

The Update

Issue II, 2022-2023

February 2023

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Update.

COUNCIL & EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

OCFA Executive Council meetings are held once every month. If you would like to bring forward a particular item for consideration, please contact one of your OCFA Council members (contact information for all your reps can be found on the

[last page](#)

[of this newsletter](#)).

DELIVERY OF THE UPDATE

The

Update is now distributed electronically as a PDF file by e-mail and is also available on the [OCFA webpage](#).

OCFA SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/ocfaculty>

Facebook group (for OCFA & OUCFA retirees)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3459590260743214>

Contact information for all Association Council representatives and Shop Stewards can be found on the final page of this newsletter.

Notices & Events

Recap of the OCFA Winter General Meeting

January 27, 2023, at the Coast Capri Hotel

OCFA members enjoyed a delicious meal and good company at the Winter General meeting. Thank you to all members who came out in-person or joined online.

At this point it looks like our Annual General Meeting in April will also be held at the Coast Capri Hotel. The OC Cafeteria and Culinary Arts have been unable to accommodate our group, despite our ongoing requests. If members have venue ideas, please get in touch. The Coast Capri has been a top venue choice because we support other union members, and it is one of the few unionized work environments that can cater to a group of our size.

During the April AGM, we will also have our Council elections. Have you ever considered running for an OCFA Council position? If you have questions about positions on Council, please feel free to contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Roën Janyk, rjanyk@okanagan.bc.ca.

Upcoming General Meetings:

- April 28, 2023 – Annual General Meeting, 5:30 – 9 pm, location TBA

Campus Socials

Campus Socials

Faculty Professional Development Entitlements

Term Faculty PD Entitlements

Submitted by Can Li, Non-Continuing Faculty Representative

the anti-

Faculty Association Sponsored Events

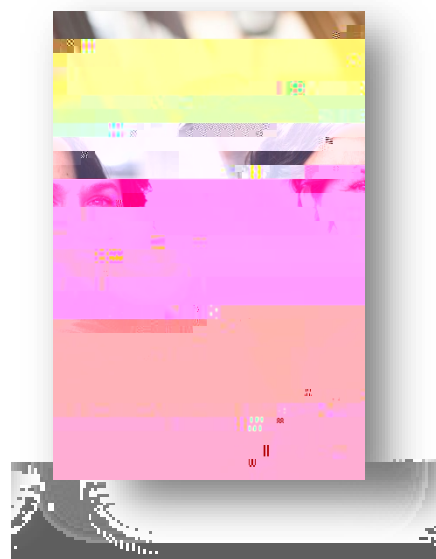
Understanding Ableism with Spring Hawes

Submitted by Sasha Johnston

Ableism is “a belief system, analogous to racism, sexism or ageism, that sees persons with disabilities as being less worthy of respect and consideration, less able to contribute and participate, or of less inherent value than others. Ableism may be conscious or unconscious, and may be embedded in institutions, systems or the broader culture of a society. It can limit the opportunities of persons with disabilities and reduce their inclusion in the life of their communities” (Ontario Human Rights Commission, 2018).

Over the last two months it was our great pleasure here at OC to host advocate and entrepreneur Spring Hawes. She offered a series of galvanizing events for both OC employees and students, in an effort to call attention to and provide education on the problem of ableism.

On January 19th, Hawes delivered a powerful presentation in the atrium of the Centre for Learning about ableism in an ableist, capitalist society. Her talk was informed by compelling stories of lived experience and research in disability studies. Hawes informed her audience that she incurred a spinal cord injury seventeen years ago and is a tetraplegic. In addition to being an advocate for folks with disabilities, she also shared that she is a past elected official, board director for a provincial health authority, and currently an appointed co-chair of BC's inaugural Provincial Accessibility Committee. One of the most striking, humbling insights from the presentation is that institutions regularly create numerous barriers for people with disabilities. The “problem,” she revealed, is therefore not the individual but rather institutional structures that deny the agency of disabled people and thus make “belonging” nearly impossible.



Hawes' presentation was followed up by both a student debriefing, held via zoom on February 2nd, and an employee workshop, held via zoom on February 23rd. The purpose of the series overall was to increase attendees' understanding of ableism, bring awareness to the marginalization and exclusion of disabled people, and offer tools to address ableist realities in our everyday lives and work. Hawes offered [a list of resources](#) to support ongoing education pertaining to disability and ableism.

