

# Outsider – The Voice of the Tutor

## Special Interest Articles:

- New Executive for 2013
- Bargaining Update.
- Are you getting all your pay?

## Individual Highlights:

Executive	2
Bargaining	2
Short Changed	3
Donations	3
Grievances	3
Holidays	4

## Executive 2012/2013



### Tutor Conference and AGM – Rob Wiznura

Judging from our feedback about the conference, a swell time was had by most (I'm sure some disgruntled brother or sister kept his or her comments at bay!). I, being on the organizing committee, was particularly thrilled that people found the sessions (the PDF session and the yoga session and the forum and the AE invoice session) enlightening and useful. And people enjoyed the food this time round! Hopefully we can find sessions for next year that will be equally stimulating (ideas are always welcome). We hope to get a head start for next year's conference and have a guest speaker already lined up: Rachel Notley.

We do need a new name, of course. Tutor conference doesn't cut it, but Tutor, Academic Expert and Markers

Conference lacks that special ring. As we're more than an AGM, that won't work either. Learning Services Conference is gone, gone, gone: AU has made it very, very clear that they are no longer interested in organizing such things. Learning Conference sounds a bit dowdy, at least to me. Suggestions for a name anyone?

Last but not least, welcome to the new and old faces on the executive. It's great to see both new blood and continuity. For a list of our new and improved executive, see below.

## New Executive for 2013

### Co Chairs

Ernie Jacobson - 2 years  
 Dougal MacDonald - 2 years  
 Mark Dimirsky - 1 year

### Treasurer

Nyron Jaleel - 1 year

### Secretary

Glynnis Lieb - 2 years

### Grievance

Brenda Kuzio - 1 year

### Communication

Rob Wiznura - 1 year

### Membership

Klaus Thomson - 1 year

### Health Benefits

Lorraine Laville  
 Wayne Pelletier  
 Virginia Gillese

### Human Resource

Yessy Byl

### Representative

Wayne Pelletier  
 Ronnie Leah  
 Virginia Gillese  
 Wayne Brehaut  
 Marlyss Valiant  
 Rochelle Yamagishi  
 Marie Weingartshofer  
 Natalie Sharpe

### Trustee

Ann Reynolds - 3 year term

### OHS

Deb Foster  
 Marlyss Valiant

### Complaint Review

Brenda Kuzio  
 Natalie Sharpe (alt)

### Strategic Budget

Liam Connelly

### PATME

Wayne Brehaut

### PD Fund

Deb Foster  
 Rochelle Yamagishi

### LMC

Brenda Kuzio  
 Ernie Jacobson  
 Glynnis Lieb

### Conference

Ronnie Leah  
 Virginia Gillese  
 Rob Wiznura  
 Natalie Sharpe  
 Dougal MacDonald  
 Glynnis Lieb  
 Paul Notley

### Bryon Paege

Deb Foster  
 Lantry Vaughn  
 Julia Delude

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Welcome to new executive members and thank you to returning executive.

## The Bargaining Lowdown – Rob Wiznura

The committee is feeling like we are sounding like a broken record. Bargaining has been going nowhere fast. In case you haven't heard, faculty finally settled, through mediation, and only got a one year agreement: they are back to bargaining

come February! We are currently in mediation which, I'm sorry to say, might turn into arbitration. We're fighting hard on key issues that you have identified and hope that we can get closer on some issues

when we meet again with AU in December. Maybe a Christmas or Chanukah miracle will strike.



## **ALERT: You may have been shortchanged on your pay** – Rob Woznura

It has come to our attention that a problem has emerged for assignments that have been graded zero: people haven't been paid for them since the spring. AU

is trying to rectify the problem for the December pay, but please check your paycheque if any course you teach has an assignment that doesn't count towards the grade

OR if you gave a zero for any assignment (such as in cases of plagiarism). As we shouldn't be working without compensation, please help us monitor this situation.



## **Christmas Donations**

Instead of sending our members Christmas cards, we have, for the past few years, been donating \$250 each to food banks in Calgary and Edmonton. This year, we are also donating \$50 to

food banks in Red Deer and Athabasca. We will be rotating throughout smaller communities in Alberta.

Of course, that doesn't mean that we are not hoping that you have a

wonderful Christmas, but we feel the money is better spent on those who suffer from chronic underfunding by the province.

## **Grievances** – Rob Woznura

We have a couple of grievances on the go that some of you will be interested in.

One concerns benefits to those over the age of 70 and the other concerns

problems with the invoices of Academic Experts (for those who attended the conference, you will remember what this one is about).

We will keep you

posted about the outcomes.



**Silent Night** – Rob Wiznura

Most of us know the story of “Silent Night.” If you don’t, the story goes that the organ broke down shortly before Christmas and couldn’t be repaired in time. Rather than have a Christmas without music, two members of the congregation put some words and music together on a guitar and produced what would become a Christmas classic. There is an allegory here. With all the problems at AU, with bargaining, with grievances and so on, we can all become a bit

disenchanted with our choice of employment. The story behind “Silent Night” tells us of making things work in spite of obstacles, pulling together and making things happen. If we push things further back in time, it is about finding a home for that child when told there is no room. If we push things even further back, it is finding that the oil we have left is enough to light the candles. That is the spirit of our union, which, in this case, happily coincides with the spirit

of Christmas and of Chanukah. Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah and Sunny Solstice and happy midwinter, non-denominational, cessation-from-shopping-and-working break. Whatever you celebrate or whatever you choose not to celebrate, have a good one (and don’t work between Christmas and New Year’s!).



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**You are Invited!**

Come out and meet your fellow tutors. Coffee, doughnuts, and more to make your Saturday morning special! Our next meeting is Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Watch your email for the agenda.



