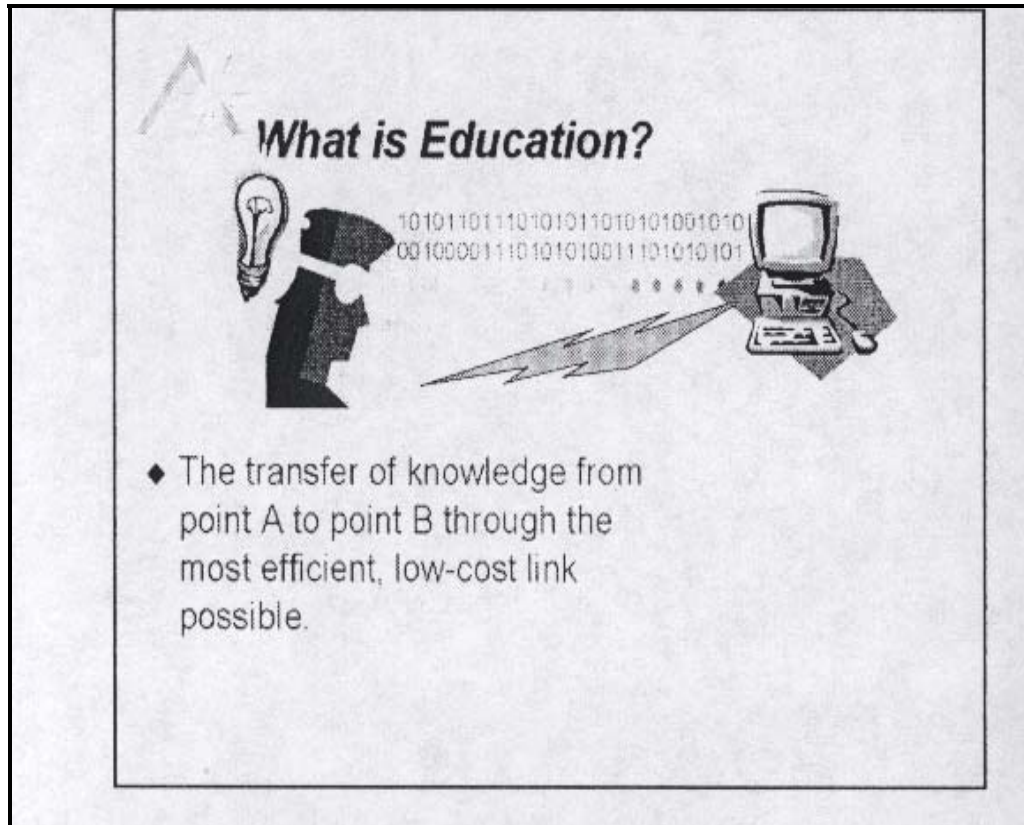


# FACULTY UNION NEWS

SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Volume 7, Number 1

February/March 2001



CARTOON FROM THE CORPORATE CAMPUS: COMMERCIALIZATION AND THE DANGERS TO CANADA'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES PERMISSION GIVEN TO USE BY LANGDON WINNER

## Canada's Universities and Colleges: Is There a Future?

### The Halifax Hearings

Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT)

c/o Faculty Association Office, Seton 337

Mount Saint Vincent University, 166 Bedford Highway

Halifax NS B3M 2J6

On behalf of the faculty associations of the Atlantic School of Theology, Dalhousie University, Mount Saint Vincent University, the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and Saint Mary's University, I would like to invite you to attend a public event we are organizing on the future of our universities and colleges in Halifax.

*Canada's Universities and Colleges: Is There a Future?* is a forum intended to highlight the problems confronting universities and colleges as a result of chronic under-funding. It is being held to allow a broad range of participants to discuss their concerns about what is happening to university and college education, such as the dramatic rise in tuition fees, the declining quality of education caused by increased class sizes, and the increasing difficulty in attracting and retaining qualified faculty. Your views on these and other matters will help us to develop a collaborative, alternative vision of a post-secondary education system that first and foremost serves the public interest.

The hearings will take place on **Saturday, March 10, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Saint Mary's University, Student Centre, Room 310**, where a panel chaired by Parker Barss Donham will be hearing from individuals and organizations with an interest in the future of post-secondary education. We would very much hope that you will be able to take part, and share your views and concerns. Presentations should be roughly five minutes long, and the panel will have the opportunity to ask questions following each group of speakers. If you wish, you may also submit written material to accompany what you have to say.

If you have any questions or concerns about this event, please contact the Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers. Please confirm your attendance as soon as possible by contacting our office.

We look forward to seeing you at the Halifax Hearings.

