

FACULTY UNION NEWS

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

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Faculty members old and new should feel free to contact any member of the Faculty Union Executive about employment matters and/or to drop into the Union Office (MM206c) for coffee.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

Trent Strike.....	1
UCCB Negotiations.....	1
SMUFU Scholarships 1996-97.....	2
Time to adopt a Trimester Schedule at Saint Mary's?.....	2
1997 Sarah Shorten Award.....	3
Queens Faculty Ratify First Contract.....	4
Negotiations at Saint Mary's.....	4
New Publications.....	4

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TRENT STRIKE UPDATE:

The strike at Trent University has been settled, largely on terms put forward by the faculty union there. In the aftermath of the settlement, the President of Trent University, Leonard Conolly, the Vice-President - Academic, Robert Campbell, and Dean John Syrett have resigned.

The Board of Governors of Trent has announced the appointment of an external panel to review the management of the university. The panel consists of Harry Arthurs, professor of law and political science at York University and former Dean of Law and President of York; and Joyce Lorimer, professor of history at Wilfred Laurier and past president of CAUT.

The mandate of the panel is to report publicly on how Trent's administration can meet the standard of best practice within Canadian universities and on what process should be used to promote long-term constructive relations among students, staff, faculty, administration, the Board and other bodies concerned with governance at Trent.

UCCB Negotiations

Faculty members at UCCB in Sydney have begun contract negotiations in anticipation of the provincial government imposed "freeze" coming off effective November 1997.

All unionized faculty will be negotiating this year, following the lead of UCCB. In preparation for sitting down at the table, a number of negotiators and others from around the province will be meeting over spring break to attend a collective bargaining workshop being offered in Halifax by CAUT.

SMUFU SCHOLARSHIPS 1996-97

The Union Scholarship Committee (Milt Chew, Management Science; Bert Hartnell, Mathematics and Computing Science; Georgia Pe-Piper, Geology; and Geraldine Thomas, Modern Languages and Classics) had a difficult time this year narrowing down the field of applicants for SMUFU Scholarships, but eventually recommended the following first rate scholars:

Amy Hynick is a fourth year B.Sc. (Hon.) student with a double major, with honours, in Chemistry and Math and Computing Sciences. She has maintained a 4.0 average during her first three years including many A+'s.

Gillian Parker is in her final year of a B.A. (Hon.) with a major with honours in Psychology and a second major in Sociology. Her three year average is 3.0 including several A+'s.

Jacqueline Surette is in the fourth year of a B.Sc. (Hon.) with a double major (both with honours) in Chemistry and Psychology. Her average for the first three years was 3.97 with several A+'s.

Lisa Weber is a wife and mother of a small child who has taken courses at other universities in Atlantic Canada, both as a full-time and part-time student. Since 1995, she has been a part-time student at Saint Mary's, having completed 5.5 credits up to last summer with a cumulative GPA of 3.97 and 6 A+'s. She is currently completing a double major in Finance and Human Resources Management.

Many thanks to the Committee and congratulations to the students.

Comments are invited on the following contributed paper:

TIME TO ADOPT A TRIMESTER SCHEDULE AT SAINT MARY'S ?

Many years ago, the only teaching done at Saint Mary's occurred during the fall and winter terms. At some point, perceived student needs led to the establishment of two six-week summer sessions. Perhaps it is time to take the next step, replacing the two summer sessions with a single term running from mid-May to mid-August.

Although no Nova Scotia universities have trimester schedules, about 20 universities elsewhere in Canada have trimester schedules, including all University of Quebec campuses. They have adopted this arrangement for a variety of reasons, and such reasons are not hard to find. Before citing the best ones it is desirable to describe how life would be under the new arrangements.

Given the experience of other universities with a trimester schedule, it is clear that the added term, the Summer Term, would not draw the enrollment that the other terms get. What numbers might we get? On average, other institutions get about the same numbers in the Fall and Winter terms, and about 40% as many in the Summer term. Since we now run about 475 classes in each of two terms, plus 110 in the Summer Sessions, using the 40% figure, we could operate (with current class sizes) with a 430/430/160 distribution.

With such a system, the Collective Agreement would have to be modified to enable faculty to teach in Summer Term on the same basis as we now teach in the other terms. The basic requirement would be to teach 3.0 credits in the contract year (1 Sep to 31 Aug). Beyond this, we might be required to teach a minimum of 1.0 credits in at least two terms in the contract year. This would give us more flexibility in designing our teaching schedules. For example, one could teach 1.5 credits in the Summer Term and 1.5 in the Fall Term, which would exempt one from teaching in Winter Term. Or someone who wanted a longer stretch of time for a research project could schedule

two non-teaching terms back to back in two contract years (a Summer Term and a Fall Term). It would be up to the Departments to arrange for satisfactory scheduling so that program delivery met the students' needs.

