

Concordia University Part-time Faculty Association Newsletter

Rowing With the Tides

While people continents away participate in popular uprisings for democratic governance, in western democracies we struggle and rebel against acute deficiencies in our own backyard. Citizens here feel a growing estrangement from the real powers that be.

From our federal Conservative government increasing employment insurance premiums to five cents for every \$100 of insurable earnings, to our provincial government seeking tuition hikes in the midst of corruption in the construction industry, to our employer who refuses to pay members who have had to make-up classes that fell on a statutory holiday, part-time faculty are part of the 99 percent who are fed up with financial mismanagement of institutions that are run by a small oligarchy of interests.

The Association joins our sister unions, student and teacher's federations world-wide against employers who reward those who do not sustain policies, provide bonuses to administrators in a period of an economic restraint, increase administrative budgets, and offer handsome bailouts to those who are dismissed. What is reprehensible is that the same employer then turns around and makes all of us responsible for bearing the burden of their financial decisions.

I urge members to examine the financial records of the University. The Board of Governors received the first of a series of financial reports from Patrick Kelley, Chief Finance Officer. Here is the website where you can download material (just work through the documents until you arrive at the first report called *Etat de Traitment* and other financial stuff that follows).

https://lyra3.concordia.ca/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection -16647

Of particular note are the unreasonable increases with administrative costs and the reduction in spending for faculty, staff, and students. Our mission is teaching, research, and serving students; yet this academic mission is often sacrificed to sustain a top-heavy administrative structure.

2011-14 CUPFA Executive

President Maria E. Peluso

Vice President, Collective Agreement & Grievance Me Patrice Blais

Vice President, Professional Development Angela Ford-Rosenthal

> Treasurer June Riley

Executive Secretary Scott Chlopan

Chair of Communications Dr. David Douglas Chair, External Relations Dr. Francine Tremblay Chair of Mobilization Judith Grad

CUPFA OFFICE

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Office Hours Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Grievance Clinic - By appointment Patrice Blais, Grievance Officer Michael Pinsonneault Asst. Grievance Officer Consider what was reported in the November meeting of Senate: \$15 million was spent on the departure of senior administrators and staff. The Association's initial public statement of \$11 million spent on departures/dismissals was conservative. For the first time since 2001, CUPFA alone has an unprecedented number of 30 grievances filed against our employer. What will the costs of those conflicts be? Where are the best practices that serve to hold accountable those responsible for the implementation of collective agreements? The dictates of the corporate world fire managers who cause expenses to rise. Here, they are seemingly rewarded. As you can surmise, the implementation of our Collective Agreement has not been as successful as it needs to be. The membership can remain confident that we are on top of those areas we continue to vigorously defend. We have been obliged to defend errors with seniority lists, pay stubs, mismanagement of drawing on our Concordia pension and, regrettably, a long litany of issues we have to confront our employer with.

We are fortunate to have a membership dedicated to the institution and the students we serve. The Association continues to be supportive of the University, not as our employer, but as an institution committed to achieving academic excellence, growth, and making its presence felt in the community at large. To this end, the Association has been proactive in providing leadership with the Academic Plan and with a number of student projects, participating in the Shuffle, the Concordia Centraide Campaign and the Golf Memorial Tournament. Bear in mind the important distinction between Concordia the employer and Concordia the community we are proud to be a part of.

Going forward the Association has exciting years ahead and hard work to prepare for negotiations. Every member has an opportunity to participate in making a difference in the life of our Association and for all members – we can't do it without you. Please take the time to complete the survey at the end of *CUPFA News*. We need to hear about your concerns and about issues we can bring up at the table. Our nego team has been actively preparing written text and articles we will be submitting come August/September 2012.

As well, we are working towards a new orientation for the Association, one that will achieve a needed harmonization of the membership at the Departmental levels. We believe that sharing information, and the dynamism that characterizes our Association today, is a harbinger of a newfound solidarity and unity of part-time faculty.

On behalf of the CUPFA Executive, I extend heartfelt wishes for the best of the holiday season for you and your loved ones. May the New Year beacon with good tidings, good health and good cheer.

