

Bulletin 10-02

February 11, 2010

If you're getting a break, enjoy!

Hours During Olympics: 10-2

Tuesday and Thursday Only

Broadway Office Only

Ingrid and Frank will be available through email

ikolsteren@vccfa.ca fcosco@vccfa.ca

Audrey will be on a reduced work week

Calls will be taken at 604.688.6210

Work Status during Olympic Break

Almost every department is handling the break in different ways. The VCCFA and the College have an agreement safeguarding members' rights. Contact us if you have any questions about how the break affects your work status, entitlements, or pay.

VCCFA Finances

A combination of factors has forced the union to take a serious look at how to reach a level of financial sustainability for the future. A full discussion paper including a proposal from the Executive is available at the members-only part of our website: www.vccfa.ca. Please keep the discussion within the union. Call the office if help is needed to get on the site. It is under the "General Membership" section.

Education Plan and Budget for 2010/11

The Plan, now deemed the Academic Plan by new VP-Education Helen Allen, was introduced at Education Council on the second. The next meeting of EdCo is just after the break on March 2nd. Right now it is not clear when there will be an opportunity for interested parties to speak to it.

The Budget was introduced to the College at a small lunch hour meeting on the first. It was presented to Operations Council on the ninth. There was also an open session on it on the tenth. Both the Plan and the Budget are essentially roll-overs of the previous year with some significant adjustments that merit further discussion.

They are available through the "myvcc" part the College's website. As the VCCFA is preparing its input, please let us know if your department has any questions or comments or would like us to forward your questions or comments.

College's Olympic Sick Leave Policy

Last week, without prior discussion the Human Resources Department of the College informed us that they would be insisting on a note from everyone's doctor for every sick leave absence during the Olympic Break, even one day. Currently as per Article 8.5.4 of the Collective Agreement this only happens after five days.

The College could not offer any compelling justification for this change. We have therefore protested.

We will investigate every such case and may decide to grieve every such case. It is discriminatory to single out only those members who are on assignment during the break for this directive. It seems mean-spirited to further stress and strain already ill members by requiring them to get into a doctor's office. It also places an unnecessary burden on a stretched medical system which will be at reduced capacity during the Games.

Unfortunately, a grievance can only come after a violation of the Agreement. We advise members to follow any directives they receive and to contact the union.

Board Meeting on February 25

The union does not understand the tremendously fast pace the administration has set for this year's Plan and Budget approval. They are seeking the Board's final approval on March 25th, at least a month quicker than in recent years. Doing that is problematic enough, but with the obvious issue of the unprecedented Olympic break, one is forced to wonder if they are trying to curtail comment and discussion. A meeting on the 25th is right in the middle of the Olympics when the College is for most purposes closed (and I've got hockey games to watch). Normally that is the meeting where we would have an opportunity to critique the Budget and the Plan when there's still time to make needed adjustments. We announced at the open session on the tenth that we would boycott any such Board meeting.

Operations Council

OpsCo is a council of administrative directors and constituency group reps who are asked to give advice to the Board on all items not under the purview of EdCo.

We are currently working on two topics through OpsCo: Space Allocation and Media Services. The first one has been frustrating as we have not been able to achieve any opening up of the process and we are still getting reports of confused and flawed processes. The second is finally appearing on the agenda of the next meeting: Tuesday, March 9th, Room 5025, at 2:30pm. The 2010/11 Budget will also be on that agenda.

Please contact Brenda (bappleton@vccfa.ca or 604-688-6210) if you have any input or concerns for OpsCo.

Reminders

New PD Funds Deadline for Applications: March 5th

Cheryl Draper Scholarship Application Deadline: March 31st
Check the VCCFA website for details

FPSE International Solidarity Fund Deadline: March 11th
This fund supports international development projects with financial grants
Check www.fpse.ca for details and get a proposal into the VCCFA by March 9th
Details can be found under "Committees" and then under
Human Rights and International Solidarity

-Frank Cosco, President