

## TSU Weekly Wrap Up – April 24, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1<sup>st</sup> VP

This week's summation:

**Distance Learning** – So, how did the mark inputting go? Not well, we heard! Mixed messages from the Board created quite a bit of stress for some, particularly the teachers of grade 12 students. After busting their butts to get everything done by the deadline, they were told the criteria had changed and so had the deadline! It appears things have been cleared up and everyone knows what is expected, now. Tough to play the game when the goal posts keep moving. Teachers of half-credit courses had the stress of looking at a significant number of emails to students, as well. They can, at least, take some solace in the fact that they don't have to get them all out in one fell swoop, if unable to, as there is not the same imperative for the grade 12s with the course drop option. In the meantime, the Board continues to pursue the development of policy around the use of live video conferencing with students. At a Joint Tech meeting on Tuesday, TSU and OECTA made it very clear to the Board that it is wholly opposed to teachers being made vulnerable by the use of this modality. They are meeting again, as I write, to provide the Board further input on the topic and the use of other methods of distance learning. If you are doing synchronous video communication, you might want to check out some of the videos online (both humorous and excruciating) that show some of the issues associated with it. Some have told us they are using video for their teaching but without their faces appearing in the frame, just their hand demonstrating what they might have otherwise shown on the board...and doing it through pre-recordings. Safer but the possibility of voice manipulation still exists.

**Bargaining** – The LCBAC met on Thursday to review the research it had compiled as well as the Bargaining Survey Results. This takes us a step closer to where we might go in an initial proposal. Once the Bargaining team is selected, at the Exec meeting on Monday, we'll be yet another step closer to the table, as well.

**Staffing** – For those interested in a transfer, the open positions were posted this week. (Hopefully you didn't see yours on there.) A significant number of them were headships so, once those are filled, we should see a few new teaching positions show up in the second round, May 8.

SSSAC met with the Board this week and discussed a number of central positions, some of which are newly created. These will be posted very shortly so keep an eye on the Director's Bulletin for those.

**UAGM & Elections** – You should have received communications from the committee this week. Check your TSU email for the information. The committee will be meeting this coming week to continue figuring out how to get these things done. And, as everything is happening online for the UAGM and elections, please let anyone you know who hasn't activated their TSU email that they need to do so, so they can participate in the processes.

**OECTA AGM** – On Thursday evening, OECTA sent out an email about the AGM being held on May 16. The postponement from the beginning of March Break and the ongoing crisis means that there is a significantly different meeting happening this year. Instead of three days, it will be shrunk to one day and be online. The delegation chosen for the AGM will remain in place.

**Maternity/parental Leave**- Tuesday saw a successful workshop presented by Angela Tersigni and Veronica Tuzi. Over 40 people "attended" on Zoom. This might be good news for OTs in the next 9 months or so.

**DWM** – The DWM for next school year have been confirmed by the Executive. There will be one addition to the current contingent. Congratulations to Joyce Moriana who was awarded the position from a group of strong candidates. Joyce has been part of the JHSC this year and already has her H&S Part 1. We will be losing Franco Santarossa who has been a pillar in the position for a number of years. Huge thanks to him for all the work he has done for the members.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.