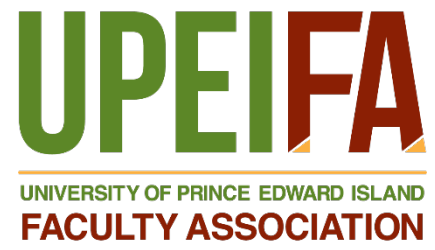


The FABric: Microfibre Edition



Upcoming Events

Fair Employment Week

Read about CAUT’s awareness and advocacy activities surrounding Contract Academic Staff on p. 2

FA Membership Survey

See notice and link on p. 3

Fall General Meeting

Time and Date TBA
Virtual Meeting

Highlights

Faculty Lounge Survey Results 3

Did you know.... 2

From the FA President

Dear colleagues,

Six weeks into the fall academic term, Faculty, Librarians, Sessional Instructors, Clinical Nursing Instructors, and Veterinary Professionals continue to support students and one another amidst an ongoing public health emergency. The sudden “pivot” to distance teaching in March, accompanied by the pausing of some research programmes and the application of work-from-home directives, re-shaped the work lives of many of us through the spring and summer. The challenges were sharp, obvious, and consequential for academic staff. And they continue to be for each of us as individuals, as a community, and as part of the broader academy.

In those “early days” of the new abnormal, most questions and concerns from FA members focused on two things: clarity around processes and reasonable accommodations within them, and increased investment in resources to support us in our work, particularly in online teaching and working from home. The Faculty Association began intervention and advocacy work on both of those themes and had some success on the process and procedure issues. Yet even in alliance with the UPEI Student Union, we’ve realized minimal additional supports put in place for online teaching and learning. For many of us, and for many students, the consequences have become sharp and obvious despite our

General Meeting

very best and genuine efforts to provide an exceptional educational experience.

As we approach CAUT’s Fair Employment Week – a week of education and advocacy around the working conditions of precarious, contract academic staff – this lack of recognition of increased workload for Sessional Instructors, in particular, should draw our collective attention. Amidst the “pivot,” and in the terms since, some university administrations have recognized the tremendous investment of time and attention Sessional Instructors have devoted to preparing and reconstructing courses for online environments. In substantial measures, that work has been performed before contract dates begin, and has thus been uncompensated. There is still an opportunity to correct this unfairness, both retroactively and on a go-forward basis through the winter term. In this present moment, this could be the best immediate outcome of Fair Employment Week at UPEI.

Academic Staff: A Webinar with Dr. Sam Trosow

Fair Employment Week

October 19, 2020 at 1:00pm - October 23, 2020 at 2:00pm

OVERVIEW

Fair Employment Week is CAUT's annual campaign to raise awareness about precarious employment on campuses and support local organizing to improve the working conditions of contract academic staff.

This year's events will provide an opportunity for contract academic staff from across the country to come together virtually to network with one another and discuss the issues they are facing. Online events will include:

Monday, October 19 from 1 to 2:30pm EST // Organizing to Win for Contract Academic Staff: A CAUT Members' Panel

Hear case studies from across the country on how academic staff associations have organized around and won victories for contract academic staff. This event will take place in English with simultaneous interpretation into French.

Registration: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEpdO6tqz8tHN3rSuOyraZeQBrInMrKGO3g>

Tuesday, October 20 from 1 to 2pm EST // Intellectual Property in a Time of Remote Learning for Contract

Join Dr. Sam Trosow, a professor at the University of Western Ontario, who will discuss the issues of ownership and control of course content for contract academic staff in a time of remote learning.

This event will take place in English with simultaneous interpretation into French.

Registration: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpcu6sqz0jHtPSaMu2eLCtGRKejzphd3KN>

Wednesday, October 21 from 1 to 2pm EST // A Keynote Address by Dr. Liz Morrish

Liz Morrish, an independent scholar and activist for resistance to managerial appropriation of the university and co-author of the book *Academic Irregularities*, will present a talk titled, "A plague on universities: How the pandemic has created breach points for the future of labour, pedagogy and values in higher education."

This event will take place in English with simultaneous interpretation into French.

Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cXISYq2ZSC-cXZj5bJY1VA

Thursday, October 22 // A Social Media Day of Action

Stay tuned for CAUT's Social Media Day of Action.

Friday, October 23 from 1 to 2pm EST // A Zoom social for contract academic staff

Join contract academic staff from coast to coast in an informal Zoom social. Folks will be put into breakout rooms to get to know one another, talk about the unique issues contract academic staff are experiencing, discuss strategies to improve working conditions, and join together in celebration of the work and contributions contract academic staff make to our universities and colleges.