Linda Van Esch, President  
Saint Mary's University Faculty Union

## Canada's Universities and Colleges

I s there a  
**future?**

*The Halifax Hearings*  
*March 9-10, 2001*

**FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2001**

7:30 pm-10:00 pm

**TOWNHALL MEETING WITH KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

**BY DALTON CAMP**

Room 117, Dunn Building  
Dalhousie University

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2001**

10:00 am-3:00 pm

**Public Hearings**

Room 310, Student Centre (SC)  
Saint Mary's University

Commissioners: Joan Jessome, Parker Barss-Donham

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers (ANSUT)

Phone: (902) 457-6265 Fax: (902) 457-2118

E-mail: [ansut@chebucto.ns.ca](mailto:ansut@chebucto.ns.ca)

Sponsored by

Atlantic School of Theology: Faculty Association, Dalhousie Faculty Association, Mount Saint Vincent University Faculty Association, Faculty Union of Nova Scotia College of Art and Design,  
Saint Mary's University Faculty Union, Canadian Association of University Teachers

**FROM THE PRESIDENT - Linda Van Esch**

The new Collective Agreement has now been ratified by the Board. (Actually, because the February regular meeting of the Board of Governors was cancelled due to lack of quorum, it was approved by the Executive of the Board, which met last Thursday.) This means that back pay will be distributed, as planned, on March 8.

Our next key event is the Public Hearings on the Future of Canada's Universities and Colleges, which is described more fully inside the newsletter.

**Participation is important** if we are to send an effective message to our politicians and to the media that influence them. Please consider making a presentation on the impact to your work of the continued cut to core funding and please plan to attend.

Planning these hearings has, for me, highlighted yet again the benefits of having an association of Nova Scotia faculty unions, responsible for media relations and government lobbying. The Executive simply doesn't have the time or the expertise needed. I hope that SMUFU will vote in favour of the modest cost involved in joining ANSUT (Association of Nova Scotia University Teachers).

As the term winds down, our last business will be the election of next year's officers. I will not be re-offering. (I'll be on sabbatical leave next year. Plus, after three years, it's time for a change in leadership.) Mike Vance, your VP, is also stepping down. Please, think about serving.

The Union performs many vital jobs, but I suspect that most members don't really know what the Union/president does – I certainly didn't! So I thought it might be useful to give a quick overview of what the job looks like in a typical non-bargaining year (although I certainly can't claim to have done these well):

- monitor issues which might affect members, most of which are drawn to our attention through CAUT or through the University's actions
- represent members', collective or individual, interests to the Administration

- to some extent, adopt a "shadow cabinet" approach (albeit with fewer resources), monitoring all levels of Administrative decision-making that might affect members and providing feedback (my preference was "early" and "quietly", which was usually well received)
- recruit volunteers for internal committees and committees requiring Union representation (we're fortunate in having very able members who are willing to continue serving); monitor the major issues confronting each committee; occasionally, arrange expert advice for committee members
- ensure that important information is communicated to members
- ensure that members experiencing difficulties receive expert advice and, in many cases, act on their behalf in meetings with the Dean and/or AVP
- attempt to resolve disputes quickly, which entails quiet fact-finding and mediation of sometimes heated confrontations
- act as an intermediary for members with special needs or specific problems who, for whatever reasons, don't feel comfortable speaking to their chair, dean, or AVP
- interpret provisions of the Collective Agreement in the context of specific, and perhaps not anticipated, circumstances
- for every emergency, unusual situation or missed timeline, consider requests for waivers of specific provisions of the Collective Agreement
- for those members or administrators who process information aurally rather than visually, read aloud relevant sections of the Collective Agreement
- review all overload contracts
- review all early retirement offers, to ensure equity
- ensure Union observers monitor all Review Committee meetings and, occasionally, Appointments Committee meetings
- in preparation for the next round of bargaining, identify provisions or language in the current Collective Agreement that are unclear or proved problematic in implementation and identify issues not contemplated in the current Agreement
- initiate and maintain communications with the other unions on campus

- represent SMUFU and share information at national CAUT meetings (twice yearly) and at local meetings of the other Nova Scotia associations (also twice yearly)
- liaise with ANSUT in matters of common interest, e.g., planning the upcoming public hearings, supporting striking colleagues
- increasingly, assist recruiting efforts by responding to candidates' queries about contract terms and working conditions.

There is no doubt that the job consumes much more time than the one course release given (and I do confess to still being peeved that the University wouldn't agree to the Union's proposal to buy out an additional course release). But the work is very rewarding. And it's important. I commend it to you most highly. And I thank you for trusting it to me for the past three years.

On a truly personal note, there are many people to thank: the three Executive teams, who put in so many long hard hours; Karen, who's indispensable and keeps all this on track, and Vic and Guy, who patiently mentored a real greenhorn.

### Your Two Cents: Submissions and Suggestions

All SMUFU members are invited to contribute comments, news ideas and, yes, even written submissions for future issues of the Faculty Union News. Contact Arthur Murphy (420-5766) or Rashid Tayyeb (420-5545), editors.

