

kfacts

promoting the welfare, professional interest, and working conditions of KFA members



Welcome Back!

I hope you had a pleasant summer with sun and relaxation. This will be another busy year, with bargaining to commence in the Fall. We hope this round will be less contentious than our last!

Labour Relations

One of the more troubling labour-management relations issues that has emerged of late is the lack of a timely response from our administration on inquiries and grievances. By not responding in a timely fashion, our employer is communicating that they don't view these issues as very important. Delayed responses have a very real negative impact on faculty members' lives. Your KFA will continue to press our administration to make membership issues a priority.

Executive Work Plan

The KFA Executive met for a day long meeting at the end of May. An extensive work plan was developed for the year ahead, including the completion of our office renovations and reorganization. To celebrate the completion of our newly renovated office space we are planning two open houses, September 14 & 19 from noon to 3 pm. Mark your calendars!

Update on Bargaining

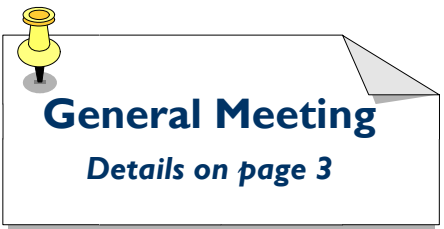
Our collective agreement expires March 31, 2007. In May the KFA Working Conditions Committee began preparations for bargaining, which may begin this Fall.

What's the bargaining context?

Through to 2010, 97% of all public sector unions have negotiated contracts. The remaining FPSE, BCGEU, and BCITFSA locals comprise the largest group yet to negotiate new contracts. In our sector, Langara, UCFV, and Okanagan College Faculty Associations have negotiated agreements to 2010 and they have received the signing bonus. LFA members will receive a minimum of 2.1% per year increase 2007-2010 plus the equivalent of any additional increase that the rest of us can bargain. Similarly, UCFV faculty are assured of 2% per year plus any difference negotiated by the rest of us. All university faculty associations have settled in the range of 3 - 3.5% per year. The BCTF settlement gives a lift of over 16% over 5 years.

Will bargaining be local or provincial?

The parties have not agreed where and how



Campus 2020: Thinking Ahead

The government's Campus 2020 initiative "on the future of post-secondary education" will be watched closely by your KFA and the FPSE. What Campus 2020 means for Kwantlen is to be seen (more on page 3.)

Trades Programs

Changes continue to affect the Trades programs at Kwantlen. Further to the changes I wrote about March/April 2006 issue of *KFAacts*, the long standing masonry apprenticeship program will no longer exist at Kwantlen. The Industry Training Authority has decided that the apprenticeship program will now be offered by the Masonry Institute. The loss of this program right on the heels of losing the Sheet Metal program has the KFA very worried indeed about future for trades training programs here.

I look forward to working together with you on the challenges ahead.

Until next time,
Terri Van Steinburg

we will be bargaining. The Post Secondary Employers' Association (PSEA) is the legal accredited bargaining agent for the employers in our system and it is asserting greater control over the employers. The individual employers seem resistant to common table bargaining but may accept "template bargaining" where all compensation items are dealt with. We do not know our employer's plans, so the KFA is preparing to bargain both centrally and locally. Our preference is to bargain where the money is and to be able to influence the outcome.

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KFA Wins Another Arbitration

Arbitrator Vince Ready has once again ruled in favour of the KFA in a matter arising out of the last round of bargaining. Our employer had argued that the process and criteria for the new .6% PD fund, negotiated between the KFA and the employer, would not be part of the collective agreement nor be grievable. On behalf of the KFA, the Federation of Post Secondary Educators (FPSE) Staff Representative Lesley Burke argued that any agreement negotiated between the parties should logically form

part of the collective agreement and as a result, be grievable. Our argument prevailed. This is the seventh issue arising out of the last round of bargaining that has gone to arbitration, and we may still find ourselves going to Vince Ready to “harmonize” our collective agreement.

In the next round of bargaining let’s hope that Kwantlen will be willing to negotiate with the KFA wherever the deal is to be made and to abide by the deal that is reached.

