UOITFA Express

UOITFA Reaches Deal with UOIT

OSHAWA – After close to 16 months without a contract, members of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology Faculty Association (UOITFA) have come to a tentative agreement with the University. Voting to ratify the contract started October 17, ending October 19 at 5 p.m. The Membership voted 95 percent in favour of the deal offered by UOIT.

"This has been a long and at times challenging process to reach a tentative agreement", said Hannah Scott, President of the UOIT Faculty Association. "Our members have always put students first, championing their right to quality education. Ultimately this agreement was only possible because of the depth of commitment of UOITFA members to our students and our community".

Going into this round of negotiations, UOIT had the highest student-to-faculty ratio in Canada at 53-to-one, while its professors had the third-lowest average salary in Ontario. "This is by no means a perfect agreement", said Scott. "Faculty members are deeply invested in the vision of creating a world-class university in Durham Region. We see this agreement as a step in the right direction toward ensuring that UOIT recognizes how central faculty are to the success of this university".

The tentative agreement, which extends from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2015, includes a moderate increase in compensation over the 5 year period and a normalization of the tenure and promotion processes and timelines. While not fully bringing faculty salaries up to the provincial median, it also does create a compensation structure which is more in line with the university sector. "We remain concerned about the excessively high student-to-faculty ratio, overall faculty workload, and our extremely poor benefits package, ranked one of the worst in the province for university faculty. We see this agreement as an opportunity to continue working with the University administration over the next several years to solve these longstanding issues." **

Lest we forget….
Remembrance Day

11-11-11

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
  Between the crosses, row on row,
  That mark our place; and in the sky
  The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
  Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
    In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
  The torch; be yours to hold it high.
  If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
    In Flanders fields.

Although many of us know this famous poem, the editor took a little more time to learn some trivia around this famous work. This poem was written by Canadian Lieutenant Colonel and physician John McCrae, May 3rd, 1915 on the battlefield, after witnessing the death of his friend Lieutenant Alex Helmer, age 22. He was inspired by the fields of poppies that grew on the battlefields of Flanders, Belgium, where soldiers died. They also grew in the cemeteries where they were buried. This poem is considered one of the most widely reproduced poems of the WW1 era.

American professor and poet, Miss Moina Belle Michael, was so inspired by the poem, that she wrote one of her own in response to McCrea's work (We Shall Keep the Faith, 1918). It was Michael who also stated that she would always wear a poppy to remember those who had served. She also campaigned tirelessly to have the poppy adopted as an official flower of remembrance.

Today, many Canadians support veterans needs by donating funds in exchange for a poppy placing it on their lapel in remembrance of veterans' efforts and sacrifice. If you wish to find a poppy, they can be found until Nov. 11 both in and outside many stores, restaurants, and outlets. RC Legion volunteers also make them available.**

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CAUT: Canadian Association of University Teachers launches campaign to Save Library and Archives Canada

(OTTAWA: November 2, 2011) - The Canadian Association of University Teachers today unveiled a national campaign to protect Library and Archives Canada (LAC).

The "Save Library and Archives Canada" is being launched by CAUT in response to funding cuts and internal managerial decisions that are threatening the quality and integrity of Canada's only national public library and archives.

"Badly conceived restructuring, a narrowing of its mandate, and financial cutbacks are undermining LAC's ability to acquire, preserve and make publicly available Canada's full documentary heritage," James L. Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers said at a news conference in Ottawa today.

These changes, Turk added, have already led to a reduction in the number of specialist archivists and librarians, reduced public access and services, and the loss of rare and important materials.

Liam McGahern, president of the Antiquarian Booksellers of Canada, said a growing number of Canadian materials are not being collected by LAC because of reduced funding and a change in its acquisitions policy.
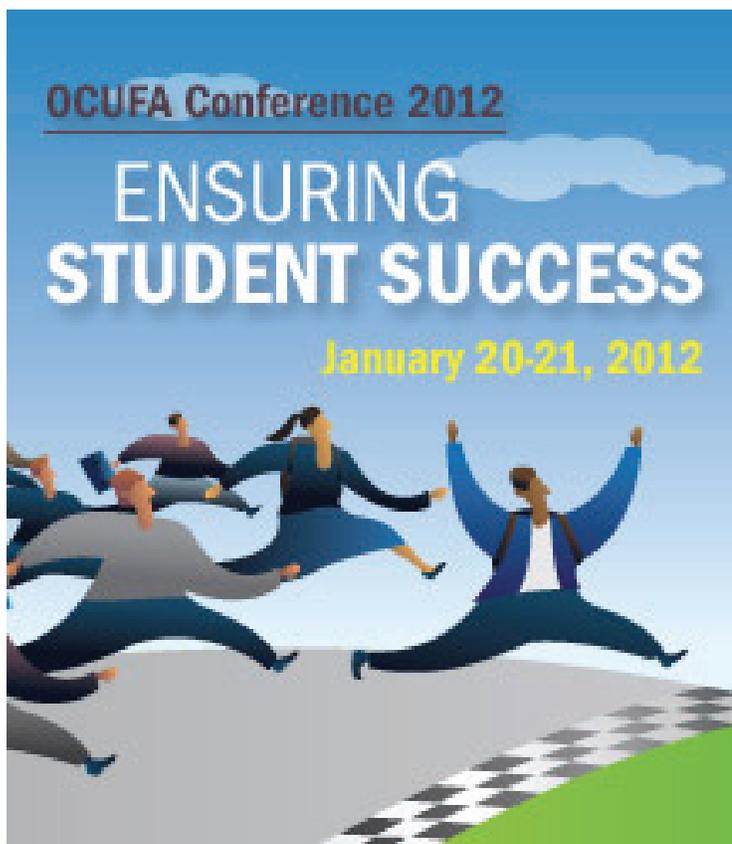
"Canadians recently lost a unique and irreplaceable set of journals chronicling late 19th Century stories of settlers and First Nations people of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Labrador Coast. This is just one of many examples," McGahern explained. "Rare military documents, sheet music, and literature that would otherwise have gone to Library and Archives Canada are quietly all slipping away."