### ELECTING A NEW EXECUTIVE

Nominations for the new executive will take place March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Members-at-large. Nomination forms will be distributed March 9<sup>th</sup>. Ballots for the Election will be distributed on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Voting will take place the week of March 26<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>. Friday, March 30 will be our annual vote count and year end party. Details to follow.

### FOR FACULTY UNION MEMBERS ONLY:

#### Want a used computer?

The Faculty Union has purchased a faster and larger capacity computer for the Union Office. The executive has authorized the disposal of the older (Pentium) computer by a silent auction. Bids will be accepted from Faculty Union Members only. To place a bid send a return e-mail (karen.crowell@stmarys.ca) or drop your bid at the Union Office (MM206C) stating the bid amount. The deadline to receive your silent bid will be **March 15, 2001**. I will contact the highest bidder by the following workday. For additional information you can contact me at 496-8190.

#### Computer specifications:

**Purchased Oct '95:** EIT Pentium 90 PCI, 256K CACHE 16mb ram, mid-tower case w/200w power supply, 1.44mb FDD, 850 MB IDE HD, PCI IDE I/O, CIRRUS 1 MB PCI Video, 14" .28 DP N.I. Monitor, Microsoft Serial Mouse, 101 Enhanced Keyboard, MS-DOS 6.22, Windows 3.11, 1 enh. parallel, 2 serial, 1 Game Port, Internal DBL. Speed CD-ROM, 14.4K Int. Fax/Modem, Sound Blaster 16 Bit Card w/Speakers, GVC COMBO E'net card. ('95 value \$3,330).

**Jun '98 upgrade** Pentium 90 to Pentium 200MMX W/32 MB RAM ('98 value \$490). **Jun '98 upgrade** Modem to USR 56K SPOR ('98 value \$180)

Karen  
SMUFU

**LIBRARY:**

The following items have been added to the library available to members in the Union Office:

- ◆ The Corporate Campus\$ Commercialization and the Dangers to Canada's Colleges and Universities Edited by James Turk
- ◆ Draft - Statement to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance .. Regarding the 2001-2002 Federal Budget - Presented by CAUT Sept, 2000
- ◆ The Commercial Education and Training Services Industry - A discussion Paper, Nov. 8, 1999
- ◆ CAUT Legal Review, Vol. 1 No. 1, April 2000
- ◆ CAUT Facts & Figures, Vol. 2 No. 4, May 2000
- ◆ CAUT Facts & Figures, Vol. 2 No. 5, Summer 2000
- ◆ CAUT Education Review, Vol. 2 No. 2, May/June 2000
- ◆ A Better Way Putting the Nova Scotia Deficit in Perspective - A CCPA-NS Background Paper April 2000
- ◆ University of Manitoba Collective Agreement 1998-2001
- ◆ AUFA Communicator, Vol. 7, No. 4, May, 2000
- ◆ DFA Dialogue, Vol. XIII, No. 7, April 2000
- ◆ Interviews, Vol. 31, No. 6, June 2000
- ◆ CalFASA Presentation to the City of Calgary
- ◆ Intergovernmental Affairs Committee - April 6, 2000
- ◆ Interviews, Vol. 31, No. 5, April/May 2000
- ◆ UTFA Newsletter - Summer Update - August 4, 2000
- ◆ UTFA Newsletter, No. 11, May 23, 2000
- ◆ UTFA Newsletter, No. 10, April 7, 2000

**On the Web:**

Electronic copy of The Commercial Education and Training Services Industry .. A Discussion Paper in preparation for the World Trade Organization General Agreement on Trade in Services Negotiations *go to:* <http://services2000.ic.qc.ca>

**SMUFU Executive 2000-20001**

**Linda Van Esch** 420-5803 SB210

*President* linda.vanesch@stmarys.ca

**Michael Vance** 420-5766 MN225

*Vice-President* mvance@shark.stmarys.ca

**Guy Chauvin** 420-5835 MM301F

*Treasurer* **Coming Soon!**

**Leonard Preyra** 420-5839 MN410

*Secretary* leonard.preyra@stmarys.ca

**Teresa Heffernan** 496-8294 MN301

*Member-at-large* teresa.heffernan@stmarys.ca

**Rashid Tayyeb** 420-5545 Library

*Member-at-large* rashid.tayyeb@stmarys.ca

**Magi Abdul-Masih** 420-5867 MN515D

*Member-at-large* magi.abdul-masih@stmarys.ca

**John Chamard** 420-5769 SB243

*Grievance Officer* john.chamard@stmarys.ca

**Office:** Karen Crowell 496-8190 MM206C

**Contact Us!**

**Location:** MM206C

**Office Hours:** Mon, Tues: 8:30am-5:00pm

Wed, Thurs, Fri:

8:30am-12:30pm

**Telephone:** 496-8190

**E-mail:** smufu@dbis.ns.ca

**Web Site:** <http://www.dbis.ns.ca/~smufu>

All faculty members should feel free to contact any member of the Faculty Union Executive about employment matters. Drop by the Union Office for coffee or to browse our mini-library.