
THE UWFA NEWS

Message from the President

By Kristine Hansen, UWFA President

The end of term is now here, and we're all busy marking, invigilating exams, dealing with anxiety-stricken students, doing a multitude of administrative tasks, and trying to squeeze in enough time for some progress on scholarly endeavours. I wish everyone well in concluding the tasks of the fall term, and I wish you some well-deserved peace following that. The pace of UWFA's work will continue unabated, at least until late December, and I am deeply appreciative of those UWFA members who carry out the Association's work on top of their day jobs. Main Unit negotiations have required a very substantial time commitment from the negotiating team, and the Job Action Committee has been busy preparing for the possibility that we need to take action to back up our negotiators. Meanwhile, all of the regular UWFA work continues: grievance handling, dealing with various workplace issues that arise almost daily, and meeting with the Employer on Collective Agreement and other issues. I'm grateful to our Executive Council members and to the considerable number of UWFA members who contribute their time to our work, and to our two staff members, both of whom go beyond what's expected in keeping our Association running. I'd also like to acknowledge the work of the Membership Committee (sort of chaired by Pauline Pearson, who insists that she is not its chair) in organizing the recent bowling night (well attended, and well enjoyed). As well, I'm thankful that our new Vice-President, Allen Mills, has stepped in to fill a void and undertaken a variety of tasks. Finally, thanks to all the UWFA members who serve on our committees and represent us on university bodies. If you're a Main Unit member, please be on standby in case we need you to attend further meetings and/or to assist the Association as our negotiators begin dealing with the most contentious bargaining items. UWFA can only be as strong as its membership support.

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online at www.uwfa.ca/uwfa-news.

Why Are We Called Flying Pickets When I Spent Six Hours Walking?

By Mark Golden, UWFA Member-at-Large

The morning of Friday, October 29 found me walking outside the entrance to Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, wishing I'd brought my winter boots and envying the Sleeping Giant in his comfortable limestone bed. I was one of eight flying pickets, members of university unions from as far away as Fredericton, Halifax and St John's, who'd come in support of a strike at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM).

This story is continued on our website at www.uwfa.ca/uwfa-news where you will find all of Mark's insights and pictures of the strike.

Job Action Committee

By Allen Mills, UWFA Vice-President

The names below are those of UWFA Members who have agreed to serve as representatives to the Job Action Committee.

We are presently in negotiations with the administration over a new Collective Agreement. Relations between both sides at the table have been productive and there is no need to think that they will cease to be. But the difficult matters to do with money and benefits have still not been discussed. We continue to be paid substantially below both The University of Manitoba and Brandon University and to catch up with them is part of the mandate of the bargaining team. Organization in support of our goals is crucial.

We cannot know how things will go but it is prudent to prepare for every eventuality. That is why the Job Action Committee has been set up. It will promote communication, we hope, between UWFA's Executive and the Membership and alert Members to the fact that we need to pull together towards our common goals. Your representative will be asking you for off-campus telephone numbers and email addresses.

These representatives will also be wonderful conduits for suggestions and ideas around bargaining as matters move ahead.

Please make a special effort to work with your rep and to log onto the UWFA website with its Newsletter.

Happy holidays.

The University as One Might Like It

By Peter Ives, UWFA Member-at-Large

In his recent book, *Love the Questions: University Education and Enlightenment*, Ian Angus defines the university as "an institution of thought" with its core resting in "the seminar room with its interchange between younger, beginning thinkers and one or more older, experienced ones. This encounter is not an exchange of information (which produces nothing new) but precisely an *encounter*, an event" (pp.19-21).

