

CANDIDATES FOR THE L.F.A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2014-2015

Voting for the 2014/2015 LFA Board of Directors will commence on **Tuesday, April 22, 2014** and close on **Monday, April 28, 2014, at 3:30 p.m.**

ALISON CURTIS, LIBRARY

I am the Coordinator of Collection Development at the Library, and have worked at Langara as a librarian for twelve years. I have served one term on the LFA Board, and over the past year have appreciated the opportunity to learn about the work of the Board, the work of our stewards, and the many day-to-day issues involved in running a union. I feel it's useful to have at least one non-instructional faculty member on the Board, to ensure that issues from those areas have representation.

One area where I feel the Board could improve is in opening better communication channels, to inform and engage members in discussions about local union-related issues. Until I joined the Board I had no idea how effective and essential the work of our stewards is in defending our Collective Agreement rights, and I would like to see that information more broadly shared and appreciated. I also think we need a forum for raising awareness about issues that affect our sector and the union movement generally. If elected for another term, areas I would like to focus on include developing an LFA newsletter, improving the LFA website so that it can be more easily used as communication tool, and serving on the LFA Bargaining Team.

BRADLEY HUGHES, PHYSICS

I would like to be part of the LFA executive to do two things. I would like to organize a regular LFA newsletter to report to the members on the decisions made by your executive and on other developments on campus that will effect us.

I would also like to find a way to get full-time work for our members who are stuck working part-time. Currently we have some of the best regularization language amongst the member unions of the Federation of Post Secondary Educators (FPSE). As a consequence, there is a clear path from temporary work to regular work. However, there is no mechanism to create full-time work for our part-time members. Instead they are left waiting, frequently for years, for a colleague to quit or retire. If I am elected to our executive I will try to make it a priority of our union to find a way to have more sections created to allow part-time members to become full-time.

I have been an instructor in the department of Physics & Astronomy at Langara for 10 years. In that time I have been a representative for our union to the FPSE non-regular committee, served on the hiring and evaluation committee in my department and been an LFA representative to the evaluation committee in another. I also help with the International Socialists club on campus (www.socialist.ca) while I was a graduate student at SFU, I was a department steward for the Teaching Support Staff Union that represents Teaching Assistants and Sessional Instructors. I also served two terms on the executive of that union as Chief Steward. I would like a chance to bring that experience to the executive of our union.

CHERYL MCKEEMAN, MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

Thank you for nominating me to represent you on the LFA Board for 2014-2015. My personal skill is contract maintenance: ensuring that your rights as a faculty member are respected. Sometimes faculty think that, in this millenium, we do not need unions or collective agreements, but in fact I am happy that we have a collective agreement that protects us during times of fiscal restraint and changing College priorities. If re-elected to the Board, I will continue to use my expertise and my experience to do the best that I can for the LFA.

DARRELL KEAN, DIVISION CHAIR, SOCIAL SCIENCES & BUSINESS

I am seeking your endorsement for my continued membership as a Langara Faculty Association Board member. It is a position I have been filling for the last year and the work is fascinating. I believe I can serve the interests of faculty in a positive, balanced and collegial manner.

I have been a member of the Langara College faculty and the Langara Faculty Association since 1991. During that time I have served the College in the following capacities:

- Member of the Langara Faculty Association Board (1 year)
- Division Chair of Social Sciences and Management (2 years)
- Department Chair of Criminal Justice Programs (7 years)
- Faculty member in Criminal Justice Programs (23 years)

These positions have allowed me to support the interests of faculty and the College by:

- interpreting the Collective Agreement
- sitting on selection committees for faculty, staff and executive positions
- implementing policies and procedures
- managing large budgets
- serving on committees that developed policies such as Course Outlines, Course Assessments, and Student Code of Conduct
- advising on the International Registration Committee
- protecting the interests of faculty and students as a founding member of the Behavioural Intervention Team
- sitting on College committees such as Education Council, Deans and Division Chairs, Graduation Adjudication Committee and Langara Council
- attending the annual general meeting of FPSE
- representing the LFA in a workshop on the privacy rights of workers through fair and objective investigative processes.

The past 9 years have allowed me to better understand the entire College system including Executive, Administration, Staff and Faculty. My work reinforces my belief that the greatest gift we have at this College is our ability to work with each other to support our collective interests. As an LFA Board member, I will continue to promote the rights of faculty and uphold the integrity and confidentiality of this position. I invite you to seek out members of any of the committees mentioned above to ask about my performance. I believe you will hear that I am a person who will professionally and competently represent your interests.

