

## TRUOLFA NEWS

The name is OFFICIAL now!!!!

2011 April

<http://www.truolfa.ca>

Do take a look at the above website: there you will see a nice family photo of our John O'Brien, our President at his son's wedding.

Comments and suggestions regarding the newsletter are encouraged: [beharris@tru.ca](mailto:beharris@tru.ca)  
Thanks.

If some member would like to take on the position of "membership Secretary" which includes putting out these newsletters, PLEASE volunteer before the next AGM to president John O'Brien: [jobrien@tru.ca](mailto:jobrien@tru.ca)

### Contents of this April 2011 newsletter :

- Message from President John O'Brien
- Reports from TRU Senate meetings by D. Knox and R. Mirza
- Reports of FPSE Spring Conference with associated committee meetings: by Steven Earle, Laurain Mills, Be Harris
- FPSE's International Solidarity Fund application deadline April 15, 2011
- Latest form for Pro-D application: submit to [jpatterson@tru.ca](mailto:jpatterson@tru.ca)
- Notice of New Courses from G. Tarzwell, Associate VP, TRU-OL

### President's Message: Greetings Good People

I hope most of our members are starting to emerge from Winter and are considering tackling the garden or yard work. The fresh air will do wonders for the mind!!! Spring has sprung go out and enjoy it!

During January to March the Collective Agreement was ratified and approved by the TRU Board of Directors. It is being collated by HR into one cohesive document that we will review as soon as it is delivered. The new name will be imbedded into the contract as the LRB will process the name change in April to Thompson Rivers University Open Learning Faculty (TRUOLFA).

A major reconciliation of the Remuneration Fund for the past 4 years was completed and agreed to. This fund is an annual allowance for bargaining and grievance time. We overspent the allowance due in part to one year of heavy grievance activity and the bargaining year. On average over the 4 years we paid out of your dues a total of

\$12,000 annually. Looking ahead we anticipate a major block of time will be required for the Arbitration over payment for the Online Modality courses.

You may have noticed that more courses are being developed for the new modality. The long term goal (5 years or so) is to have 1/3 of the courses delivered online according to Gordon Tarswell. This is very important as we do not have any rights to deliver these courses. Our rights extend only to Independent Study (Print and Web). I want to encourage you to be qualified to apply to teach the new Online courses by attending the "ONLINE FACILITATION COURSE" contact Colin Madland (6810).

The new collective agreement does include six senior faculty members appointed by Management. Ron Lakes is holding one of those positions and we are pressing Management to appoint the remaining five.

The annual workshop has been postponed; however Management is being encouraged to schedule a workshop in the Fall.

The Executives have recognized that the honorarium paid to the President needs to be reviewed. A committee of Richard Duguay, June Williams and Tom Friedman (past president of TRUFA) are conducting a review of all Executive positions. A recommendation is expected at the AGM tentatively set in October at FPSE's office in Vancouver.

I know you are very busy folks so I will respect your time by keeping this note short! Please keep in touch!!!

John O'Brien (x 6962) April 2, 2011

## **Notes from Senate meeting – February 28, 2011**

By Derek Knox and Rocky Mirza (two of the four OL senators)

- New Director of International Academic Development – Lian Dumouchel – to try to connect various aspects of TRU together to promote international education and international linkages. Position is for 3 years. Rocky asked how this fits into OL, but she just said everyone would be included.
- New law school will be starting soon. Just waiting for final approval.
- Academic Planning Steering Committee – have a website [http://www.tru.ca/vpacademic/academic\\_plan.html](http://www.tru.ca/vpacademic/academic_plan.html) where all can see what is happening and add input to the process to develop the plan. An amendment was passed to the motion re the academic plan to include an OL faculty member on the committee.
- Motions were passed on Entrance Scholarships and Academic Achievement Awards.

- Discussion re student academic appeals policy – no motion was made, and the document sent back for review to reduce any ambiguities.
- Educational Programs Committee put forward a motion for a series of courses in the Faculty of Law. Motion passed.
- A new Bachelor of Science , major in economics and mathematics was approved
- New graduate program assessment criteria notice of motion was presented, as revised to include OL faculty as part of the process.

**The Senate Steering Committee regularly puts out notices asking for volunteers to sit on Senate sub-committees. These notices are forwarded to you by e-mail from Sarah Langlois. We would like to encourage all of our members to look out for such notices and apply for these positions. The positions pay for time spent at meetings and for a maximum of 1.5 hours of preparation time. This would be a great way for our members to get more involved and add more of an OL voice on these committees.**

**At a recent meeting of Senate a “new Graduate Program Assessment Criteria,” was addressed. This new criteria includes opportunities for including OLFM’s. This is one of several examples where your senate representatives have been able to get more representation for OLFM’s in the governance of TRU. Your senate reps have been asking for OLFM’s representation at both the departmental and faculty council levels of TRU’s governance structure.**

## **FPSE Spring Conference and meeting reports:**

### **Overview of FPSE Professional and Scholarly Development Committee**

Prepared by: S. Earle, Feb. 26, 2011

The meeting was dominated by reports from locals and the discussion on the various types and levels of PD funding available at the difference institutions. One of the issues discussed was the degree to which non-regular faculty are able to access PD at different institutions. Evidently there is a wide range of policies, and in several cases no PD funding is available to non-regulars. The committee agreed that PD funding should be extended to non-regulars at all institutions (at least on a pro rata basis), and that this should be a bargaining issue.