Maria E. Peluso, President

NOTICE OF MEETING - AGM

All regular part-time faculty members are invited to attend the CUPFA Association General Meeting on Thursday, March 29, 2012 Hall Building H-763

4:45 p.m.

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Grievance report

We are approaching the close of 2011 and regrettably I inform the membership that this year will be one with the highest amount of grievances so far in the 21st century. We are unfortunately working with an employer lacking accountability and whose individuals in senior positions have fewer academic qualifications and more administrative ones. A corporate approach in a public institution is doomed to fail. This is what the research demonstrates with all public institutions when corporate values are imposed. This leads to the consequences that can be categorized as the Good, the Bad and the Ugly.

The good arising from all of this is that the Association has now put into place databases that will permit us to easily track former grievances dating back as far as 1998 and to examine previous conclusions or outcomes. As well, each key date in the Collective Agreement has been entered electronically into a electronic program that gives automatic reminders about the employer's obligations. This has resulted in better communication channels with the office of the Provost in terms of receiving and exchanging the information required by the Association.

The bad arising from all this is the everlasting delays with any issue brought before our employer. We have a record number of grievances and it looks like our employer is doing what it does best: delaying resolutions and seeking to justify non-action on too many files to mention. Justice delayed is justice denied. This unfortunately is standard policy at Concordia.

The ugly is the total failure of the Human Resource Department to resolve issues brought to them by the Association in the last 14 months. We unfortunately have to reiterate the following advice to all members:

- Check your pay subs carefully and report to us any problems and any discrepancies; your electronic pay stub will not likely correspond to your paper version;
- Consult with the Association first before deciding to draw on your Concordia pension plan, do not mention in any correspondence that you are retiring;
- If planning a deferred salary leave, forget about contacting HR. Please contact us, so we can assist you properly;
- Be wary of any letters, emails, and correspondence asking for your confidential information; do not send or fill out surveys unless you hear from us;
- Check your remuneration and hours on your contract; if you suspect ANYTING is incorrect with your contract, sign it "In Protest and With Reservations", and please contact us immediately. The University is a large institution, and we need your help to monitor the situation and ensure you are paid what you deserve;
- Lastly, check the accuracy of your seniority credits, ensure you remember to indicate the section number of courses you are applying to teach, inform us immediately if you need to apply for short-term disability, stay in touch with your Department's reps and stay informed.

With the Holidays season approaching, I offer my best wishes to all our members and their families. I hope you can all enjoy some family time with your loved ones.

Me Patrice Blais, Vice President Collective Agreement and Grievance

B

Wheels That Spin ... Again!

Many may be asking, "can it possibly be?" "Are we back at it again with negotiations?" This winter and summer 2012, we will be in a pre-negotiation mode. Our Collective Agreement expires on August 31st, 2012. We are at the bargaining table again.

As Chief Negotiator for the fourth CUPFA Collective Agreement, I am joined by solid and seasoned individuals on the Nego Team: Dr. David Douglas (Cinema) who is our Chair of Communications on the CUPFA Executive, active member on Senate Steering Committee, and former head of our mobilisation team in the last round of negotiations; and as well Maria Peluso (Political Science) our President, who knows no bounds. When required at the nego table, we will rotate Maria with other needed specialists among the membership (financial, performing arts, etc.).

During the winter 2012 semester, we will be meeting with members to listen to your priorities. Please attend those meetings and let us know your concerns. The CUPFA Nego Team needs your input! To this end, the Nego Team is sending a survey (see copy in this newsletter) asking for your ideas. Please complete and send it along to us. It is important to know your priorities. We are working to defend your interests.

In this period preceding our negotiations, we are rightly concerned about the lack of leadership from our employer. Money paid for administrators not to work at this University far exceeds any amounts that can sustain us as part-time faculty. Only with your support, can we convince our "leaders" that we are essential contributors to our institution.

Together we are strong; individually we are weak. Let's work together for a stronger future for the coming 2012-2013 academic year.

Me Patrice Blais, Chief Negotiator, Dr. David Douglas, Maria E. Peluso,

OFFICE EXPENSE CLAIMS FORMS

Members are reminded to send a letter (best to not call nor email) to Suzanne Downs, Coordinator, Provost's Office, Academic Administration, L-AD-221 to obtain your Office Expense Claim Forms for income tax purposes. Please ensure your request is sent as early as possible, in January 2012. **Do not wait until tax time.** Suzanne Downs cannot respond to requests at the very last minute and no one is obliged to help you then.

