



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

CAUT New Activists Workshop

Thursday, November 23, 2017 – Westin Ottawa Hotel

Overview

This fast-paced, day-long workshop is focused on encouraging a new generation of academic staff to become involved in their associations. The event happens in Ottawa the day before CAUT November Council and features a mix of open discussion, small group work and plenary presentations. After exploring the challenges confronting academic workplaces, participants will put their new knowledge to work in a scenario-based, skills-building exercise. Topics covered include collective bargaining, grievance handling, equity, casualization, academic freedom, graphic design, video production, communications and media relations. Space is limited so early enrolment is encouraged.

Please note that this workshop is offered in English only and there will be no simultaneous translation. At the completion of the workshop associations are encouraged to include workshop participants as observers to CAUT Council.

Agenda

Quebec Room

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| 08:00 – 08:30 | Registration and Breakfast (30 minutes) |
| 08:30 – 08:45 | Session One – Opening Remarks (15 minutes)
CAUT President James Compton and CAUT Executive Director David Robinson welcome participants to the workshop, facilitate a round of introductions, and review the day's agenda. |
| 08:45 – 09:15 | Session Two – Identifying Challenges (30 minutes)
The workshop begins with a plenary discussion of the challenges facing academic staff. Key issues are identified, four of which are selected for closer examination. |
| 09:15 – 09:45 | Session Three – The Challenges – Group Work (30 minutes)
Participants assemble in small groups and work together to further discuss, define and confront one of the challenges. |
| 09:45 – 10:30 | Session Four – Challenges Report Back (45 minutes)
Groups reassemble in plenary and present their findings. |

- 10:30 – 10:45 **Break – Refreshments** (15 minutes)
- 10:45 – 11:15 **Session Five – The Future is Unwritten** (30 minutes)
Where did academic staff associations come from and where are they going? This session provides an overview of the ongoing struggle in the post-secondary sector to build inclusive, self-governing workplaces characterized by academic freedom, secure employment and the creation and dissemination of knowledge for the public good.
- 11:15 – 12:00 **Session Six – Ten Minute Expert: PSE Issues** (45 minutes)
Four ten minute presentations on pressing issues in the post-secondary education workplace:
- equity;
 - casualization;
 - collective bargaining; and
 - academic freedom.
- 12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch – Provided** (60 minutes)
A delicious selection of soups, salads, sandwiches and sweets.
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Session Seven – Ten Minute Expert: Activist Skills** (60 minutes)
Five ten minute presentations on:
- talking to members;
 - filing grievances;
 - creating attractive visual material;
 - making effective smart phone movies; and
 - communicating through the media.
- 14:00 – 14:15 **Session Eight – The Projects: Logistics** (15 minutes)
The hands-on portion of the workshop commences with participants recombining into their four groups. Presented with a scenario designed to highlight a challenge to academic staff, the groups are each assigned a different project that will assist in confronting and solving the problem.
- Group One – Write a grievance and formulate a grievance strategy to address the issue.
 - Group Two – Prepare material (poster, flyer, button, etc.) to educate members and the public on the issue.
 - Group Three – Produce a video on the issue and the association's response to it.
 - Group Four – Prepare a press release and hold a press conference to publicize the issue.
- 14:15 – 15:30 **Session Nine – The Projects: Group Work** (75 minutes)
Groups work on their assigned task with the assistance of facilitators, subject experts and the necessary resources to get the job done.
- 15:30 – 15:45 **Break – Refreshments** (15 minutes)
- 15:45 – 17:15 **Session Ten – The Projects: Presentations** (90 minutes)
Each group presents its work. All participants review, discuss and learn from each other's completed plans.

17:15 – 17:30

Conclusion and Adjournment *(15 minutes)*

Participants review the workshop, summarizing key issues, experiences and future directions.

Ontario Room

18:00 – 19:30

Reception

Workshop participants relax and recount the day's adventure.