The Transitions Planning Secretariat

The Transitions Planning Secretariat (TPS) was established by Skip Triplett in the Spring of 2006. It is co-chaired by Gordon Lee and Grant Allan and has membership from faculty, administration, excluded staff, one staff member and the KFA. Membership was by invitation, but your KFA successfully lobbied for our inclusion.

“The principal task of the Secretariat is to develop terms of reference for the Transitions Process, including objectives, processes, and structures that will engage a very broad spectrum of administration, faculty, and staff. The Transitions Planning Secretariat will also recommend the process by which members of Kwantlen’s Transitions Team and Consultation Teams will be determined” (Report of the Transitions Planning Secretariat).

After much debate about what we are transitioning to, it appears that the process is about changes that Kwantlen will undergo in the future, regardless of what label or “brand” we have.

Through April, May and June, the TPS accomplished the following: articulated

Kwantlen’s core values and defining characteristics, identified areas of challenge each with long term goals, and proposed a design for the transition process including communication plans, composition and role of the Transitions Team, guidelines for Consultation Teams, and resource requirements.

The TPS’s work has been documented in a report that has been circulated to Skip Triplett and the Senior Executive Team at this point. If the report’s recommendations are accepted the next steps will include institutional input, followed by the establishment of the Transitions Team and Consultation Groups. These steps will open opportunities for faculty to get involved. The institutional input is proposed to occur over a number of days at different campuses in the Fall of 2006. The current proposal for the Transitions Team will see faculty representation by election from the different areas (similar to Education Council) as well as KFA representation. The Consultation Teams will be determined by the Transitions Teams and there will be opportunities for faculty involvement at that level as well.

Bargaining Update

(Continued from page 1)

What are we bargaining to achieve?

KFA members want improved compensation (salary and benefits), protected pensions, better working conditions and job security for all, including non-regular faculty. Members also want the signing bonus (Kwantlen administrators have already received the signing bonus!). The Working Conditions Committee has reviewed the bargaining sur-

vey results, listened to members, analysed our current agreement and is preparing our demands. We are working with FPSE on our common demands and are exploring a bargaining association with BCGEU locals to strengthen our position.

The KFA will do its best to keep you informed through bargaining updates, information on our website and at our meetings. Come to our General Meeting on September 29th!



General Meeting

When:

September 29, 2006
2:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Where:

G1205 Surrey Campus

On the agenda:

Important information on bargaining and labour relations

Refreshments! Prizes!

More on Campus 2020

This summer the BC Government announced Campus 2020, “a major initiative focusing on the future of post-secondary education” led by former Attorney General Geoff Plant.

Also this summer, The Province newspaper announced that Premier Campbell would open the new SFU Surrey campus--“a \$70 million facility: stunning design with advanced communications.” At the August 16th Kwantlen Board meeting, the Board anxiously discussed for nearly 3 hours the “re-branding” of Kwantlen, as a university, without “seeking any change in role and mandate.”

How do these events relate? Campus 2020 may mean that Kwantlen could “transition” from an independent and vibrant institution serving the needs of our communities and students, to a subsumed Kwantlen. In other words, government rationalization of post secondary education could mean that we get SFU-K’ed.

This is not fear mongering. Look what happened to the former Okanagan University College and University College of the Cariboo. OUC was split in 2 with the university side taken over by UBC. The faculty members who transferred to UBC-O receive less pay than most of their UBC colleagues, they are no longer members of the College Pen-

sion Plan and their faculty rights have been eroded. UCC became Thompson Rivers University; but their funding was not increased. There were tremendous lobbies to have universities in the Okanagan and Kamloops, but all the promises and dreams have not been realized.

Of course, politics were behind the decisions to create UBC-O and Thompson Rivers University, and politics will once again be important in determining our future. The 2020 review of the post secondary system could result in regionalization/rationalization, the same approach taken in health care to reduce the number of hospital boards and bosses. With Douglas College, Kwantlen University College and SFU all in one another’s front and back yards, and competition for students in a climate of declining enrolment, the government may decide to create one big institution.

KFA members last year adopted a set of principles that the KFA stands for. We value what Kwantlen is and we want to continue to do our work in ways we think best for our members and their students. We will develop and advocate our KFA positions based on those principles.

