Academic searches

Here, in tabular form, is the status of our searches as of this morning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Search</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Appointed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH</td>
<td>Tenure-track</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Dr S Kuehling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON</td>
<td>Tenure-track</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Dr J Childs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON</td>
<td>Tenure-track</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Ms V Galushko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON</td>
<td>Tenure-track</td>
<td>Search failed; term search closes tomorrow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL</td>
<td>Tenure-track</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Ms C Nazarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL</td>
<td>Tenure-track</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Dr H Meek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL</td>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Closes tomorrow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JRN</td>
<td>Tenure-track</td>
<td>Term appointment offered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JS</td>
<td>Tenure-track</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Dr A Patenaude</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI</td>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Formal appointment offered</td>
<td>Mr K Bond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RLST</td>
<td>Tenure-track</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Mr A Magnan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOC</td>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Mr S Alfaro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

News of faculty members

David E. Smith, professor emeritus of political studies at the University of Saskatchewan, senior policy fellow at the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (SIPP), and recent sessional lecturer on Canadian federalism in our Department of Political Science, has won the 2008 Donner Prize. This prize, given annually to the author of the best book on Canadian public policy, includes a monetary award of $35,000. Smith’s award-winning book, *The People’s House of Commons: Theories of Democracy in Contention* (University of Toronto P), examines the major questions of Canadian parliamentary governance, outlines the foundations of Canadian democracy, and considers the ramifications of many of the changes currently being proposed to Canada’s political system. Donner Prize jury chairman Grant Reuber described Smith’s scholarship as “impeccable. The result of his labours is a thorough and thoughtful review of the House of Commons as the pre-eminent institution of Canada’s parliamentary democracy, and of the criticisms and concerns that have been expressed in relation to it. This is an important book that should be widely read by everyone interested in government in Canada.” The Faculty warmly congratulates Dr Smith on this national recognition of the excellence of his scholarly work.
News from Executive of Council, 24 April 2008

The BSc in economics was tabled until the May meeting. Revisions to the BA in classical and medieval studies, and to the MAs in justice studies and police studies, were passed. The report from the Faculty of Arts included news of the award by President Tomkins, effective 1 July 2008, to Professor Annabel Robinson of the title Professor Emerita of Classics; the recent receipt of very significant research awards by Dr Thomas Hadjistavropoulos (PSYC/Centre on Aging and Health); and the upcoming Potter conference co-sponsored by Arts, Education, HRI, CCE, and the Regina Public Library.

AD-HUM – Mechanical Upgrades

We now know the dates for the mechanical upgrades and asbestos removal scheduled to be completed in AH this spring and summer. The occupants of all affected areas will be displaced from their offices for a period of 4 weeks.

During the periods stated below, the specific areas will be stipulated a construction zone which means that no one will be allowed in the area. Occupants of the OUTSIDE offices listed will have to pack up all their books and belongings. The offices will have to be emptied and vacated. We will coordinate the moving of the boxes and furniture and provide secure storage area for all your belongings.

The occupants of the INSIDE offices would only have to vacate the premises. Their belongings do not have to be packed up or moved out. But, EVERYONE would have to take with them the belongings/books, etc. that would be needed for the complete block of time that is noted as re-entry into the offices would not be allowed. Assistance can be provided for packing if necessary. We will also provide all the necessary boxes.

For the month that faculty members are directly affected, they are asked to either work from home or let Rose-Marie know well ahead of time if they require alternate work space.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Rooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1 to May 30</td>
<td>AH 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15 to June 13</td>
<td>AH 420, 420.1, 420.2, 421, 422, 423, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12 to July 11</td>
<td>AH 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24 to July 25</td>
<td>AH 405, 408, 409, 410, 410.1, 410.2, 410.3, 410.4, 411, 411.1, 412, 413, 413.1, 413.2, 414, 414.1, 415, 416, 417, 418</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cooperation is asked of ALL members of the Faculty of Arts to assist our colleagues during this time. Offices will be required for the displaced faculty members (approximately 30 individuals at any given time), general department offices, TAs, sessionals, research assistants, etc.
Classroom Building – 3rd Floor Renovations

This project has been somewhat delayed. Though we have not yet received confirmation of the date for the work to commence, a likely date is shortly after the May long weekend. As previously noted, all the classrooms on the 2nd and 3rd floors will be out of service throughout the spring and summer. The north half of the floor will be completed first and the southern portion will be done in the latter part of the summer. All the offices and classrooms will have to be vacated during the construction period. No one will be allowed in the construction zone. Most offices will have to be completely packed up and emptied.

In order to complete the full scope of the projected work, there may be some disruption during the month of September also. Further detail will follow.

Fall 2008 course enrolments

If you haven’t done so already, please be sure to review the enrolments in your Department's or program's upcoming fall courses. A few courses are already at their ceilings. It is time to begin thinking about whether to raise the ceilings for, and/or lay on additional sections of, these courses. As always, we want to do everything possible to meet student demand for Arts courses. If there is clear need for additional sections, or for marking support in sections of increased size, please let us know. At the other extreme, please also keep an eye out for sections with very low enrolments. In such cases you should think seriously about cancelling the classes now rather than later and, if the course is being taught by a permanent member of staff, reassigning those resources elsewhere if possible.

