

# Vanier College Teachers' Association

Newsbulletin 3, Sept. 19, 2014



## What is the General Assembly?

The VCTA is a democratic organization in which all important decisions are made by our General Assembly. The VCTA Bylaws, attached to this bulletin along with the rules of order of the CSN, which show how General Assemblies and other meetings are run. In order to vote in the General Assembly, you must be a member of the VCTA, which works on the Rand Formula. The Rand Formula says that all teachers who work at Vanier must pay union dues since all teachers benefit from the union, but in order to be a **member**, you have to join. Any Vanier teacher can become a member by coming to C101, filling out a union card and paying a one-time fee of \$2.00. In the past, VCTA meetings took place on week nights from 6:30-8:30 or 9 pm. Since we know how difficult it is to come back out at night, supper is usually served before the GA and baby-sitting is provided for teachers who need it. This year we are having some GA's on a Friday afternoon from 4-6pm. In June, we planned the first GA for Sept. 26, with a supper served during the meeting, to vote on some of our negotiating demands. However, the negotiating schedule changed, and we had to vote on the Common Front demands (Central Table) like salary, pension, etc. before Sept. 26. This is why we had to have our first GA at UB on Sept. 17 on the single issue of voting on the Central Table demands.

Before a GA, an agenda is put out to inform the assembly of the topics to be discussed. This agenda usually includes any motions that are recommended to the General Assembly by the Association Council. A member of the Executive chairs the General Assembly. Every member has a right to ask questions, make motions and to vote on motions. Motions are carried by a simple majority of 50% plus one, unless it concerns an amendment to the Bylaws, which needs a 2/3 majority. Members have the right to speak when they put up their hand to do so and are recognized by the Chair. Furthermore, there are provisions for making a "point of information" at any time during the meeting, if you have information that the Assembly needs to know. Any member can also ask for a "point of clarification" during the debate or "challenge the Chair" if you do not agree with a decision by the Chair. At this point, the Chair has to ask the Assembly whether they agree with the decision made by the Chair or if they agree with the member who has called the Chair into question and the majority rules.

It might seem intimidating at first to talk in a General Assembly, but it is very important that members attend and add their point of view. The more members that attend, the more representative of the whole membership the decisions are likely to be. If you have ideas on how to make the General Assemblies more accessible, please let us know by emailing us at [vcta@vaniercollege.qc.ca](mailto:vcta@vaniercollege.qc.ca)

**General Assembly: Friday, Sept. 26 at 4pm in F216**

**Topic: Sectorial Demands for Negotiations**

**RSVP: 7411 to reserve a meal**

## What is the Association Council?

The Association Council is made up of the Executive plus 12 other VCTA members, 6 at large and 2 from each of the three faculties, elected in April of each year for a one year mandate. Council members represent all teachers but bring the point of view and experience of their faculty to Council. The Association Council meets every two or three weeks during the semester and makes decisions on how the union should run between General Assemblies makes recommendations to the General Assembly. All VCTA members are welcome and encouraged to attend and speak at Association Council but only Council members can vote on motions. Agendas are sent out to the membership.

## What is the VCTA Executive?

The VCTA Executive is composed of 4 members, the President, the Vice President -External, the Vice President- Internal and a Secretary-Treasurer, elected each year in April. VCTA Executive members are teachers who are released from teaching to serve on the Executive but according to our Bylaws, each Executive member **must** teach at least one course every year. In fact, each Executive member normally teaches one course per semester. The Executive runs the day-to-day business of the union, dealing with Professional Development, grievances and arbitrations, checking contracts, allocation and all internal matters with the various groups in the College. The Executive also attends meetings and keeps in contact with our union central, the CSN (Confederation des syndicats nationaux) and our teachers' federation, Fneeq (Federation des enseignants et enseignantes du Quebec). Drop by C101 to talk to members of the VCTA Executive.

### V.C.T.A. EXECUTIVE – OFFICE HOURS A2014

Monday	Estelle Lamothe	8:30 AM – 1 1:30 AM
	Janice Paquette	12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Tuesday	Weekly Executive Meeting	9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
	Eric Durling	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Wednesday	Estelle Lamothe	10:00AM – 12:00 PM
	Eric Durling	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Thursday	Geeta Johal (when available)	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
	Janice Paquette (when available)	12:30 PM – 2:30 PM
Friday	Geeta Johal	11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

OR BY APPOINTMENT

## Availability

According to our Collective Agreement (Clause 8-3), full-time teachers are available to the College for 32 1/2 hours per week (6 and a half hours a day) and part-time teachers are available pro-rata to their teaching load for the semester.\* This does not mean that you have to be on campus for 32 1/2 hours a week but that you are available if the College needs you for something. This period of availability runs from the first day of availability in August to the last day of availability in June. Technically, even during the Christmas holidays we are supposed to be available, but the VCTA has made a local agreement to give teachers the week off between Christmas and New Year's Day, as long as they hand in the students' marks.

Should you want to take more time off, when there are no classes, you can ask for a transfer of availability by writing to HR and cc'ing your Dean. Transfers of availability cannot be taken during the student semester when we have classes.

*\*Cont Ed teachers do not have to provide any availability but must teach their courses and hand in students' marks, unless they are completing a full load in Cont Ed., when they have the same availability as day teachers.*