

Vanier College Teachers' Association

News Bulletin 7, Jan. 20, 2016



Next General Assembly

Our next General Assembly is Tuesday, Jan. 31st, at 6:30 p.m., in the Boardroom (F-216). Key issues to be discussed include Teacher Resources for Students with Special Needs and Fitness Fees.

VCTA Office Hours

Visit our website to see our new office hours for the winter semester of 2017:
<http://www.thevcta.qc.ca/the-executive/>

Resources for Accessibility Projects

Aka Resources for teachers with students with special needs (S024)

Here is a follow-up to the October 5th 2016 News Bulletin on this subject:

- At the Dec 14th Joint Coordinators' meeting we were informed that 8 teachers had been given release time for the UDL taskforce to develop an action plan for the future and that only 13 of 31 proposals were accepted. Unfortunately, only letters of intent for developing new proposals in the winter semester were accepted. No projects which were ready to be implemented in the winter were accepted. Apparently, teachers who submitted these were told that they needed minor tweaking and should be resubmitted for the fall.
- The Academic Dean then put out a call for fall projects to be submitted by Feb 13th 2017.
- This was the subject of major concern at the Dec 14th General Assembly. Departments were especially hard-pressed to assess the proposals as developed by their colleagues as this is not our field of expertise and there were no clear guidelines. The following Motion was developed by the assembly:

Whereas there are no clearly defined goals for projects regarding students with special needs (S024);
Whereas the College lacks a policy on Students with Special Needs;
Whereas there is a problem with the definition of special needs categories;

That the General Assembly demand that the College suspend any further allocation of the funds beyond winter 2017 and revisit the use of these funds ONLY after clear consultation with teachers. We are very concerned that these resources be used effectively and that there not be any waste.

The intent here is to wait for this consultation before anyone submits anymore proposals. The resources will not be lost as unused resources may be rolled over to subsequent years.

This issue will be on the agenda of the next General Assembly, on Tuesday, January 31 and the following recommendation was passed at Association Council on January 19, 2016:

That Association Council recommend that the General Assembly advise departments to pass the General Assembly motion of December 14, 2016, send it to the Academic Dean and not to approve

any “accessibility” project proposals (previously referred to as resources for teachers with students with special needs) until further notice.

Insurance for Retirees

The RAMQ has accepted changes to insurance for the drug plan for education-sector retirees. Please see the attachment, in English or in French, for details.

Bonus Pay 2015 : Update

To clarify for all members the correct amounts that would have been paid last fall: every full-time teacher should have been paid \$547 for the ‘bonus’ designated from our negotiations, according to what was actually worked in terms of hours. However, if you worked less (because of a leave, for example), this figure could be less, accordingly. Please contact Human Resources (x7200) for clarification if you feel you got less than you should have. Contact the union if you contest their assessment.