

ULFA EXECUTIVE

Past President

Bryson Brown

Philosophy ext 2506

President

Rob Sutherland

CCBN- Neuroscience

ext 3987

VP/Pres Nominate

John Usher

Management ext 2759

Sec/Treasurer

Ed Jurkowski ext 2342

Chair A.W.C (Fall 2010)

Deborah Saucier ext 5270

Chair E.B.C.

David Kaminski ext 5114

Chair Grievance

Kate Chiste ext 2139

Board Representative

Peter McCormick

Political Science ext 2576

ULFA OFFICE/2578

Brenda Rennie

Executive Director

Sue Edwards

Admin Assistant



This month represents for me a period of knuckling down to work in several areas. Most of this is work as usual for a new ULFA president. I am very happy to have had the opportunity to meet with representatives from AUPE, the APOs, the Student Union, and our Graduate Student Association. These were healthy and open conversations that bode well for cooperative interactions that may be of assistance to our members in the future. I also had the opportunity to attend a focus group with Dr. Michael Mahon to discuss his vision for the University. He presented his view during the installation ceremony on Friday October 15th. I think we should trust that Dr. Mahon does not propose any sudden changes in direction. He restated the University's commitment to achieving comprehensive university status. There was also a fresh statement of the importance of community service and interaction with community needs on the part of students and faculty.

The Executive continues to press on with issues affecting reform of ULFA's by-laws. We are considering in particular the status of ULFA's Council. This body, comprised of members of all of ULFA's standing committees, stands between the Executive and the Members. It reviews significant motions from the Executive and its approval is required before presentation to the Membership. I note that it has been several years since Council has achieved quorum. One view is that the Executive and the Membership should more directly communicate. I would be interested to learn of our Members' views on the status of Council. The Executive is also considering the idea of an Ombudsperson to act on behalf of Members' concerns within our Association. Such a person may have the ability to investigate and publicly report back to the Membership about concerns.

During the month of October ULFA's vice-president, John Usher, and I attended the 7th International Workshop on Higher Education Reform on Reform of University Governance at the University of British Columbia. The presented research and discussions at this meeting made clear the many ways that universities are under new pressures that are responsible for provoking changes in governance and in University autonomy. Many speakers spoke wistfully about the original status of General Faculty Councils (or Senates as they are known in most provinces), a body in which faculty played a key role in the development of University policies and where faculty exerted most of their influence over University governance. At nearly all Universities those bodies are populated in such a way that faculty are in a minority, the agenda is set entirely by Administration, and the meetings are extremely brief. The most significant debates are often about business rules of the Councils/Senates.

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Most of the speakers at the meeting felt that the most appropriate way to respond to these changes is to return to the good old days of faculty governance through the GFCs/Senates, of course without any method provided to turn back the clock to achieve this result. The alternative presented was that Members should use the Faculty Associations, bodies that really can represent faculty interests, to negotiate articles in the Faculty Handbooks to achieve faculty governance objectives.

A meeting of the representatives of the sponsors of our academic pension plan has been scheduled for early in December. The representatives include several University Vice-Presidents Finance and Faculty Association Presidents. I am grateful that Dr. Geoffrey Hale has also agreed to bring his considerable expertise in relevant matters to this meeting. We should hope that there will be some much needed reform of our under-funded plan.

I also thank the Members who have come forward to talk with me about problems and concerns they are experiencing around the University. This input drives most of the successful activities of our Executive.

Lastly, I note that the Alberta Health Services has begun influenza vaccination. This year the vaccine provides protection against seasonal influenza as well as H1N1 (see <http://www4.albertahealthservices.ca/Immunization/> for clinic times and places). I hope that you and your families enjoy a healthy, productive, and sunny fall.

Rob Sutherland
President, ULFA



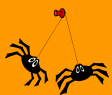
ULFA REPRESENTATIVES

The following Members have been elected to serve as ULFA representatives:

APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE FOR
Dean of Health Sciences: Claudia Steinke
Dean of Arts & Science: Bryson Brown

INTERIM REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR
Dean of Fine Arts: Will Smith
University Librarian: Andrea Glover

APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE FOR
Associate Vice-President (Financial Planning): Leona Jacobs
Associate Vice-President (Human Resources): Victor Rodych





FALL GENERAL MEETING

Mark your calendar. This year's Fall General Meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., Friday, December 10, 2010 in D634. The provisional agenda will be emailed 3 weeks prior to that date.



