

VP-External Report to the 2017 FGM

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

At MAUT's behest, Dan Guitton, Neurology & Neurosurgery, was elected member of the FQPPU's Executive Committee. He also sits on the *Commission de l'enseignement et de la recherche universitaires* of the *Conseil supérieur de l'éducation*. Bernard Robaire, Pharmacology and Therapeutics, has agreed to sit on the FQPPU's *Comité sur la gestion des universités*.

As many as five McGill faculty members have volunteered to serve as members of the FQPPU's newly formed *Comité sur les technologies numériques*. They are: Antonia Arnaert and Norma Ponzoni, Nursing, Marie-Hélène Boudrias, Physical and Occupational Therapy, and Alain Cazes, Music.

The FQPPU is organizing a two-day colloquium on *Les transformations actuelles des universités* on May 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> as part of the 85<sup>th</sup> annual Conference of the *Association francophone pour le savoir* which will be hosted by McGill. Guy Rocher will be the keynote speaker. For more information visit <http://fqppu.org/?s=Acfas>.

The SGPUM, the faculty union of the Université de Montréal, has recommended to its membership to rejoin the FQPPU. The members will vote on this proposal at the SGPUM's annual general meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Having the SGPUM back as a member organization will considerably strengthen the position of Quebec's research-intensive universities within the FQPPU.

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 Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT)**

The CAUT was hit by a labour dispute with its administrative staff which led to a strike in the late fall. The dispute was finally settled in early April. Several of the CAUT's planned events had to be cancelled. The 82<sup>nd</sup> CAUT Council Meeting will however take place as planned from May 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>. Joseph Varga, Sarah Severson, and Axel van den Berg will attend.

Brendan Gillon, Linguistics, has agreed to serve as MAUT's representative on the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee of the CAUT.

MAUT has nominated Petra Rohrbach, Parasitology, for the CAUT's Equity Committee, Tara Mawhinny, Library, for its Librarians' and Archivists' Committee, Caroline Riches, Education, for its Contract Academic Staff Committee, and Leslie K. Fellows, Neurology & Neurosurgery, for the Clinical Faculty Committee.

The CAUT is preparing to launch an investigation into the departure of Professor Andrew Potter as Director of McGill University's Institute for the Study of Canada. It has sent a letter to Principal Suzanne Fortier asking for clarification of the circumstances under which Potter resigned and questioning whether Prof. Potter's academic freedom was violated (see <http://www.caut.ca/news/2017/03/27/mcgill-facing-investigation-over-academic-freedom>).

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.

The *CAUT Almanac of Post-Secondary Education in Canada* is now available at <http://www.caut.ca/resources/almanac>. The Almanac is a source for the most current statistical information available on post-secondary education in Canada. It provides statistics on university and college finances; academic staff salaries and gender; student enrolment and graduation rates; student-teacher ratios; university research funding; and national, provincial, and international comparisons.

### ***Travel Management Program Update***

Catherine Lu, Political Science, has represented MAUT on the University's Travel Management Steering Committee to monitor the implementation of the new Travel Management Program (TMP). As you may remember, there was quite an uproar last summer over the proposed new TMP which would have forced faculty members to use the University-contracted travel agency, Vision Travel. Since then, Catherine Lu has done an absolutely stellar job on our behalf, making sure the TMP would be modified to reflect the varied needs of the faculty and that these modifications would be spelled out unambiguously by the University. The resulting modifications constitute a major victory for collegial governance. In addition to Catherine we should thank François Pouliot and his team at Procurement Services for their readiness to accommodate our concerns and help formulate a travel program that responds to faculty concerns and interests.

Here is a link to Catherine's update on the TMP: <https://www.mcgill.ca/maut/files/maut/travelmanagementprogram-lu.pdf>