On obvious advantage for the students is that they could complete their degrees more quickly, with consequent savings in living costs. This would be especially true of foreign students who have no local income sources while here. This might result in our getting a larger share of the foreign student "market".

With about 10% fewer classes in Fall Term and Winter Term the pressure on computer labs, the library, and other services would be decreased, with an attendant decrease in expenditures to meet current needs.

The trimester schedule would also make it easier to run more co-op programs. Students could be more flexible in accommodating employers.

Of course, there would be a much better selection of courses offered in the summer, 160 versus 110. As things stand, students beyond first-year find it difficult to get the courses they want in the Summer Sessions.

Having a regular term in summer would also improve program quality. Many of us who have taught summer courses are aware that compressing the learning experience in a full-credit course from 24 weeks to 6 makes it difficult to maintain the same standard of learning that we apply in the normal two-term version.

And then there is the image factor. It could do us no harm to be perceived by government and the public to be making more efficient use of our resources. ("Saint Mary's-- the year-round university.")

Wayne Grennan, Philosophy

1997 SARAH SHORTEN AWARD

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

The CAUT Status of Women Committee requests nominations for the 1997 Sarah Shorten Award.

The Sarah Shorten Award was established in 1990 to recognize outstanding achievements in the promotion of the advancement of women in Canadian universities.

Faculty associations, status of women committees, or any other interested parties are invited to submit nominations for the Sarah Shorten Award. Nominations, once made, will remain in the nomination pool for the following year and will then expire. Renominations will be accepted.

Nominations should include the following:

- a letter of nomination giving a detailed statement describing specifically the contributions and achievements of the candidate as they relate to the advancement of women in the university;
- a full curriculum vitae; and
- letters of support.

Please indicate your willingness to release your letter to the 1997 recipient of the award.

The criteria used by the Committee for its recommendation to CAUT Council are as follows:

1. Candidates need not be a member of the university community but the results of their contribution(s) must have benefited women in the university;
2. Candidates contribution(s) may have benefited any or all groups of women (faculty, students, staff) in the university community;
3. The form(s) of the candidates achievement(s) may include but are not limited to the following: organizational leadership, policy implementation, legislation, publication, educational initiatives, or dedicated service;
4. The outstanding quality of the contribution may derive from the result of a single project or activity, or the accumulation of efforts through consistent involvement over a long period of time in supporting the advancement of women in the university; and

5. The candidates contributions to the advancement of women in the university may have been focused locally (in a single university), provincially, regionally, nationally, or a combination of these.

Nomination deadline:

The nomination deadline for the 1997 Sarah Shorten Award is February 28, 1997, but the CAUT Status of Women Committee will entertain nominations at any time for future recipients.

Nominations should be addressed to:

CAUT Status of Women Committee
c/o Maureen Webb
Canadian Association of University Teachers
2675 Queensview Drive
Ottawa, ON K2B 8K2

Queens Faculty Ratify First Contract

In December, the academic staff at Queen's University overwhelmingly ratified their first collective agreement. The academic staff voted to unionize in September of 1995 and were certified in November of that year.

The new contract is for three years, and includes a dispute resolution mechanism, final offer selection, for compensation matters in the third year of the agreement and for all subsequent negotiations on compensation. For the first time, Queen's academics will have a formalized compensation scheme. Compensation levels were also increased for professional librarians and archivists.

Negotiations at Saint Mary's

As a first step in preparing for negotiation of a new collective agreement for full time academics and professional librarians at Saint Mary's, a

questionnaire has been prepared by Peter March, Chair of the Union's Research and Information Committee. It will be sent to all members later this week.

Please let us know which clauses in the Collective Agreement you would like to see changed or eliminated, what you would like to see added, and what matters you believe the Negotiating Committee should make a priority.

Also assisting the Negotiating Committee, which consists of Vic Catano (Psychology), Guy Chauvin (Political Science), Bob Cook (Library), George Nahrebecky (Modern Languages and Classics), Doug Strongman (Biology), and Doug Vaisey (Library), are an Economic Benefits Committee and a Performance Indicators Committee. The Economic Benefits Committee is Tom Cheng (Accounting), Milt Chew (Finance and Management Science), and Art Finbow (Mathematics and Computing Science). The Performance Indicators Committee is Anne Marie Dalton (Religious Studies), Wayne Grennan (Philosophy), Hermann Schwind (Management) and Geraldine Thomas (Modern Languages and Classics).

New Publications

The following item has been added to the library available to members in the Union Office:

CAUT Committee of Inquiry Rationalization of the Nova Scotia Universities - Final Report. Gerald Clarke, Chair June Chaikelson, Mark Graesser - January 10, 1997.