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Job Action Committee Membership

<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>
Anthropology	Barnett Richling
Applied Computer Science	—————
Biology	Andy Park
Business and Administration	Sat Singh
Rhet., Writing and Comm.	Tracy Whalen
Chemistry	Devin Latimer
Classics	Mark Golden
Criminal Justice	Kelly Gorkoff
Economics	Melanie O'Gorman
Education	Paul Betts
English	Murray Evans
Environmental Studies	Alan Diduck
Geography	Marc Vachon
History	Alexander Freund
Indigenous Studies	Jacqueline Romanow
Kinesiology	Ben Trunzo
Library	Linwood DeLong
Math and Stats	Anna Stokke
Modern Languages	Sante Viselli
Philosophy	Sandra Tomsons
Physics	Esmat Elhami
Politics	Peter Ives
Psychology	Pauline Pearson
Religious Studies	Jeff Newmark/Carlos Colorado
Sociology	Barry Edginton/Wei Xing
Theatre and Film	David Hewlett
Theology	Arthur Walker-Jones
Urban and IC Studies	Judith Harris
Women's and Gender Studies	Roewan Crowe

Open Letter to Senate

An Open Letter to Senate and the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee:

The Women and Equity Committee of the University of Winnipeg Faculty Association (WE Committee) is writing this letter in regard to recent concerns over the conferring of honorary degrees. Of particular concern to the committee are the lack of clarity in selection criteria/process and the omission of student input.

Recently, at the October 17, 2010, Autumn Convocation, an honorary degree was bestowed upon the Honourable Vic Toews. This incident serves to highlight the two concerns presented in the preceding paragraph. As noted in the minutes of the November 17, 2010, Senate Committee meeting, students held a “peaceful protest” outside of the Duckworth Centre. The valedictorian, selected to represent her fellow students, made her opposition to this recipient clear to those in attendance at the Autumn Convocation as well as to the media. The disappointment of the Women and Equity Committee arises from the Senate’s failure to address these concerns. Though the protest was noted in the Senate meeting minutes, no resolution was offered.

When the Women and Equity Committee attempted to gather information about the selection process for granting honorary degrees, only limited information could be found. It is clear that nominations are reviewed by the Senate’s Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. Apart from this committee’s review of nominees, the selection criteria are not evident. The WE committee suggests that the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, which is charged with the responsibility of selecting honorary degree recipients, should be comprised of faculty, student and community membership who are actively engaged in decision making, it should not consist only of community representatives on the Board of Regents. Additionally, we suggest that sitting politicians be excluded, but that those who are

retired should be eligible. Certainly the honorary degree recipients should be individuals who reflect the values of a liberal arts university. It is our opinion that those individuals who have a tradition of endorsing equity and diversity, in the university community and beyond, are those who deserve this honour from the university Senate. Thus, the Women and Equity Committee suggest the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee use clear selection criteria that are openly communicated and meaningfully involve students and the wider community in the selection process. Providing information about selection criteria and creating diversity within this committee will go far in addressing the concerns of students and the community in the conferring of honorary degrees.

Sincerely,

UWFA Women and Equity Committee

When Does the Main Unit Agreement Expire?

Members have asked about the expiry of the Collective Agreement, which was in effect until April 1, 2010. Has it expired? Well, yes, but no. Under labour legislation, contracts remain in effect for one year following expiry. In our case, however, that one-year limitation does not apply, because our negotiators have obtained an agreement from the Employer that the contract will remain in effect until a new agreement has been concluded.

Of course, that doesn’t mean that time is unimportant. Negotiations got a late start because of certain proposals that the Employer made last spring, and later because we didn’t want to negotiate in the absence of a V-P Academic. However, the teams have been bargaining regularly and intensively over the fall, and they plan to do so until an agreement is reached.

If you have any other questions about the contract or its expiry, please contact the UWFA Office at (204) 786-9430 or uwfa@uwinnipeg.ca.

Casualization, Rationalization and Other Realizations

CAUT Council, November 26 – 28, 2010

By Tracy Whalen, UWFA Secretary

For three days at the end of November, Kristine Hansen and I attended the sixty-ninth Council Meeting of the Canadian Association of University Teachers in Ottawa. As a group, we discussed CAUT policy language, heard updates about legal cases in Canadian institutions, and began to consider post-secondary concerns in light of a pending federal election.

Against this backdrop of policy statements and model clauses, a few particularly interesting topics stood out. One notable session included a panel about higher education in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. University of Windsor law professor Reem Bahdi discussed the difficulties of conducting research with Palestinian colleagues. Bahdi told the group that when she arrives in Israel on her way to Palestine, she often faces invasive searches in the airport, carries the phone numbers of Canadian journalists just in case she goes missing, and calls friends and family before passing through check points. Bahram Bekhradnia, Director of the Higher Education Policy Institute in Oxford, described the barriers Palestinian faculty and students face and spoke of the distressing negative response he received when he chronicled such barriers in a scholarly article.

