

LMC Report

On Wednesday, October 9th, the union's Labour-Management Committee had its first meeting of 2019-2020 with the employer to discuss a full agenda of issues for Units 1, 2, and 3.

Many of the items which were discussed in 2018-2019 were returned to and updates requested. Since our last LMC meeting in May, little progress has been made on PER reporting for Unit 2, putting Work Histories online, and making T2200 more accessible for members. We continue to wait for Faculty Relations to report-back after upcoming meetings with ARMS (re Work Histories) or Finance (re T2200 and PER).

Ongoing issues include:

- Improved software and record-keeping should mean that Faculty Relations is better able to track Professional Expense Reimbursement balances for Unit 2 members. Finance has also offered to run workshops for our members on how to use Concur.
- Unit 1 members who have not signed up for electronic transfer of funds (ETF) with Student Financial Services may experience delays in receiving their "Grant-in-Aid" payment (part of a Teaching Assistant's overall compensation package), which the University is providing through student accounts rather than payroll. FGS can assist members in signing up for ETF using a computer in the FGS Office.
- The employer has said that SGA/GIA will be deposited to student accounts between the 20th-23rd of each month so that the amount will be refunded to the students' bank account by the 25th, as long as the student has set up electronic transfer. FGS said that the SGA/GIA amount will not be applied to any outstanding debts and that the full amount will be refunded. September cheques were already mailed to students who did not set up electronic transfer, and FGS is looking into changing this so that future cheques can be picked up at the FGS office.
- The employer is classifying Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) as a 'recruitment' scholarship for graduate students in their first-year only, so they are not clawing back fellowship funding for first-year students. Students receiving these scholarships in subsequent years will continue to have their fellowship funding reduced.
- There is no institutional policy regarding access control of office space at York. Every administration has different rules regarding office computers, office keys, and ensuring Unit 2 representation at department meetings. We will continue to push for an institutional policy at LMC.
- Faculty Relations has promised to remind departments about their obligations regarding Notice of Recommended Appointment (NRAs) and posting deadlines.
- The "Faculty of Health Committee" (aka Labour Management Nursing Subcommittee) will be finalized by the October 30th deadline set by the Hayes' decision.

New items which were introduced at this meeting included:

- We've asked the employer about how they will manage the new provincial legislation re age 71 and pensions and received an unsatisfactory response. We were told that there is nothing to report since 1) no regulations have been passed; 2) it might not effect contract faculty, and 3) while the MPP's now have the ability to amend (and enforce the regulations) there is no guarantee that they will do so.
- We requested that ARMS ensure that contracts reflect 6% vacation pay for those members with more than 5 years of cumulative service. We requested an IT fix so that doctoral students entering their 7th year are able to retain their library privileges without requiring a supervisor's note so that members can take advantage of the newly bargained collective agreement provision which provides doctoral students library access for one additional year beyond their last Priority Pool year.
- We requested that the employer provide incoming Unit 1 and 3 members with easier access to their employee numbers and their employee emails. The Union suggested that Unit 1 and 3 members be able to use their student Passport York account to access their pay stubs and employee email. Faculty Relations and FGS indicated that they would look into this issue and report back.
- We asked for an October opt-in date for summer minimum guarantees for new Unit 1 and 3 members. Currently the opt-in period for current Unit 1 and 3 members to receive fellowship funding in one lump sum payment in the summer is July-August and incoming students are not able to opt-in. FGS will consider an implementation process to allow new incoming Unit 1 and 3 members the choice to opt-in to receive fellowship payments in one lump sum payment in the summer term, just like current Unit 1 and 3 members.

The next LMC meeting to be on November 13th from 2:30-4:00pm. In the meantime if you have an issue that needs to be addressed, you should contact your Chief Steward. If you have a question or an issue that should go directly to the LMC representatives, LMC now has a dedicated email address – cupe3903lmc@gmail.com