

focus on Contract Faculty

TO INFORM & BE INFORMED

Layoffs have begun ...

Although we had put this section of the newsheet together prior to March 10th, the events unfolding at Laurier deserve attention.

The layoffs have begun.

Colleagues from across our university were informed beginning Monday that their current employment has been terminated. Those affected in *this* round include department administrative assistants, custodial workers, the Writing Centre manager, and lab instructors. While from different departments and areas, most from unions and some not, all have one thing in common ... they are being unfairly treated by Laurier.

Yes, Dr. Blouw posted a seemingly heartfelt letter to the Laurier community but it reads hollow. While the message of our dire financial situation is on loop, our burgeoning senior administration and incessant real-estate acquisitions (did you know that we have an Executive Director of Real Estate & Property Development?) tell a very different story. One that is premised on putting business before our mission, and 'profits' before our people.

Community refers to a group that shares common values and goals. It is very clear that Lau-

rier's president and his senior administration share none of our values and clearly have very different goals.

If Laurier's financial situation is so dire and Dr. Blouw and his 6 vice presidents believe that the laying off of employees, many of whom interact with more students in a single week than they will in a whole term, is justified then perhaps there should be 'equality in sacrifices'.

With the upcoming elimination of 75 CF courses, the cancelling of 12 LTAs, the non-renewing of retirement positions and this week's layoffs, our sacrifices are more than just significant—they are crushing.

We challenge our senior administrators, in the spirit of the \$1 men, to spread the sacrifices equally. Be leaders in deed not word, be inspiring - act like you deserve to be at Laurier. Voluntarily take a 25% pay cut, reduce your numbers, and give back your taxable deductions!

If you, who supposedly have an intimate knowledge of Laurier's financial crisis, don't share the pain, then what reason do we have for trusting that you're telling us the truth.

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Don't leave end-of-term monies on the table!

Deferred Exams or Field Supervision: Did you know that if, after the end of term, you are required to grade deferred exams, or reassess assignments, examinations or final grades, you should be paid \$50 per deferred or reassessment? To ensure payment, remind your Department of your extra work. However, if you make these arrangements on your own then you forfeit payment.

Did you know that if, outside the normally-scheduled practicum sessions, you are asked by your Dean to provide field supervision in the Faculty of Education you should receive compensation equal to \$250 per student for each practicum session?

Professional Expense Reimbursement (PER): Did you know that Laurier makes available up to \$125 per academic term for CF's teaching related expenses and up to \$500 annually for Contract Librarians employment related expenses? Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to, the purchase of books, subscriptions, memberships in academic and professional associations related to one's employment at Laurier, equipment and supplies, and travel expenses related to academic and professional development. For more, and to receive your PER form, on this check with your Department/Dean

Marking & Grading Allowance: Did you know that if you have had no marking/grading assistance for a course in which there were over 50 students, you might be eligible for an additional \$19 per student?

For further information see Article 28 in our [Collective Agreement](#)

Educational Technologies

While the work of Educational Technologies is in large part technical, our focus is pedagogical - looking at desired outcomes, and then determining if a technology can help achieve them.

Our mandate is to:

- collaborate with CTIE to support and encourage the use of technologies in traditional and non-traditional educational opportunities
- provide a proactive approach to training and support of adopted educational technologies
- explore and experiment with emerging technologies, with a critical eye to supporting educational outcomes
- provide sound pedagogical support for existing and emerging technologies

Many of us have academic degrees in education, and that knowledge and background is vital when working with you. We are available to help you learn how to use technology in teaching, but also to help you decide if it's the right technology to reach your teaching goals.

In addition to supporting Laurier's existing enterprise technologies (MyLearningSpace, Turnitin, iClicker, Adobe Connect) we works with instructors to explore emerging technologies to assess their suitability for adoption at Laurier. For example, a pilot is currently underway using Echo360's lecture capture tools, and another with Respondus (assessing their Monitor software which supports academic integrity during online testing).

If you're new to using the learning management system, or want to try a new technology in your classroom or blended learning teaching, we can help! We look forward to working with you!

