



FAUST

News & Views

No. 8

Nov/Dec 2019

Dear FAUSTians:

This is the last newsletter of 2019. It contains an 'echo' or summary of the Emergency Meeting held on 1 November 2019, a bargaining update, updates on committees, faculty union unrest in Canada, and CAUT news.

ECHO: EMERGENCY MEETING FRI NOV 1 2019:



TRANSPARENCY A STICKING POINT IN NEGOTIATIONS

This meeting was called to provide **guidance** for the **Negotiating Team** regarding **faculty representation** on the **Board of Governors (BoG)**. Since the GMM held the previous week had not attained quorum, the attendees suggested that an emergency meeting be held on the following Friday (1 November).

In an email message to members before the GMM, FAUST President Robin Vose noted the following:

In our bargaining survey, 73% of respondents indicated that 'increasing transparency from the administration' was a high or very high priority for this round. Your negotiating team has been looking at various ways of achieving this, but perhaps the most important gets to the very fundamentals of transparency in collegial governance: **FREE AND OPEN FACULTY PARTICIPATION ON THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.**

Currently STU faculty are ‘represented’ by three members (out of 25) on the BoG. However, due to an outdated clause that was slipped into our first unionized Collective Agreement back in the 1970s, these members are barred from being members of FAUST. This means that they lose their union protections in terms of Academic Freedom, and above all the freedom (or indeed duty) to report back to the membership on what is happening at the BoG—let alone to criticize any BoG decisions which they may find problematic. Indeed, the STU BoG actually forces faculty ‘representatives’ to sign confidentiality agreements, and nearly all Board business is conducted under a thick shroud of secrecy.

This is not how a public university should be run, and it makes a mockery of the concept of “representation”, as well as transparency in democratic collegial governance, when faculty representatives are actively barred from communicating with the very constituencies they are supposed to be representing.

Transparency in governance has become a concern for faculty across Canada, as more and more public university Boards attempt to close off their decision-making from internal as well as public scrutiny. Secrecy and enforcement of strict ‘Board solidarity’, normative in the for-profit corporate sector, are increasingly being imposed in the world of post-secondary education where they simply do not belong. St Thomas University is among the worst offenders in this regard, as a recent CAUT study has made clear. We have a long way to go to catch up to our more progressive peers, but restoring our BoG representatives’ rights to remain in their own union is an important first step. The university community has nothing to lose by making this change, and everything to gain. Yet to date the Employer refuses to make any concessions on this point, or to give reasons for their refusal.

At the emergency meeting, Chief Negotiator Marvin Claybourn reiterated that the Employer has “no appetite” to entertain changes to the BoG. After considerable discussion, the following amended motion was proposed and passed by the membership:

MOTION: be it resolved that the Negotiating Team not move on to monetary issues until faculty representatives who sit on the BoG retain full union membership.

SOURCES ON TRANSPARENCY & COLLEGIAL GOVERNANCE

If you are interested in reading more about openness and transparency in postsecondary institutions, please check out the following resources:

<https://www.universityaffairs.ca/features/feature-article/university-boards-spotlight/>

<https://lufappul.ca/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/caut-legal-advisory-Fiduciary-Duties-of-University-Board-Members-2018....pdf>

<https://www.caut.ca/bulletin/2018/10/shared-governance-matters>

https://www.caut.ca/sites/default/files/caut-report-board-of-governors-structures-at-thirty-one-canadian-universities_2018-05v2.pdf

<https://www.caut.ca/campaigns/shared-governance#overlay-context=fr/content/droit-fondamental-une-remuneration-equitable>

<https://www.caut.ca/about-us/caut-policy/lists/caut-policy-statements/policy-statement-on-governance>

<https://www.caut.ca/about-us/caut-policy/lists/caut-policy-statements/policy-statement-on-openness-and-transparency-in-post-secondary-institutions>

<https://www.caut.ca/about-us/caut-policy/lists/caut-policy-statements/policy-statement-on-collegiality>

BARGAINING UPDATE

According to Marvin Claybourn, Chief Negotiator, “the Negotiating Team is continuing to make progress at the table and we have bargaining dates scheduled up to Dec. 20th before breaking for the holidays.”

