

Bulletin 10-01
January 6, 2010

Happy New Year and New Decade

January Meetings

Lunch for all IRAs

Thursday, January 21st, 11:30 to one-ish, Room 1228, Broadway, Building B

General Meeting for all Members

Very important off-campus meeting for ratification of bargaining agenda

Thursday, January 28th, 2:30 pm, Croatian Cultural Centre

A Year of Change

When we look back at 2010 it should have a number of highlights for VCC Faculty. We will have at least started bargaining a new collective agreement. Our committee has been developing a full bargaining agenda and is looking forward to putting it out to members for their ratification. We will have worked with administration under a new leader, Kathy Kinloch. She's our first female president and only the fifth president that even our longest-serving members will have experienced. She'll be, she already is, thinking about and working on the strategic directions of the College and it promises to be an eventful transition. There is reason to hope that positive change will filter down to the departmental and class or facility level where most faculty spends their working days.

Professional Development: A Hard-Earned Individual Right

In the seventies the first labour action I can remember at VCC was a short strike that ended successfully with five mandated days of PD as one of the key gains. In 1981 that provision was bargained up to 10 and then to 15 in 1982. One of the outcomes of the 1990 strike was getting the current level of 20 days. A key feature of the 1990 provision was to change PD from a "leave" to a form of work. That provision, which we still have as Article 6.6.1 defines PD as an activity "*initiated*" by the faculty member.

Recently, there have been several reports that administration is promoting the use of PD for Curriculum Development. There is no problem with that encouragement; however, that's as far as it can go. Within the bounds of the Collective Agreement, faculty have every right to choose their own activities. They may *choose* to do curriculum development, review or renewal; but, they do not have to and should not feel obligated to do so. It is the College's responsibility to adequately fund those activities outside of PD. If any member feels they are being forced to use their own PD for CD activities, please call the union.

The VCCFA has been strongly advocating during at least the last two budget cycles for the College to stop depending on faculty goodwill for these key activities. It was embarrassing to hear the past-president say "nothing" was budgeted for curriculum development in 2009/10. It is time for a change in the 2010/11 budget.

-Frank Cosco, President