

Wilfrid Laurier University

March 25, 2024

Dear WLUFAs Executive Committee Members,

We wholeheartedly endorse Elin Edwards for the WLUFAs Contract Faculty Award. Elin's contributions to both WLUFAs and Contract Faculty (CF) over several decades embody the spirit and dedication that this award seeks to recognize.

Throughout her Laurier career, which began in 1981, Elin has consistently demonstrated her unwavering commitment to labour and to the betterment of working conditions for CF. Initially teaching in the English department, Elin transitioned to the Communication Studies Program in 1998, where she continues to teach today. As a seasoned advocate for CF, Elin represented her colleagues, serving as the CF Rep for Communication Studies during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Already a member of the Century Club (would have happened sooner if seniority points had been counted during her first decade at Laurier!), Elin intends to not only continue her teaching but also her communications work on behalf of CF in the upcoming round of negotiations.

Beyond the classroom, Elin's work and influence has been felt in the WLU Press (during which time she produced the WLUSA Daily during 2001-2002 strike), Languages and Literature, and the Office of Research (from which she retired in 2019). It was her 'bi-union' status (member of both WLUSA and WLUFAs) that allowed her to foster meaningful collaborations and support networks, expanding her impact within the Laurier community. On many occasions she called for and garner support for CF efforts at the table and on the street from WLUSA. Elin's involvement in both WLUSA and WLUFAs underscore her dedication to collective action and solidarity.

Elin's over four decades of CF experience has provided her with a comprehensive understanding of CF challenges. This, coupled with her ability to communicate (both in the classroom and professionally, outside her teaching), and commitment to enhancing the welfare of CF, is why her decades of contributions to WLUFAs communications has been so valued. In addition to Elin's contributions to the Advocate over the years, she was a central member of the most recent Action Committee, was an important contributor to the 2016 Action Committee, and played a pivotal communications role during the CF strike in 2007. Her steadfast support during negotiations underscores her unwavering dedication to advocating for the rights of Contract Faculty.

In conclusion, Elin Edwards exemplifies the qualities and contributions deserving of The WLUFAs Contract Faculty Award. Her sustained commitment, advocacy, and unwavering dedication to improving the working conditions of Contract Faculty members make her an outstanding candidate for this award.

Thank you for considering Elin. Please feel free to contact any of us if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Ellis-Hale, Contract Faculty  
Michele Kramer, Contract Faculty Emeritus and Past President of WLUFAs  
Marybeth White, Contract Faculty  
Brent Hagerman, Contract Faculty  
Karen Lohead, Contract Faculty

Jim Gerlach, Contract Faculty  
Hillary Pimlott, Associate Professor, Communication Studies