

## VP-External Report to the April 21, 2016 SGM

FQPPU:

The English version of the FQPPU's Winter Newsletter is available at: <http://fqppu.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Newsletter-January-2016.pdf> and contains articles on the Québec government's austerity policies, a survey on working conditions and priorities among members of FQPPU-affiliated unions and associations, the Québec Bill on University Pension Plans and more.

The FQPPU publishes an (almost) daily press digest of provincial, national and international news in French and English on issues relating to postsecondary education and research. It can be accessed at <http://fqppu.org/revue-de-presse/>

The FQPPU held its 86th *Conseil Fédéral* on February 11-12, 2016. Joseph Varga and Axel van den Berg attended the meeting. Topics discussed included the campaign to protest against the provincial government's cutbacks on higher education, a proposal for a minimum research fund for all university professors, and ways of improving orientation and information about university life and organization for new faculty, among others.

As part of the 84th annual meeting of *l'Association francophone pour le savoir* (ACFAS) to be held at the UQAM this year, the FQPPU is organizing a two-day symposium on current trends towards managerialism and economic utilitarianism in the governance of universities, entitled "*De l'administration à la gouvernance des universités: progrès ou recul?*" to be held on May 9 and 10, 2016. Our own Marc Richard will give a presentation at the symposium entitled, intriguingly, "*Gouvernance vs. administration: une distinction valide? Oui, mais.*" For more information, visit the FQPPU's website at <http://fqppu.org/appel-a-communication-colloque-449-de-ladministration-a-la-gouvernance-des-universites-progres-ou-recul-lundi-9-et-mardi-10-mai-2016/>.

The FQPPU has recently published a booklet entitled "*Le Financement de la recherche universitaire au Québec : évolution et enjeux.*" The booklet summarizes the findings of the voluminous report on research funding in Québec produced by the FQPPU's Committee on University Financing, focusing on the relative decline of the proportion of funding coming from the Québec government and the trend towards concentration of funding at the expense of smaller universities and projects. Copies of the booklet, with an English abstract, are available from the MAUT office.

The FQPPU is in the process of forming a working committee on the effects of digital technologies on teaching and research. It will consider such issues as long-distance education, MOOCs, intellectual property, diffusion of research results among others. A call for nominations of possible members of the committee will soon be made. MAUT members who are interested in the work of this committee and/or in joining it should contact Axel van den Berg at [axel.vandenberg@mcgill.ca](mailto:axel.vandenberg@mcgill.ca).

Adelle Blackett of the Faculty of Law will serve as a member of the FQPPU's Guy-Rocher Award Committee. The Committee will soon issue a call for nominations for the award, which is

given to a person having shown exceptional merit in promoting and defending Québec's universities. Any suggestions of potential nominees from our midst should be addressed to Axel van den Berg at [axel.vandenberg@mcgill.ca](mailto:axel.vandenberg@mcgill.ca)

CAUT:

The 80<sup>th</sup> (Spring) Council meeting of the CAUT will take place from April 28 to May 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 in Ottawa. Issues to be discussed range from "Indigenizing the Academy," to academic freedom cases, from collective bargaining issues to a variety of national and international advocacy campaigns, and much more. The Council agenda and related materials can be found at <http://council.caut.ca/meeting-materials/agenda-and-materials>. If members wish to be informed about any specific items or issues scheduled for discussion or have any suggestions of other issues we should raise at the Council meeting, please let me know at [axel.vandenberg@mcgill.ca](mailto:axel.vandenberg@mcgill.ca).

This year's conference of the Harry Crowe Foundation was held in Toronto, February 26-27. The conference theme was "Academic Freedom in the Managed University." Brendan Gillon, John Galaty and Joseph Varga represented MAUT at the conference. For more information visit <http://www.crowefoundation.ca/>.

The CAUT regularly publishes reports and official statements of potential interest to the MAUT membership. These are sent to the member organizations, including MAUT, for further distribution as well as made accessible at the 'members only' section of the CAUT website. In order to facilitate members' access to these documents without overburdening the e-mail inboxes of members who are not interested in (some of) them MAUT will make them accessible on its website and only send around announcements about the appearance of documents of particular interest to MAUT members.

MAUT has nominated Brendan Gillon as member of the CAUT Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee and Caroline Riches to its Contract Academic Staff Committee.

## **Québec Government**

The Québec Ministry of Education formed an ad hoc 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. With the support of MAUT, Prof. Paul Yachnin will serve as representative from McGill on the *Groupe de travail*.