The Understanding Ableism series was organized by the OC Accessibility Alliance – a committee of OC employees who were brought together by Destiny McNish, a second-year Arts student at the Kelowna campus. A passionate advocate for anti-ableism and accessibility in and out of the classroom, McNish's goal is to bring people together from across the OC community to participate, raise awareness, build knowledge, and foster dialogue.

The Accessibility Alliance thanks the Okanagan College Faculty Association for its generous financial support of the Understanding Ableism series!

Human Rights & International Solidarity Event

FPSE/HRISC 2023 Speakers Tour

Worldwide Teach-In on Climate Justice

An **event is planned during the week of March 27th**, in conjunction with the [Worldwide Teach-In on Climate Justice](#). This event will be focused on climate education. If you have any students doing a climate-related project, paper, or event that we can showcase, [let Rosalind know](#). We will set up a display table or other means of sharing their work. Alternatively, if you would like to share your climate-related research or even talk about a recent class where climate issues were discussed, this would be a good opportunity to share!

In Spring 2023, help mobilize half a million people, in-person and online, in a one-day WORLDWIDE TEACH-IN on climate solutions and justice in the transition. World-Wide Teach-In event website: <https://gps.bard.edu/world-wide-teach-in-2023>

Teaching the SDGS Event

As part of SDG Week Canada, Rosalind Warner will be a panelist for the featured event, Teaching the SDGs Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – 11 am - 12 pm.

In an ever-changing world with increasingly complex challenges, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) require rethinking norms and imagining innovative solutions. Post-secondary institutions play an important role in building capacity among learners to address this work. With a desire to create learning experiences that are meaningful, creative, and transformative, educators must reflect on how traditional teaching methods can be improved through innovation in the classroom. Explore strategies and methods for teaching about the SDGs to improve learning outcomes in universities and colleges across Canada. For more information about SDG Week, check: <https://sustain.ubc.ca/events/teaching-sdgs>

Reports

President's Report

Sharon Mansiere

Local Update

the appropriate places. The employer delivered a draft of that LOU on January 23 and the Grievance Committee reviewed it. The LOU did not include the provision to perform a mid-contract review of the terms of the LOU. The employer agreed that was an oversight, has redrafted the LOU to include it, and provided the Association with the revised letter. It is currently under review by the Grievance Committee to be recommended to the Executive Committee to sign the LOU.

5. FAC22/03: Distance Education

This grieves the BUAD policy of limiting seniority rights to Distance Education sections courses to three sections. No such limit exists in the Agreement. Rather, there is a maximum registrant limit. The grievance had been placed in abeyance pending a bargaining proposal from the employer. No such proposal was tabled, however. As such, the grievance was removed from abeyance and moved to step 2. We are awaiting the employer's response.

6. FAC22/04: Improper Summative Evaluation

This grieves the unsatisfactory result a member received on their summative evaluation. The employer has agreed that the existing summative was not adequate since it

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FPSE Climatic Emergency Committee Report

Rosalind Warner

Climate Emergency Committee Representative for Okanagan College (Local 9)

Two events are planned for March that are relevant to climate action. Review the March 27 World-Wide Teach-In event information, and the SDG Weeks Canada event information, located in the [ev](#)

- Identify opportunities for FPSE to highlight human rights in its work, including by drafting a human rights statement for FPSE's consideration to include on its website and liaising with the Policy and Archiving Committee on adding human rights language to the FPSE Constitution.
- Raise awareness of emerging domestic and international human rights issues and advise Presidents' Council on how to support human rights defenders worldwide; and
- Organize a speakers' tour on human rights themes of domestic and international significance.

Pension Advisory Representative	Elena Mitropolsky	4524	emitropolsky@okanagan.bc.ca
Status of Women Representative	Eva Gavaris	3224	egavaris@okanagan.bc.ca
Workplace Health, Safety, Environment Representative	Howard Hisdal	4768	hhsdal@okanagan.bc.ca

Shop Stewards:

Kelowna Campus Steward	Sean Johnston	4672
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