

## CHAIR'S REMARKS

### **"SPEAK UP!"**

#### **"Student Tuition Revenue: Is the Golden Goose Healthy?"**

**Thurs., Sept. 22, 2005**

**12:00 Noon, Lower Place Riel**

This is the first in the "Speak Up!" series sponsored by the External Relations Committee. Featuring: Professor Tracy Marchant

#### **"How Did It Come to This? - Changes in the Goals of the U of S, 1907 – 2007"**

**Wed., Sept. 28, 2005**

**3:30 – 5:00 pm.**

**A226 Health Sciences Building**

External Relations Committee Forum

Featuring: Professor Emeritus Michael Hayden  
Refreshments to follow.

### **USFA New Members Forum**

**Wed., Oct. 5, 2005**

**3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**Faculty Club**

**Windows Room**

The USFA New Member Forum is an informal reception for USFA members in the first few years of their appointment. There will be short presentations about the USFA, collegial processes and negotiated benefits. Please RSVP to Johanne at the USFA office (5610 or johanne.brassard@usask.ca) by September 30, 2005.

### **USFA Fall General Meeting**

**Mid-November**

*Watch for details on the USFA website.*

### **University Council Meetings**

**2:30 p.m., Room 241 Arts**

**(Neatby-Timlin Theatre)**

Thurs., Sept. 22, 2005

Thurs., Oct. 20, 2005

Thurs., Nov. 17, 2005

Thurs., Dec. 15, 2005

Thurs., Jan. 26, 2006

Thurs., Feb. 23, 2006

Thurs., Mar. 16, 2006

Thurs., Apr. 20, 2006

Thurs., May 18, 2006

Thurs., June 15, 2006

As the new USFA Chair, I would like to thank our outgoing Chair, Bob Gander, for all of his work on behalf of the USFA. Bob was Chair for the last two years and will be a tough act to follow.

I hope everyone had a productive summer and managed to fit in some vacation time. The past few months have gone quickly, aided in part I think by the UNIFI fiasco. I have heard from many of you about the absolute mess this new financial system has created. At one seminar I attended, a fairly senior administrator from Financial Services quipped "it only took us accountants about 30 seconds to learn UNIFI" Hmmm...

Many of you have written to administration about the incredibly inept implementation of UNIFI. I encourage you to continue to voice your frustration. If you are being asked to do work previously handled by support staff, please contact the USFA. It is an unfair labour practice to unilaterally transfer the work of one bargaining unit to another. Also, your Professional Expense Allowance (PEA) under Article 23.12 is now being handed through UNIFI. Contact us if a claim against your PEA has been denied for any reason related to the new UNIFI system.

The summer was busy for USFA staff and Executive members. In addition to our regular work, we are currently at three separate negotiating tables with administration. Tim Quigley and his team (Allan Backman, Lesley Biggs, Eric Neufeld and Johanne Brassard) have commenced main table negotiations for a new Collective Agreement. Negotiations also continue on the patent Memorandum of Agreement (Article 27.4) and the employment of non-members (Article 10.8). I anticipate that reports from all three tables will be presented to you at the Fall General Meeting (FGM). The FGM is usually scheduled for mid-November; an exact date and time will be determined shortly and announced on our website.

The work of many of our committees also continued over the summer. One that deserves to be highlighted is the university-wide Occupational Health Committee (OHC). The OHC is comprised of representatives from administration and the five unions on campus. USFA representatives are David Sumner (Mechanical Engineering) and Nigel Caulkett (Small Animal Clinical Sciences). David and Nigel are working hard to represent your interests. If you have a concern about safe working conditions, please feel free to contact them directly. I can guarantee that you will get a prompt and professional response.

Finally, you have already received information from us about the situation facing your colleagues in Extension. The threat against tenure at this University is very real. Protecting tenure, academic freedom and the collegial governance structure will be a major focus for the Executive in the upcoming year. The integrated planning process has created considerable chaos at this institution. The Executive is resolute in its determination to ensure that this chaos does not undermine in any way, shape or form these pillars of academia. I thank everyone who has responded to our Bulletin; you clearly understand the importance of this battle.