Jamie Elmhirst: Kwantlen’s “Branding” Lobbyist

Why has the Kwantlen Board of Governors hired Jamie Elmhirst as their lobbyist to assist with the rebranding of Kwantlen? Mr. Elmhirst is President of the Liberal Party of Canada in BC, active in the Campbell Liberal Party, and Senior Partner at the now defunct K&E Public Affairs, a government relations consulting company. K&E was formerly Pilothouse Communications. In 2003 Pilothouse was raided in the police investigation that led to charges

against ministerial assistants David Basi and Robert Virk for acceptance of a bribe, influence peddling, fraud, breach of trust and other charges. Search warrant information disclosed to the public said Mr Elmhirst’s Pilothouse colleagues, Erik Bornman and Brian Kieran, paid \$30,000 to Basi and Virk for government information. Bornman and Kieran are expected to testify for the Crown when the trial begins this fall.

New poll released by FPSE shows British Columbians support reducing tuition fees. For more information, visit www.fpse.ca.

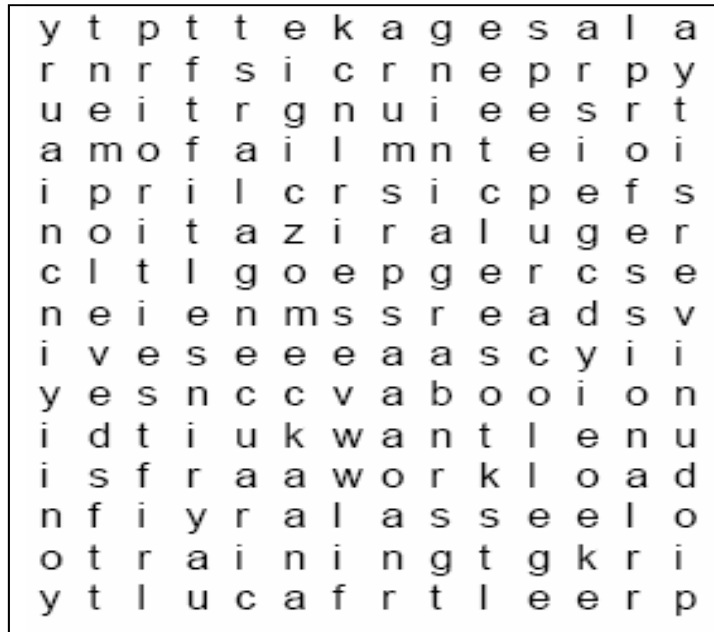
Average undergraduate tuition fees

(in current dollars)

	1990/91	2001/02	2005/06	2006/07
Canada	1,464	3,577	4,211	4,347
British Columbia	1,808	2,527	4,867	4,960

(Source: Statistics Canada)

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Recent Travel Warnings

NEW YORK -- A public school teacher was arrested today at John F. Kennedy International Airport as he attempted to board a flight while in possession of a ruler, a protractor, a set square, a slide rule and a calculator.

At a morning press conference, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said he believes the man is a member of the notorious Al-gebra movement. He did not identify the man, who has been charged by the FBI with carrying weapons of math instruction.

"Al-gebra is a problem for us," Gonzales said. "They desire solutions by means and extremes, and sometimes go off on tangents in search of absolute values." They use secret code names like 'x' and 'y' and refer to themselves as 'unknowns', but we have determined they belong to a common denominator of the axis of medieval with coordinates in every country. As the

Greek philanderer Isosceles used to say, 'There are 3 sides to every triangle'."

When asked to comment on the arrest, President Bush said, "If God had wanted us to have better weapons of math instruction, he would have given us more fingers and toes."

White House aides told reporters they could not recall a more intelligent or profound statement by the President.

Who's This?




Identify this man and his importance in Canadian history. Email your entry to Russel Ogden at rdogden@telus.net for your chance to win a prize.

Letters to the Editor?

Send them to Russel Ogden, rdogden@telus.net, with the subject title "KFACTS Editor."

Have you recently moved?

Be sure to let us know! Send an email to Erica.Todd@kwantlen.ca

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Visit us at:
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For information on the "Better Funding. Better Futures." campaign and to email the Premier your concerns go to the FPSE website (www.fpse.ca).