DEBORAH FILLEUL, LANGARA SCHOOL OF NURSING

I have served on the LFA Board for several years and as Treasurer for the past 2 years. I am the LFA rep on several recommendation committees, and currently for Publishing and Counseling. This has given me the opportunity to learn about several programs and departments, to advocate for faculty and promote collegial relationships. I believe I have a good working knowledge of the Collective agreement and College policies and can be a strong advocate for faculty. I am an Assistant Chair with the Nursing Program and understand the issues concerning these positions. I ask for your support to continue to serve faculty on the LFA Board

INDIRA-NATASHA PRAHST, DEPARTMENT CHAIR OF SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY

I am standing for election to the Langara Faculty Association Board and feel privileged to have this opportunity to advance our collective interests as members of the LFA on structural, academic and collegial levels. I have taught Sociology at Langara for fifteen years and also teach in the Department of Canadian Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies. Currently I am the Chair in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and sit on the Scholarly Activity Steering Committee. I also have been the Coordinator for Sociology and a past member of the Sociology hiring committee. In addition to committee and administrative work at Langara, I played an active role in bridging social issues within the community and academia through forums on "Violence Against Women", "Steering Youth Away from Gang Recruitment" and "Intercultural Dynamics within Educational Institutions" which have been covered extensively by the media. One forum resulted in a CBC documentary featuring Langara students tackling some of the issues. This documentary brought Langara into a national spotlight. I was successful in applying for Social Science and Humanities research grants to research and engage various academic and community partners on the subject of these forums: safety, violence and gangs and education. Through these opportunities and engagements, I have garnered extensive experience and knowledge of how Langara functions as an institution, in both its successes and vulnerabilities. I am confident, energetic and enthusiastic at the prospect of being able to share my ideas and experience with my fellow LFA members from a proactive lens. Therefore, I am humbly asking for your support.

Some of the issues I wish to bring forward are:

- Creating diverse spaces for the LFA Board and its members to engage on issues impacting Langara and to solicit more support, participation and commitment from its members.
- Continuing the LFA's vigilance in protecting and in enhancing our role in Federation of Post-Secondary Educators (FPSE) and in shielding the interests of post-secondary education. As such, I will focus on developing strategies to contest changes threatening the structure and values of education in the public sector.
- Building on existing LFA strategies that aim to create unity between the LFA and its members through multifaceted modes of knowledge transmission.

JESSIE SMITH, INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES)

I have been teaching at Langara for fourteen years, a Coordinator of Latin American Studies for three and a half years, a Steward for the LFA for just over a year, and an LFA Board member for one term. My paid work as a Steward and my volunteer work on the Board complement each other well. It would be challenging to be an effective Steward if I were not on the Board, and being a Steward enhances my ability to be an effective Board member. I appreciate the opportunities I have on the Board to give input into issues that are important to me - from the big picture of the challenges facing post-secondary education, to the day-to-day work of defending our Collective Agreement and the rights of Faculty.

Always avid to learn, I actively seek out professional development opportunities that aid me in the steep learning curve that is involved in my work as a Steward and as a Board member. For example, I took a week long Steward training put on by the Canadian Labour Congress, I went to a two-day labour-law conference, and this summer I am taking a three-day Conflict Resolution course at the Justice Institute.

It would be an honour to serve on the Board again, and if re-elected I will continue to do my best to defend Faculty interests. Please contact me at any time to alert me to issues you think the LFA should know about.

PETER BABIAK, ENGLISH

I have been teaching in the English Department at Langara since 2002, when I began making the gradual transition from teaching at UBC. I am committed to the collegial faculty culture I found here at Langara and I am committed to serving my colleagues here. To this end, I have been a member of the LFA board since 2012 and was on the LFA bargaining team during the last round of negotiations in early 2013. Learning about the LFA's crucial work in advocating for faculty concerns has been a steep learning curve for me because I am before all else a teacher but I am devoted to helping my fellow faculty members as best I can.

