

GUILD e-NEWS

Year 6, Number 1- July 4th, 2011

Fellow Guild members,

The new Guild Executive team began its work on June 8th, and has been quite busy. The group is scheduled to meet every other week this summer, and is closely following the budget fluctuations of the District. I will send out updates periodically, and keep you abreast of the developments on campus. Incidentally, the latest power point presentation on the District's budget may be found under "private internal links" on the College's website.

In addition to the day to day operations of the Guild, we are planning, for the first time, a one-day retreat for Guild officers. Our goal for the coming year is to build a cohesive team, unify the membership, solidify the relationship between the Guild and the Academic Senate, and strengthen our union. We have much work ahead of us, and welcome your engaged participation in your Guild.

SCHEDULE OF 2011-12 GUILD MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The 2011-12 general membership meetings have been scheduled for the following dates, 12:20 pm - 1:30 pm, in Kreider Hall:

September 20th, October 18th, November 15th, January 17th, February 21st, March 20th, April 17th (Spring Break is April 9-14), May 15th, and May 31*. Please mark your calendars!

*if needed. This meeting has been scheduled in case there is urgent business to share with the membership at the end of the academic year.

NEW OFFICERS

Negotiating Team:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of two faculty members to the Guild negotiating team: Darren Leaver, full-time instructor of Geography, and Robyn Fishman, adjunct instructor of History. These appointments are pending membership approval, and will be brought forward for your consideration at the first Guild membership meeting of Fall 2011.

Meanwhile, the following negotiators have stepped down from the team:

- Gordon Alexandre ended his one-year term at the helm of the team; this was Gordon's third round as the Guild's chief negotiator. Thank you, Gordon, for your years of service to the Guild.
- Beth Kronbeck, who served as the credit adjunct representative on the team, has accepted a one-year full-time contract in the Social Sciences division. Please join me in wishing Beth the best of luck in her new role; I sincerely hope to see her back in the Guild leadership in the near future!
- Moe Taghdis is simply changing hats: after serving on the team for several years, he was elected to the post of Operations Officer (Treasurer) in June, and will begin his duties in that new role at the start of Fall. Moe and I worked closely together during our years on the negotiating team, and I am very pleased to see him join Guild Executive.

The tentative line-up of the negotiating team representing you in the Fall is as follows: Mike Allen (Chief), Richard Coleman, Robyn Fishman (Adjunct representative), Sarkis Ghazarian (Budget representative), Cheryl Johnson (Non Credit representative), Darren Leaver, and Greg Perkins.

Guild Executive:

As mentioned above, Moe Taghdis was elected in June as the Guild's new Operations Officer; his term begins in the Fall. In the same election, Michael Moreau was elected to the role of Grievance Officer; his duties in this new role began with the rest of the Executive Team, on June 8th. Please join me in welcoming both Michael and Moe to Guild Executive!

RATIFICATION OF SIDE LETTER ON BLOCK SCHEDULING

In Spring 2010, the Guild and the District signed a side letter outlining the contractual changes ensuing from the new Block Scheduling. The agreement was to sunset in one year, with the understanding from both sides that the issue would be revisited –and renegotiated- during Spring 2011. Unfortunately, the Guild and the District were unable to reach a new agreement this last Spring, and instead decided to extend the terms of the original side letter for another year.

This new side letter –which is simply the extension of the timeline of the 2010 agreement, ratified last year by the membership- was signed off at the very last negotiations meeting of Spring, and could not be ratified by the membership before the end of the academic year. Given that its terms affect the operation of the District and the hours and work conditions of all faculty in the new academic year, it has to be ratified before the start of Fall.

With your permission, the Guild Executive will have to undertake the ratification of this leftover item from 2010-11 as an urgent matter this summer. Before we do so however, I'd like to give the membership the opportunity to voice its concerns, if there are any; please feel free to contact

me with your questions, and I will do my best to answer them to the best of my ability. A copy of the side letter will be posted online in coming days.

BROWN BAG LUNCHES

As previously promised, a series of brown bag lunches will be organized in the Fall. The tentative schedule for these gatherings is on the first and fourth Wednesdays of the month, 12:20 – 1:30 pm. There won't be a formal agenda for these meetings; this is simply a venue to discuss various issues over lunch. Attendance was great during the May meeting, and I hope to see many of you in the Fall.

PUBLICATIONS

Here's the link to an interesting AFT publication on retirement; enjoy!

<http://www.aft.org/pdfs/press/StrengthRetireSecurity0411.pdf>

Sincerely,

Isabelle Saber
Guild President