JOB ACTION COMMITTEE

Since we are currently engaged in collective bargaining, a Job Action Committee has been struck. Why do we need a JAC? According to the *Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC*:

In most cases, the collective bargaining process does not involve any form of job action. The vast majority of collective agreements are concluded with little fanfare or disruption. The simple threat of economic pressure (job action, strike) is usually enough to motivate employers to take the union’s issues and proposals seriously. However, there are times when it is necessary to support our bargaining position with more than words. Sometimes, the only way one can compel an otherwise unwilling employer to accept or agree to different terms and conditions of work is through job action (*Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC JAC manual*, p. 3)

In that spirit we reached out for volunteers and we are happy to report that the following have agreed to serve on the JAC (It looks like Anthropology is planning a coup 😊):

Craig Proulx, Anthropology

Brad Votour, Anthropology

Shaunda Wood, Education

Mary Lou Babineau, Spanish

Katie Thorsteinson, English

Csilla Dallos, Anthropology (consultation)

Santiago Mora, Anthropology (consultation)



If you are interested in being a part of the committee, please email faust@stu.ca. The JAC will be holding its first meeting in January. According to President Robin Vose, it is one of the “most fun” committees to sit on!!

FAUST AD HOC COMMITTEES

FAUST will also be restarting the ad hoc committees in January. Below you will find a list of members on these committees, according to our records. If you know you are a member, but do not see your name, please let us know as soon as possible. If you would like to join one of these committees, we are always looking for new members:

FAUST ad hoc committee on campus environmental issues

Robin Vose (ex officio)

Angela Wisniewski, STS

Matthew Robinson, Philosophy

Tyler Bancroft, Psychology

FAUST ad hoc committee on IT issues

Robin Vose (ex officio)

Anne-Drea V. Allison, Social Work

Bradley Votour, Anthropology

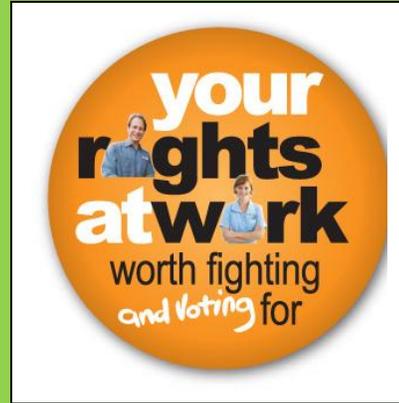
Derek Simon, Religious Studies

Carey Watt, History

Luc Walhain, History

Julia Torrie, History

(This time it looks like History is attempting a coup!)



FAUST ad hoc committee on sexual misconduct

Robin Vose (ex officio)

Jan Wong, Journalism

FAUST ad hoc committee on indigenization of the academic workplace

Robin Vose (ex officio)

Shannonbrooke Murphy, Human Rights

Shaunda Wood, Education

FAUST ad hoc committee on constitutional review

Robin Vose (ex officio)

Janice Harvey, Env't & Society

Moira McLaughlin, Anthropology

Hilary Randall, Psychology

LABOUR UNREST: FACULTY ASSOCIATIONS



<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/faculty-strike-by-unbc-prince-george-professors-1.5364178>

- The **University of Northern British Columbia Faculty Association** decided on Fri 29 November to take down the picket lines after 4 weeks on strike. Students went back to the classroom on Mon 2 December. Faculty members are still engaging in job action, however. They are “working to rule,” only engaging in work that allows students to complete the fall semester. The association is also filing a complaint before the BC Labour Relations Board, accusing the university administration of “bad faith bargaining.” Moreover, the BC government is appointing a special mediator. For more details, see https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/unbc-faculty-association-announcement-1.5379068?_vz=medium%3Dsharebar&fbclid=IwAR17d5XE2ui2257JLxs1_4FAVLr_cRHkFAbppATk6XkNuZV8jjDrGXR5MqtKhttps://unbcfa.ca/bargaining-updates-2019/.
- The **Cape Breton University Faculty Association** has signed a **tentative agreement** with the university. No details have yet been released. See: https://www.capebretonpost.com/news/local/cape-breton-university-union-reach-tentative-deal-376762/?utm_source=Academica+Top+Ten&utm_campaign=00736a393b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_11_18_06_34&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b4928536cf-00736a393b-47749017&fbclid=IwAR1htsf647wE7KcfecGz1eIUxTpJAs1T8fFHR5ZBJW769jeTc4XYXjghA3M#.XdP45WWznQA.facebook

