



UOIT Has the Highest Student-Faculty Ratio in Canada!! 53:1

According to the most recent statistics available (Statistics Canada, 2008)*, UOIT has 53 full-time students per full-time faculty (Student-Faculty Ratio or SFR of 53:1). That is the highest university student-faculty ratio in all of Canada and almost twice the average in Ontario (the Ontario average for the same period is about 28 students per faculty). Across Canada, the average ratio is about 20 students for every faculty member. It wasn't supposed to be this way. Back in 2002, UOIT made the following projections:

Table 1: UOIT 6-Year Projections for Faculty to Student Ratio (SFR), 2002

Year	Students	Faculty	SFR
2003-04	690	28	24.6
2004-05	1790	53	33.7
2005-06	3270	107	30.5
2006-07	4790	153	31.3
2007-08	5880	236	24.9
2008-09	6560	263	24.9
2009-10	7380	296	24.9

The actual ratios superseded these projections by more than 100% in 2008 and this situation has likely not changed in the last two years since enrolments have far outpaced proportional faculty hiring. Clearly, the university has failed in its responsibility to maintain acceptable student-faculty ratios. Nevertheless, faculty continue to go well beyond the call of duty to provide the very best education for our students. But how long can we continue to burn the candle at both ends? How long before we start to burn out? How long before fatigue and illness set in? We must do everything in our power to pressure the administration to bring student-faculty ratios in line with those enjoyed by all of the other Canadian universities.

One of our members found this in the archives of their files and wanted to share this with the faculty. The slide above lists how many faculty and students we were to have by September of 2010. What is interesting about this slide, is that although we have managed to keep up with projected enrolments, we have

Enrolment and Faculty Projections 2003-2010

Year	Students	Faculty
2003-04	690	28
2004-05	1790	53
2005-06	3270	107
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Office of the Provost

Table displayed in 2002 to prospective faculty and the community showing the projected number of faculty UOIT was to have as of 2010.

not kept up with the number of faculty to service the students coming to UOIT. These projections were based on the 2002 average of student to faculty ratios (SFR) at the time which was 25:1. That is, there was to be 25 students per professor on this campus. Currently our core faculty number hover at approximately 151 (excluding the ACE Director). However, this core number also includes Deans, Associate Deans, and other directors who may have a reduced or non-teaching role at this university. According to UOIT's own projections, that number should be closer to 300.

Put another way, the university is saving significant dollars by having SFRs at twice the provincial average, and almost 2.5 times the national average. UOIT Administration usually counters this high SFR with the argument that faculty teaching is supplemented with sessional and

teaching contract faculty.

High sessional numbers with low numbers of faculty may not be the best indicator of quality for our student body. The administration states they are concerned about quality of student teaching, but does not hire in the number of faculty needed to measure up to all other universities in Ontario and across the country. We now have the highest SFR in the country according to stats Canada. It is important that we send the message to our Employer that this needs to change. **

*Visit the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) website for more information at <http://www.caut.ca/pages.asp?page=517>

UOITFA Bargaining Team

Chief Negotiator

Ronald Hinch
Ron.hinch@sympatico.ca
Faculty of CJ&PS
Room UA 2043
X 3810

Bargaining Team Member

Bill Goodman
Faculty of BI&T
bill.goodman@rogers.com
Room UB 4014
X 2639

Bargaining Team Support

Franco Gaspari
Faculty of Science
francogaspari55@yahoo.ca
Room UA 4013
X 2980

UOITFA Executive

President

Dr. Raymond Cox
raymondcox3@gmail.com
X2878

Vice President

Dr. Hannah Scott
vpouitfa@gmail.com
X2653

Treasurer

Dr. Shirley Van Nuland
svannuland@rogers.com
X3419

Secretary (Interim)

Dr. Maurice DiGiuseppe
maurice.digiuseppe@gmail.com
X 3823