Happy Holídays - Meilleurs Voeux

Professional Development

This year following the March 2011 AGM, we have seen many changes in the CUPFA Executive. It is my first year on the job as Vice-President Professional Development. As I noted when elected, it is my goal to give the members as much information as possible about Professional Development funding, large claims and small claims. I am also very keen to support members in any initiatives they would like to undertake. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions and ideas you might have for the use of our funding.

This year, I have established a new Professional Development Committee. Margaret Hodges, a CUPFA member from Fine Arts, has joined me to work on this Committee and on the Small Claims that we will be dealing with in January. Please make sure you get your small claims in by the January 15th deadline. The next deadline for large claims is also January 15th.

In the April 15th round for large grant applications, funding was approved for all 24 members who had applied, for a total amount of \$77,018.14. There were eight applicants from Arts and Science, fourteen from Fine Arts and two from JMSB. The activities they were involved in included ten conference presentations, eight performances/art work preparations and 6 workshops/ongoing research projects. We were pleased to fund such a broad variety of activities; some members may be under the impression that we only fund conference presentations. I would like to stress that if you have a project in mind, for which you would like to get funding, feel free to contact me to find out whether it is a project that could be eligible.

In the October 15th round, we approved funding for a further 12 members, for a total amount of \$34,349.18. Five were from Arts and Science, 5 from Fine Arts, and 2 from JMSB. Seven members received funding for conference presentations, three for art preparations and performances, and two for workshop training. To date for this year, we have given \$111,367.32 to our members in support of their research, art and productions.

I would also like to report on two events which CUPFA, through Professional Development, is sponsoring during this academic year. First, on November 18, we sponsored the launching of a movie entitled Younger than that Now. The film featured the 2011 Annual Roots of Rock & Roll Concert starring member Craig Morrison of the Music Department and other musicians. Craig holds a concert series every year in February and 2011's was a tribute to Bob Dylan. After the launch of the movie, we also sponsored a wine and cheese reception for those present. Second, CUPFA will be sponsoring, along with the Music Department, Craig's 2012 Annual Roots of Rock & Roll Concert, California Dreamin': Music from the Golden State, featuring music by the Beach Boys, Janis Joplin, the Doors, Creedence Clearwater Revival, etc. This concert will be held on February 10 and 11, 2012 at the Oscar Peterson Hall.

Finally, on October 25th, 2011 as VP Professional Development and with the support of the Office of the Provost, I organized the Part-time Faculty Research and Creative Works Showcasing event. This was an excellent opportunity for our members to display their work. Twenty-one members participated along with the Concordia University Library Research Repository, Spectrum. Dr. David Graham, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs; CUPFA President, Maria Peluso; and Dr. Carole Brabant, Acting Director of the Office of Research addressed the participants and visitors. Craig Morrison performed some of his works. After this a light lunch was served. All CUPFA members were notified of this event but if you did not receive an email from us, please make sure that the Association has your correct email address when you are applying to teach. This tear's participating members displayed their art work, multi-media projects — including textiles, quilts, CDs, films, books, articles, and photographs.

If any members have suggestions or questions about professional development, please contact me at <u>pdcupfa@gmail.com</u> or call me at the CUPFA office.

Angela Ford-Rosenthal, VP Professional Development

Spreading the News

There are just a few items to put in front of you in CUPFA News. First, as many of you know, CUPFA was out in front in our support for our students for the November 10th, Quebec-wide protest over proposed tuition hikes. Prior to the event, we issued a press release to voice our support for the student position. In connection to this, I responded to interview requests from both The LINK and Montreal Gazette. Overall, we received positive feedback from our membership and from student organizations for our public stance.

Second, many of you may have dropped by the CUPFA website recently and noticed it is under reconstruction. Yes, the web site is getting a facelift. Pata Macedo, Design & Computation Arts, is designing a totally new look for us, and we couldn't be happier. The new page will be easier to navigate. It will contain all the forms members routinely need (such as Professional Development, Small Claims, as well as Application forms), as well as the information members most frequently request. We will be adding a new "Survival Handbook" to the site, so members can get the information they need in the most efficient manner possible. We will also be introducing a new platform to focus attention on the wonderful accomplishments of our members. Through the year, we will have regular information updates on the site. All of this is designed to provide members better information about what is happening at CUPFA, and at the University. The site should be up and running in January 2012.

