuss a united direction for moving forward within the sector. We expect to begin bargaining meetings with the College shortly after that.

We enter the fall hopeful that we will be able to accomplish an agreement in a timely fashion. The tempestuous political climate in the province right now, though, adds an unpredictable dimension to our planning. We appreciate the ongoing support of our membership and look forward to making a full report on progress at the Fall General Meeting.

Connections 2012 Report

Norah Bowman-Broz
Status of Women Officer

Marlo Edwards and I presented a short workshop about OCFA and Social Justice at Connections 2012. At least 5 faculty members and 4 management and administrative staff attended, and there were some rather lively conversations. Marlo and I spoke mainly about the work that FPSE and OCFA do to build community solidarity, help students in need, and ensure that the rights and needs of all members are met. Attendees spoke passionately about their positive experiences with union organization. Overall, attendees left the workshop with an augmented understanding of the social and especially community work of OCFA and FPSE.

The following is a link to the material presented at the workshop:

http://prezi.com/jw2oymgcclrr/ocfa-international-solidarity-and-status-of-women/?auth_key=0e9e157bb5c23b28176b9953304b95837e0fafea