

UVic PEA Chair's Report for 2007

This year sadly saw two executive members leave during their terms. Long time PEA activist Ian Thornton, from Biology, retired and Bill McGhee, from Counseling Services, resigned for personal reasons. Ali Abbot, an outgoing executive member, has moved to Montreal. We are extremely grateful to Ian, Ali and Bill for all their work on behalf of our members. Cliff Haman, from Visual Arts, was acclaimed to complete Ian's term of office, while Bill stepped down at a point that upcoming elections meant that a by-election wasn't needed. Cliff replaced Bill on the Association executive, joining John Foxgord and myself as UVic' representatives.

Another change has bee the retirement of our Staff Officer, Tony Bute who has led us through three rounds of bargaining, in addition to helping many members deal with workplace issues. Tony will be greatly missed and we are enormously thankful for his efforts on our behalf. Tony will be replaced by Erni Gorrie, who brings with him a great deal of expertise on labour matters.

PEA members continue to meet regularly with management through the Association/University committee to discuss a variety of issues arising from our contract. A big issue we are coming to terms with are the implications of the end of mandatory retirement in BC. The big questions arising that need to be settled with the University involve pensions, sick leave and long term disability entitlements. For the past year Sheryl Karras, Kim Lewall, Bill McGhee and Tony Bute have represented the PEA.

Chapter executive members represent the PEA on many UVic committees. Sheryl Karras worked on the revision of the Harassment Policy through the Educational Equity Advisory Group, Ali sat on the Employment Equity and Human Rights Advisory Group, Kevin Burns sat on the Smoking Policy committee, Cliff sat on the Benefits Committee, I sat on the Campus Planning Committee, Bert Klatt sat on the Central Pro-D committee, In addition, Cliff and I attend the new teaching staff orientation, Vincent Connor and I talked to new members at the new staff orientation and a working group of Vincent Connor, Bert Klatt and Tony Bute was struck to review proposed constitutional changes for the A&AP (UVic) Chapter.