Finally, in the pages of CUPFA News you will see a survey for members. The survey is designed to help the Negotiation team in its preparations leading up to the bargaining for our next Collective Agreement, starting in September 2012. We need to hear from you, and we need to hear what is on your mind. Please take the time to fill out and return the survey. Every opinion matters, and every response will help our negotiation team represent you at the table.

Dr. David Douglas CUPFA Chair of Communications Senator, Fine Arts

On the Move with Mobilisation and Out-Reach

The Association has been on the move with a very active summer and fall period. As you are aware, my role as Chair of Mobilisation is to reach-out to the membership, to groups, associations, the University community-atlarge and to individual members directly. In particular, I am active in reaching-out to new members.

You will receive an in-depth Annual Report in January of our mobilisation and out-reach activities. As you already know, we accomplished the following activities and events in the past few months alone: in September we held our second Orientation day for new members as well as our two-day Campus Equity Week (CEW) event in the McConnell Library Atrium this past October.

As well, we are pleased once again, to offer you the 2012 magnetic calendar along with your copy of *CUPFA News*. It contains information on how to contact CUPFA as well as significant deadlines, marked in red, important to you as a CUPFA member. These calendars were also sent out to departmental secretaries in appreciation of their support of Part-time faculty.

Judith Grad, CUPFA Chair of Mobilisation

Congratulations to Salinda Hess (Department of Sociology & Anthropology), participant in the joint CUPFA/CTLS CUPFA Orientation Session held on September 25, 2011 and lucky winner of the draw for an iPad 2!

What is Spectrum? Showcasing Your Achievements World-wide

Spectrum is Concordia University's open access research repository, one of several institutional repositories in Quebec. It involves the idea of self-archiving. When we archive our research and creative works on Spectrum, scholars worldwide receive free access to it. The benefits include increased readership and increased citation of your work. Your work is free for scholars to download, and it is included in such search engines as Google and Google Scholar. Your work will include a list of key terms to help get it into the overall circulation of these search systems. What is also interesting about Spectrum is the relatively new feature that allows access to download information concerning your work. Graphs provide the monthly statistics as to how often your work was downloaded and which search engine was used.

What can be deposited on Spectrum? Peer reviewed, or refereed, academic research and creative works.

- This can include previously published articles, book chapters, books and monographs (with permission granted from the original publishers). Statistics show that around 94% of journals have given authors the right to self-archive. And, the process of asking permission from publishers is simplified by the Spectrum process — an online form is provided.
- Peer reviewed creative work can include images of fine art objects and audio and video files, which have either been included in significant exhibitions or have had external funding. Defining creative output in the Fine Arts context may be handled on a case-by-case basis to establish the peer review process.
- 3. Finally, peer reviewed academic work can include conference papers and PowerPoint presentations for conferences. By having ones work accepted at a conference, one has passed a peer review process.

At our last meeting of the Spectrum Advisory Committee, we learned that the Spectrum system has been vastly improved in terms of ease of use. The author can now paste the DOI (Digital Object Identifier) of the article and automatically import information into Spectrum. This greatly simplifies the deposit of research. Help is readily available in this process. As well, download the following documents for further information and assistance:

How to deposit an article in Spectrum (PDF): http://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/HowtoDepositArticleinSpectrum.pdf

Spectrum checklist (PDF): <u>http://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/spectrum_checklist.pdf</u>

The Library is attempting to ensure that more people are aware of the possibility of self-archiving and the benefits: for example, they set up a booth at the recent CUPFA Showcasing Event on October 25th. Contact the Library for any questions you may have concerning self-archiving.

Dr. Margaret Hodges CUPFA Representative Spectrum Advisory Committee

Happy New Year - Bonne Année

Long Service Recognition

This year's long service reception on November 29th, 2011 celebrated the following parttime faculty members for their commitment to the University over the years. The Association recognises your value and contribution to your students and to your profession. We congratulate this year's CUPFA members who have served as loyal members of the University community.