CAUT UPDATES

- A **CAUT investigation** into the **suspension** of **Dr. Derek Pyne** by **Thompson Rivers University (TRU)** has concluded that the administration’s actions **breached academic freedom**: <https://www.caut.ca/latest/2019/11/report-academic-freedom-breached-thompson-rivers-university>
- The **Laurentian University Faculty Association (LUFA)** has won an **important legal battle** in asserting the **right to academic freedom** across the country: <https://www.caut.ca/latest/2019/11/laurentian-university-administration-violated-academic-freedom>

- CAUT has condemned the **recent police attacks** on the **Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)** and the **Hong Kong Polytechnic University**:
<https://www.caut.ca/latest/2019/11/police-attacks-hong-kong-university-campuses-condemned>

- **CAUT COUNCIL MOTIONS** passed on **December 1 2019** : **HOT OFF THE PRESSES!!**
 - Moved by OPSEU, seconded by FAUST:
WHEREAS the democratically elected President of **Bolivia**, Evo Morales, has been removed from power in an illegal military coup, and
WHEREAS the United States and its allies have, since 2001, been opposing Evo Morales, funding and organizing opposition groups within Bolivia, and undermining the Morales government, and
WHEREAS in October of 2019 the Canadian government and the Organization of American States supported false accusations of electoral fraud designed to undermine the legitimacy of Bolivia's elections and the Presidency of Morales, and
WHEREAS Federal Foreign Affairs Minister Chrstia Freeland has refused to denounce the coup, and
WHEREAS the rule of International Law, the sovereignty of states, and the upholding of democratic process are the foundations of human rights, and
WHEREAS CAUT has long demonstrated a commitment to supporting international human rights, and
WHEREAS a culture of critical post-secondary education and academic freedom in Bolivia depends on protecting human rights and the democratic process in that country,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT,
CAUT release a public statement that:
 - o condemns the Canadian government for its failure to oppose the coup in Bolivia,
 - o calls for the Canadian government to advocate for the immediate return of Evo Morales as President of Bolivia,
 - o calls for Canada to use its influence to seek a peaceful resolution to Bolivia's crisis that rejects political violence, upholds the rule of International Law, and respects Bolivia's indigenous democratic and constitutional processes.
PASSED

- Moved by FAUST, seconded by OPSEU:
WHEREAS **Chilean** students, educators, and Indigenous peoples have been particularly harmed by decades of failed extreme neoliberal policies;
WHEREAS representatives of these groups have been at the forefront of unprecedented public protests in recent weeks;

And WHEREAS brutal government repression directed against the protestors, including both surveillance and harassment as well as outright violence, has already resulted in more than 26 civilian deaths, 11,500 injuries and 7200 arrests;
BE IT RESOLVED THAT,
the Canadian Association of University Teachers condemns the Chilean government's brutal violations of human rights against citizens who exercise their democratic right to protest, and calls for an immediate end to all state violence directed against protestors in Chile, as well as to all targeting of legally constituted student, labour, and Indigenous groups by Chilean security forces.
PASSED.

FAUST SWAG!!

Don't forget to pick up your FAUST toques & beer steins!

We ask for a modest \$10 for each, 1/2 price for Part-Time faculty!

They make great Christmas gifts!





FAUST MEMBERS & FRIENDS AT OKTOBERFEST... ENJOYING THEIR BEER & THEIR BEER STEINS!



FAUST OFFICE HOURS 2019-20

WED & FRI 9-11AM, 1-4PM

OR BY APPOINTMENT

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