

President's Report

29 January 2013

1. Department Visits

- Very worthwhile for us as an Executive
- We were struck by the diversity of issues that were raised
- Still have reports of nine meetings to write
- And there are still many things we promised to do that we have not done yet
- Chantelle has organized the reports written into topics

2. Budget

- My notes from the Academic Affairs Budget Town hall on December 4
- Report on last Budget Advisory Committee meeting
- Instructional hours
 - An attempt to permit the Dean to designate a reduction in instructional hours an editorial change was defeated at APPC on November 20
 - Excerpt from an impact statement

3. CAUT Forum for Presidents

Sessions:

- **Introductions**
- **University/College Governance**
- **Workload**
- **Pensions and Benefits**
- **Balancing the Interests of a Diverse Membership**
- **Simulation – Mobilizing Members**
- **Challenges of being an Association President**
- **Corporatization of Post-secondary Institutions**
- **Accountability**

Governance

- In the fall of 2008, the CAUT Executive appointed a task force to examine the issue of governance in Canadian universities.
- It extended the work of previous studies CAUT has been involved in which examined problems with academic governance.
- Some quotes from the task force's report follow.

“Senate as rubber stamp”

It was consistently suggested during our hearings that the control of the university had fallen into the hands of an administrative group of senior officials, the Presidents, the vice-presidents, the deans and that this group, in fact, ran the university without any genuine accountability. Many faculty members expressed the concern that in some places these officials had formed an official management group which effectively displaced the senate, and frequently, the board of governors.

In "The Structure of University Governance in Canada", Glen A. Jones of the University of Toronto writes:

... senate members indicated less satisfaction with the overall work of the senate and there were indications of discordance between the role they believed the senate should play and the role that they believe the senate does play within university governance. Less than half of senate members view the senate as an effective decision making body, though 64% indicated that it plays an important role as a forum for discussing issues...

CAUT's advice

In its 2004 discussion paper, CAUT suggested that while renunciation of senates and “shared governance” is neither practical nor desirable, the way forward is to recognize that collective bargaining is, and has proven to be, the best and most reliable way to secure the proper academic staff role in academic decision making.

The 2004 discussion paper also noted:

At its heart, collective bargaining is about limiting the unilateral powers of the employer. As we teach in introductory collective bargaining, the employer has all the rights except those that are taken away by statute or by collective agreements. The central problem in post-secondary institutional governance right now is the growing concentration of power and control in the offices of the central administration. Spurred by demands to be more “business-like” in their management style, university administrators are increasingly calling into question the traditional structures of collegial governance.

From the 2008 task force:

Our review illustrates how the terms and conditions of employment and fundamental academic principles are inseparable:

Consider academic freedom. Arguably the central value underpinning our academic culture and practice, yet in the absence of collective agreement language the precise meaning remains vague and the exercise of academic freedom rights easily curtailed by employers.

From the Collective Agreement at Wilfrid Laurier University:

11.1.2 The Parties acknowledge the rights, powers and responsibilities of the Senate as established by statute, by-law, and practice, except as such rights, powers and responsibilities may have been specifically abridged, delegated, or modified, by the Certification Order or this Agreement. The Senate shall exercise those rights, powers and responsibilities in a manner which is fair, reasonable and consistent with the provisions of this Agreement.

General Faculties Council

- GFC is responsible for amending its bylaws.
- Two-thirds of GFC councilors are faculty.
- If we want to change the bylaws, we don't have to ask for permission.

Presidents' Discussion Series

- Notes of previous ones are posted on mrfa.net
- The next one is 12:00 – 1:30 on Tuesday, February 26
- The topic will be donor agreements and revenue generation principles