There was a suggestion that, instead of writing reports for every PSD Committee meeting, representatives should create a summary, using the headings on the PSD comparison chart, but with more detail. Once this is done the meeting reports need only include a description of changes to the institutions policies and procedures.

There was discussion of perceptions of changes on the use of PD funding. Representatives from a few institutions sensed that PD recipients are being asked to be more accountable for what they did with their PD funding, and how it benefitted the institution. There was also a suggestion that some institutions are trying to steer the

use of PD funds towards research, as opposed to travel, conference attendance, degree completion, books etc. There is evidence at some institutions of decreasing support for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (and for funding of teaching and learning centres) as opposed to more traditional research. Some institutions are seeing a push towards rank and title, and see this as a move to increase expectations for research activity.

There was a brief presentation (S. Earle, Locals 8 and 17) on the 2010 PSD Scholarly Activity survey. (In the spring of 2010 approximately 350 faculty from FPSE institutions completed an on-line survey with a variety of questions on the types of scholarly activity that they are engaged in, including questions around sources of funding, time release, time spent, publication and applicability to teaching.) It was decided to seek permission for the PSD Committee to organize a session at the upcoming AGM in Prince Rupert (May 2011) at which these results would be described and discussed.

### **FPSE STATUS OF WOMEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS, FEBRUARY 25, 2011**

Prepared by Laurain Mills

The Status of Women committee met from 1 – 5:15 on the Friday afternoon. Each member gave a report of events on their college campus, events ranged from showing the film Politechnique on Dec 6, 2010 to having discussions about International Women's Day, 2011. There was discussion around how to best celebrate it, the apathy concerning women's issues on campuses, and the need for women's activities to be recognized.

- there was discussion of who would be selected to go to the FPSE 2011 AGM convention in Prince Rupert and what contribution could be made to a theme speaker. An aboriginal speaker on the challenges of education was recommended but a decision was not made. Women were to be selected from a vote by the Status of Women committee members after seeing reasons for wanting to go.

- it was proposed that 8 women's names be submitted to the FPSE for funding for the Summer institute for Union Women in Victoria, 2011, names were to be selected by status of women committee members on the same basis as those selected for the FPSE 2011 AGM.

### **FPSE Annual Spring Conference, Feb 26, 2011**

By Laurain Mills

This was a day-long conference with keynote speakers in the morning and workshops scheduled in the afternoon. The first key note speaker was the president of CAUT, Penni Stewart, who provided an update on current policies of the CAUT, including the decision to amalgamate women's committees into a general antidiscrimination committee. The second speaker, Marcy Cohe, reviewed the Canadian women's trip to

Ottawa in favor of abortion. There was little discussion on this, although the speaker was very enthusiastic. An unsavory topic with many views, not the best choice in my opinion for a key note speech.

The workshops in the afternoon were well attended. The first I attended was anti-discrimination response training presented by Gail Morong of TRU university, very practical and informative. The second workshop reviewed provisions for students who become involved in BC Federation of labor information. It also was well attended, less hands on learning than the first workshop.

### **Report from the Human Rights & International Solidarity Committee of FPSE**

Prepared by Be Harris

A faculty member at one institution being “eased off campus” presumably because of his research on Assisted Suicide.

At another institution a nursing program in Honduras is canceled, likely due to (Canadian) mining issues there.

Concern about surveillance cameras (a privacy issue) installed ...in the classroom?

Some colleges are trying to arrange a speaking tour October 11-15 for the Cuban Consul to discuss the “Cuban 5” who have been convicted in Miami of various charges such as being unregistered agents of the Republic of Cuba, fraud, etc.

### **FPSE Spring conference, February 26, 2011 at the Hyatt:**

By Be Harris

A “relaxing day”—an opportunity to learn, as well as enjoy the company of colleagues from our and other FPSE institutions.

There were several workshops of which we could select two. In order to have varied reporting, I chose one not being attended by another of our members. AND I found it VERY interesting! ‘Looking at Leadership’, presented by Lesley Burke-O’Flynn was a fascinating insight into aspects and techniques of leadership (and mention that leadership improves with practice). Delightful were the several Film Clips: excerpts were from Erin Brockovich, Bend it like Beckham, Dead poet’s Society, The Contender, What about Bob and finally, Gandhi. Although I doubt that I am a better leader, I certainly am more aware of leadership.

### **FPSE’s International Solidarity Fund**

George Davison, Chair of the FPSE International Solidarity Fund Committee, has provided the **2011 Call for Proposals for FPSE's International Solidarity Fund**.

The Fund's Terms of Reference documents can be found on FPSE website:  
<http://www.fpse.ca/committees/hrisc/isf>.

You are encouraged to apply. Deadline for applications is April 15, 2011.