20 Years

Jay Bryan Pearl Crichton Robert Del Tredici Wajeeh Elali Juan Gomez-Perales Philip Herbison Panjak Kamthan Steven Lapidus Beverly McGuire Stephen Menzies Lauretta J. Milkman Wali Muhammed Robert Soroka Donato Totaro Guiseppe DiLeo Elsa Lo

25 Years

Leslie Barker Leslie Cohen Laura Cowan Lon Dubinsky Doreen Green Clara Gutsche Jesse Hunter John Mckay Paulos Milkias Ashley Miller Virginia Nixon Penny Pasdermadjian Shelley Reeves Martin Rourke

30 Years

Brigitte Radecki Barbara M.J. Rhodes Stephen Wong

35 Years

Janice Flood-Turner Marvin Hershorn Bhuvan C. Pant Michael Rosenberg Bertram Somers Alwin Spence

40 Years +

Umanath Tiwari Francois-Rene Ullmann

Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training New from Concordia Security Services!

Take the opportunity to learn about Nonviolent Crisis Intervention. The one-day workshop will give the confidence necessary to handle crisis situations with minimum anxiety and maximum security.

- Learn how to take control of an out-of-control situation
- Recognize non-verbal behavior
- Recognize para-verbal communication
- Identify sources of anxiety & fear and be able to control them
- Learn a few safety techniques

If you wish to learn more about the workshop, email to <u>secprev@concordia.ca</u> or visit their website: http://security.concordia.ca/prevention/training/

La voix française

L'année 2011 a vu l'élection d'un nouvel Exécutif de l'Association. Nous sommes en train d'établir une équipe très forte en préparation des négociations qui débuteront en fin d'année 2012.

Cette année comme dans le passé l'Administration de l'Université n'a pas toujours voulu appliquer notre convention collective, ce qui a donné énormément de travail au Vice Président Convention Collective et Griefs, Patrice Blais.

Par ailleurs à l'Université l'Association a accordé un soutien à nos étudiants qui luttent contre les augmentations des frais scolaires. Comme a déjà noté notre Présidente Maria Peluso, nous donnons aussi notre soutien aux autres associations syndicales à Concordia et partout au monde, à nos collègues qui eux aussi luttent en faveur de meilleures conditions de travail. Ici à Concordia dans l'entre-temps nos problèmes consistent en des problèmes de pension, des problèmes de retraite, des problèmes avec les listes de séniorités etc.

Mais la situation n'est pas entièrement négative. Deux de nos membres fêtent 40 ans de service à l'Université, et en tout 45 membres fêtent plus de 20 ans de service à notre communauté de Concordia. Félicitations à nos collègues, pensons aux milliers d'étudiants pour lesquels ils et elles ont fait une différence.

Comme j'ai souligné l'année dernière, nous sommes là pour vous, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter, si vous avez des plaintes, des questions, de bonnes idées ou des suggestions, nous voulons vous écouter et vous entendre. Veuillez noter dans vos agendas la date du 29 mars, 2012 et venez nous rencontrer à l'Assemblée générale.

A l'occasion des Fêtes nous vous présentons nos meilleurs vœux pour de joyeuses fêtes et pour une très bonne et heureuse année 2012.

Angela Ford-Rosenthal Vice Présidente Développement Professionnel

2012 Professional Development Deadlines

Monday, January 16, 2012

Monday, April 16, 2012

Monday, October 15, 2012

Attention Important Retirement and Pension Information

1. Can I draw on my pension plans and still teach?

A reminder to all members wishing to draw on your Concordia pension. You can continue working, as there is no law in Quebec for mandatory retirement, and draw on your pension plans (Federal, Provincial, Concordia). Whether you decide to retire and leave Concordia or draw on your pension and stay, please ensure you contact the Association before doing anything. Information you may receive from Human Resources may not be accurate and mistakes have been made.

2. I know someone who left Concordia, what happens to their pension funds at Concordia?

If a member was a contributing member of the Concordia Pension Plan, their funds are portable and they are entitled to their pension funds being transferred to another pension plan or into a lock-in RRSP.