CAUT is calling on the federal government to amend the LAC Act to ensure its mandate includes developing a comprehensive, not selective, collection of Canadian material.

"Our nation's artistic, historical, and cultural heritage is at stake," said Turk. "Genealogists, historians, researchers, graduate students, Aboriginal communities, and the general public are all affected by what is happening at LAC."

The Canadian Association of University Teachers is the national voice of 66,000 academic and general staff at 120 universities and colleges across the country.

More information on the campaign can be found at www.savelibraryarchivescanada.ca.**

What do we mean when we talk about student success? Are students, faculty, administrators and government talking about the same thing? How can we ensure that our students are getting the education they need to achieve their goals, succeed in the workforce, and be the citizens and leaders of tomorrow?

The Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Association's 2012 Conference – Ensuring Student Success – will seek to answer these questions and more. Join us for two days of insightful presentations and engaging discussion with speakers and participants from universities, research institutes, government, and the private sector in Canada, the United States, and Europe.

Early bird savings expire on November 15, 2011 for the 2012 OCUFA **Ensuring Student Success** conference. Our program of diverse and interesting speakers will critically explore the idea of student success by unpacking the meaning of the term, examining the various ideas advanced to improve the student experience, and highlighting the structural realities that may help or hinder this goal.

OCUFA: University of Windsor professor honoured for outstanding work on behalf of Ontario's faculty

Toronto – Professor Brian E. Brown, president of the Windsor University Faculty Association (WUFA) has been awarded the prestigious Lorimer Award by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). This honour recognizes individuals who have worked to protect and promote the interests of Ontario's academic staff through collective bargaining. Prof. Brown will receive his award at an October 21, 2011 ceremony at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto.

"As President of WUFA, Prof. Brown has been a tireless champion for the rights of academic staff at Windsor," said Constance Adamson, President of OCUFA. "This, coupled with his many leadership roles within OCUFA has made him an invaluable asset not only to his home institution, but to professors and academic librarians across Ontario."

The Lorimer Award was established in honour of Doug and Joyce Lorimer, who were instrumental in advancing faculty association collective bargaining in Ontario. Winners of the award all share the Lorimers' commitment to advancing Ontario's university system through strong faculty associations.

"OCUFA is extremely proud to recognize the exceptional individuals who safeguard the aspirations of Ontario's academic staff," said Adamson. "High-quality education needs high-quality faculty. Through the Lorimer award, we recognize the outstanding work that ensures every faculty member has the rights and resources to be great."

Founded in 1964, OCUFA represents 17,000 faculty and academic librarians in 27 faculty associations across Ontario. For more information, please visit the OCUFA website at http://www.ocufa.on.ca**

OCUFA Conference 2012

ENSURING STUDENT SUCCESS

January 20-21, 2012

Confirmed speakers include:

- Tony Chambers, OISE
- Ken Coates, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Waterloo, and author of 'Campus Confidential'
- Arshad Ahmad, President of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education
- Maxim Jean-Louis, Ontario Online Institute

For a complete list of speakers, please visit the OCUFA website. More speakers will be announced soon.

The conference will take place on January 20-21, 2012 at the Sutton Place Hotel in Toronto. The fee for those registering on or before November 15, 2011, is $350.00, which includes continental breakfasts, lunch, refreshments and all materials. The regular registration fee after November 15, 2011 is $400.00, and $375.00 for OCUFA members. The student rate is $150.00. To register, please click here. The Sutton Place Hotel also has a special conference hotel rate of $150.00 per night. Bookings must be made before December 19, 2011. **

To learn more about this conference please visit http://ocufa.on.ca/conferences/ensuring-student-success/ **