Registration: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMrc-murDsrH9JktPo-uT70bJ5v_ATrdK5-

Did you Know ...

Two of the eight members of the UPEI-FA Executive Committee are Contract Academic Staff members?

That the FA provides financial compensation to Contract Academic Staff members who serve on its committees, recognizing the value of their labour?

That the FA has long advocated that Contract Academic Staff members who provide service to UPEI be compensated for their labour by the Employer?

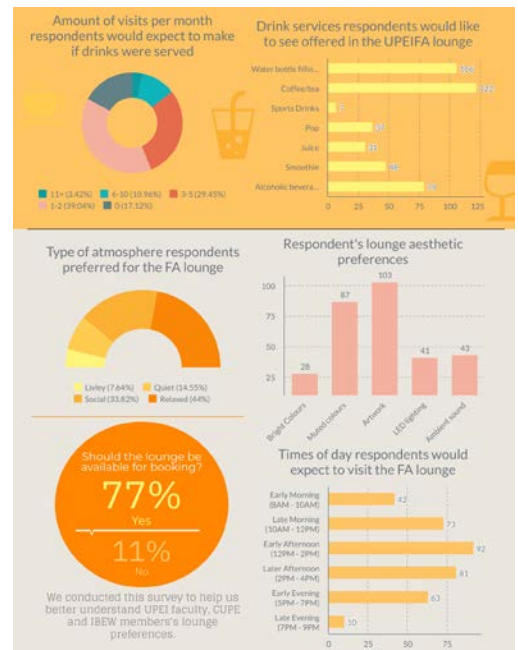
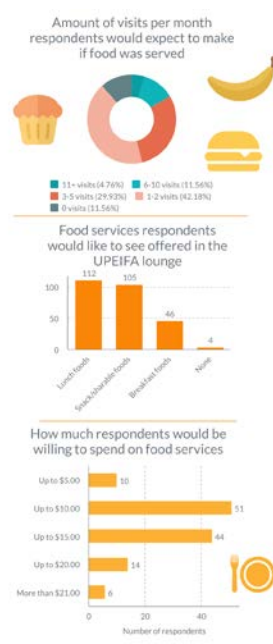
UPEI-FA Member Survey

The context of Covid-19 has created a multitude of new demands on academic staff, professional staff, and librarians. The transition to online teaching seems to have increased the workload of many FA members. Unmet requests for increased supports and resources have produced frustrations for some. The ability to launch or continue research projects has proven challenging for some. And all of this has taken place in a context where concerns around health and safety – for ourselves, our colleagues, and our students – are ever-present in our minds.

The FA Executive wants to understand the challenges you are facing in a more systematic way. To that end, we are asking members to follow this link and complete a brief survey. The survey is anonymous, and the results will be used both to “take the pulse” of the membership, but also to hone the Executive’s advocacy efforts. The survey opens Thursday, October 15th and will close Thursday, October 29th, at 5:00pm.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/upeiifaFall2020Survey>

FA Lounge Survey Results



Compiled 87 responses for what the ideal lounge environment would be...

"A relaxing, comfortable, and social place that one can complete work or meet in groups with colleagues. A welcoming, and quiet environment with coffee and conversation"

What respondents like about the current lounge

- Windows
- Bright natural light
- Openness
- Movable furniture
- Heritage aspects
- Piano
- Artwork
- Comfortable chairs

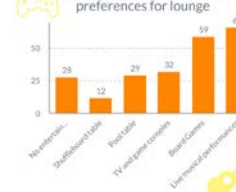
What they do not like

- Carpet
- Furniture
- Disturbed
- Too formal
- Current colour scheme
- Pillars

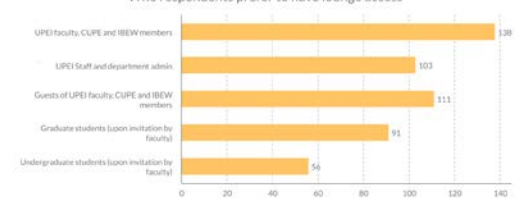
Covid precautions respondents would like to see:

- Keycard access
- Staging
- Limited capacity
- Mobility accessible
- Hand sanitizer
- Sanitizing and disinfecting

Respondent's entertainment preferences for lounge



Who respondents prefer to have lounge access



We thank all who participated in this survey.

2020-2021 Executive Committee

Members.

President (Until October 15): Sharon Myers
(After October 15): Michael Arfken

Vice-President (Until October 15): Michael
Arfken

Treasurer: Larry Hale

Member-at-large:

Andrea Bourque

Douglas Dahn

Simon Lloyd

Margot Rejskind

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