3. How do I become a contributing member of the Concordia Plan?

You can only become a member of the Concordia Pension Plan if you have earned a certain amount. The amount is determined by the government and changes from year and year. The good news is that you only have to earn this amount once and then you can apply to contribute. The amount this year (2011-12) is \$16,600. You must apply to contribute before November 30 of any year by contacting the Pension Offices in Human Resources. There are tax-sheltering advantages to becoming a contributing member for most members so ensure you take advantage of becoming a contributing member.

4. Where can I get information about how much I've contributed or will receive?

Information can be accessed via your Portal. Bear in mind information is posted for the preceding year. You are also encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting for the Concordia Pension Plan that normally takes place in October of each year.

5. Can I get more information about pension plans, and knowing more about retirement?

Keep your eyes peeled for a special orientation the Association will be organizing on pensions and retirement scheduled for April 2012. In the interim, please, contact the Association <u>first</u> for any specific concern or information you may need cupfa@alcor.concordia.ca

JOIN THE CONCORDIA PENSIONER'S ASSOCIATION!

To joint the Concordia University Pensioner's Association, send your name, address, phone no., e-mail address, \$20.00 cheque and your last Concordia position to:

Treasurer CUPA Concordia Pensioners Association, Concordia University, 1455 De Maisonneuve Blvd. West Annex MI, SGW Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8

Please include a cheque (annual dues) for \$20.00, payable to "CUPA, Concordia University in Trust".

Our phone no.is (514) 848-2424 Local 8755 (please leave message) and our website is http://cupa.concordia.ca/

Survey for Part-time Faculty – CUPFA Negotiations

 As CUPFA prepares for negotiations wh ☐ Job Security 	nat are the three areas, which most concern you?
🗌 Academic Freedom	Class Size
Disability Leave	Pension Benefits
Medical Health Benefits	Professional Development/ Research Funding
Online courses/classes	□ Other
If you answered Other , please describe:	
Are there specific Articles of the CUPFA Collective Agreement that you would like to see	
CUPFA address in the negotiations? If yes, please indicate which ones.	
2. Are you interested in contributing to the upcoming negotiations?	
🗌 Yes	🗌 No
3. How do you see yourself contributing to the upcoming negotiations?	
 Can the negotiation team contact you when we enter negotiations? Name 	
Department	Email
Phone	_Cell
PLEASE RETURN to Patrice Blais, Chief Negotiator, CUPFA K-340	

SPECIAL RATES TO CUPFA MEMBERS PLEASE ENSURE YOU PRESENT YOUR CUPFA MEMBERSHIP CARD

HOME AND CAR INSURANCE. Essor Insurance

Members wanting 30-40% reductions in home or automobile insurance can call (514) 878-9373. The office is conveniently located at 1080 Beaverhall Hill, Montreal, Quebec, H2Z 1X9.

FINANCIAL SERVICES, TAX RETURNS - J. Freed

THERE IS NO FREEDOM WITHOUT FINANCIAL FREEDOM - LA LIBERTÉ PERSONNELLE PASSE PAR LA LIBERTÉ FINANCIÈRE. Financial services for individuals and small businesses; budgeting, debt management, investments, future planning, personal taxes done quickly, wealth enhancement strategies. Special rates for CUPFA members.

Call J. Freed (514) 483-5130 or email: jfreed@videotron.ca

FLORIST - Fleuristes Mayfair Florists, 5155 Cote des Neiges, Montreal, Quebec

Exquisite floral arrangements for all occasions, dried arrangements, specialty baskets, plants, etc. 10% off for CUPFA members, upon presentation of a valid CUPFA membership card.

Call: (514) 738-1179

MUSIC

Gary Schwartz - Jazz and R&B Jazz and R&B music available for receptions, parties and group events. Contact Gary Schwartz (CUPFA member-Music Department) at (514) 484-2378 or email at g.schwartz01@sympatico.ca

Vintage Wine Band

Vintage Wine is a versatile, professional band with a repertoire of some of the most popular music ever made: the party songs from the 1950s to the 1980s. The band plays rock and roll, R&B, surf, Motown, soul, British Invasion, classic rock, blues, country, disco, standards and social dances. Visit www.vintagewinemusic.com or call Craig Morrison (CUPFA member-Music Department) at (514) 272-0367.