Conference: missing women

In August, 2008, Women’s Studies (University of Regina and Luther College) will host an international conference to examine the consistent and alarming rise of missing indigenous women in Canada and Mexico. The conference will bring together academics, activists, mothers of some of the missing women, Elders, writers, journalists, artists, and filmmakers from across Canada, the United States and Mexico who are addressing the violence of feminicide.

Some of the confirmed speakers are Maria Campbell, Lourdes Portillo, Marta Perez, Isabel Arvide, Cynthia Bejaranoes, Bev Jacobs, and Morningstar Mercredi. Adrian Stimson, aboriginal curator at the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon has designed a memorial sculpture that will be unveiled during the conference near the First Nations University Healing Gardens. The Native Women’s Association of Canada intends to launch their five-year project of a database on murdered and missing indigenous women in Canada at our conference.

The conference is entitled “Missing Women: Decolonization, Third Wave Feminisms, and Indigenous People of Canada and Mexico” and it will be held 14-17 August at the Conexus Arts Centre in Regina.
The goals of the conference are:

• to raise public awareness about violence against indigenous women on a global context, but specifically in Canada and Mexico;
• to participate in the ongoing development of a critical analysis of systemic sexualized racism;
• to create a forum for multi-disciplinary organizations to meet and discuss both the theoretical and the grassroots activist work that needs to happen to stem this tide of violence;
• to facilitate support and activist networks for family members of missing women.

Anticipated outcomes include:

• a public presentation of a nation-wide petition for a full investigation into and resolution of this injustice;
• documentation of the event in the form of a DVD and a written account for secondary and post-secondary educators;
• resolutions for change, which include the formation of an international network;
• preparations to host a second conference two years hence to discuss progress made towards a healthy and safe Aboriginal community

Further information can be found at: www.missingwomenregina.com. Women’s Studies welcomes any donations. Sponsoring departments will be acknowledged on the sponsorship wall.

Core curriculum requirements

At its May meeting, APDC will be considering the memorandum re the core curriculum requirements that was circulated at the last meeting of Dean’s Executive. Please solicit the thoughts of faculty members in your area on the ideas proposed in that document and convey them within the next couple of weeks to Rick or any other member of APDC.

Just to get you started, here are a few of the comments collected from faculty at Campion College:

• would prefer to have NO core requirements; let students choose their own interests
• conceptually difficult to determine which classes fit into which category
• where would philosophy fit?
• the proposal that the language requirement not necessarily be for two courses in the same language has a problem: one language course alone won’t lead to useful proficiency
• too many genres: a core should be less fragmented
• useful to list core as general skills/knowledge and provide students more choice
• the whole point of a core is to limit students’ choices; we want to steer them toward specific learning experiences

Heads should be aware that the Faculty of Science, reacting to budgetary pressures it faces, has proposed that we replace our core requirement for a lab science with something just in the science area generally. Comments on this proposed change would be especially welcome.
Textbook prices

The following editorial appeared in the New York Times for 25 April 2008 under the title “That book costs how much?” Please urge instructors in your unit to give a lot of weight to our students’ financial constraints in their decisions about course textbooks.

College students and their families are rightly outraged about the bankrupting costs of textbooks that have nearly tripled since the 1980s, mainly because of marginally useful CD-ROMs and other supplements. A bill pending in Congress would require publishers to sell “unbundled” versions of the books — minus the pricey add-ons. Even more important, it would require publishers to reveal book prices in marketing material so that professors could choose less-expensive titles.

The bill is a good first step. But colleges and universities will need to embrace new methods of textbook development and distribution if they want to rein in runaway costs. That means using digital textbooks, which can often be presented online free of charge or in hard copies for as little as one-fifth the cost of traditional books. The digital books can also be easily customized and updated.

Right now, textbook publishers are calling the tune. They add as many bells and whistles as they can and pump out new editions as quickly as possible — as a way of making perfectly good textbooks obsolete. Not every book can be cheap. A specialized text that only a few people know how to write and that reaches a small audience will be costly by definition. But there is no reason for an introductory textbook to carry a price tag of, say, $140 in an area like economics where the information changes little from year to year.

Schools are beginning to balk at outrageous pricing. Rice University offers textbooks for some classes free online and charges a nominal fee for the printed version. A new company called Flat World Knowledge, based in Nyack, N.Y., plans to offer online textbooks free and hopes to make its profit by selling supplemental materials like study guides and hard copies printed on demand. A study being carried out by the geographer Ronald Dorn at Arizona State University suggests that students who use free online textbooks perform as well academically as students who buy expensive copies from traditional publishers. Colleges and universities should take advantage of these new developments.

Cash-strapped students and their families need all the relief they can get.

Holidays

As we near the season when people begin to think of holidays, Heads should remind their members of the need to make known their plans in writing. Article 23.2.2 of the Collective Agreement deals with the use of vacation time for members of the academic staff. Section 4.5.2 of the Faculty Handbook is also germane:

Faculty members (Department Heads) who will be absent from campus on vacation are to make appropriate arrangements with their Department Head (Dean) and confirm them in writing, indicating the period of absence and where they can be contacted. It is the responsibility of the Department to keep accurate records of vacation use and entitlement.

Heads are therefore asked to ensure that their members are aware of these provisions, and that written records are kept in the Department office.