In another panel discussion, Bekhradnia summarized the Browne Report and its proposed changes for Great Britain's university funding. He has noted an ideological shift in popular sentiment: increasingly, many believe that money for universities should come directly from students and not from government. This shift means that universities will have to aggressively recruit students to survive. Tuition costs will likely increase on average from £3,300 to £7,000 per year, depending on the university, a substantial debt load that students will pay back once they've reached a certain salary, post-graduation.

Another interesting session was Associate Executive Director David Robinson's CAUT Decima/Harris Poll. The poll, conducted between November 11 and 21, included the responses of 2,000 adult Canadians. The data suggest that the popular sentiment of the "overpaid" professor is a myth. Of the respondents, 49% disagreed with the statement that college and university teachers earn too much, 26% percent agreed, and the remaining respondents were either neutral or did not know where they stood. In other questions, the majority of those surveyed (55%) opposed a government-imposed freeze in academic salaries. This opposition was strongest in Alberta and Quebec, while Manitoba was pretty much in line with the national figure. There was a split in opinion nationally concerning the right of university and college instructors to strike.

Finally, faculty members might be interested in a recent article, "Occupational Stress in Canadian Universities," written by researchers from Saint Mary's University, McMaster University, and CAUT. According to their data, 13% of respondents to a faculty survey reported "high psychological distress," while "22% reported elevated physical health symptoms" (232). Work-life balance and job security were cited as the most significant factors for predicting psychological health and satisfaction. They concluded, too, that "women had significantly higher scores, suggesting more stress, on Work Load, Work-Life Conflict, Unfairness-Administration, and Unfairness-Rewards than did men"(244). Reported job satisfaction was generally lower, too, for those of the instructor/lecturer rank than for those in professorial ranks. The full citation for the article is as follows:

Catano, Vic, et al. "Occupational Stress in Canadian Universities: A National Survey." *International Journal of Stress Management* 17.3 (2010): 232-58. Print.

Chronochroma 6, A Site-Specific Installation by Rodney LaTourelle

By Roewan Crowe, UWFA Member-at-Large

Many of you have likely walked through Rodney LaTourelle's latest site-specific installation, *Chronochroma 6*, which has transformed the Centennial-Duckworth Hallway. Each time I walk through this hallway, I am immersed in this work of art and find myself enlivened and invigorated. This project was spearheaded by Serena Keshavjee, Associate Professor and Coordinator in the Art History Program, with full support from Jennifer Gibson, curator of Gallery 1Co3.

Serena Keshavjee is working on a very long-term and slow campaign to improve the visual environment of Centennial Hall. For example, she wants to restore the Buffeteria back to its glory of 1972 when it was painted with supergraphics designed by Ursula Ferguson, and was furnished with Canadian-designed lounging furniture. The Centennial Hall passageway came out of this larger project.

When asked by Serena Keshavjee to transform the highly articulated but drab passageway into a more inviting space, LaTourelle elected to change the hall *itself* into a work of art. In 2008 he created *Interval*, a work that consisted of site-specific installations in Gallery 1Co3 and in the Hamilton Galleria. He was inspired at the time by the original supergraphic murals that had animated the interior surfaces of Centennial Hall in 1972. Both of these temporary installations and the now permanent *Chronochroma 6* evoke the glory days of Centennial Hall. The Centennial-Duckworth Hallway is enlivened with a wide range of contemporary colours that highlight rather than hide the structural trusses of the architecture, referring to the original design conception for the building. Neil Minuk of Din Projects donated his time to take on the task of coordinating the colours and creating the text panels.