Prior to working at Langara, I taught at UBC as a "sessional" lecturer from 1996 to 2002 and I was on the team that succeeded, with the help of CUPE and the UBC Faculty Association, in lifting the unofficial policy of releasing contract faculty from their employment after a three year period. In 2001 I was academic coordinator of the Humanities Storefront, a grassroots education program in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and between 2002-2006 I was Academic Director of the Faculty of Arts Humanities 101 Community Programs, which offers a series of barrier-free education to economically marginalised students from around Vancouver. I have published academic articles on Canadian Literature, Postcolonial Literature and Theory, and the Rhetoric of Global Finance Capital and I am Features Editor at Subterranean Magazine, a literary-cultural quarterly in Vancouver where I regularly write essays on cultural and literary matters.

SAL ALBANESE, SOCIOLOGY

I ask for members support to join the Langara Faculty Association Board because I believe that I can contribute in a variety of ways to mobilize faculty, students and others in the educational community to fight for the preservation of our working conditions. I have previously served one term as a Board member. The pressing issues at this time are many and include salary levels and fear of job loss. There are murmurs everywhere that our profession and its values are under assault but at the same time there are those who would try to sever the LFA's ties with other postsecondary educators, both provincially and nationally. I believe we need to work for greater unity of purpose to push back against attacks on collective bargaining rights and shared governance, the chiseling away at the benefits of both full-time and part-time faculty, government cutbacks and the consequent erosion of income scales and students ability to pay for an education. To meet these challenges the LFA will need new blood and new ideas to mobilize and organize our collective efforts to stand up for our working conditions, our rights, and our profession.

If elected, I intend to:

- Promote a "members-at-large" review of the LFA's internal strategic planning process
- Improve lines of communication between the Board and the membership
- Reaffirm the values of the LFA as both a professional association and a union
- Enhance the LFA's participation in our provincial body, FPSE
- Seek to revive activism among members
- Raise our public profile through public statements on issues of major significance such as assaults on academic freedom

STEPHEN PHILLIPS, POLITICAL SCIENCE

I have taught political science at Langara for the past twenty years. In that time I served as chair of the non-regular faculty committee, co-chair of the social committee, and member (in 2002-2003) of the LFA Board. I later served on the Transportation Committee in which role I helped to bring the Employer Pass Program (EPP) to Langara. When TransLink announced plans last year to axe the EPP, I initiated a petition campaign to save it. Alas, it was not successful! More recently I have been working to bring to the attention of colleagues the vital importance of the LFA's remaining a member of the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators (FPSE).

I am seeking to return to the Board for the same reason I ran more than a decade ago: the need for improved communication and transparency within the LFA. While we have been fortunate to have had on the Board exceedingly skilled, hard-working representatives, there continues in my view to be too little communication between Board and membership and too little effort to engage wider participation. Case in point: many LFA members had never even heard of FPSE, an organization to which we've been affiliated for the past 25 years, until the issue was broached at last year's AGM.

It is clear that changes are afoot at the College, and elsewhere in the post-secondary education sector, that could profoundly affect our working conditions and the very nature of public education. A new management cadre is now in place at Langara; meanwhile our provincial government continues to de-fund post-secondary education while forcing colleges to rely more heavily on foreign students to finance their operations. If we are to formulate thoughtful and effective responses to these and other challenges, the Board needs to tap into the knowledge and wisdom of its members. That begins with improved communication flowing both ways between the Board and the membership at large.

At the same time the LFA needs to play a more energetic role in FPSE to advance our collective interests as educators and to defend the essential principles of public education.

To begin to address these concerns, I propose we do the following:

- produce a newsletter at regular intervals (featuring, for example, reports from LFA reps. on FPSE committees along with news and commentary by members at large);
- post important, timely information on the LFA website and make greater use of the LFA listserv (e.g., to inform members every year about LFA committees and to encourage interested members to get involved);
- hold general meetings more often to exchange information and ideas between the Board and the membership;
- amend our Bylaws so as to conduct annual LFA elections *before* the end of spring term classes when most faculty are on campus; among other things this would make it feasible to hold election forums at which members could actually meet and question the candidates

I would be pleased to elaborate on any of these points and to field any questions you may have about my candidacy. Please contact me at local 5828 or sphillips@langara.bc.ca

SZE YIP, LANGARA SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

I am a Certified Management Accountant (CMA) and received my MBA from Western Ivey. Started teaching accounting in Langara one night a week in 2007 and became full time in 2009. Over the years I have thoroughly enjoyed my teaching experience at Langara and look forward to the opportunity to give back to the larger Langara community.