About ULFA

The University of Lethbridge Faculty Association is an organization of professionals comprising the academic staff at the U. of L. The Universities Act of Alberta specifies that each university shall have an academic staff association and that all members of the academic staff shall be members of this association. Here at the U. of L. the Faculty Association is best known by its acronym, ULFA. ULFA has the exclusive authority, on behalf of its approximately 500 faculty/professional librarians/academic assistants and 100 sessional lecturers, to negotiate with the Board of Governors and to enter into an agreement.

The U. of L. ULFA/Board agreements are referred to as the Faculty Handbook and Sessional Lecturers Handbook. The Handbook is a lengthy and complex document that governs many aspects of a Faculty Member's/Sessional's life on campus, including terms for probation, tenure, promotion, and increments. It also contains information about salary scales and other benefits such as that for tuition (Schedule B.01.6).

The policies and procedures of ULFA are recommended to the membership for ratification by Council and implemented by the Executive. Two general meetings of all ULFA Members are held each year on the first working day following the last day of classes in April and December. The ULFA By-Laws are available via the home page of the website.

ULFA is affiliated with the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). By virtue of the fact that you are a member of ULFA, you are also automatically a member of both CAFA and CAUT. CAFA's objectives are to promote the quality of education in the province and to promote the well-being of Alberta universities and their academic staff. The CAUT objectives are similar in nature, but at the national level.

ULFA's office currently employs one full-time staff member, Executive Director, Brenda Rennie, and one part-time staff member (1/2 day; 9 mos. appointment), Administrative Assistant, Sue Edwards.

Office hours, except for summer months, are 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1:00 - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. During the summer the office is normally open mornings only.



Halloween Quote:

"Where there is no imagination there is no horror". Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Joint Workplace Occupational Health & Safety Committee

The Joint Workplace Occupational Health and Safety Committee (JWSHSC) continues to work toward bringing your health and safety concerns to the university administration. As always, if you encounter any general health or safety issues in your area, please let a member of the committee know so that we can pursue the issue. Specific incidents should be reported using the new Campus Accident/Incident Report forms which are now easier to find than ever, linked directly on the Risk and Safety Services homepage. These forms are not just for incidents that cause injury; near misses should also be reported so that trends can be identified and remedied, if possible. e.g. Particularly slippery paths/hallways or underlit areas of parking lots are examples of issues that could be identified before anyone gets hurt. Additionally, the JWSHSC committee routinely runs inspections and is happy to take requests for sites. Recently inspected areas include Markin Hall and the playground near the residences.

Health issues are also of prime concern to the committee. While discussing the newly designated smoking areas near Markin Hall and related issues, it became clear that there was interest in revisiting the current campus smoking policies and pass its recommendations along to the administration. Information on this continuing discussion will be found in JWSHSC minutes from the September 2010 meeting onward or by talking to members of the committee.

Our Wellness Co-ordinator, Suzanne McIntosh, continues to do a fabulous job of giving us all opportunities to improve our personal health and wellness. On October 27th, the 4th Annual Life Balance Fair will be held at the track from 11am to 1pm. So far, 46 different exhibitors have signed up to present a wide variety of information on topics ranging from the Arts to sleep apnea to fitness to acupuncture. There will also be opportunities to get massages and/or your flu shot, and lunch will be served. Having attended a similar smaller event this spring, I can say that it was a great experience and well worth my time to attend. I hope to see many of you there.

If you have any health- or safety-related concerns, please feel free to contact your ULFA rep on the Joint Workplace Occupational Health and Safety Committee, currently **Susan Lait** (susan.lait@uleth.ca). Minutes for our monthly meetings can be found at the Risk and Safety Services website under JWSHSC.



HALLOWEEN TRIVIA



Halloween was originally a Celtic holiday celebrated on October 31.

Halloween was brought to North America by immigrants from Europe who would celebrate the harvest around a bonfire, share ghost stories, sing, dance and tell fortunes.

Orange and black are Halloween colors because orange is associated with the fall harvest and black is associated with darkness and death.

It is believed that the Irish began the tradition of Trick or Treating. In preparation for All Hallow's Eve, Irish townsfolk would visit neighbors and ask for contributions of food for a feast in the town.

Samhainophobia is an intense fear of Halloween.