LaTourelle's work also invokes the prairie Structurist artists, particularly Eli Bornstein, whose *Structurist Relief in Fifteen Parts* has been a prominent fixture at Winnipeg's International

Airport since 1964. Bornstein uses brightly coloured geometrical elements to evoke the structures of nature, while LaTourelle uses coloured geometrical elements to emphasize the structural/aesthetic qualities of the architecture. The immersive quality of the installation invokes the potential mood-altering effects of colour, a central theme of LaTourelle's work. For those walking through this corridor, the serial play of strong hues also creates an optical illusion, as a result of which the trusses seem to change in scale. As LaTourelle's title *Chronochroma 6* implies, this piece thematizes the effects of different colours that reflect off our retinas as we pass through the space, that is, as we pass through time. This creates highly personal experiences, inducing different moods in different people.

LaTourelle's luminous work inhabits a liminal zone between architecture and art. Just as with his recent colour design for the interior of the Buhler Centre, one might ask whether it is architecture enhanced by art, or art enhanced by its immersive, that is, architectural nature.

Rodney LaTourelle is a Winnipeg-born artist currently living and practicing in Berlin. Trained as a landscape architect, LaTourelle creates immersive polychrome art environments. His work has been exhibited in Russia, Germany, Poland, at the National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa), and at UQAM in Montreal.

Roewan Crowe thanks Serena Keshavjee and Jennifer Gibson for providing the text and information for this article. Photo Credit for *Chronochroma 6*: Gallery 1Co3.



As One Might Like It (continued)

While Angus' important analysis is very critical of recent trends towards the corporate university, he notes that the public university of the welfare state also failed to live up to this ideal.

Over the last few years, we at the University of Winnipeg have grown used to a very different notion of the core of the university being Arts and Science. We are repeatedly assured that this will not be threatened by newer programmes such as those of the Global College, the new Faculty of Business and Economics, and the new Graduate Programmes that we have developed. Our Academic Plan represents this with a diagram of circles, where these newer programmes are placed on the edge of the core of Arts and Science and a caption that ensures us these new programmes have helped strengthen this core. I think many of us have wondered about the veracity of this claim and it seems to me questionable how we would go about determining this. But there is a growing sense that there is an imbalance in the allocation of resources and we experience our own sense of the core of this university being diminished as our classes grow larger, our classrooms deteriorate, and it becomes less clear the retiring faculty members will be replaced.

Of course, none of us here sees our work as belonging to a static core that is to remain unchanged. Instead, whether at the smaller level of developing new classroom techniques or material, or the larger level of new programmes, we are constantly adapting to our changing worlds and those of our students. It seems to me that Ian Angus' reflections on the core of the university as an institution of thought and relations among thinkers have something to add to our circumstances.

The University as One Might Like it is an ongoing column featuring short submissions from faculty members on the University as they would like to see it. If you'd like to submit your idea of what the University should be, contact Tracy Whalen at t.whalen@uwinnipeg.ca.

Bowling for Academic Freedom

By Pauline Pearson, Membership Committee

Thanks to everyone who came out and made our "Bowling for Academic Freedom" night an overwhelming success. The event was a sell-out, even after we expanded the event to allow a greater number of members to participate! Eighty eager bowlers, including Members and their families, came out for an evening of fun. Academy Lanes did an excellent job of serving up pizza, pop, and other beverages for all the participants. I even saw a number of strikes! The bumpers installed on the lanes appeared to provide some interesting strategies for knocking down those pins. It was also an opportunity for members to discuss the Bargaining Update with members of the UWFA Executive and the Bargaining Team and to thank them for their efforts.

Want to help plan an event? The upcoming term should provide us with a number of things to celebrate. It is UWFA's thirtieth anniversary and, hopefully, we will have a new Collective Agreement. The UWFA Membership Committee needs some ideas for events and new members. I anticipate that planning will only require one meeting. Please volunteer and encourage the secret party planners that you know to join the committee and help us make the next event successful.

About the UWFA News

The UWFA News is compiled and published by the UWFA Communications Committee. The Committee is comprised of Tracy Whalen, Megan Anderson, Allen Mills, Mark Golden, Peter Ives, Roewan Crowe and Daniel Draper. For more information on the UWFA News, please contact Tracy Whalen at t.whalen@uwinnipeg.ca.

The UWFA News accepts submissions from University of Winnipeg Faculty Association members on issues of interest. Unless otherwise stated, the opinions expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily of the Association or its Executive Council.