

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – April 17, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Nice to have a short week after a long weekend after a short week, eh?

Distance Learning – While there are still a few concerns about the new model, there has been a dramatic reduction in calls and emails about it. Whether we are becoming resigned to it, have actually managed to find a bit of a balance, or have been inspired by the Easter message of Hope, I don't know. But there is definitely movement in a positive direction, which is great to see. And, while that is all well and good, today things took a bit of a turn as the Board directions regarding Grade 12 marks went out! The raft of emails some will have to send to students is a bit daunting. Hopefully, the timeframe of between today and next Thursday will prove manageable, if not stress free. It may be that you'll want to cut back a bit in what you are doing in other areas. (Do the students really need that assignment this week, that you then have to mark?)

Bargaining – The topic was raised with the Board, this week, as something to turn our minds to. Time is one of the key factors, however, logistics are huge as well. It'll be interesting to see how things will be done this time. In the meantime, the LCBC applications are due on Monday morning. And the LCBC completed some research, which it will be reviewing on Thursday.

Staffing – All schools were notified this week regarding the additional SSF allocations and made any necessary adjustments. A few schools required a conversation with Gillian regarding these of those positions. It seems everything is now in order.

UAGM & Elections – As I eluded to last week, changes to the date and format had to be made for these two events. They will now occur a week later than initially planned, and the UAGM will be conducted electronically, presuming we are still under some sort of lockdown. Apart from the changes, everything will be as usual.

Association Reps – Great to see the Reps on Wednesday at our meeting. Although, few people were a bit shy, it seems, and kept their video off. Much of what is talked about above was discussed with the Reps. A few additional pieces of information were included, which you will see when they send you the materials. One of those pieces is the **Direct Learning** support provided by OECTA. There will be a number of Webinars available to help you manage some of the bumps in the road you are currently facing, flattening the curves so to speak. Some dates and times have already been announced as you will see in the posters for them that are attached to this email.

Other meetings – Yes, the release officers were involved in other meetings this week. We engaged with the Board and OECTA on some of the concerns and the plans that are being rolled out. The **Joint Tech Committee** met on Tuesday and there was follow up with the Board, today, on some of the issues, particularly that of people who do not have the technology "required" to do what is expected. **Safe Schools** also met, to look at how suspensions and expulsions happen in a virtual world. I'm not sure what the answers are at this time but for some reason the movie Blade Runner pops into my head. And on Thursday, interviews were held for the position of DWM for next year. It was a slate of very good candidates and a decision will be made soon.

We are glad to see that many are feeling better about how things are going just now but if you could use some support, remember the EFAP: <https://www.workhealthlife.com/>

Stay safe!