

Campus Chairs Update

October 8, 2013

Professional Services Website

As you may have noticed, our ACAD website has been down for a while. We are working with SGEU to decide where to house the website. Information will be sent to everyone once it is back online. In the meantime, information that would normally be disseminated on the website will be posted on the bulletin boards designated for PSBU use at each location. Check with your local campus chair if you are unsure where it is located.

Win an iPad Mini!

As was stated in the September 4 update, due to a glitch with the feedback section of the acad.sgeu.org website any entries submitted for the URL change contest last June disappeared into cyberspace.

We are once again running the contest to choose a new address for our website.

- This contest is open to all PSBU members, one entry per person.
- The new address does not require “.sgeu.org” at the end of it.
- The closing date for entries is midnight, **October 31, 2013**
- Winner will be decided at the November Bargaining Committee meeting and announced in the Campus Chairs Update that will be distributed after the meeting.
- The winner will receive an iPad mini
- The Bargaining Committee has the final determination of what address is chosen.
- If the chosen URL is submitted by more than one person, a random draw from these entries will be made.
- If the chosen URL is not from the entries received a draw for the iPad mini will be made from all submissions.

To submit an entry, send an email to Bonnie Bond at bond@siast.sk.ca

Bargaining Dates

Correspondence (see your local bulletin board) has been sent to SIAST requesting bargaining dates with an October 25 deadline.

Meeting with SIAST Faculty Association (SFA)

Terri Hamill and Kathy Mahussier met with Warren White and Jim Michals of the SFA. A protocol for responding to the numerous out of scope position requests that have been coming to our union has been developed. Discussions on other issues were touched on as well. More meetings should be forthcoming.

Legal Opinion Regarding Work of the Bargaining Unit

With the number of instances of the work of our bargaining unit being contracted out, transferred to a different bargaining unit or taken out of scope, a legal opinion was requested on what to do with these situations. The information will be helpful in the next round of bargaining as well.

Follow-up to Management Re-organization Update Town Hall Meetings

The recent town hall meetings at each campus has brought into clearer focus the fact that SIAST wants to continue to grow its out of scope complement. Your bargaining committee is keeping an eye on the new management structure and the impact it will have on our members.

Letter from SIAST Board Chair Regarding Changes to *The SIAST Act*

We received a letter from the SIAST board chair asking for our input regarding proposed changes to *The SIAST Act*. Some of the suggested changes left us with more questions than answers. We have requested more information before we respond. Other responses in the letter include:

- Changing the approval to ministerial from the Lieutenant Governor in Council caused a lot of concern. The Lieutenant Governor is “apolitical” and therefore, not involved in any political activity. Keeping the approval at that level would keep SIAST from becoming subject to the whims of any political party in power.
- Proposed changes to the mandate were unclear as to whether they were in addition to what is currently in the act or an amendment.
- Reduction of the Board of Directors to 15 from the current 20 including removing designated representation from the Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission (SATCC) and the Regional Colleges was indicated as a concern. Removal of these two seats will impact the provision of public skills training and public education in the province and possibly allow for the monopolization of the Board of Directors by one stakeholder in the future.
- Other polytechnic institutes make provisions for non-academic staff to be represented on their Board of Directors. In the past there was employee representation on the SIAST Board of Directors but this was discontinued in 2009. The recent round of townhall meetings showed how there was now a disconnect between the employees of SIAST and what is happening at the Board level so a request for PSBU representation to be re-instated is being made.
- Changes to section 14 of the act to allow SIAST to fundraise for property were indicated as a concern. Education is the building block to a healthy society, and while we are a booming province, there is still a limit to the amount of funds that can be raised. Funds donated to a “property” may be funds not donated to a “program”. Employees are already being asked to do more with less. With the transfer of donated funds from programs to property, this will ultimately have a detrimental impact on the student with a potential to move away from publically funded and publically accessible education with an appearance of bias and the deskilling of our workforce.

The change to eliminate the Regional College and SATCC representatives as well as the changes to section 14 of the act opens the door to privatization of publically funded education in this province.

A copy of the complete correspondence as well as the letter from the Board Chair is posted on your local bulletin board.

Next Meeting

The next bargaining committee meeting is scheduled for November 5 & 6, 2013 in Prince Albert.

Yours in solidarity,

SIAST Professional Services Bargaining Committee
Bonnie Bond
Terri Hamill
Shawna North
Terri Wale
Deb Zawada-Wiebe