

Bulletin #2 – originally sent out Jan 10, 2014

Dear KFA members,

As you may be aware, there has been a deep reduction of offerings in English Language Studies and Academic and Career Preparation leading to the layoff of 16 faculty members.

The current situation we face with the layoffs is a result of a chain of events. The federal government made a decision to make a cut to ESL funding transfers being given to the province, and the provincial government made a decision to pass on that funding cut to public post-secondary institutions including Kwantlen, and the Kwantlen senior administration made a decision to pass on that funding cut in the form of reductions in program offerings in both ELST and ACP, resulting in layoffs of faculty members.

As a result, there are impacts on our communities, to our students, and to faculty members. Students in developmental education, students who we could

argue reap the greatest social benefit from post-secondary education, are having their access cut. The impact on students and our communities will be devastating.

The impact on faculty is clear. There have been 16 direct layoffs in FACA, 10 regular faculty members in ELST, 4 NR2 faculty members in ELST, and 2 regular faculty members in ACP. A direct implication of these layoffs of regular faculty is that all non-regular work that has existed in ELST and in ACP is being cut. We do not know the exact number of sections that have been cut, but the number is substantial.

In the wake of these cuts, our KFA is supporting all faculty members. If you have questions, or if there is anything you don't understand about the layoffs, please call the KFA office at 2200 and ask to speak with one of the Table Officers, and we will answer your questions.

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As KFA representatives, your KFA Table Officers are taking a number of actions. We have accompanied faculty members in layoff meetings and have spoken to individuals, answered questions and offered support. We are consulting with FPSE and advocating for and helping plan actions and campaigns that will take place at the provincial level. On this level, there is an FPSE Presidents Council conference call taking place on Monday to discuss a coordinated response to these cuts. As well, we are arranging meetings to discuss the cuts with our catchment area MPs and MLAs. We will also be meeting with members of the Kwantlen senior administration to question the reasons for the decision to cut faculty members, to question the numbers of sections and faculty being cut, and to clarify whether cuts to faculty are the only ways the budget shortfall is being addressed. We will also advocate for action to alleviate the layoffs and work to find ways to reduce the number of layoffs.

Again, if you have questions or concerns about the layoffs or if you need support in this time, please call the KFA office and speak to one of the Table Officers.

In solidarity,

Your KFA Table Officers

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