**Tracy Marchant**

## Creating an Information Commons

*Are you concerned about the privatization of information as it affects you in Saskatchewan?*

Everyone in Saskatchewan is affected in a number of ways by the private ownership or for-profit management of databases, scientific discoveries, technological breakthroughs and even living entities.

A group of University of Regina researchers is organizing a conference for the fall of 2005 to talk about the value of keeping information public. This conference will facilitate a broad based exploration across sectors into how Saskatchewan is currently responding to the potential dangers of transfer of knowledge ownership from public to private interests and include the creation of an information commons.

These researchers are calling for your ideas. Regardless of your area of expertise or interest, you may have had some experience with the loss of public information, ideas and information systems, especially in the past decade. Maybe you've seen some publicly-created discoveries and databases being taken over by corporations. You may also have come across some good ideas and networks for sharing information freely.

The group is also hoping to hold an Information Fair concurrent with the conference, at which people would be welcome to showcase innovations and alternative models that will help create an Information Commons. It is hoped that the Fair would be a space where people can meet, interact, share new ideas and show each other some neat stuff. It would be advertised and open to the public, not just for conference participants. It could be anything from an interactive computer set-up to a popular theatre presentation. This will help plan the scale and scope of the Fair.

Send your ideas for topics and presenters. The only restriction is that the topics must focus on Saskatchewan. If you have a display or demonstration in mind about free information or the problems with *unfree* information for the Information Fair, please let the conference organizers know the basic details and what your needs would be (display table, internet connection, A/V equipment, etc).

The Information Commons Project  
c/o Computer Science Department, University of Regina  
CW308 - 3737 Wascana Parkway,  
Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 0A2  
tel: 306-585-5210 / fax: 306-585-4745  
e-mail: [information.common@uregina.ca](mailto:information.common@uregina.ca)  
web: <http://uregina.ca/InformationCommons>

## Whose University is This?

The U of S administration has abandoned this university's traditional focus on providing a superlative undergraduate education in favour of a corporate agenda. It is changing fundamentally the way this university serves its public and it is doing this without proper consultation.

The administration refuses to release financial and other crucial information that has traditionally been in the public domain. Without this information, the public and campus community cannot begin to fathom what is going on.

Increasingly, there is public protest from students who are required to pay wildly escalating fees for a denatured education. Meanwhile, dwindling numbers of faculty and staff are at a breaking point. Each year, they are told to do more with less and to reinvent themselves yet again to this year's flavour of "relevant" academic. Meanwhile, administrators proliferate and prevaricate. They hide the true costs of their adventuring behind the "all is well" spin of their publicists.

The USFA External Relations Subcommittee has in concert with groups of concerned faculty, students and staff planned for two series of public events to examine the state of this institution.

First is a series of open forums with keynote speakers and panel sessions. Details of the inaugural forum can be found in the announcements column on page 1 of this Newsletter. The session will be followed by refreshments and discussions.

The second series will be "Speak Up!" short-talks in Lower Place Riel, at Thursday noon. One speaker every two weeks is planned from September 2005-April 2006. The first talk is planned for September 22, 2005.

All concerned faculty, staff, students and members are invited to contribute to one or both series either as speaker or panelist. All topics will be considered.

Contact: John Conway (665-5605, [john.conway@usask.ca](mailto:john.conway@usask.ca)) or [chary.r@usask.ca](mailto:chary.r@usask.ca) (966-6412) or Ed Tymchatyn (966-6113 [tymchat@math.usask.ca](mailto:tymchat@math.usask.ca)) or the USFA office (966-5609 [usfa@skyway.usask.ca](mailto:usfa@skyway.usask.ca)).

Information will be posted in OnCampus News, Campus Website, USFA website and Posters etc.

*The training of men and women transcends in value and interest all the other activities of a university. Buildings are but shelters, laboratories but tools, and money the elusive assistant of the men and women who teach and are taught*

- Walter Murray, 1927,  
First U of S President

## CAUT Action Alert - Greylisting of Brunel University

On 20th September 2004, Brunel's administration announced it was declaring 60 academic staff positions redundant — almost one in eight of the academic staff employed at the university. The administration claims these staff are "non-research" active, and are therefore unlikely to aid the University's drive for increased research funding.