Please contact George Davison ([gdavison@fpse.ca](mailto:gdavison@fpse.ca)) if you require additional information.

**Thompson Rivers University Open Learning Faculty Association**

**Professional Development Application Form  
 (This form is available at <http://www.truolfa.ca> )**

<b>Your Name:</b>	
<b>Today's Date:</b>	
<b>Mailing Address: Please include your complete street address, city and postal code.</b>	
<b>Home telephone:</b>	
<b>Title of PD:</b>	
<b>Dates of PD:</b>	
<b>Registration date:</b>	
<b>Location of PD:</b>	
<b>Your role in the PD:</b>	

**Please write a brief statement outlining the purpose of the PD and the benefits that you and TRU will gain from your attendance or participation.**

<b>Estimated Expenses</b>	<b>Comments:</b>	<b>\$:</b>
<b>Registration:</b>		
<b>Travel:</b>		
<b>Accommodation:</b>		
<b>Meals:</b>		
<b>Less other funding:</b>		
<b>Net TRUOLFA PD:</b>		

**REMINDERS:**

**Include any other relevant information with this form.**

**Per Diem Meals: Breakfast \$12, Lunch \$18, Dinner \$30 Total \$60. Mileage: \$0.50/km. If you rent a car, this is claimable, as is fuel (please use discretion re car use).**

**Private accommodation (e.g. staying with relatives): \$40/day. You can also claim \$10/day for incidentals**

**Maximum annual PD limit is \$2,000, with potential to stitch 2 years together for a total of \$4,000. However, note that the P.D. Committee will consider only one such funding arrangement per applicant in a given five-year period.**

**Please submit an itemized list of your expenses, along with original receipts, plus a short report about the activity (please use the subsequent pages in the form) to John Patterson, within 30 days after the activity. A reimbursement cheque covering approved expenses will be prepared and sent to you once these requirements have been fulfilled.**

**Please send your application via e-mail: [jpatterson@tru.ca](mailto:jpatterson@tru.ca)**

**Questions: Contact John Patterson at VOIP 6965 or Don Sinclair VOIP 6979**

**Thanks for getting involved in Professional Development!!!!**

**Re: Article 8.2 3) – notice of new courses within next six months**

from G. Tarzwell, Associate V.P. OL Division

As per article 8.2 3) of the new collective agreement the employer is providing the Union with the following list of course that are anticipated to be launched in the next six months

**Date: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

<b>Expected Student Launch</b>	<b>New Acronym</b>	<b>Original Acronym</b>	<b>Modality</b>
31-May-11	HLTH 1411	(HOME 190)	Online
31-Mar-11	APEC 1641	(APEC 164)	Online
31-Mar-11	APEC 1651	(APEC 165)	Online
10-Jul-11	APEC 1681	(APEC 168)	Online

Fall 2011	APEC 2641	(APEC 264)	Online
Fall 2011	BBUS 2121	(ADMN 212)	Online
31-May-11	BBUS 3511	(ADMN 380)	Online
31-May-11	CONV 1011		Online
31-May-11	CONV 1021		Online
31-May-11	CONV 1051		Online
31-May-11	CONV 1061		Online
Summer 2011	APEC 1661	(APEC 166)	Online
Fall 2011	CONV 1031		Online
Summer 2011	CONV 1041		Online
03-May-11	HLTH 1405	(HOME 170)	Online
31-May-11	HLTH 1407	(HOME 144)	Online
31-May-11	HLTH 1409	(HOME 170)	Online
01-Jun-11	HLTH 1061	(HLTH 106)	Online
Fall 2011	BIOL 3001	(BISC 300)	Online
Fall 2011	BIOL 3701	(BISC 370)	Online
Summer 2011	GEOL 1031	(GEOL 103)	Online
12-Apr-11	ANTH 2921	(ANTH 292)	Web Only
12-Apr-11	GEOG 2211	(GEOG 221)	Web
26-Apr-11	GEOL 2391	(GEOL 239)	Web
26-Apr-11	GEOL 2571	(GEOL 257)	Web
01-Jun-11	BIOL 1595	(HLSC 158)	F2F (Practicum)
Fall 2011	BBUS 3671	(ADMN 367)	Online
Fall 2011	ENGL 1001	(ENGL 100)	Online
Fall 2011	GBUS 5011		Online
Spring 2011	HUMS 1581	(HUMS 158)	Online



Fall 2011	PSYC 1111	(PSYC 101)	Online
24-Mar-11	CRIM 1161		Online
Fall 2011	CRIM 2251		Online
Fall 2011	CRIM 2261		Online
24-Mar-11	CRIM 2521	(SOCI 252)	Online
Spring 2011	CRIM 3311		Online
Fall 2011	COMP 1231	(COMP 123)	Online
Fall 2011	COMP 3051	(COMP 305)	Online
Fall 2011	COMP 3271	(COMP 327)	Online
Fall 2011	COMP 3411	(COMP 341)	Online
Fall 2011	COMP 3611	(COMP 361)	Online
01-Jun-11	BIOL 1695	(HLSC 168)	F2F (Practicum)

End of TRUOLFA newsletter 2011 April

Prepared by Be Harris