

Faculty Update

Vol. 2 Number 4 • March 16, 2006

STRIKE OF 2006

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE • LOCAL 556
College Professors, Counsellors & Librarians

We're moving the system *Up!*

Local 556 Strike Office • 25 Cecil St., Ste. 301 • tel (416) 977-0684 • fx (416) 977-9181 • opseu556@gmail.com



BARGAINING RE-STARTED

Minister of Colleges and Universities has called the union and the colleges back to the bargaining table Friday morning, March 17. ↵

GET FACE-TO-FACE WITH YOUR MPP” says Rosario Marchese

Rosario Marchese, the NDP critic for Training, Colleges and Universities, visited our picket lines at St. James to show his support and advice. Faculty need to visit our local MPPs in their constituency offices to let them know what the real story is. “Get face-to-face,” Marchese said, “so MPPs understand the issues.” Especially the Liberal MPPs.

MPP Rosario Marchese (left) visits the St. James line and chats with Tom Tomassi.

Here are the Toronto areas Liberal MPPs' names, constituency offices and telephone numbers:

Lorenzo Berardinetti, Scarborough Southwest, 3047 Kingston Rd., Scarborough, 416 261 9525

Laurel Broton, Etobicoke Lakeshore, 2731 Lakeshore Blvd., West, Etobicoke, 416 259 2249

Michael Bryant, St. Paul's, 803 St. Clair Ave., West, Toronto, 416 656 0943

Donna Cansfield, Etobicoke Centre, 4800 Dundas St., West, Toronto, 416 234 2800

Mary Anne V. Chambers, Scarborough East, 20-4630 Kingston Rd., Toronto, 416 281 2787

Mike Colle, Eglinton-Lawrence, 2882 Dufferin St., 416 781 2395

Joseph Cordiano, York South Weston, 3-2277 Keele St., North York, 416 243 7984

Gerard Kennedy, Parkdale High Park, 2861 Dundas St., West, 416 763 5630

Monte Kwinter, York Centre, 539 Wilson Heights Blvd., 416 630 0080

Tony Ruprecht, Davenport, 1359 Davenport Rd., 416 535 3158

George Smitherman, Toronto Centre Rosedale, 120 Carleton St, Suite 413, 416 972 7683

Greg Sorbara, Vaughn King Aurora, Unit AU8, 140 Woodbridge Ave., Woodbridge, 905 851 0440

Kathleen O. Wynne, Don Valley West, 146 Laird Dr., Suite 101, Toronto, 416 425 6777.

We encourage two or three faculty to get together and arrange a face-to-face meeting with the Liberal MPP in your area. ↵

COLLEGE PROFESSORS LEAD FIGHT FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

In 1984 college professors went on strike to get reasonable limits placed on their work assignments. The old system of having rolling averages and only annual limits did nothing to promote quality and in fact had the effect of working against delivering consistent, well planned education to our students. We won a workload formula, introduced in 1985, that placed reasonable work limits on our workload and necessitated the hiring of 1500 new teachers. This formula has, until recently, served the system well.

Over the past several years the college has systematically undermined the workload formula. Because our formula applies factors for preparation and evaluation/feedback as multipliers of classroom hours the reduction in actual in-class student time has had a dramatic effect on our credited workload. The colleges have been reducing that in-class time without reducing content proportionately, they have introduced “phantom” hours into the students’ schedules in which class time is credited but no professor is present and they have consistently reduced the evaluation/feedback factors. The result has been a dramatic increase in class size, an increase in faculty workload and a decrease in the quality of education that the colleges can deliver.

Now in 2006, as before in 1984, the college professors are again leading the fight for quality education. The difference this time is that the government appears to be on side with the college faculty. Premier Dalton McGuinty has promised to increase spending on post secondary education by \$6.2 billion over a five-year period and he commissioned former premier Bob Rae to conduct a study of post secondary education. That report supports our current demands on quality.

What hasn’t changed in this round is the stubborn refusal of management to recognize that providing a quality education to our students is of primary importance. As stated in the Toronto Star editorial of March 15, “...colleges and their teaching staff ought to be making common cause at Queens Park...”. This sadly is not the case here at George Brown College. Faculty have taken a strong position on the need to provide quality in education and backed that conviction by forgoing their wages and actively picketing. By comparison, our president has not supported our demands for quality and consistently undermined our efforts with the media. If Ann Sado is not prepared to join with faculty trying to meet the stated goals of McGuinty for “more teachers and smaller classes” (May 2005) or the recommendations of the Rae report to provide students with “more quality time with their professors” then she should stand aside and leave the job of fighting for and delivering quality education to the professional academic staff at this college. ☹



5000 ATTEND SUCCESSFUL RALLY

Wow! In an overwhelming show of solidarity Community College Profs from across the province delivered a message to the government in support of their bargaining team. Solidarity works. ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

EVERYDAY PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS

- If you try to to fail, and succeed, which have you done?
- I wish I were what I was when I was trying to become what I am now.
- Why don’t you ever see the headline “Psychic Wins Lottery”?