After months of attempting to reach a negotiated solution, the AUT reports that Brunel University management has issued dismissal notices, including the president of the AUT local at Brunel who has led the campaign against the

redundancies. The AUT believes this is a direct attack on the union and has "greylisted" Brunel, an action equivalent to censure.

CAUT urges its members to support the AUT's campaign by refraining from any voluntary academic links with Brunel University, including withholding collaboration on research projects, journal contributions and participation in academic conferences.

*You can find out more information about the campaign and show your support on the AUT web site at:*  
[www.aut.org.uk/greylistbrunel](http://www.aut.org.uk/greylistbrunel)

## **Conference on Academic Freedom — Post 9/11**

The Harry Crowe Foundation's first conference will focus on challenges to academic freedom in the aftermath of 9/11 with new anti-terrorism laws, regulations and a climate of insecurity. The conference will be October 28-30, 2005 at the Marriott Toronto Bloor Yorkville Hotel.

The conference will consider difficult periods in the past when concerns about security threatened academic freedom. It will delve into the current situation in North America and abroad. National and International speakers will cover the issue from the 1916 sacking of Bertrand Russell by Trinity College, Cambridge, through the McCarthy era to the current reality. There will be sessions that focus on anti-terrorism initiatives in Canada and the U.S. and their implications for academic freedom and freedom of expression. There will also be a session dealing with the pressure for increased secrecy in all areas of research.

Jon Thompson, one of Canada's most distinguished experts on academic freedom, and Roland Penner, professor of law at the University of Manitoba and former attorney general of Manitoba, will conclude the conference with reflections on what needs to be done in the current context to preserve and expand academic freedom and freedom of expression amid growing pressures for security and restriction of free inquiry.

The USFA Executive Committee has passed a motion to send two members to this conference. If you are interested in attending as a USFA representative, please contact the USFA office.

For more information on this conference, visit the website for the Harry Crowe Foundation at <http://www.crowefoundation.ca/>.

Prepared with information from the CAUT Bulletin, April 2005  
[http://www.caut.ca/en/bulletin/issues/2005\\_apr/news\\_conference.asp](http://www.caut.ca/en/bulletin/issues/2005_apr/news_conference.asp)

## **Report on First USFA Scholarship Payments**

Successful applicants for the first time payout of the USFA Scholarship were issued their awards in July of 2005. The total amount paid out for the academic year 2004-2005 was \$246,874.28. Calculated at a value of \$54.63 per cu, 163 successful applicants were awarded scholarships worth a minimum of \$218.52 and the maximum awarded this year was \$3987.99. The average award value was \$1514.57. Established in the last round of negotiations, the Scholarship has an annual value of \$250,000 available to dependant students of University of Saskatchewan in-scope faculty. The Scholarship is currently treated as a non-taxable employee benefit, however we would like to advise USFA members that recently Administration representatives on the Joint Benefits Committee (JBC) have advised us that this status is under review by the University. A recent bulletin from the CRA appears to suggest that the criteria for the scholarship have to be such that there must actually be a limited number of scholarships provided by the Employer such that "the number of dependants chosen from those who are otherwise eligible should be low enough that most employees would not expect their dependants to be selected." Only 11 dependant applicants were ruled ineligible for the Scholarship under the current criteria. The JBC members will advise USFA members as to the status of the Scholarship Awards as information becomes available.

## **Situation at Brunel University Symptomatic of the Trend to Non-tenured Teaching Faculty**

The situation at Brunel University demonstrates the precarious nature of non-tenured teaching-only faculty positions. The trend towards contract, rather than tenure-track, and teaching-only faculty has been accelerating in the United States. Professor Jane Buck, as President of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), gave a speech to the AAUP Annual Meeting in which she outlined the extent of the problem. This is a synopsis of her speech:

As of 2001, about 46% of faculty positions in the U.S. were part-time, a rise from 33% in 1987. There is nothing wrong with part-time positions so long as they are tenurable positions. However, almost all part-time positions are not tenured. Thus, the number of part-time faculty is a measure of the continuing but more subtle attacks on tenure. For example, only about a quarter of Modern Language courses in the U.S. are taught by tenured or tenure-track faculty. A study of ten social science and humanities disciplines showed that, with the exception of history and art history, graduate students and contract faculty teach more than half of the courses offered in those disciplines.

