

MAUT VP-External Report to the Fall General Meeting, November 12th, 2015

Fédération Québécoise des Professeures et Professeurs d'Université (FQPPU)

The FQPPU held its Fall *Conseil Fédéral* on October 22nd. Several new initiatives were announced, including the publication of a bulletin in English and French once per semester in which we can place announcements, the organization of a workshop on university governance as part of the annual conference of the *Association francophone pour le savoir* (ACFAS) in May 2016 at the UQAM, and the introduction of a 2-hour period of exchange on current practices at the *Conseil Fédéral*. The first of these exchanges, at the next *Conseil Fédéral* in February 2016 will focus on best practices in informing and mentoring of our members. For more information visit the FQPPU's website at <http://www.fqppu.org>.

The FQPPU is reviving its Guy-Rocher Prize for exceptional service in promoting and defending equity, democratization, collegiality and academic freedom in Quebec universities. The *Fédération* is seeking nominations from the Anglophone universities for membership of the awards committee. If you wish to be nominated or to suggest the nomination of another MAUT member, please contact Axel van den Berg at axel.vandenberg@mcgill.ca or Honore Kerwin-Borelli at maut@mcgill.ca.

The FQPPU is continuing its visual media campaign to advertise and 'valorize' (there is no English counterpart; 'glamorize' is not quite right) life in academia by producing short videos on particularly interesting colleagues. MAUT is looking for candidates from our midst who would be willing to be the subject of such a short FQPPU-produced video.

The FQPPU regularly organizes workshops and seminars that are of interest to university teachers in the province and it calls for suggestions from its member organizations on topics they would like to see covered by such events. If you have any ideas or suggestions do let us and/or the *Fédération* (<http://www.fqppu.org/contact/>) know.

We now have English copies of the current three reports on working conditions in academia produced by the FQPPU's *Comité sur la condition professorale*. These reports, based on a series of focus groups and qualitative interviews, document the range of issues and obstacles we and our colleagues in the Quebec system face while pursuing our careers, as well as some of the solutions some of us have come up with. The reports are: 1. *The Juggling Act: Thriving or Surviving?* 2. *Collegiality and Management: Organizing...or Being Organized?* and 3. *Research and Creation: Conducting Quality Research and Creating, or Overproducing?* Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of one or more of these reports should contact Honore at maut@mcgill.ca.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)

The Fall Council meeting of the CAUT will take place on 27-29 November in Ottawa. Issues to be discussed range from academic freedom cases to confronting sexism on campus, from collective bargaining issues to a variety of national and international advocacy campaigns, and much more. The Council agenda can be found at <http://council.caut.ca/documents/agenda>. If members wish to be informed about any specific items or issues scheduled for discussion, please let me know at axel.vandenberg@mcgill.ca.

The CAUT is holding a workshop for senior grievance officers in Ottawa on December 11th-12th. These workshops have been very useful in the past. This year's main theme will be "defending a diverse membership." We are asking current MAUT advisors if they are interested in attending the workshop but any members who are interested in playing a role in the future as advisor or in any other aspect of the grievance process are also more than welcome to attend these workshops. The deadline for registration is November 13th. Joseph Varga and Professor Steven Jordan will attend this workshop. For more information, visit <https://events.caut.ca/sgo-2015/>.

The CAUT's Harry Crowe Foundation is organizing a 2-day conference on 'Academic Freedom in the Managed University' on February 26-27, 2016, in Ottawa. Brendan Gillon, Chair of MAUT's Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom, and Joseph Varga will attend this conference. Interested MAUT members are invited to visit the CAUT website at <http://www.caut.ca/issues-and-campaigns/academic-freedom> and/or contact Axel van den Berg at axel.vandenberg@mcgill.ca or Honore Kerwin-Borelli at maut@mcgill.ca.

The CAUT maintains a database on academic salaries that is regularly updated and can be accessed at the members-only section of the Association's website at <https://www.caut.ca/members-only/collective-bargaining/academic-staff-salary-data> (id: MAUT; pw: #Mcg1ll).

Quebec Government

The Quebec Ministry of Education formed an ad hoc national working group on doctoral education (*Groupe de travail national sur la formation doctorale*) and has asked MAUT to suggest possible McGill faculty members to participate in its work. Prof. Paul Yachnin has been nominated to the Ministry as a representative from McGill.

All these items are regularly reported in the MAUT Newsletter as well.

Axel Van den Berg
MAUT VP External