Students suffer because contract faculty teach so many courses that they cannot provide the academic support that students need. Contract faculty cannot be expected to keep regular office hours. They are also deprived of academic freedom protection. Because of their precarious position, there may be a tendency to pander to students in order to get better evaluations. As Professor Buck put it, "Most contingent faculty members are highly qualified and dedicated members of the profession, but they are often stretched beyond any reasonable limit by their exigent schedules."

It is also obvious that if more contract, teaching-only positions are created, there will be fewer tenured positions. In other words, tenure is under attack.

For the full text of Professor Buck's speech, go to [http://www.aaup.org/statements/archives/Speeches/2001/01\\_ambuck.htm](http://www.aaup.org/statements/archives/Speeches/2001/01_ambuck.htm). Visit the USFA's online version of this Newsletter for links to more information on the threat to tenure posed by contract teaching-only positions.

## **USFA Committee on Women's Issues**

The Committee on Women's Issues is looking forward to an exciting year with many faculty members involved. Two events are in the planning stages. The first event deals with "Life Balance" and is a gathering planned for faculty women on November 3rd where we will discuss and brain storm strategies to find balance in our busy lives. A second event is planned for March 2006 to gather information for development of joint bargaining positions with other unions providing a network opportunity for women at the University. This will provide a further venue to share coping strategies for women on campus. Watch for further information on these events. We welcome new members to this committee and plan our first meeting in early September.

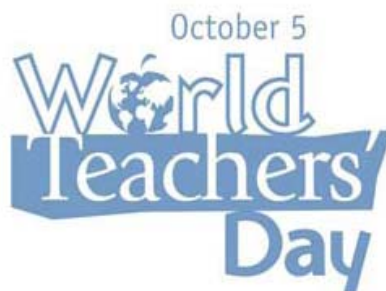
## World Teachers' Day Saskatoon – October 5, 2005

The Saskatoon Teachers' Association (STA) will be hosting its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "World Teachers' Day" event this October 5, 2005 in Saskatoon. Besides specific classroom initiatives on global education topics, the STA is partnering with *In Motion* Saskatoon for a "walk and talk" from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Vimy Memorial Bandshell south of the Bessborough Hotel. The purpose of this event is to draw attention to global issues surrounding illiteracy and poverty and to inform our community of global issues surrounding education and poverty. Three Saskatoon teachers will speak about their first-hand experience of educational systems in other countries. Local radio DJ, Steve Shannon, will be the master of ceremonies for this public event and musicians from some of Saskatoon's schools will provide music.

USFA members are strongly encouraged to attend this event and to encourage students to participate as well.

Further information can be obtained by contacting  
Gary Morrison, STA President at the STA Offices:  
Phone: 373-3960  
Fax: 374-5509  
Email: sta.gmorrison@sasktel.net

- World Teachers' Day was inaugurated by UNESCO in 1994 to focus attention on the contributions and achievements of teachers, and on their concerns and priorities. The Day is celebrated internationally on October 5, the day in 1966 on which a joint UNESCO/ILO conference adopted a recommendation on the Status of Teachers.
- An estimated 115 million school-age children were out of school in 1999, little change from the 113 estimated the previous year, 94% in the world's developing countries.
- In 1999, approximately 120 million children (aged 5 – 14) were working full time.
- Some 83 countries are on track to achieve Education For All (EFA) by the deadline of 2015 set at the World Education Forum in Dakar (Senegal) in 2000. On present trends, more than 70 other countries will not make it, and some are even going backwards.
- Overall almost one-third of the world's population live in countries where achieving the EFA goals remains a dream.
- In 1960 adults in the surveyed countries had spent an average of 3.4 years in school.
- By 2000, this had climbed to 7.6, almost three years short of the 10.2 years in the rich economies.
- In Brazil, Paraguay, the Philippines and Zimbabwe, between 30% and 50% of students of secondary-school-age are enrolled into primary schools as repeaters or late entrants.



### YOUR EXECUTIVE

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